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HISTORICAL SKETCH
OF THE
VILLAGE OF FREEVILLE
TOMPKINS COUNTY
NEW YORK

By A. B. Genung

(1942)

FOREWORD

One day, four or five years ago, one of my children asked me something about the origin of our village and at the time I didn't know the answer. Upon making some inquiries along this line I soon discovered that my generation knew very little indeed about its own local history. That fact induced me finally to go to somewhat greater lengths to get the early story of our community down on paper - for already it was surprisingly difficult to collect the scattered details of names and dates. It is amazing how soon such facts slip away into the past and are forgotten.

I have a feeling that written records of the doings of our families and neighbors will be prized by our descendants, perhaps, in years to come. This country will not always be young. Someday the smallest American village, like its counterpart in the Old World, will bear a weight of centuries; its early names and events, all that dramatic story of its birth here in the virgin wilderness of a new Continent, will lie far back in the dim mists of the past and can not then be recalled, save as they are preserved in written form. Curiously, even a frail paper manuscript can so long outlast its human author! So it seems to me that from time to time we should be putting these items on paper so that our children's children may know, as they will wish to know, how things came about.

Albert Benjamin Genung. Jan., 1943.

CHAPTER HEADINGS

	Page:
I In Indian Days - - - - -	1
II Early Settlement - - - - -	12
III Freeville In 1853 - 1866 - - - -	33
IV The Coming Of The Railroads - - -	42
V The Hamlet Becomes A Village - - -	48
VI The Village Today (1942) - - - - -	113
VII Reminiscent - - - - -	135

I

IN INDIAN DAYS

In the days when the tribes of the Iroquois Confederation were masters of all this Finger Lakes country, Fall Creek Valley was one deep, unbroken forest of pine and hemlock and the hardwoods, maple, beech, birch, elm, oak and other species. It was a paradise of game, as later white man accounts confirm, with frequent deer trails leading down to the creek, fat beaver slapping the quiet water of their pools, bear in the huckleberry swamps, small game swarming everywhere, and probably an occasional file of buffalo ambling through the valley.

There is no evidence that any Indian tribe lived in this immediate part of the valley for any lengthy period; though arrow-heads, stone mortars, ornaments and other utensils picked up indicate that red men hunted over the site of Freeville and that squaws pounded up corn to feed their families hereabouts. (A stone headed tomahawk was found when the cellar of the Milton Watson house was dug.)

This was hunting ground. It was really Cayuga hunting ground, although Onondaga and Oneida and later on Tuscarora hunters probably came down Fall Creek many a time and were fraternally regarded by the Cayugas, who likewise ranged farther east and north quite freely when the chase led that way.

The tribal boundary, dating back to 1600, between the Cayugas and Onondagas ran through Freeville; it extended from Lake Ontario to Owego, running down the valley in which our village lies.

It was just such stream valleys as this, in the old Iroquois hills, that made this region a rich prize in the fur trade. From about the middle of the seventeenth century, the British and the French - who then held Canada - locked in a long struggle for domination of central and western New York. We are not accustomed to think of our peaceful valley as ever having been plunder fought for by the two greatest powers of Europe, yet in a sense such was once the case.

The French shrewdly attempted to penetrate the country first with religious missionaries, particularly the Jesuit priests, who combined crafty political designs in about equal proportions with their more pious efforts. The English sent in traders, and from their outposts in the Hudson Valley exerted every effort to win the favor and alliance of the Five Nations. In the end the English won the land from the French.

As in later days Freeville became a railroad junction, so in Iroquois times it was the junction of two fairly well-traveled trails. The east-west trail led from the head of Cayuga Lake up to the central council of the Iroquois Confederation at Onondaga and to the country of the Oneidas. The north-south trail stretched from the Owaseo Valley to the Susquehanna, following the old tribal

boundary. My opinion always has been that these trails crossed somewhere east of the present village.

As late as the 1870s Indians from the Onondaga Reservation were accustomed to follow the old trail to Ithaca, always coming through Freeville on their trip to Ithaca with baskets, beadwork, and other products. As in the old days, they made this a regular over-night camping place. For some years they slept, during such stops, in an old building which belonged to Milton Watson and which stood just west of his house across from the "Brooklyn" bridge, in what is now Newton Burton's garden. Here they simply rolled up in their blankets on the floor. The building was known to the boys of the village during the seventies as "Injun Roost."

There is some tradition of a large beaver dam located somewhere on the flat near the present village site, which was a well known rendezvous. Southbound and eastbound parties, for example, would meet by prearrangement at the "big dam" in this valley, at or near the junction of the trails. This tradition was related to me as a boy by an old Oneida Indian named Noah George who lived in Freeville in the 1890s and who often worked for my father.

Fall Creek, known to the Cayugas as No-Ga-Ene or Neguena, was the largest watershed tributary to Cayuga Lake at its head. It lent itself to the dams of the beaver quite as readily as it did to those of numerous mills at a later date. It was perhaps

the richest fur stream handy to those Tutelos, Catawbas, or other Cayugas who lived in the Inlet Valley and about the head of the lake. And since this Freeville site - the old trail junction - was just about the limit of a convenient day's hunting distance, we can imagine many a generation of Algonquins and later Cayugas leaving their moccasined footprints and the ashes of their campfires along the stream as they turned homeward where now our village lies.

Unquestionably many a war party of northern Cayugas and Onondagas passed through here, going south from the Owasco villages to fight the Virginia Indians or the Cherokees in their faraway land at the southern end of the long mountains. For generations the Iroquois kept up this war against the Cherokees. It became almost the routine initiation for a young warrior to join with a few companions, dance the war dance, and go on a thousand mile warpath southward in an attempt to take some Cherokee scalps. Undoubtedly our placid stream rippled over the moccasins of many such warriors on the homeward trail, each with a scalp or two dangling at his belt.

Undoubtedly the ancient forest trees of this valley looked down upon many a Cayuga band from the head of the lake, traveling leisurely and with an old sachem in the lead, toward a council at Onondaga. Or perhaps to visit or council with the Oneidas. Probably, too, upon many a fleet runner carrying urgent messages from that central council fire near the salt lake to the tribes

around the head of Ganiataragechiat or as the French called it, Lac Tiohero or Tichero (Cayuga Lake.)

It is said that the first white man who visited this region, a Frenchman named Etienne Brule, passed through Dryden Township in 1615, certainly within a few miles of the Freeville site if not actually through this valley.

More than likely Cayuga sachems trod this village site in August 1654 when they went northward to attend the great council at Onondaga that greeted Father Le Moine, who was probably the first French priest to come into this Finger Lakes country. More than likely the celebrated Father Carheil, who lived among the Cayugas for 20 years and who wrote his description of the beautiful Lake Tiohero country in 1672, passed this way more than once.

It was eastward over this trail that the Cayugas from the head of Tiohero sometimes made their pilgrimages to Te-On-To (Cross Lake) where Hi-a-wat-ha, revered as the Messiah of the Iroquois, had lived upon its southern shore and wrought his manifold blessings of peace and plenty for the tribes of the Five Nations. It is thought that Hi-a-wat-ha, which signifies a very wise man, was living among the Onondagas and led in establishing the remarkable Iroquois Confederation at about the time of the discovery of America by Columbus.

Down this way went hunting parties and war parties from the Owasco or family groups seeking corn from their brother tribes along the Susquehanna when their own crops in the north had failed.

Quite possibly through this place passed news of the French invasion of the Seneca country in July 1687 and the bloody battle south of modern Rochester. And through here the next year perhaps sped runners from Onondaga summoning all the power of the Five Nations to war against the French - a summons that presently hurled 1500 warriors against Montreal itself and avenged the Seneca outrage by a grim ratio of ten lives for one, and which campaign came within a hair of utterly destroying French power in America.

Quite possibly through here, too, almost a century later, grave Cayugas sped to their Onondaga brothers that fateful news of Iroquois defeat by General Sullivan at Newtown (Elmira), that was to seal the doom of the Six Nations.

In those stirring Revolutionary times the famous war chief of the Mohawks, Thayendanegea (Joseph Brant), must have passed through here more than once. So probably did the venerable Christian sachem of the Oneidas, Skenandoah; and young Red Jacket, the famous Seneca orator, on one of his many visits to the Oneidas and Onondagas. Shikellamy, the celebrated guide, had piloted two white men, John Bertram and Wallace Evans, through this vicinity in 1743.

Through here may have passed the Reverend Kirkland, famous missionary friend of the Oneidas, in 1776-77, when at General Washington's request he was traveling among the Six Nations, trying hard to hold them neutral in our struggle with England.

Finally, when the fateful stroke of war struck down the Iroquois power forever, we may imagine this peaceful valley sheltering a few of those red refugees in one last dramatic moment. In 1779 when General Sullivan led his army up here into the Finger Lakes region on its mission of extermination, as a concluding operation he sent Col. William Butler with 600 men to the foot of Cayuga Lake and around up the east side to destroy the villages thereon. A force under Col. Dearborn also marched up the west side of the lake at the same time. Col. Butler's soldiers burned numerous Indian houses and destroyed their cornfields and orchards around present day Cayuga and on southward. At Chonodote (Aurora) they found and cut down more than 1500 peach trees as well as burned the village and the fields of corn. They camped on the hill north of present Ludlowville. Then the next day, September 25, 1779, they marched southward through what is now Lansing, around the southeastern corner of the lake and on down into the inlet valley, where Dearborn's force the day before had burned the Tupelo Village of Coreorgonel and destroyed its fields of ripe corn, squashes, beans, pumpkins, potatoes, and its orchards of ripe apples and peaches.

It is possible that some of the Tupelos, Cayugas and Cattawbas who fled at last from around the head of the lake brought their women and children eastward over this Fall Creek trail,

heading for shelter among the lodges of their brothers, the Oneidas, since escape was cut off to west, north, and south.

Thus did an invading army once march within eight or nine miles of this spot, grimly bent upon the destruction of the natives of this valley. So close, on that autumn day in 1779, did one of the notable campaigns of the Revolutionary War brush by this peaceful site of our village.

The Sullivan Expedition crushed Iroquois power forever. Their land was devastated, their homes destroyed. A large part of the tribes, except the Oneidas who had been neutral in the war, moved on westward to Niagara that autumn, seeking the protection of Canada.

So passed the red man from sovereignty of these hills and valleys that he had owned for untold centuries. The trail along Fall Creek that had been worn smooth by generations of moccasined feet was left deserted and overgrown.

Mr. W. Glenn Norris of Ithaca tells me that after the 1779 disaster the Oneidas asked and got permission of the Government to come into the region of Dryden and Caroline and hunt. But their hunting parties had these good beaver streams to themselves only about half a dozen years before the surveyors came in to lay out the Military Tract for settlement.

The only Indian to live around Freeville in latter years, to my knowledge, was an old Oneida named Noah George. Old Noah came here in the early eighties with a party of Onondagas. He had married into an Onondaga family and his marriage had resulted in some tribal complications, as an upshot of which he and his wife's relatives left the reservation and came down here on the banks of Fall Creek to live. They built four or five cabins beside the creek, on the Malloryville road, just east of the Southern Central R.R., and there they lived, making a living by fishing, trapping, basket weaving and beadwork and by a minimum of day labor. Some of them were recorded as working on the Utica, Ithaca, and Elmira R.R. in 1883.

Finally the Onondagas composed their differences with the tribal chiefs and moved back north to their reservation. But old Noah was an outcast; neither the Onondagas nor his own Oneidas would take him back. He continued to live in Freeville.

My recollection of his place of abode here in latter years was a bunk partitioned off in one corner of Brotherton's blacksmith shop, now Spaulding's garage. He was a familiar figure around the village in my boyhood.

F. R. Willey has told me an amusing incident wherein one of these Indian youths named John Day taught him a few words of the Onondaga language. One day Mr. Willey innocently tried out

his new linguistic knowledge on the mother of the Day boy. The result was a stony glare from the Indian woman and a report from young John later of a sound thrashing at the hands of his mother. He had taught Mr. Willey the wrong words!

Old Noah was a man of fairly powerful physique, dark, swarthy face, heavy features, high cheek-bones, black eyes, coal black straight hair, and a black drooping moustache. He walked with a slow, knee-bent gait and was slightly stooped. His voice was harshly guttural in tone and his speech was usually limited to a few short words - often exhibiting a dry sense of humor. He made a living by day labor, digging ditch, helping on building jobs, etc. He worked a good deal for my father and I often tried to get some Indian stories and lore out of him but with indifferent success.

Noah was fond of firewater - bane of all Indians - and when under the influence of whiskey was a man to let alone. I recall one such time when Brotherton, angered at something, locked the old redskin out of his shop. Old Noah went into such a rage as to stampede all the citizens in the vicinity. Notwithstanding that Brotherton was the village constable, Noah got out an axe and chased the husky blacksmith all around the place, finally smashing in the shop door and betaking himself to bed in his accustomed bunk.

The old Indian, nevertheless, was quite a faithful attendant at church. He could be seen on Sunday mornings proceeding soberly down the street to worship, dressed in a worn black suit and black felt hat, across his vest a huge gold watch chain upon which dangled a charm that was some kind of an animal tooth or bone, as I remember it.

The village boys used to get Noah to make them bows and arrows. He could whittle out a pretty good set which he would sell for 25 to 50 cents. His bowstrings, I recall, were made sometimes of rawhide, sometimes from a new manila rope, the strands of which he unbraided, soaked, and rewound to a proper size and slicked down with beeswax.

II

EARLY SETTLEMENT

It was in 1779 that the Indians had been driven out of this part of the Finger Lakes country. Ten years later the State set aside the vast "Military Tract" of land lying between Oneida and Seneca Lakes, to be given to veterans of the Revolutionary War. The survey of the Dryden lots was made by a man from Schoharie named John Konkle. Every private soldier was given a lot one mile square, less certain reserved land, or roughly 600 acres. The actual drawing for these lots was made in 1790-91.

Dryden Township was designated at that time as Township No. 23 of the Military Tract, being then a part of old Tioga County. Lot number 26 in Dryden Township, which was destined to become the site of Freeville Village, was drawn by a soldier named Samuel Wright. The old Balloting Book records the drawing by Wright of 600 acres in Lot 26 on July 8, 1790. Letters patent were issued to him as of that date.

Samuel Wright was a private in the First New York Regiment of the Line, commanded by Colonel Goose Van Schaick. He never actually took possession of Lot 26, however; presumably he disposed of his interest to an officer of the Second New York Regiment, Lieut. Frederick Weissenfels, for title was said to have been held afterward by the latter, (although the Land Office at Albany has no record of transfer of this property by Samuel Wright.)

The first actual proprietor of the land which later became the site of Freeville was a man named Israel Buell, who was one of the party including L^Uther Gere and persons named Carter and Hutchinson that came to the Cayuga Inlet Valley from Connecticut about 1794. The presumption is that he bought the land from Lieut. Weissenfels. Israel Buell never actually lived in what is now Freeville. He may have had a cabin here for temporary use for he did some cutting and rough lumbering here. At any rate, 500 acres or about five-sixths of Lot 26 was known as the "farm" of Israel Buell in the latter 1790s and was so referred to in later deeds.

Around 1800 and during a few years thereafter the Buells cut off considerable of the virgin timber on the site of this village. They had no sawmill here but hauled out tanbark and probably some rails, piles, charcoal, and the like. For the most part, however, the trees were cut and burned for ashes. Salmon Buell, son of Israel, dealt in potash, pearl ash, and woods products

at Ithaca and he superintended the making of potash here, sending men and equipment from Ithaca. Doubtless many a summer evening saw the red glow of burning log piles along our creek flats.

Incidentally, I might mention that I have in my possession a letter dated April 18, 1808, from Salmon Buell to my great-great grandfather, Benjamin Genung - who was one of the first settlers in Dryden Township - the latter being so employed by "Salmon Buell & Co." to build leaches and ovens and take charge of such a potash job that spring.

About 1820 this Freeville property of Israel Buell passed to his son, Salmon Buell, who by that time was living in Marietta, Ohio. It was managed for a couple of years, together with lands in Ulysses and Lansing (then Milton), by his brother-in-law, Luther Gere, who became one of the prominent early citizens of Ithaca. The instrument conveying power-of-attorney to Luther Gere by Salmon Buell, to handle and sell these lands, was made on August 12, 1820. I am indebted for these facts to Mrs. Nellie T. Smelzer, Curator of the DeWitt Historical Society of Ithaca.

On Oct. 19, 1822 Luther Gere bought from Salmon and Mary Buell Lot 26 (Freeville), "excepting 100 acres lying in a square form in the southwest corner of said lot." * The consideration was \$2700. Such was ^{the} price which our village site sold for in 1822.

*Deed recorded Oct. 30, 1822, in Lieber E, page 354, of Deeds, Tompkins County Clerk's Office.

Judge Luther Gere, son-in-law of Israel Buell, was the last man to own this village site en bloc and it was he who first split it up among several owners.

The hundred acres in the southwest corner of Lot 26, mentioned above, seems to have been part of lands acquired by the widow Rhoda Willey, whose advent in Freeville in 1815 will be referred to hereinafter.

The first real settler in Freeville was Daniel White, known throughout the section as Elder White. In 1798 he moved in, built a cabin and began to clear land which he had bought along the creek - later known as part of the Shults farm, now owned by the writer.

Elder White had chosen this site with a view to building a grist mill. It was located on Lot 25, just west of the present corporation line. In the summer of 1800 he began the building of a dam, which faced south at a spot half a dozen rods ~~North~~ west of the present highway bridge over Fall Creek, on the old West Dryden road. The dam was built of logs anchored with stones - and some of those old logs and stones still lie there in my pasture today, nearly a century and a half later.

The mill was built mainly of logs, roofed with boards from Whitney's sawmill on Virgil Creek. From its location one may conclude that it probably suffered more than once from spring

floods, although in those days before the forest was cut off Fall Creek did not pour downstream such huge and sudden volumes of flood water as it does now, especially after a spring thaw.

For a millstone he went up on the hill a couple of miles northwest and broke out a boulder on the Thompson or later-day Skilling farm. With ox team and sled he dragged the rock down to the mill and himself split and dressed out the stones which were used to grind grain there for sixteen years.

The White grist mill was a great convenience to the early settlers of the Town of Dryden. Completed in 1802, it was the first grist mill in the township. Prior to that time they had had to cart their grain to Ludlow's mill (Ludlowville) or pound it into meal by hand. To the White mill, after he had got it running, came Aaron Lacy, David Foote, Ezekiel Sanford, Ebenezer Clauson, and Lyman Hurd with grain from their small clearings at Willow Glen. Likewise George Robertson from the Bridle Road and from farther over South Hill Zephaniah Brown and Peleg Ellis and Benjamin Genung. From westward came Reuben Brown and Andrew Grover and Samuel Knapp - brother-in-law of Elder White and a fellow pioneer - and George McCutcheon and Evert Mount and Samuel Fox and Isaiah Giles and presently a great many other settlers, bringing a few bags of grist to mill on their ox sleds.

Elder White could take logs over to Ruloff Whitney's sawmill built in 1801 on Virgil Creek, north of Willow Glen, if he happened to want boards in exchange for grinding grain for the latter.

Five ox roads or "tracks" were early cut through the woods toward the Freeville site; one from West Dryden and Cayuga Lake direction; one along the north side of the creek from Etna; one north toward present Groton; one south along Virgil Creek to Willow Glen; and one east toward Malloryville.

To the grist mill in those days came all the settlers from miles around, especially in the fall and winter. It was an important center. In the miller's tally corner by the fireplace men in homespun and in home-tanned fur swapped items of news, settled debts, drank a moderate cup of the Elder's wild blackberry cordial, exchanged seed and other products and paid their taxes.

It must have been a picturesque sight, could one have seen the little log mill in its clearing there by the creek, its water wheel revolving busily in the raceway, perhaps a yoke of oxen standing patiently outside watched by a boy, while round about the virgin forest stretched away endlessly in every direction.

George Goodrich, in his Centennial History of The Town of Dryden, says of Daniel White:

"Besides being a practical miller Mr. White was an ordained deacon of the Methodist Church and preached in the Cayuga circuit in 1802 and for several years thereafter. He came to Lansing (just before moving on to the Freeville site) from Pennsylvania but was originally from Roxbury, Mass., and died at the age of 78, leaving a family of 14 children, of whom the only present(1897) survivors are Daniel M. White of Dryden, secretary of the present Centennial Committee, Mrs. Anna Montfort of Peruville, and Mrs. Geo. F. A. Baker of West Dryden."

The Rev. Anning Owen, a Methodist circuit rider who preached in the Cayuga circuit in 1810, recorded in his diary the notes of a meeting held at the home of Elder Daniel White in Dryden Township. This gathering at which 15 whites (no Negroes) were present, was held at 4 P.M. on Wednesday, August 8, 1810. His remarks about this company of worshippers were boiled down into one word, "contentious." The entry opposite this meeting also noted that the roads were bad and that there was little hay that summer in Dryden Township.

This reference to the roads and crops must have applied particularly to the western part of the township for he had just ridden in from West Dryden, where he had held a meeting the previous afternoon at the home of Samuel Fox. There were "7 whites"

at the meeting at Fox's. The Rev. Owen also labeled this group as "contentious" and he noted, incidentally, that the Fox home was located "in the woods."

Elder White's grist mill was the beginning of Freeville. In fact it was about all there was of Freeville for a long time. But it was the magnet which eventually attracted a few other settlers to the vicinity and became the nucleus for a hamlet. This was not an uncommon occurrence in the virgin wilderness: somebody would pick out a likely spot on a stream for a mill site, build a grist mill or a sawmill or a carding or fulling-mill and in due course it became a focal point for other settlers.

Spafford's New York State Gazetteer, published in 1813, recorded only two grain mills and two carding machines in the Town of Dryden; but by 1824 its second edition listed 4 grist-mills; also 4 carding machines, 2 fulling mills, 26 sawmills, 4 asheries, 5 distilleries; population 3,950, number families 634, neat cattle 3,670, sheep 6,679, horses 674.

On June 3, 1836 Daniel White bought of Luther and Almira Gere (of Ithaca) 56 acres in Lot 26, paying \$300 therefor. This was a tract of land below the Corner, lying along the "highway leading from Giles' grist mill."

A further transaction is recorded by Daniel White, made on Sept. 9, 1829, by which he and his wife Anna conveyed to Geo. K. White "44 acres, 2 roods, 8 rods in Lot No. 25, and 64 acres, 3 roods, 8 rods in Lot No. 26," for a consideration of \$1000, "reserving therefrom the privilege of raising the water by a pond as high as is necessary for the benefit of the mills and machinery now in possession of the said Daniel White." This was part of the later-day Shults farm.

Soon after this time Elder White's son John, coming into possession of the mill property, decided to build a new mill and this he did in 1833, moving upstream a few rods to a site nearer the homestead. He built a new dam and a considerably larger mill, a solid frame building which with various additions stood for more than a century until it was torn down in 1941, after the old mill property had been acquired by the village for a park and to preserve the pond for fire protection. The writer was present when some of the old timbers were finally taken out of this mill and can testify to their size and strength and the precision with which they had been trued by the adzes of John White and his carpenters.

Close on the heels of Elder White came another settler near enough to the Freeville site to be noted in this record. This was Isaiah Giles, who located first on the hill about a mile northwest on what later was known as the Humphrey Williams place. Mr. Goodrich, in his History of the Town of Dryden, gives the following account obtained from the Giles family:

"In the summer of 1801 Isaiah Giles came from Orange County to begin a home for himself and family in the Town of Dryden, upon lands that he had recently purchased in Lot 15. He began his little clearing and built his cabin near the spring that in later years has been known as the cheese factory spring, just northwest of Freeville. After building his cabin he extended his clearing sufficiently to put in a piece of corn the next spring. He then returned east and early the next year, in the month of March, he came back, bringing his wife and children. He did not have time when putting up his house to put on the roof, so that one of the first things to be done when moving in was to shovel out the snow and then cut and put on basswood bark for a roof. Then with a blanket hung up in the doorway, the home and castle of the Giles family was complete for the time.

"From that time until the opening of spring he was engaged in splitting and smoothing up puncheons for a floor and door and in building bunks for sleeping. In all the toil and care incident to such a beginning he had an earnest and efficient helper in the person of his wife, Sarah Lanterman, whom he had married some 9 years before. Their family then consisted of seven children, including two pairs of twins. There were subsequently born to them two sons and a daughter.

"Isaiah Giles and his wife were earnest, thrifty, pushing people, and about them soon began to cluster the evidences of their industry and economy. In the fall of 1802 they harvested their first corn and potatoes. The winter brought many privations and discomforts but they passed through it without serious sickness or mishap. In the summer of 1803 they harvested their first crop of wheat and threshed it in the little log barn that they had built the year before. They winnowed away the chaff and carried the first grist to the mill of Elder Daniel White at Freeville to be ground and then had their first wheat bread in the Town of Dryden. The clearings and improvements were extended each year by dint of hard labor and good management. But in spite of the energy and thrift of Mr. and Mrs. Giles, a great misfortune was in store for them.

"About 1806 there came a man by the name of Thompson who laid claim to the land which Isaiah had bought. Investigation showed that Thompson's title was good and that Giles had been defrauded in his purchase. Instances of this kind were not uncommon in the history of early Dryden.

"But the same spirit that had begun the first home was ready to begin again. Gathering together his effects he went down upon Fall Creek at the point afterward known for years as 'Gilesville' and bought another tract of land and began anew. It was here that he with his sons built a sawmill and a carding and fulling mill, and subsequently his sons built an extensive tannery. Isaiah Giles was a man of considerable prominence in the affairs of the Town, at one time serving as Magistrate."

Captain John J. Giles, a grandson of old Isaiah, lived for many years in the southeast edge of Freeville, on the Dryden road, on the small farm originally owned by Patrick Corcoran, now by Harry Tucker. His widow, Mrs. Hattie Giles, while visiting her granddaughter, Miss Marian Skilling in Washington, in 1940, had dinner one evening at the home of the writer and though about 94 years of age entertained all with her lively accounts of things and people long ago in Freeville. Nannie, the only daughter of Capt. and Mrs. John Giles, married Fay Skilling, a descendant of one of the early settlers in "Washington District," northwest of Freeville.

In 1815 Rhoda Willey, a widow with four sons and three daughters, came from Ulster County and settled about half a mile south of Elder White's. The Willey cabin was built on a small knoll near Virgil Creek, a little way south of the present "four corners," being located in what later became the E. M. Seager (now Johnson) pasture. It was thus across the road from and somewhat southwest of the present home of F. Ray Willey who is a great-grandson of the early settler.

Mr. F. R. Willey, in a letter to the writer under date of Jan. 30, 1942, says of his ancestor, Rhoda Willey:

"We believe she had a soldier's claim, either by inheritance or purchase, for her holdings covered quite an apportion of land in this locality. It has always been a matter of interest to me that she chose the knoll across Virgil Creek as the place to 'pitch her tent' since it was safe against the floods of the valley and yet not too much elevated to cause any hardship. There were traces of the buildings yet when I was a boy scouting around for Indians and wild animals!

"The first schoolhouse stood on the little knoll across from Mr. Johnson's house or just a little below.

"Samuel B. Willey, my grandfather, one of the two boys who remained in this locality, seems to have succeeded to his mother's interests and activities, which represented quite a

variety of business interests and activities: a sawmill on Virgil Creek, the gristmill recently taken down (the White, later Brewer mill), and a sawmill back of it, a hotel which has since been known as Shaver's Hotel, the first store just west of the hotel, a blacksmith shop in the building where the Fenners have lived, and besides these, farming and dairying interests on quite a large scale.

"The long row of maple trees on the north side of Main Street, now disappearing, are evidences of civic pride for which I have always been very glad - he planted them, and along his own lands I assume."

Mr. Willey adds one comment on early characteristics which is confirmed by the records:

"Those hard-headed old settlers with their rugged individualism were ever ready to fight for what they believed to be their rights and therefore the justice courts were busy and very entertaining places for the neighborhood."

The Rhoda Willey house and several other houses were early located along the Virgil Creek road which White and others had widened as a "track" through the woods to Willow Glen. That early road from the Bridle Road to West Dryden and Lansing, intersecting the track that ran eastward over the old Indian trail (later Main Street), established the old "Corner" which was the central point of Old Freeville.

One may imagine some of the hardships of this and other families who were trying to get established that year. The very next season, 1816, was the famous "year without a summer"; when there was a killing frost every month of the year and virtually all crops failed; when corn was not to be had, and wheat was 18 to 20 shillings a bushel and money extremely scarce; when children were lucky to get enough of last year's potatoes to stay the pangs of hunger until somebody in the neighborhood could shoot a deer and divide the meat, as was commonly done that winter; when White's mill did not turn a wheel for months and more than one man made a 20 mile trip over into Lansing or Milton (Genoa) through the snow and lugged home a bag of wheat on his back.

John C. Shaver, ancestor of the Freeville Shaver family, came into the neighborhood in 1823. He had been in Ithaca for some time, having come originally from New Jersey. In Ithaca he had a boat building business and is said to have run boats on the lake and through to Albany.

In a deed dated Feb. 21, 1823, John C. Shaver bought of Luther and Almira Gere 25 acres in Lot 26, paying \$150 for it.

He located with his family May 6, 1823, on the site about half a mile east of the present village, which farm remained in the Shaver family for a century. His house of framed lumber was larger than most of the other houses and log cabins in the locality.

The elder Shaver had chosen an excellent location on fertile land and he prospered; his family has always been prominent in village affairs. His oldest son, Ira. C., born in 1817, later settled on the hill about a mile northwest of the village and this farm in turn became the almost life-long home of the latter's son Willard. Two other sons, William J. and Julius M. - the latter always known as "Dude" Shaver - lived out their lives on the old homestead, "Dude" in the house on the west side of the creek, now owned by Frank Foote. William J. Shaver Jr. inherited the old place and operated it as a dairy farm for many years. The latter was Supervisor from the Town of Dryden for several years, was Town Assessor, Clerk of Freeville Village, member of the school board and a popular citizen to the time of his death in 1930. Another son of old John Shaver was Marcus D., who ran Shaver's Hotel for a time, moving to Ithaca in 1880 but later returning to help his son George I. at Shaver's Hotel for many years, and who lived in the house on the corner below the hotel (the present home of William A. Myers) to an age lacking only a few weeks of 100 years. He was known far and wide as "Coon" Shaver.

Shaver's farm and White's mill were a little over a mile apart, on Fall Creek, and in a sense these two places were the outposts of the Village of Freeville which was destined to grow up between them. The mill was just outside the line of Lot 26 which later became the corporate limits of the village, while the Shaver farm lay partly inside its eastern line.

How our village got its name is not certain. At first it was simply "White's Mill" and a little later it was also spoken of as "White's Corner." One story is that when the community had grown to have several families and was on the regular schedule of the circuit rider, some formal name was thought to be desirable. Most of the folks were in favor of letting it go on as "White's Mill" but Elder White himself vowed that in this new country the place names ought not merely to perpetuate some man's name because he got there first. He proposed that they call their settlement "Freeville" - and eventually it was so written down in the circuit rider's record.

The foregoing account was given to me by my Grandfather, Albert C. Stone, who had had something to do with the later development of the village and who was much interested in its early stories; however, he mentioned this merely as a hazy tradition and could not vouch for it with any certainty.

The name "Freeville" was in use prior to 1836 for the charter of the Ithaca & Auburn R. R., granted in May of that year, proposed to follow the south bank of Fall Creek "as far as Freeville" in the Town of Dryden, where it was to cross the creek. However, the map of Tompkins County republished in 1838 by Wm. P. Stone of Ithaca, although showing the proposed route of the Ithaca & Auburn R.R., did not find the hamlet of Freeville of sufficient importance to show it by name on the map.

During the first half of the nineteenth century Freeville scarcely acquired houses and families enough to identify itself as a definite settlement. During that time, while it was merely a back-woods gristmill and a half dozen cabins and houses in the midst of small clearings, stumps, girdled trees and swamps, the other settlements round about were growing into flourishing villages.

Dryden Corners had a postoffice as early as 1811. Within a few years it had a tavern, two stores, church, sawmill, cloth finishing mill, school house, different small shops where men manufactured chairs, nails, furniture and bricks, a distillery, blacksmith, carpenters, undertaker and physicians.

Willow Glen - early known as Stickle's Corners - was a rival of Dryden in those early years. Within the first quarter of the century it "contained a tannery, a grist mill, two saw-mills, two stores, two distilleries, one hotel, a blacksmith shop, an ashery, and a large wagon shop"

*Goodrich, Geo. E., "Centennial History of the Town of Dryden" 1897, P. 116.

The foregoing two settlements had the advantage, of course, of being located on the Bridle Road, which, although a rough and muddy thoroughfare, was then a main artery of travel between the Hudson and the head of Cayuga Lake.

West Dryden = "Fox's Corners" before 1825 - had a post office established in that year and already was quite a business center. It had stores, hotels, asheries, a carriage making shop, tool making shop, blacksmith, school, physician, weaver, a large church (1815), etc.

By 1835 Samuel Mallory was employing as many as 40 men and women in his mills at Malloryville, sawing lumber, making chairs, dressing and dyeing cloth. And down the creek Isaiah Giles and his sons were running the sawmill and carding and fulling mill which made Gilesville known round about.

Coming back to the Freeville site, it is of interest to note a transfer or two of land here in those early years. Soon after he had sold the tracts to the Shavers, Luther Gere of Ithaca, who still owned most of Present Freeville, sold other pieces of land.

By a deed made July 13, 1825, Gere sold 45 3/4 acres on Lot 26 to Richard Lacy, also of Ithaca, for \$273.75. This adjoined "land sold by the said Luther Gere to Jacob Shaver, Jr."

On November 1, 1825, Gere sold 25 acres in Lot 26 to Chas. Grinnell of Ithaca, consideration \$150.

The following year Gere sold 56 acres in the western part of Lot 26 to Daniel White, as has already been mentioned.

According to Mr Goodrich's History:

"There was early built a nice log school house wholly of pine logs on the Shaver homestead, where Wm. J. Shaver now resides (1897), then known as the LaFayette District, in which Henry H. Houpt, Esq., still living in Dryden, was the teacher in the winter of 1835-6. He taught four months of 24 school days in a month, for which he received \$40, which enabled him to still further continue his education. In speaking of his experiences as a teacher there when he was 21 years of age, Mr. Houpt recalls the fact that one of the principal duties of the teacher in those days was to keep the pupils' pens in order by preparing and sharpening them from goose quills, which were the only pens in use in those days."

Another early building, according to Mr. Goodrich's notes, was Shaver's Hotel, "the oldest section of which was built about the year 1640 and was early kept by Erasmus Ballard. When the

tannery building was removed from Gilesville a few years later the frame was brought here and used for an addition to the hotel, which is now (1897) kept by George I. Shaver." It was owned and operated by Samuel B. Willey in early years also. George I. Shaver, who became known far and wide as the proprietor of this hotel, began his tenancy in the spring of 1880.

The Tompkins County map of 1853, cited hereinafter, did not show this hotel; and one might possibly be inclined to wonder whether in the ten-family settlement that was Freeville, located as it was close to other and larger villages which already possessed taverns, there was any need for a hotel. However, family records put the building of the first small section of the hotel somewhat prior to that year and doubtless it was there, though ignored by the map maker.

The original Methodist Church building must have been there too - built in 1848 - though not shown on the map in question. It stood then on the Etna road, west of the Corner, between the Hunt and Dodge homes. In those days a minister was supplied from Etna or Dryden.

III

FREEVILLE IN 1853 - 1866

The map of Tompkins County, published in 1853 by Horace & Chas. T. Smith of Philadelphia, "from actual surveys by L. Fagan," gives the names of the residents and their location. From this map we are able to get a picture of the little hamlet of Freeville as it existed then.

At that time there were some ten families clustered in the general vicinity of the lower "Corner."

The house of John Ellis stood just west of the present school, about on the location of the present home of E. LaVigne Stanton.

In the vicinity of the present Fenner house, across from and a little west of Shaver's Hotel, lived a painter named A. E. Guinnip. We shall suppose him to have been related - perhaps a son - to Parlay Guinnip who was an early storekeeper in West Dryden.

H. White lived on the west side of the Virgil Creek road, a little south of the corner. The village school house, District No. 29, also was located nearby, near the White house.

Here also, on the southwest corner of the "Four Corners", stood Dodge's wagon shop. The owner of the foregoing shop, A. C. Dodge, lived a little to the west, on the opposite side of the Ithaca road, about on the site of the present George Hart home (the latter being now Freeville postmaster.)

On the northwest corner lived A. B. Hunt, later the location for many years of the Charles Monroe homestead, now owned by Harrison Freese.

E. J. Freeland (Uncle John Freeland as he was called in the neighborhood) built and then lived in the house which later became the home of Jacob Puderbaugh and subsequently of the George Seager family and now occupied by a daughter and son of the latter, Georgia and John Seager (who are also grandchildren of J. Puderbaugh.)

M. Ford built and then lived in the house opposite the mill pond, now occupied by Harry Ellis.

J. F. Yates built and then lived in the house on the bank of the pond which later was occupied for some years by the Laisdell family, still later by the Fenner family, and which burned about 1930.

J. Perrigo built the house next to the Fords, facing the pond, which house was occupied later on for many years by Byron Brewer and now by LaVerne Danns. Mr. Perrigo lived across the

road in the Yates house for a time and it was there that the daughter was born who later became Mrs. Orlin Hill.

The grist mill was run at that time by Ford & Perrigo. Abel White, grandson of old Elder Daniel White, had built and then lived in the house across from the mill, which later was for many years the homestead of the Shults family and which is now owned by this writer.

The foregoing comprised the hamlet that was Freeville in 1853; a little cluster of houses about the original "Corners" and between there and the grist mill.

There were a few houses outlying which may be mentioned also. To the northwest, on the West Dryden road, L. F. Beckwith lived beyond the "White bridge" in the house owned in later years by John T. Cole (whose wife was Georgia Merritt, a member of the White family), and now owned by Professor Paul Allen of Tennessee and rented to Paul Smith, son of Bert Smith who lives across the road a little farther up the hill. Still further up the hill, on the latter day Willard Shaver (now Parker) place, lived William Casar. Across the road and a little north from the Casar house stood that of the Woolever family. Seth Dodge lived back off the road, west of Fall Creek and west of Abel White's farm, on what was later known as the "old" Shults farm, now a part of the so-called "Kingdom Farms." B. Reed lived

on the later-day Humphrey Williams place, by the old "cheese factory spring" - the place where Isaiah Giles had settled back in 1801 and done so much hard work clearing, only to lose it by defective title a few years later.

Back to the south, out Virgil Creek way, S. Gunn lived about half a mile from the corner, on what is now the C. Fitts Monroe farm. He had a sawmill on the creek down across the road from, and a little south of, the house. There was also another sawmill a little farther up the creek, just east of the Lynaugh Lane corner - as well as that old, original mill near the Ben Wickham (now Cottrell) farm.

In the other direction, on the east end of the village, we would have come in 1853 to the B. Cotanch house, later the Hanshaw home. George W. Tripp lived about where O. N. (Newt.) Burton does now. J. M. Shaver lived on the place on the west side of the creek, now owned by Frank Foote; while old John C. Shaver still occupied the homestead on the east side of the creek, now owned by James Marquis. W. H. Sutfin lived beyond Shaver's, on what later became the Richard Duryea homestead, now the home of R. D. Simons. Beyond the Sutfin place about half a mile east was Philip Seager; while to the north a short distance was Isaac Cotanch.

The picture presented by the 1853 map is that of a little hamlet flanking an old country grist mill. The feature that was to appear on the maps of a few years later - the thing that was to make a village here - was entirely lacking at this stage, that is, the railroads. The only railroad in Tompkins County in 1853 was the "Lake Ontario, Auburn & New York", which crossed the county from north to south, running through the east edge of the Village of Ithaca and thence southward up Six Mile Creek Valley, barely touching the southwestern corner of Dryden Township.

What is now the central part of Freeville Village was then woods and raw fields spotted with rotting stumps and cradle knolls; Main Street, then known as the Cortland Road, was a crooked, muddy track, lined part of the way with a stump fence; the upper or east end of the town, including the railroads and station site, was then part of the woods and pasture on George Tripp's farm.

George Burton, an old resident, has given the writer some reminiscences of the early days when he came to the village as a youngster, around 1860. He still lives here, near the Spiritualist Grounds (1941), aged 85 years.

George Tripp lived "just above the upper bridge" then, according to Mr. Burton; the Tripp farm took in most of the upper end of the present village. Shaver's Hotel was operating. The Ed. Chapman house stood just below the present post office (near Bascom's store). Incidentally, the Chapman family lived there for a good many years, on into the nineties, and Ed. Chapman's barn and cow stable in later years stood uncomfortably close to the sidewalk.

"Newt" Freeland lived then down near the lower four-corners. Sam. Willey was a leading citizen "downtown"; he ran the grist mill then as well as a sawmill which was located over on the north side of the mill race. He also operated the sawmill over on Virgil Creek, on the Fitts Monroe farm, as well as a blacksmith shop just east of the present Ray Willey home.

At that time the old church was down on the Bill Dolson lot. The school was still over between the creek road and Virgil Creek, in the latter day Seager (now Johnson) pasture, standing there on a loam knoll which raised it above the wet ground round about. George Borton's first school teacher there was named Miss Maxon. Another early teacher whom he recalled was John Miller, "who went west to Dakota later on and got rich with the Dwights." Another early teacher was Laura Blanchard (later Mrs. Parsons, mother of

Fay Parsons, publisher of the Cortland Democrat.) The first preacher he could remember was a man named Harris (who was the Methodist Pastor here in 1863.) The first store, according to Mr. Burton's recollection, had a big shed attached and was located "downtown" near the hotel. This store about 1865 was run by John Lamont and Clay Ellis. An early blacksmith shop was run by Albert Breese on the same place near the upper bridge where his son, Adelbert Breese, had a like shop in later years - now Spaulding's Garage.

Freeville's first post office was established in 1864. It was obtained through the efforts of the Rev. Isaac Harris, whom we have just mentioned above, and of Congressman Milo Goodrich of Dryden. Mr. Harris circulated the petition for a post office here and presented it in person while on a trip to Washington. He was appointed the first postmaster, using a front room of his house below the Corner for a post office.

1866

The "New Topographical Atlas of Tompkins County," published by Stone & Stewart, Philadelphia, 1866, showed the following names in Freeville:

Beginning on the hill west of the village, Ira C. Shaver lived on the east side of the road. No other building was shown on that side of the West Dryden road down to the grist mill and sawmill across the creek just north of it. Next southward, on the east side of Mill Street, was the home of Mrs. Skillman (later Laisdell or Fenner house) and Mrs. J. White on the northeast corner of the "Four Corners."

On the south side of Mill Street, A. White lived on the Shults place. The next house to the eastward was that of O. S. Caldwell, then in order E. Cole, H. White, and Mrs. Cotanch. West of the Cotanch house, on the north side of Main Street below the Corner, was the Methodist Church, then a man named Wilson, and west of him D. W. Caldwell. On the southwest corner of the "Corners" was Miss Willey, and out the road toward Etta L. N. Freeland (later Lewis Cole place.) South of Miss Willey on the Virgil Creek road stood schoolhouse No. 29 and on farther south across the creek Mrs. Gunn and beyond her F. Burton.

Coming eastward along Main Street (then Cortland Road), S. B. Willey owned the Willey homestead on the southeast corner of the "Corners" and another house south of it. East of the Willey home on the corner stood a blacksmith shop belonging to him, and east of that a shoe shop. Next to the eastward was the home of Mrs. M. White; and there were no other buildings shown from there up to the corner of Railroad Street.

On the north side of Main Street, Mrs. J. White owned the house on the lower corner (later "Coon" Shaver house, now owned by William A. Myers); above that stood the hotel owned by S. B. Willey (now Shaver's) and east of it a store also owned by Mr. Willey. The only other house shown on the north side of Main Street was that of Russell Seager (now the Hanshaw house.) G. W. Tripp still owned the place on upper Main Street about where the present Newton Burton house stands. Farther out the Cortland road stood the farm homes of J. M. "Dude" Shaver on the west side of Fall Creek and of E. W. & W. J. Shaver east of the creek. Richard Duryea lived where R. D. Simons does now. On the Dryden road stood the house of Patrick Corcoran (now Harry Tucker family).

IV

THE COMING OF THE RAILROADS

It was the coming of the railroads that made Freeville. Just as Indian travel had followed the valleys, as the two old trails had crossed here, so finally did the iron trails.

In the two or three decades after the Civil War railroad building spread a network of new transportation lines everywhere through the country, especially throughout the populous eastern states. The advent of those railroad lines revamped the political geography of the countryside. Hamlets that were touched by the magic ribbon of steel blossomed into bigger towns. Villages that found themselves off the line shrank and declined. Thus, Freeville mushroomed into a village while busy towns like West Dryden and Willow Glen eventually faded back into inconspicuous "corners."

Perhaps the earliest railroad proposal of direct concern to our village was the Ithaca & Auburn, which was chartered in May, 1836. It proposed to build from Ithaca along the south bank of Fall Creek as far as Freeville, where it would cross the creek and go northward toward the Owasco Valley. Great must have been the interest among the handful of families then living about the "Corners"; but they were doomed to disappointment for no work ever was done under that charter.

The talk - and hopes - of the railroad went on for thirty years before one was built. Ithaca was commonly mentioned as one terminus; then of course there was the urge, inherited from earliest pioneer days, for transportation between the Susquehanna and the Lakes region to the north.

It was the latter route which brought a railroad first through Freeville or near it. The old Southern Central was laid out from Auburn to Owego and its supporters (among them John Dwight of Dryden and other local men) drummed the bushes for financial support. Every village along the route was induced to subscribe for stock, some even to bond themselves for large amounts. Dryden, among others, put more money into the venture than it could well afford.

But almost as soon as the Civil War was over that road began to take shape as an actual project. By 1867 it was well under way.

George Burton told the writer that he carried water to the workmen for McKenzie & Shaw, the contractors who were building the line through here. He trudged back and forth from the spring near the lower Corners, where Burrall Monroe now lives, with a yoke on his shoulders and two pails of water suspended therefrom.

In 1869 some 25 miles of the Southern Central were opened and the first trains began running. In 1870 about 43 miles more were completed; 27 in 1871, and the remaining 22 miles in the winter of 1871-72. We can well imagine the thrill of that first train, as all of Freeville's two-score inhabitants trudged up the road between rail and stump fences, to the little new board shanty that was the Southern Central station, out in George Tripp's stump pasture. This station was located on the west side of the tracks, about 30 rods south of the present junction. What a sight, in this new land where virgin timber still lined its right of way, to see that iron horse snort its way in on its first passenger run!

It was the sign nailed on the end of the little "depot" that really put the name "Freeville" on the map. That depot, incidentally, was the first building in "New Freeville," serving as railroad station, telegraph office, post office, and hotel until it was finally sold to F. E. Ward in October, 1879 and moved about 40 rods further south for his home. For many years the

"stations" both on the Southern Central and later on the E.C. & N. were very unpretentious shanties and were repeatedly criticized by local correspondents as dirty "hovels."

Even before the locomotive whistles began to startle the deer in Lobdell's swamp, work had been begun on the roadbed for the new "Ithaca & Cortland R.R." When projected, that road was formed under the charter provided by the General Railroad Act, with a capital of \$500,000, length 22 miles. As the roadbed was pushed through toward our valley Dryden people made a determined effort to bring it around through their village; but the geography of Fall Creek Valley carried it through Freeville. It crossed the Southern Central near the latter's Freeville station. Capital ran short toward the end and the last two miles into Ithaca were built only with the help of Otis E. Wood and some other local men who advanced credit and supplies.

The Ithaca-Cortland "shoo-fly", boasting at first two small engines and a dozen or so assorted cars, began running trains over 20 miles of track in 1871; in October of that year it was consolidated with the Utica, Horseheads & Elmira R.R. and became the Utica, Ithaca & ~~Elmira~~ Elmira - eventually linking Elmira and Canastota under the name of the "Elmira, Cortland & Northern R.R."

Incidentally, it is interesting to note that the present day disintegration of this railroad is proceeding in reverse order: the Ithaca-Cortland section being still in use after the actual abandonment of the Elmira end and virtual closing of the other end.

So, by 1871 the little hamlet of Freeville found itself within half a mile of a railroad junction. And even more of this development was in the air. A company was formed, called the Midland Railroad Company, which proposed to build a road from Freeville out through West Dryden and Lansing and up the lake ridge to Auburn. It persisted, too, and half a dozen years later had raised the necessary capital and was actively building roadbed. It began to run trains in 1880. My Grandfather, Albert C. Stone, ran on its first train as the railway mail clerk, running between Freeville and Genoa, and I have heard him relate stories of that road - how they watered the locomotive one time from Fall Creek where it crossed west of the village; how they stopped many a time for cows or sheep on the track; how a cloudburst over on the lake ridge washed out the underpinning from a cattle pass and the north-bound train ran over 12 feet of track that was held up only by the rails and spikes, etc., etc.

The old Midland used the Utica, Ithaca & Elmira (later the E. C. & N.) station in Freeville, which was a little west of the present crossing on Union Street. A cinder walk beside the track led from the depot up to the street crossing near the present Community Hall. Its roundhouse and turntable were located a little southeast, that is, back of the present M. E. Church. The superintendent of the line, a man named Peet, had his office here; Merritt L. Wood 2nd was his assistant and general book-keeper for the line. The road ran westward a little south of present Main Street, crossed the Ithaca road a quarter mile west of the lower Corner, and so on toward West Dryden. Its old roadbed is still visible today, grown up to trees and brush. About 1890 the Lehigh Valley bought up all of these local lines and discontinued the Ithaca, Auburn & Western (Midland).

An interesting aspect of the railroads in those days was their local - almost neighborhood - character. The roads were always ready to give special service to any shipper who wanted it and a special train to any group who wanted to go somewhere for a day's outing. There was little formality or red tape and the charges for such excursions were comparatively light.

V

THE HAMLET BECOMES A VILLAGE

Since the railroad junction lay east of the original hamlet, the course of new building at once moved in that direction, along the Malloryville road. So what had started out as more or less of a north-and-south settlement became an east-and-west village, so far as its main street was concerned.

People in nearby towns promptly began to cast an eye at Freeville, which seemed destined to become quite a railroad center. There was talk in the air that it might become a manufacturing center, too. Something like a western boom struck Freeville.

S. L. Howe's map, the first survey of Freeville showing the early streets and lots, was filed with the County Clerk March 29, 1875.

All the deeds to lots in the Railroad Street area which were written through this period always referred to that thoroughfare as the "road from Patrick Corcoran's place to Fall Creek."

Evidently the Corcoran house was an original one on upper Railroad Street; it was the place later owned for many years by John Giles, now by the Harry Tucker family.

Howe's Map No. 2, showing "Webster & Stone's Addition To Freeville," is in the writer's possession. This shows the layout of lots between Railroad Street and Yates Avenue (and the I. A. & W. Railroad on the south) with names of many of the early property owners penciled in. Mr. Howe was again employed in 1889 to survey and map the village streets, his bill for this service being \$11.40.

Freeville was becoming a busy little community by the middle seventies. The files of the "Dryden Herald" preserve for us many of the names and doings of those days. Thus, in the winter of 1875-76 Jay Shaver's band was making merry music for Friday night dances in Otis Wood's brand new Junction House. Dan Rowley was advertising himself as the agent for Studebaker wagons. Nelson Ogden was building his house on Cortland (now Main) Street in the summer of 1876. Henry Richardson bought out his partner in July of that year, he taking over the lumber and produce business of the former firm of Teeter & Richardson. The new Dobson planing mill was "making shavings." Stone and Breese had a fine new boat on the pond.

Otis E. Wood became the new agent for the Utica, Ithaca & Elmira R.R. that month (July 1876). Marc. Holton of Cortland was rumored as wanting to buy an interest in the new Junction House. The Luther & Sherwood grist mill was doing a thriving business. The U. I. & E. built a new depot in August 1876; likewise a new water tank opposite Pettigrove's store. Humphrey Williams' new house was up that fall (it was bought almost immediately by A. C. Stone.) Albert Willey was getting ready to build one near the "forks bridge" on the Etna road. Entertainments at Stone's new hall were attracting folks from all the nearby countryside.

John Cady was the community's biggest farmer; he bought two loads of patent milk cans in the fall of 1876 and was planning to milk 100 cows that winter.

A. C. Stone opened a branch store in McLean in February 1877 with Lewis Cole as manager. The cheese factory, owned by Spurr and Perkins, was burned by incendiaries that same month. James Powers was grading around his new house in the spring of '77; while Captain Stewart boasted a new stone walk in front of his home in the lower part of the village. Fred E. Darling was becoming a busy and successful tinsmith in the summer of '77; two years later, in October 1879, Mr. Darling opened a new hardware store on the first floor of his building, still using the upper story as a tin shop.

A new meat market was started by Jewell & Burns on July 31, 1877; but two months later that partnership wound up in a blaze of fireworks - an alcoholic party ended in a brawl during which Burns threw a lighted lamp at his partner. He was arrested but discharged; however, the meat business languished.

A big New Year's party was held at the Freeville Hotel, F. M. French, proprietor, on January 1, 1878. A. C. Stone moved his stock of goods into a new and larger store that spring. Miss Hattie George was appointed deputy postmaster. E. J. Cotanch, the village liveryman, had a mare that got in the news by foaling a five-legged colt (May, 1878). Mr. Goodale was building a new house on Cortland Street in August, 1878; ditto the Howell house and glove factory near the railroad; Otis Wood was building one for Mrs. Grinnell; T. W. Rittenhouse an addition to his house (near the church); Chas. Dickson was getting ready to build east of the Southern Central R.R.; ditto Mr. Hawley from Chenango Forks, on his lot opposite the Junction House; Humphrey Williams was building on his land up west of the village, and presently put up a new cheese factory on the site of the old one.

Five families were looking for housing quarters in the spring of 1879, indicating the influx of population. In March of that year D. Bartholomew was building a house for Chas. A. Larkin near

E. J. Chapman's. Chas. Dickson was building one for himself ("on the north side of the village.") John W. Webster's new house was finished in May, 1879; Mrs. Eliza D. Crittenden's that fall (now the Eli Bloom house). Richard Stark of Peruville built the one just east of the Parsonage at the same time. James Ginn was running a meat market then; William "Billy" Glazier was the village shoemaker. N. J. Ogden was renting out rooms in the rear of his store.

At the beginning of 1880 the village boasted several dress-makers and they were all busy; these included "Mrs. Albert Breese, Miss F. P. Leonard at Mrs. Goodales, Miss Arnold with Mrs. Livermore, Miss Delia Sperry with Miss Georgie Merritt." Ten years later it was Mrs. Annette Harter (wife of Fleet Harter who was long a mason here) who had become the leading dressmaker and whose skillful hands fashioned most of the good dresses worn by almost a generation of Freeville women. Who that can recall those days will ever forget the pleasurable upheaval and excitement which stirred the household during those several days in spring and fall when the dressmaker was on hand?

Hearing of the bustle and building that ruled our village back in those years, we are a little piqued to read the rather scanty notice given to it by such historical works as the "History of Tioga, Chemung, Tompkins, & Schuyler Counties, N.Y."

which was published in 1879; it mentioned Freeville in two sentences as follows: "The point of intersection for the Southern Central, the Utica, Ithaca & Elmira, and the Midland Railroads. It contains one church, two hotels, one grist mill, three stores, several small shops, and about 200 inhabitants."

John W. Webster and Albert C. Stone, old McLean boys, formed a partnership in 1879 to develop the large block of land owned by them in what is now about the center of the village - that is, between Railroad Street and Yates Avenue. They laid out Union Street and Liberty Street and proceeded to sell lots. A. C. Stone built a house on Main Street in 1880 (sold to William Dickson in 1881, later becoming the home of Ernest Blackman, now of Z. Church); and the large store on Railroad Street which in later years was converted into apartments and has long been known as the "beehive." Soon afterward he also built the store at the corner of Main and Union Streets which he sold to Harris Roe and John Grover in February 1884, and which burned in 1931, the Leroy Carter home being now located on this site; and in the fall of 1883 Mr. Stone built the home on the west side of Union Street, in which he lived the rest of his life.

As evidence that property here in those days was a saleable commodity, Otis Wood advertised 30 building lots for sale in January 1880 and before the snow was off the ground he had sold them all.

In the late seventies Chauncey Hanshaw bought of Russell Seager a tract in the upper part of the village, on the north side of Main Street. His double house was the first in that area, it having been built about 1850 by Benjamin Cotanch. Later Mr. Hanshaw built the meat market next door. He sold off many of the building lots along there as they now exist.

On the southeast corner of Main and Union, on one of the lots bought of Webster & Stone, George Card the blacksmith built his home in 1881, later owned for several years by Mrs. Nathan Thompson, now owned by the writer. A few years later Mr. Card built another house just to the south, now owned by C. Fitts Monroe.

Other houses that went up in those years were the Orlin Hill house (1886) on East Main Street near the railroad and near the planing mill which he ran there by the railroad; the Smiley (now Harry Manning) house built in 1871 by C. Hanshaw and sold to Mr. Smiley in 1885; the Depew houses on Main and on Railroad Streets; the Joel George house on Railroad Street (1872);

in 1884
on Union Street the Harriett Hubbard house/(now owned by Fred Sickmon); the Mrs. Cooper house south of Stone's store; the Abner Haskin house (with wagon shop in front), where his son A. G. Haskin later built a new house (now the home of Clifford Hurst); the Eliza Crittenden house (now Eli Bloom) in 1879 near Lyceum Hall; the Henry Sevey house (1884) just south of the railroad tracks on Union Street; the Albert L. Willey house in 1882; the Cullen R. Darling house on Railroad Street, where he also had a grocery and shoe store and where in 1884 he began the manufacture of bed springs in a little shop out back.

Milton Watson, in partnership with Joel B. George, built a large cooperage mill between Main Street and the Midland Railroad, back of the present M. E. Parsonage, in 1881. This became a busy sawmill with a yard full of logs every winter. Many years later this mill building was moved up back of the post office, having been donated by W. B. Strong for use as a public hitching shed. Eventually the O. Hill planing mill at the upper end of Main Street was acquired by Cleon Tondeur and for a time this mill turned out some quite respectable furniture. James M. Carr ran this mill for a time, for Mr. Tondeur. The writer owns a bedroom suite made many years ago in this Freeville furniture plant. The springs originally on the bed were made by Cullen Darling in his little shop back of his house on R.R. Street.

A part of the old Oliver Cady farm (between the village and the Republic) was laid out in lots as a part of the glass factory development of which more will be said presently, and several houses were built up there, part of this area having been known for years as the "Reservation." Eventually John E. Cady built himself a house up there on "Capitol Hill", on the north side of the Dryden road, which was perhaps Freeville's most pretentious house up to that time (1885). John Cady was the Assemblyman from this district for some years and was on many accounts a prominent citizen.

The new tide of travel was signalized by the building, in 1875, of the Junction House - a sizeable hotel for its time in so small a place - although the central part was not built until some years after the original kitchen end. Otis E. Wood was the principal promoter of this building; Daniel Rowley, another McLean man, also had a hand in its building and ran the hotel for a time. In February 1877 Wood and Rowley sold it to Mallory & Holton of Cortland; thereafter Holton had it in partnership with Thomas A. Cairns and still later with Samuel Hoff, the interests of Cairns and of Otis Wood being at one time the subject of litigation; but eventually it came into the sole possession of Marc. Holton who was its owner and proprietor for a quarter of a century thereafter and who built the main part of the building in 1879.

It consisted of three square sections facing the rail junction, the central one three stories high, the front and back sections two stories, flat roof, and with a long, uncovered platform-porch running across the front and part way back on the east side. The big lobby in front had its registration desk in the southwest corner, a palisaded coat alcove on the east side, big stove in the center and on the north side a drinking fountain with a gentle stream always flowing and cup handy, dangling by a chain. In the high-backed wooden chairs the drummers sat and swapped stories between trains. In this big lobby Marc Holton entertained his friends at Sunday night concerts on the first Edison phonograph ever seen in Freeville - this being in the latter nineties. Back of the lobby was the barber shop where "Professor" Groce, the colored barber and porter, held forth for many years.

Speaking of "first" musical instruments, mention may be made of the first piano in the village, it being owned by Mrs. Sam. Hoff. (During the eighties Mr. Hoff ran the store for some years in the "beehive" on R.R. Street.) F. R. Willey remarks that when Mrs. Hoff played the piano she usually had an interested audience of youngsters out in the street.

In the eighties a saloon existed on the east side of R.R. Street, next to the railroad, run by a man named Hyde - known always as "Old Man Hyde." Across the street - in the building which burned about 1907 - was the combined store, oyster house, restaurant, hotel and bath house known as the Cottage Hotel, the proprietor being big, easy going Billy Pettigrove. After the fire a new building was built on this location by Judson Oviatt who ran a store in it for some years, later selling it to John B. Shaver.

An attempt was made in 1885 to establish a brick making plant, utilizing the heavy blue clay which underlies most of "Brooklyn." Land was bought of Julius M. Shaver and added to by Mrs. Grinnell between the Southern Central R.R. and Fall Creek, just below Clay Bend. The brickyard site was leveled by Nelson Middaugh with a brand new road scraping machine which attracted much attention at the time. An engine and boiler were bought of Fred Middaugh and installed in the shed-like building which was erected; but upon first trial this boiler gave out and another had to be procured before work could go ahead. This was done and the young company began to make bricks. Machinery was bought from a firm in Adrian, Mich., and two brothers named Kells came on to show the workmen how to use it. They "easily ran out 6000 bricks in three hours." Quite a number of kilns, of 100,000 bricks each, were built up and fired, the first

trial kiln in July 1885, and the resulting product was hailed as excellent. A new crusher was installed in September 1885. Incidentally, a new bridge had to be built across Fall Creek to accommodate the brick plant, this bridge being the subject of some controversy among the taxpayers until finally the Tripps went ahead and fixed a bridge that would hold a load. The bricks were sold for \$5 per thousand, cutting in half the local price which had prevailed hitherto. It looked for a time as though new factories were coming to Freeville - two stove factories were being projected at this time - so that there would be a good big market right at home for this new brick making industry. The walls of the stove works, which later became the glass factory, were built of these home-town bricks. At least one chimney that we know of was laid of these locally made bricks: that on the Milton Watson (now Newton Burton) house. Quite an excavation was made in the clay knoll there by the creek in what is now part of the writer's pasture.

For about two years the brick plant continued in business, selling carloads of its product as far away as Owego and Auburn. But in the end it could not show a sufficient profit and went the way of Freeville's other infant industries. Today only the hollow pocket there in the clay knoll and a few crumbling remains of brick molds mark this manufacturing experiment.

But the most ambitious enterprise launched in Freeville during its boom period of the Eighties was the stove factory, which later turned out to be a glass factory.

In the summer of 1884 a man named William Vandermoor, who supposedly owned a stove factory in Schenectady, came to town with a proposal that if given proper financial support he would move his plant from Schenectady to Freeville. As this was precisely the kind of thing our citizens were looking for, steps were at once taken to gain the great advantage of this offer.

It was planned that the financing should be done through the sale of lots. John E. Cady, who was one of those much interested in the venture, subdivided 40 acres of his farm east of the village, which was laid out in quarter-acre lots, each priced at \$100. By the first of January 1885, more than 100 of these lots had been sold and the project had reached a promising stage. A meeting was held at that time between Mr. Vandermoor and a committee of Freeville men consisting of: Hon. John E. Cady, A. C. Stone, Otis Wood, S. S. Hoff, J. B. George, Chauncey Hanshaw, S. L. Howe and others. The site was conveyed to the Vandermoor company, Garry Chambers of McLean drawing up the papers; Otis E. Wood gave his deed to $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land for the site, valued at \$2000, together with land for the necessary streets to

reach the location. This site was between the S. C. and the E. C. & N. Railroads, about a quarter mile south of the junction. The stove company finally agreed to subscribe to the remaining unsold lots, about 20 percent being left, in order to hasten the project. The money from the sale of lots was paid in to John Cady and by him to the company. By the last of January 1885 the sale of lots had furnished the stove project with subscriptions to the extent of \$17,500.

So far this new undertaking had progressed in very promising fashion. Thereafter, however, things seemed to go more slowly. The Southern Central agreed to build a branch line in to the stove site but there was some lengthy argument between it and Messrs. O. B. and J. E. Cady before satisfactory right of way was conveyed and even after that the railroad appeared reluctant to build its switches as agreed. The local lot buyers, seeing that their interests needed protection, appointed a local committee in the summer of 1885 to represent the subscribers, this committee consisting of A. C. Stone, A. L. Willey, N. J. Ogden, O. E. Wood and Chas. A. Givens.

Three large buildings were projected, the main one 65 by 100 feet. Bricks for a part of these walls were bought of the new Freeville brick plant. However, bricks for the front of the foundry were bought from Campbell & Richardson of Spencer and

were arriving in quantity by August 1885. The contract to lay brick for the foundry was let to Jared Stout of McLean and John Maher of Cortland at \$3 per thousand. Theron Primrose contracted to furnish the sand, getting it mostly from the Hart banks.

For about a month work progressed at the foundry site and the walls rose one story. At this point, however, the whole project seemed to stall. Mr. Vandermoor was not making good on his commitments and some doubts of the proper outcome of the project began to creep into the picture. About \$7,000 had been paid in so far. Vandermoor now proposed to cut the main building from a two story, 20 foot height to one story of 15 feet height. About \$2,000 worth of materials were standing on the grounds unpaid for and the various owners of these promptly covered them with liens. A meeting of local citizens was held at the Shaver & Harter Hotel in September 1885 to discuss the situation.

It had become apparent that the Vandermoor proposition had been promotion pure and simple with little or nothing back of it. Accordingly, the committee of subscribers cast about that fall to see if some other company could not be interested to complete the buildings and establish a factory as planned. In September it negotiated with the Weeks Fulton Stove Company; in October with the Crandall Typewriter Company of Syracuse; and in November with the Moravia Machine & Foundry Company. It appeared

for a time that the latter concern would move to Freeville and establish its business; but in the end this hope also failed to materialize.

For about a year then, the half-completed stove factory stood there in a forlorn condition and those who had sunk money in it nursed their disappointment. The property finally was put in the hands of N. J. Ogden and A. L. Willey for some kind of final disposition.

Eventually they made contact with a Belgian glass manufacturer, Cleon F. Tondeur, who had a factory at Canastota and others near Oneida and in Ohio. He came and looked over the incomplete stove plant and finally agreed to buy it. The property was sold by Ogden and Willey to Mr. Tondeur in November 1886. That winter and the following spring he completed the main building and moved to it the necessary equipment for manufacturing what was called cathedral window glass. A mammoth barbecue was held when the large furnace was set, the last of 1886. About a dozen skilled glass workers were imported from Ohio, the arrival of their families adding to the town's already serious housing problem. Incidentally, the E. C. & N. Railroad extended its tracks to Sylvan Beach so as to haul from there the fine white sand which was used in the Tondeur glass factories.

Mr. Tondeur manufactured colored glass in this factory for a few years until the lapse of his patents about 1890 led to his financial failure and to the end of this industry in Freeville. Considerable glass, much of it a beautiful product, was made here in the short time that the plant operated. The windows in the M. E. Church, as rebuilt on Main Street in 1890, were made in the Tondeur factory as were the front windows in the Knights of Pythias Hall - the latter being still in place at this writing.

When I was a youngster, around 1900, the old glass factory still stood, a slowly disintegrating building with sagging roof. It was one of the pastimes of the boys then to go through the place, playing in the great pile of white sand on the south side and in and about the kilns and the huge glazed kettles set in the earth, in which thick layers of once molten glass still stood. George Burton tells me that he and Fred Skillman helped box up the big sheets of colored glass after the factory closed; Perry Hanshaw was boss. Mr. Tondeur left Freeville after the failure of his business and no other industry of like importance was ever projected in the village.

The first doctor in Freeville was a Dr. Bartlett who came here from Greene, N. Y. in February 1879. Ten months later his wife died at the age of 30 and in a short time after that he moved away.

The next was Dr. F. S. Jennings, son-in-law of W. R. Givens, who succeeded Dr. Bartlett, arriving here in October 1880. He moved into the lower part of the Nelson Ogden house, having his office there. He stayed only a year or so, moving from here to Dryden and subsequently to Cortland.

Dr. J. L. Beers located here in 1882, staying until the following February when he moved to Sayre.

A Dr. C. S. Shimer spent a few weeks here in 1884, departing quite hastily that March "for parts unknown."

In May 1884 Dr. Homer Genung, fresh out of medical college in Cleveland, drove over the hills from Besemer to look over the prospect here. There is some personal amusement to me in the story of how he interviewed one of the town's merchants, A. C. Stone, inquiring about the possibilities for a new doctor.

"Well, young man," said Mr. Stone, "if you are prepared to live at least three years without any income you might manage to survive here." Not very encouraging!

Yet the young doctor stayed and eventually married Mr. Stone's daughter Lena - thereby accounting for this writer's advent and interest in our village. In 1934 the community made a public celebration in honor of Dr. Genung's 50 years of practice in Freeville.

It is more than a little interesting to hark back to those active times of the Eighties when our little town was in the making, when the men and women who largely built it were coming into the picture. The news of that day bulged with new houses, with new shops and new streets and new people. In February, 1883 A. L. Willey was moving into his new meat market. Albert Tripp had a new house finished in November 1883. The new telephone office moved into Sam. Hoff's house that fall. Humphrey Williams was making cheese in his new factory about that time. Otis Wood was running his famous "Telegraph Institute", teaching twenty or more young men to be telegraph operators; his school was located in the Capt. Stewart block "on Water Street." In April 1885 five new dwellings were under construction, most of them virtually finished. Morris Stack moved into his new house out at the end of Yates Avenue (now the Groves place) that spring. H. D. W. Depew opened a grocery and notions store that summer. Fred Darling and his brother Bert built a new tin shop on his lot on Main Street in July 1885; Seneca Smith opened a barber shop in the Darling building. In August of that year one would have seen the post office closed and displaying emblems of mourning for the deceased President - General Grant.

In the fall of 1885 W. H. Harter started the house and store which has functioned ever since as a store, for many years in

the hands of F. H. Willey, and in more recent years Elroy Stanton.

In January 1886 the village lost one of its leading citizens, Abel White, son of the founder of the village.

In March 1886 Dr. Genung had lumber on the spot for his new house, which was completed in early August and in which he lived thereafter for nearly half a century. That same month he was given a surprise party in Lyceum Hall, with the community turning out to the number of over 200 people - "the largest party of its kind ever seen in this community." Herman Strong moved into his new house that summer. Freeville's first newspaper also reared its tiny head that summer - the "Enterprise & Express", published by a hopeful young man named Johnson who managed to get out weekly editions from April to October before frost wilted his ambitions. Freeville, by the way, never was able to support a newspaper for any length of time. The "Freeville Leader", run by a man named Smith, flourished for a time in the Nineties; later the "Freeville Press" was nursed along for two or three years successively by a Mr. Barnum and then by two brothers named Benedict. But our newspaper history is no better than is that of our manufacturing enterprises.

One thing Freeville always had been noted for is its excellent water supply, virtually all flowing water from deep artesian wells. The average depth of these wells is around 165 feet.

In early days the "cheese factory spring" on the hill to the west and the Cady springs on the east furnished large and never failing water supply. The U.I. & E. water tank, built in September 1876, used water from the Cady spring. It is recorded that that spring ran undiminished during the severe drought of 1879.

The first flowing well of which I have record was driven by Hanshaw and Breese in April 1877. At about this same time Wm. Pettigrove, up near the railroad on R.R. Street, drove an excellent flowing well which, by reason of the now familiar sulphur, lime and iron content, he made some effort to exploit as a mineral water. In 1879 he was advertised as the proprietor of the "mineral well establishment" and in June of that year the papers recorded progress of another "mineral well" being driven for him by Gross & Co. This mineral water was advertised as one of Freeville's own peculiar products in those years.

C. B. Bills of Etna drove or deepened several wells here in the fall of 1879, using a "Pierce well excavator" which made a hole 17 inches in diameter. J. M. Shaver drove a deep

well in August 1880. In June 1882 Albert Breese struck a fine stream at 165 feet depth, this driven by Ed. Watrous of Moravia - who, by the way, did most of the well drilling here for many years thereafter in partnership with Eugene Morey of Groton. This Breese well was widely talked of, flowing "1800 barrels a day of beautiful, sparkling water."

Interest ran high in every one of these new wells that was brought in; people watched the drilling and talked of the progress of each one and Freeville congratulated itself many a time at having this vein of pure water within reach. In the fall of 1885 J. S. Grover, F. E. Bascom, and George Card all secured fine new wells, the latter one only 75 feet in depth but the other two deeper. Thereafter numerous deep artesian wells were driven, giving most of the households in town either first- or second-hand access to the finest kind of drinking water.

Freeville was incorporated July 2, 1887, including within its corporate limits the square mile of territory comprising Lot No. 26 of Dryden Township. It had 300 inhabitants at that time.

The first President was Henry Richardson, who owned the feed and produce business just north of the railroad junction, and who was reelected for a second year. The number of votes cast for the first officers of the Corporation was 26, Mr. Richardson receiving all of them. The three Trustees likewise unanimously elected were Orson Luther, George T. Card, and Byron Brewer. William H. Cady was elected the first Treasurer and Albert L. Willey Collector. G. M. Watson was the first Clerk.

The first code of by-laws or ordinances governing conduct of affairs in the village contained 26 sections and was adopted July 25, 1887.

Some of the citizens did not like the new system of licenses and regulations governing pool halls and some other public places and they forced a special election on the issue of abandoning the charter of incorporation. This election was held Nov. 17, 1888, the vote being 53 to remain incorporated and 26 opposed; so the village continued under its charter.

The first constable appointed was Nathan Thompson; the first health officers Dr. H. Genung and John S. Grover - appointed July 25, 1887. The village board on Oct. 6, 1887 discussed the names of streets, finally deciding that the former Cortland Street should be named Main Street; "the road leading from Main Street to the Junction" should be Railroad Street; from Main Street to W. H. Richardson's, Market Street; from Main Street to the grist mill, Mill Street.

That fall also posts were set for street lamps and sidewalks were ordered built.

At the village election of March 19, 1889, those who voted (27) were as follows: W. H. Richardson, Edgar F. George, G. M. Watson, W. H. Harter, J. H. Rawley, Wm. Grover, A. L. Smiley, DeWitt Depuy, J. L. Larkin, J. S. Grover, G. T. Card, F. E. Darling, W. S. Thompson, H. D. Depuy, F. E. Bascom, J. B. George, Dr. H. Genung, N. H. Thompson, A. L. Willey, Jas. M. Carr, C. H. Darling, Wm. Hyde, W. A. Glazier, George G. Depuy, Byron Brewer, C. S. Groce, E. M. Seager.

Brooklyn Street was designated as a public thoroughfare August 28, 1889; Port Watson Street Dec. 26, 1892.)

~~W. H. H.~~ rickety wooden bridge provided access to "Brooklyn", which was the lane over to Riley Tripp's (now Francis Smith

place. The original bridge fell into Fall Creek with a mighty splash on June 6, 1879, fortunately no one being on it at the time. It was replaced with another and scarcely more durable bridge which had to be strengthened in 1885 to handle the traffic to the brick plant and which in turn finally broke through with J. L. "Lem" Larkin and team, drowning one of his horses (May 1896), after which it was again strengthened and eventually replaced by an iron bridge. The village bought Mr. Larkin a new horse for \$40 and gave him \$10 for damages to wagon and himself. "Brooklyn" comprised, in addition to the Tripp place, three small houses and the Brigden blacksmith shop until finally the whole area was bought up by Dr. Genung in the 1900s and consolidated into a farm, upon which he raised Jersey cattle.

Speaking of village elections reminds me of the hottest political campaign that ever stirred our community - and it was not over national nor state issues; it was a matter of local rivalry such as occasionally raises the temperature of a little town to fever pitch. I am tempted to mention this exciting incident notwithstanding that I may be accused of being a little partial in these recollections.

W. Jay Shaver, who was a member of one of the fine old pioneer families, had long been a major figure in village political affairs when, in 1898, his rule was challenged by a strong opposing faction. When Mr. Shaver made known his candidacy for the office of president, the opposition put up Dr. Homer Genung. The Shaver camp made some genial remarks about the ease with which they would defeat "the young doctor" - and the fight was on!

As election day came, March 15, 1898, both sides exerted themselves to get out every vote. The campaign had been far more strenuous, though with somewhat less noise and bluster, than any ever made here for President of the United States. I was a youngster at the time but I well remember the excitement and suspense of that election day. Of course it was pretty well known how every man who went to the polls was voting (women didn't vote then) and as the day wore on the race obviously was neck and neck! Nobody was quite sure just how it was coming out until the ballot box was opened that evening after sunset.

The outcome was 47 votes cast for Genung and 43 for Shaver. In the same election Henry Brown was elected Trustee over Nathan Thompson by 5 votes, George Brewer also a Trustee by 8 votes;

F. Ray Willey Treasurer over Fred E. Darling by 3 votes; Judson E. Oviatt collector by 7 votes over DeSitt Depuy. A close shave all around!

The following year the battle was renewed, but with little excitement. Dr. Genung was again elected village president over W. Jay Shaver, 35 to 27.

I should add that despite the intense rivalry that was momentarily injected into this little political episode, the Shaver and Genung factions in due course buried the hatchet and remained good friends - in fact W. J. Shaver, Jr. was one of my father's most loyal personal and political friends throughout his life. I have heard them chuckle many a time over that bitter election battle back there in '98.

Freeville never has had but one church. The first written record of services is that in the diary of the Rev. Anning Owen who rode the 176 miles of the Cayuga Circuit in 30 days. He records a meeting held on August 8, 1810 at the home of Daniel White, at which 15 persons were present; and he added in the remarks column opposite this group of worshippers the single word "contentious." However, a glance at his diary reveals that this was one of his favorite and most often used words.

The first church building was erected in 1848. Records in possession of Miss Gertrude Fuller note that "This house of worship was commenced and dedicated December the 25th, 1848, under the ministry of Rev. Zetto Barnes." It was located a few houses west of the lower corners, on the north side of the Ithaca road, and was capable of seating "300 people." It has been described as being similar in style to the Asbury Church; it had a finished basement which was used for various activities and it is said that public school classes were conducted there at one time.

Rev. Emil Premru, the present (1942) Minister, has furnished me with the following interesting account of the church history:

"The earliest records of the church now available date to November 13, 1874. At that time the church was reorganized and a new certificate of incorporation was filed in the office of the County Clerk. It is interesting to note that the reorganization meeting was held in the home of Abel White, son of Daniel White, where the first meeting was held in 1810. At this meeting Abel White was chairman, Rev. J. W. Jenner secretary, Miss Mary Willey and Henry Chapman tellers; trustees elected were Joel B. George, Otis E. Wood, and Julius C. Fox.

"In 1875 it was recorded that a lot be purchased from Dr. A. D. Simonds, upon which to build a parsonage. In 1878 the parsonage was built (cost \$1500).

"In the same year's record the following appears: 'A camp meeting was held at Freeville. Most of the pastors were present and gave valuable aid. Over 100 tents were on the ground. By request of the camp meeting committee, no train ran to the ground on the Sabbath. A large number were converted and scores came into possession of the boon of perfect love.' Thus the 'contentious' group was playing host to the ministers and churches of the Elmira District, Freeville being then in that district. This camp ground was located in the Shaver woods, now the Marquis farm.

"Usually an American village grew around the church, but Freeville grew around the railroad terminal. The church, which was not far from the white home and the grist mill, found that in time it was on the outskirts of the village. The trustees' notes of 1890 reveal that the church was to be moved to the people. A site was secured next to the parsonage and when all legal formalities were settled, court orders, insurance permit to 'remove, rebuild, and repair' and 'locking and keeping locked when idle said edifice', the work of removal began.

"Noah's Ark riding the crest of the storm could not have presented a more thrilling moment than when the church came to town. One who witnessed the event said it was 'done easily and quickly, with the usual assortment of men, women and boys watching the old Ark a-movin'.' The entire original building was moved save for the pillared front porch. Settled safely on its new Mount Ararat, the only outward material changes were a steeper slant to the roof, a new unit in the front of the church which now houses the prayer meeting and class rooms, and the tower containing the bell. A notation in the 1895 yearbook makes this comment: 'all indications are now bright for this struggling society.' New names began to appear on the list of church officers, such as N. H. Thompson, John T. Cole, F. F. George, H. A. Strong, T. C. Moskelly, F. N. Willey, and J. B. Rogers.

"The church moved on through World War I to seasons of prosperity and depression. It struggled through the hard times of 1930 and in time moved forward again. Almost fifty years after its historic journey up Main Street the church had its face lifted inside and out, rearranged modern lighting, memorial windows, redecorated interior and exterior, landscaping and other major improvements. But even before this took place a kitchen and dining room were built on the south side - this much needed addition having been made possible through the gifts of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Willey, Mrs. Marietta Monroe, and Mrs. E. C. Chapman.

"Men differed as to politics, methods of education, and forms of worship, yet basically they sensed the value of the church to conscience, morals, and character. That is why the church at Freeville stands today. And we may add one other statement in favor of the 'contentious' lot: while over this period of 130 years other communities have been over-churched and now those churches must federate or close, Freeville maintained that one church could meet her religious needs in the face of some other evangelical churches which sought to establish a foothold here. Today we can go forward where overchurched communities must retreat."

In concluding his letter to me, Mr. Premru closes with a couple of items which are worth noting, the first for its historical interest, the second as showing one glimpse of the incidental activities of the church now (1942) in wartime:

"In reading some records I came across this, which was of interest to me: 'In consideration as sexton H. A. Strong was to receive \$25 per year and 50¢ per week for extra days and a free ticket to all entertainments for himself and family.'

"As to the war gardens, we have about 15 boys who are keeping gardens this year (1942) through our 4-H clubs. The club is undertaking a community project in having a garden on the Morey property next to the (Bascom) store. It is to a kind of cooperative affair among the boys. There is other ground available if I can find someone to help."

The present (1942) trustees of the church are: William Apgar, Donald Macarthur, B. Randall Smith, Henry Fitts, Henry VanArkel, and Clifford Starkey.

It may be of interest to cite the item regarding the Freeville M. E. Church which was contained in the "History of Tioga, Chemung, Tompkins, and Schuyler Counties," published in 1879:

"The Methodist Society was reorganized in 1876 and the present (1878) membership is 26. Number of scholars in Sunday School classes 60; E. Chapman, Superintendent. Rev. William M. Benger is the present pastor."

The church records, however, indicate that the reorganization mentioned actually took place in November 1874 and not in 1876 as stated in the county history foregoing.

List of the ministers of the Freeville Methodist Church:

1848 Zetto Barns	1894 F. E. Spence
1863 Isaac Harris	1897 J. B. Rogers
1864 Isaiah Lord (Freeville & Etna)	? Hamilton
1866 J. G. Brooks	1900 H. W. Williams
1867 Wm. Nunnell	1903 H. B. Smith
1868 D. C. Dutcher	1906 H. B. Roberts
1872 E. S. Jayne	1906 J. N. Eberly
1873 J. W. Jenner	1912 A. F. Hilimire
1877 O. W. Webster	1913 G. Y. Benton
1877 W. M. Bengier	1915 L. C. Bockes
1881 C. W. Jewell	1917 W. C. Stevens
1882 W. F. Butman	1919 F. T. Crumley
1884 R. L. Stillwell	1924 E. J. Starr
1885 S. W. Andrews	1924 W. H. Flaxington
1887 N. K. Wheeler	1929 C. C. Townsend
1888 C. A. Willson	1931 W. H. Flaxington
1890 J. B. Roberts	1938 E. A. Premru
1893 T. C. Roskelly	

Mention has been made of the camp meetings held in Shaver's woods, along Fall Creek just above the village. These were a prominent feature of summer life here in the 1870s. Methodist Church workers and members gathered here from many miles around, making a gathering of as many as 500 persons and more sometimes.

The camp consisted of tents set up to make an orderly layout of "streets", round about a large central area where there were board seats and a rustic stage. The whole was in a beautiful grove, having also a well and other camp facilities. Large wind-proof lanterns stood on posts or trees so as to light the grounds at night.

Access to the camp grounds was from the Malloryville road through the Shaver or Cotanch fields east of the village, whence parties drove or walked back into the grove.

These camp meetings were famous throughout this region. Many a family looked forward to camping out in this pleasant place for a couple of weeks as the vacation highlight of the year. Notable services were held in the central assembly ground and many pious scenes were enacted as people responded to the exhortations of the preachers.

Old stereoscopic pictures of the camp meetings, shown to the writer by Miss Gertrude Fuller and Miss Louella George, show large and attentive audiences listening to the preaching; and

scenes among the tents at mid-day, with little groups sitting about visiting, or groups of boys playing among the trees. An interesting and pleasant scene.

Special trains brought campers to the grounds and other crowds to the Sunday services; but no trains were allowed to run to the grounds on Sundays.

A typical account of a camp meeting was contained in the Dryden Herald of Sept. 12, 1876. Freeville was overflowing with visitors; both the Junction House and Shaver's Hotel were filled to capacity, and Wm. Pettigrove was kept busy serving oysters and other eatables to patrons at his store and restaurant on Railroad Street.

The last camp meeting was held in the Shaver woods in 1878. That year some mischievous boys - abetted, it was said, by some old enough to know better - set a fire which burned the whole property: tent platforms, auxiliary buildings, seats, stage, and even part of the grove. This blow so angered and discouraged the church authorities of this Conference that they established the camping grounds elsewhere hereafter.

For many years afterward people often referred in conversation to episodes at the old camp meeting grounds, and there are still a few living who can reminisce of those days. One can still (1942) find the old well and other bits of evidence in the peaceful Shaver woods, where seventy years ago crowds of people came together for that unique religious festival.

Another group which had held camp meetings for some years in this vicinity was the Spiritualists. Finally a permanent camping ground was established by the Central N. Y. Spiritualist Assn., which bought 10 acres of land near the eastern edge of the village in 1897 and built thereon an auditorium, dining hall, cottages, and other buildings. This Association has held its camp meeting here annually during July and August since that time.

The Spiritualist meetings have several times featured speakers of national note; their Sunday meetings have in some years attracted crowds of several hundred people. Their grounds have been attractively landscaped, leaving the pleasant grove which was originally on the site and adding ponds, drives and flowers. In recent years several persons interested in the movement have built private cottages on the grounds and make a practice of spending a part of the summer in residence here. In all, the Spiritualist grounds now include quite an extensive group of buildings.

Among local people interested actively in the Spiritualist enterprise were A. C. Stone, John Webster, Jas. M. Carr, W. F. Moore. It has never been the custom of Freeville people to live right on the camp grounds, however, as so many used to do during the sessions of the old Methodist camp meetings in Shaver's woods.

Some of the following facts regarding the Freeville school were compiled by Miss Edith Watson, assisted by Mrs. Gerritt S. Miller, at the time of the former's graduation from the Union School in 1900, and were made available to me by Miss Louella George.

As to the very first school in the community, there is no definite record at hand. It is said that the first school building was located on what is now a part of the Fitts Monroe farm, second place south of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, on the west side of the Virgil Creek highway. The teacher who taught in this little old first schoolhouse is said to have been named Miss Susan Fancher.

About 1838 the school district was first organized as District Number 29. The little old red building that sheltered the pupils then was located on a knoll south of the four corners, in the later E. M. Seager (now Johnson) pasture. The resolution recorded in the school minutes specified: "That the house be 20 by 22 feet square and that the above building be studs and braces; that writing tables be against the wall; that the floors be raised back; that there be a portico in front of the house and that said house be painted; that \$175 be raised for said house; that the school be kept by a woman teacher this winter in said district; that each scholar get one-half cord of good stove wood, to be got when called for."

The record of public money received in 1841 read as follows:

Received public money	-----	\$27.30
Library money	-----	5.40
Recd. of the trust of 1841	---	<u>2.26</u>
School wealth this year		34.96

At a special meeting in 1844 resolutions were passed to raise \$13, besides what might be realized from a certain old stove, to purchase a new stove and pipe. Also at that meeting a resolution was passed to reimburse Abel White for a book and a pail.

The Trustees' report for 1845 showed that the number of school days that year was 204 $\frac{1}{2}$, during which time since 1844 there had been three teachers employed and 58 children taught.

The text books used in 1846 were the following:

Sanders' Spelling Book
Adams Arithmetic
Emerson's First Part
Day's Algebra
Brown & Kirkham's Grammar
Mitchell's Outline Maps

The records of 1845 note the building of a new fence, to be made "of chestnut posts and hemlock boards, five feet high, laid tight and nailed with 12-penny nails, posts driven 2 feet in the ground, the boards 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick and well nailed with double tens."

At an annual school meeting of the inhabitants in 1850, a motion was made and seconded that a committee be appointed to find out what it would cost to move the school house. Nothing further was said about this, however, until 1852, when at the annual meeting a motion was proposed to appoint a committee of three to negotiate with Naomi Willey for a half acre of land for a school site on the opposite side of the road. After engaging in considerable discussion pro and con about this proposal, it was finally brought out that the land could not be bought anyhow, so that meeting adjourned with no further results.

In 1852 a dictionary was purchased, as recommended by the State Superintendent.

In the minutes of a special meeting in 1855 is recorded the appointment of a special committee to "appraise the stove pipe" and its verdict was that the said pipe was worth one dollar. At this meeting it was voted to levy a tax of \$5.70 to defray incidental expenses for the year, this being carried by a vote of 14 yeas to 6 nays.

During 1855 also a special meeting was again called to consider the proposal to move the school building. The committee's report in favor of doing so was rejected.

In this year occurs the first mention of a "male" teacher; the latter was employed for four months of the year, while a "female" battled out the other five months and three days.

In this year also the sum of \$3.50 was apportioned to the library and was used for the purchase of the following books:

Franklin's Select Works, by Sargent
Home Scenes
Sargent's Temperance Tales
Twelve Years A Slave
Solomon Northrup's City and Country Life

In 1864 a motion was presented at a special meeting to build a new schoolhouse; but the motion was lost. At a special meeting in November 1865 the following motion was carried: "That the trustees be instructed to repair the school house thoroughly enough to last 28 years."

It was about this time that the district began to be known as District Number 13 instead of 29.

The long delayed repairs which had been discussed in several meetings were specified at a meeting in 1869: "1st, that the inside be lathed and plastered and ceiled as high as it now is; 2nd, that the seats be in slip form with desks and jacks underneath; 3rd, that a new chimney be attached at the west end of the house with a cupboard underneath with shelves and doors for the same, for the teacher."

In 1869 the annual report recorded receipts for the year of \$213.40. Expenses included \$22 for a stove and \$148 for teachers' wages.

In 1873 the long projected new schoolhouse was built, up on the Main Street site where it remained for half a century, across the street from the present (1942) brick schoolhouse. It was a low, one-story frame building with gable roof sheltering one round window, two doors and a window in front opening into a hall which extended across the front of the building. An old photograph of this building shows the teacher with her flock of thirty or more standing in regular order in front of the house, the bare-foot boys on one side, the girls in long sleeved aprons on the other, with their hands pressed stiffly at their sides. "Among these faces one may recognize Eddie George and sister Louie and Glen Mineah and his sister Cora standing near the teacher."

The school increased quite rapidly about this time while the village was going through its "boom" period. In 1880 another teacher was hired and an extra room had to be rented to accommodate the small children. That was the beginning of the primary department. The basement of the church was used for a time, for this purpose.

We find in the notes of 1882 the record of a globe and a clock bought from the proceeds of an entertainment given by the school.

In 1883 the question of the further enlargement of the school building came to the front again, the old building having been completely outgrown - so fast was our population increasing in those days. At the annual meeting that year \$300 was voted to buy another acre of land from the Sherwood heirs to enlarge the site and to build according to the following specifications:

"Resolved that we adopt as school house plan 98 by 56 feet, with studs not less than 14 feet, with vestibule, tower, and spire, with cellar under vestibule, size of vestibule 14 by 20 feet." The building committee, in addition to the trustee, N. J. Ogden, consisted of Willard Shaver, Ormon Luther, and Albert Breese.

In July 1884 the old school house was sold to A. L. Willey for \$160 or thereabouts and was moved around on Groton Avenue and remodeled into a residence; it was for many years the home of Edmund Smith, later of Doty Chase. The money received from sale of the old building was used to buy more land.

It was now voted to keep the school for three terms instead of two. A substantial fence was built around three sides of the school yard; a well was dug and pump installed for water supply; and the fine new house was painted. George Sickmon, then principal, was active in making these improvements. The community seems to have taken a new pride in its school and from this time on it was cared for and developed in every way possible.

By 1893 outside pupils in some numbers had begun coming to the Freeville school and a tuition fee of \$3 was charged. About this time one of the former teachers led in getting up a series of entertainments from which money was raised to buy window shades and apparatus for the work of certain classes, and to build a walk; also a flagstaff was raised and a new flag bought, and the first maple trees were planted.

In 1898 public sentiment supported further improvements in the school house, which were undertaken amid lively interest by the community. Extensive repairs and alterations were made at a cost of \$1000. The roof was raised to make a second story containing a large hall, class room, and academic room furnished to accommodate about fifty extra pupils. In September of that year came a move to establish a Union School; a school board was elected and Regents examinations were held here for the first time in January 1898. Classes were graduated from the new Union School during the next three or four years amid much enthusiasm; Lyceum Hall was profusely decorated for these events and much was made of all the school functions.

One of the citizens most active in building up the school during this period was William E. Sutfin, for several years President of the Board of Education. Nor did he rest until the school had been made a full-fledged High School in 1906.

In June 1907 this writer was the first (and as it happened, the only) graduate of the new High School; I well remember my embarrassment as I walked out upon the lonesome stage of Lyceum Hall that June evening.

However, notwithstanding that quite a large number of outside pupils continued to come into Freeville, the status of a High School could not be maintained; the community was not quite big enough to support such a school.

About 1935, when public money had begun to flow so freely from Washington for public projects through the Works Progress Administration - the famous WPA - the idea was conceived of consolidating several school districts into one big unit with Dryden and Freeville as joint centers. This idea originated in Dryden but received support in Freeville. Accordingly the necessary action was secured in meetings held throughout the territory involved and some nine districts were given up and central schools established in Dryden and Freeville. The High School was located in Dryden and the secondary unit in Freeville. New brick buildings were built in both villages in 1937 - far finer buildings and better equipped than ever had been dreamed of in these communities before. These projects were financed with the help of Federal funds but are now being paid for on a long term basis by the taxpayers of the consolidated districts.

In Freeville the new building was located directly across Main Street from the old one. To make room for it the residence of William B. Strong was bought and moved a few lots further up the street. The fine new brick school house took its place next to the church, the grounds nicely landscaped and providing an ample setting well back from the street. C. Fitts Monroe is the Freeville member of the central School Board.

As to teachers who have presided in Freeville school, no record of names is at hand at this writing. Notable among the principals of recent years have been George D. Sykes who was the principal when it became a Union School; Benjamin B. Chappell; Wm. G. Frisbie who was principal of the High School when first established, etc. Hicks Dow is now the principal of the school, besides whom there are three women teachers. (1942).

In 1875-76 the large building known as "Lyceum Hall" was built on the east side of Union Street, near the present E.C. & N. R.R., by A. C. Stone. This hall has been for many years the chief entertainment center of the village, having been finally acquired by the village, after Mr. Stone's death, and enlarged and modernized in 1935-36 to serve as a general community hall.

Lyceum Hall was built not only as a theater and as a forum for the group of liberal-minded thinkers who held many notable meetings here in those days, but was originally intended for, and became popular as a dance hall and roller skating rink. The excellent hardwood floor was laid with the boards running circular-wise for dancing or skating. In the eighties and early nineties when roller skating was all the rage, great crowds skated there nightly. The charge was ten cents per person; prizes were given for the most graceful skater, the best backward skater and so on. I can remember my father and mother talking about these skating parties which were so popular when they were a young married couple.

In 1885 a new stage was built with dressing rooms beneath it, in which it is recorded that Nola and Lena Stone gave a "housewarming" party in June of that year.

In 1905-6 Mr. Stone had the hall completely renovated into the form of a country play-house, including new seats, new scenery, a balcony in the north end, etc. This job of renovating was of peculiar interest to the Freeville folks all that winter, being done largely by an old scene painter and actor named "Professor" George E. Wilson - painter of the original scenery in the hall - who made a business of such jobs and who, with his wife, nee Mary Wheeler, organized home-talent plays meanwhile to help finance it. Thereafter, Lyceum Hall was the scene of many interesting plays, entertainments and lecture courses for some years - including the first motion picture shows ever seen in our section (1906).

That the hall was saved and brought into village ownership after Mr. Stone's death was due to the public spirit of two or three citizens, headed by F. Ray Willey.

A center of diversion in the nineties was Riverside Park, on the banks of Fall Creek, its entrance being where the James Harvey George house was later built (now Lewis Seager home). This park was built and owned by Harris Roe, who also owned the store at the corner of Main and Union Streets. The workmen who did most of the building of the park were George Burton, Bill

Skillman, and Nelse Ogden. Riverside Park was the scene of many camp meetings and other sessions of prohibitionists, semi-religious groups, colored groups, etc.

From the park entrance one passed back toward the creek along a shady, winding cinder walk. In the center of the park stood a broad, low-roofed auditorium where a species of semi-religious, Chautauqua program was held on Sundays. To the east of this building was an oval pond, fed from an artesian well, in which goldfish (much less common then than now) and a school of beautiful black bass were a source of interest to the strollers who moved about the boardwalk which surrounded it. Along the bank overlooking the creek, pleasant rustic seats and picnic tables under the trees invited those who had come for the day. On the higher ground in the western corner stood a long scaffold of big steel swings which would go high enough to give any young couple a thrill in those days. A refreshment stand stood just below the fish pond.

A wooden dock stretched along the bank of the creek, being down at a lower level than the picnic area and approached by wooden steps at intervals. Tied to posts along the dock were a number of gaily painted rowboats, always in demand on nice Sundays. This dock, secluded and shady, was a favorite spot with the young people on hot summer days.

Toward the east side stood a sizeable boat-house, home of the steam launch "Clinton" - named for the young son of Harris Roe. This steamboat, with engine amidships and a canopied after-deck seating a dozen persons comfortably, was the most stirring feature of the park, at least to all youngsters. It made regular trips to the mill-dam and back to the Brooklyn Street bridge, turning about at each end of the trip by being snubbed to a stout post. The fare was five cents a trip; Curt. Johnson was the engineer. Never shall I forget the excitement of seeing that steamboat coming up the creek, cleaving the quiet water in grand style and with a plume of black smoke rolling out behind.

Riverside Park was a pleasant and popular resort for some years. But it finally ceased to be a profitable enterprise; the owner abandoned it and sold it around 1900. Well do I remember my boyish pangs at seeing the "Clinton" loaded on two long wagons for removal to some lake off eastward.

By 1890 most of the building lots on Main Street and nearby on the other side streets had been occupied, and Freeville was a village of near a mile in length and containing within the Corporation 312 inhabitants. Its "boom" was beginning to wane by that time but it was beginning to settle down to the life of ^a small but substantial village.

Soon after that date the Lehigh Valley Railroad acquired control of the E.C.& N. as well as the Southern Central. The infant I.A. & N. it bought up and discontinued, so that where the smoke and sound of the locomotives had rolled across the Giles flats to the westward, now remained only a silent, sprouting roadbed. The Lehigh abandoned the two former little Freeville stations along the E.C.& N. and the S.C., and in their places built a new and larger one close within the southwestern angle of the junction. That was Freeville's transportation center through the nineties, and a very lively and modern one it was, with four passenger trains meeting there each morning and evening, two noon trains, and numerous milk, freight, and coal trains through the 24 hours.

Just south of the station and facing it stood the imposing square bulk of the Junction House, on the broad veranda of which Marc. Holton, its proprietor, and his cronies would sit comfortably and watch the hour-long show in the morning as the

trains came in and discharged passengers, mail and express, all of which were exchanged across the platform in a grand bustle of activity while it lasted. Everyone you ever knew changed trains at Freeville sooner or later, so that the station platform was a scene of never-ending renewal of acquaintance. My father was one who met and shook hands with dozens of friends there daily, or almost every day, incidentally accomplishing no end of business matters at the same time - his status as a Lehigh surgeon giving him a fair excuse for watching the show.

A broad wooden platform extended along the tracks all about the station and about halfway to each highway crossing southward. In front of and around the Junction House was a spacious cinder drive. Midway between the hotel steps and the station was a round fountain pool, surrounded by ornamental iron posts and chain fence painted white, and with goldfish in it; this in later years giving way to a hexagonal refreshment pavilion where were sold candy, tobacco, soft drinks, etc.

In 1910 the Lehigh decided, in the interest of efficiency, to move its station across into the northeast angle of the junction. Accordingly, it made extensive improvements there, filling in and leveling a large area of swamp land, building a fine new stucco station with spacious stone esplanade about it, and track facilities so that all four passenger trains could pull in and stand conveniently at the station, at one time, without backing

and switching. The former wooden station (pictured in Mr. Goodrich's History of Dryden Township) was torn down - leaving, incidentally, a bare and rather melancholy prospect where for years had been the busy station and hotel scene.

But the scene about the new station was even more animated during those daily meetings of trains. The bustle of passengers, of mail and baggage and express wagons was like that in a tiny corner of some city. Recalling that imposing, modern railway station - the finest on the Auburn Division of the Lehigh Valley - and the colorful activity which surrounded it daily, one is sharply reminded of the changes, worked wholly by the hand of man, which may overtake our ordinary lives and surroundings. For the day came when the automobile had taken away both passengers and freight from the railroads. One by one the trains were discontinued on these little branch lines. The Freeville station was almost a deserted spot, slowly growing up to weeds. A few years ago the Lehigh decided to tear it down to save paying taxes on it. So today we gaze upon its barren site and have only these memories of that busy, exciting railroad center of the 1900s.

Among the houses added to Freeville after 1890 were the fine home of William B. Strong, built on the site of the former Luther Greenfield house, next to the church, on Main Street. The Greenfield house was bought by Dr. Genung and moved up on the east side of Railroad Street and remodeled, where it is now the home of Ezra Williams. In 1938 the Strong house, in turn, gave place to the new brick school and was moved upstreet a few lots where it is the present home of F. H. Stafford, head of the Dryden bank.

Fred Darling built a new house on Main Street about 1897, moving his hardware store one lot eastward to make room. Other houses built after 1890 included the A. G. Haskin home on Union Street (and his planing mill opposite Lyceum Hall); the George Cady house on the corner of Main and Railroad Streets; the John B. Shaver house next to the K. of P. Hall; the Elroy Stanton house; the Walter Kinch house; the Nathan Thompson house; the James Harvey George house where Riverside Park had been; the Milo Smith house on Groton Ave.; the Fred Bush house; and the Meade Reynolds and Chas. Seager houses on Groton Ave.

Houses built within the last decade, or rather since 1930, include the Leroy Carter home, corner of Main and Union Streets on the site of the old A. C. Stone (Roe) store; the Leon Cady bungalow on the site of the old Cooper house - both of which buildings burned in the big fire of 1931; the Donald Foote house

on Wood Street; and the Lionel Werninck house opposite Shaver's Hotel - and it adds to the neighborly interest in that latter fine home to know that it was built entirely by the hand of its young owner.

Several summer cottages have been built within recent years in the Spiritualist Camp Grounds. Counterbalancing these additions, however, around a dozen buildings have burned at the George Junior Republic, at one time or another.

A new Village Hall was built in 1910, on the lot just west of the K. of P. building, on the site of the old Weaver blacksmith shop.) This housed on its lower floor the newly acquired fire-fighting equipment: a chemical engine and a hook-and-ladder truck. These latter were bought partly with a generous contribution from W. B. Strong and the new volunteer fire company promptly put Mr. Strong's name at the head of its own title. The upper floor of this village hall was left as one large room and since its completion has been the place for board meetings, elections, and other village functions.

In 1935-36 Main and Railroad Streets were paved and curbed with concrete. This job was done during depression times and was stretched along, using mostly hand labor and alternating work crews so as to give employment to a larger number of men, its snail's pace progress furnishing some amusement to onlookers though not to those who had to struggle over the broken street for well toward two years. But the result was a fine street.

Probably the most unique development in Freeville - certainly the thing which has given our little village whatever measure of fame it enjoys - was the George Junior Republic.

William R. "Daddy" George, founder of this unique school, was born near West Dryden, the son of John George. "Daddy" gravitated to New York City as a young man and a connection with the police department there finally interested him in social work, especially with boys.

In the early nineties he began bringing groups of "fresh air children" up here in the hills of his native township and quartering them for a two weeks stay among charitable farmers and villagers of his acquaintance. After two or three years of this he conceived the idea of a permanent farm school with a self-governing form of administration. So developed the Junior Republic, founded July 10, 1895, and settled on the 48 acre farm, originally part of the Cady farm, which Daddy George had acquired about a mile southeast of the village.

From the half-dozen boys who constituted that founding group, Daddy's experimental project grew and took on added numbers. Presently he was able to interest wealthy and charitably inclined persons who gave both money and personal effort in behalf of the young Republic. The story of Daddy George's work in forming or reforming the character of boys and girls, by

putting upon them the same trust and responsibilities which they must face as citizens in the larger community, spread over the land. Penologists and social workers all over America became interested in the idea. Philanthropists gave money for buildings; earnest young men and women came to serve as volunteer helpers at the Republic; magazines published stories of the doings at this curious school - stories of the great influence for good that it had become.

In a matter of 15 years' time, the George Junior Republic was a nationally famous institution and Freeville was a name known far and wide as its home. The Republic, by that time, occupied a farm of 400 acres or more; it was a village by itself, having cottages, hotels, shops, bakery, laundry, school, hospital, chapel, gymnasium, library, jail and courthouse, stores, and extensive farm buildings and equipment, in all some 40 or 50 buildings. It had a population of 250 "citizens" - that is, boys and girls 12 to 21 years old - and a staff of some 50 helpers.

It was a genuine "junior republic" too. The youngsters made their own laws, elected their own governing officers, supported themselves by working, were penalized for their crimes by juries of their peers, and in general conducted their little community precisely as though it were a model nation. They lived, loved, quarreled, strove for education or affluence or political power quite as do older citizens in the larger Republic. The place was indeed a unique and magnificent experiment in character building.

Many remarkable persons touched the life of our village through their interest in the George Junior Republic. Among them might be mentioned Calvin Derrick, the Superintendent who did so much to build up and develop it as an efficient, flourishing institution. Thomas Mott Osborne, famous penologist and philanthropist, Mayor of Auburn, was long president of the board of trustees and came here often. Others of note were Gerritt S. Miller of Peterboro, who donated hospital, library, barns and blooded cattle, and who spent many summers living at Shaver's Hotel and working among the boys at the Republic; Miss Anna T. Van Santvoord who built the famous "House In The Woods" at the edge of the Republic farm and lived there much of the time for several years, devoting herself and her fortune to the work; Miss Kate Fowler who donated the Republic Inn and many other things and who also lived and worked among the girls; Everitt Jansen Wendell of New York, the Coolidges and Cabots of Boston, the Sibleys of Rochester, and various other noted and generous people.

At one time or another many of the most famous men and women in America came to Freeville to visit the little Republic - from Theodore Roosevelt who captured the heart of every last tough-fisted youngster in one glorious day of breath-taking,

arm-swinging tour and talk, to gentle Helen Keller with her sightless eyes and wonderful smile. And then of course there was always Daddy George, our own native citizen who was acknowledged to be one of the Nation's great; of whose remarkable personality his Junior Republic was indeed but the lengthened shadow, yet whose interest in and neighborly contact with Freeville people never changed nor faded.

First and last the George Junior Republic fills a big chapter in the history of our village. Perhaps, so far as our place in the larger world goes, we must consider it our one bid for civic immortality.

Daddy George died in 1936. His Junior Republic is now (1942) still a going institution although its population is small and it no longer maintains all the unique features of self-government which characterized its famous days. Although many of its buildings have burned in recent years, enough of that interesting settlement still stands there on the hill to remind us vividly of the big-hearted man who carried out his great life's work in this community.

The World War of 1914-1918 left its imprint upon our village as it did upon all other little American communities - although, fortunately, none of our boys was left under one of those little white crosses in Europe. The war's repercussions here were largely felt in the form of high living costs, meatless and wheatless days, likewise heatless days and lightless nights, no driving of automobiles on Sundays, and other like measures to conserve essential materials. The winter of 1917-18 which piled a bitter burden of snow and cold weather on top of the man-made privations, will not be forgotten by the generation that lived through it.

Freeville boys who went into the army in the first World War included: William Apgar, Harry Bush, William Tripp, Ezra Williams (in the engineers), Donald Yontz, Clarence Seager, Eugene Baker, Raymond Van Horn in the navy, Charles R. Stanton in the coast guard. Eber Wells, C. Fitts Monroe, and Roland Sutfin were just on the point of leaving when the Armistice was signed. Of all the foregoing, probably William Apgar saw the most strenuous action (with the 78th Division.) Harry Bush nearly lost his life in the terrible epidemic of influenza and spent months in a hospital in France, but finally returned to his home village safe and sound - as did they all.

Mention should be made of what was more or less of a wartime activity in Freeville, namely, the manufacture of pancake flour in large quantities in the old grist mill.

The mill was then owned and run by George A. Brewer, son of Byron Brewer who had been the miller for many years before. He employed one or two hired hands and did quite a flourishing business of the ordinary country mill kind. But at about the time of the beginning of the first World War, a firm in Cortland, the Ekenberg Company, began buying large quantities of buckwheat flour and other ground grains of Mr. Brewer. They were making a new kind of prepared pancake flour called "Teco" flour. Eventually, as the war went on and the Teco business grew, the Ekenbergs arranged with Brewer to install some extra machinery in his mill and turn out more raw materials for them.

Finally Mr. Brewer entered into an arrangement with them to manufacture the whole flour here. This led to an enlargement of the mill and the installation of a new steam boiler and all the necessary machinery for making and packaging the finished product.

Then for a couple of years or more the grist mill hummed with activity such as old Elder White little dreamed of in the days when he built the first small dam and log mill and started

grinding grist for the early settlers. Mr. Brewer employed 30 or 40 people. Local grain supplies were of course inadequate and carloads of buckwheat, corn and wheat were laid down on the railroad switches here every day and hauled down to the mill in the big grain wagons that were a familiar sight on our streets in those days. In turn, a steady procession of huge loads of the square cartons of Teco flour moved upstreet to the railroad and were loaded into freight cars for shipment to all parts of the United States. Housewives all over the land had turned to the prepared flour for making pancakes; Teco was advertised the country over; the old Freeville mill became at last an industry the like of which had not been seen here since Tondeur was operating his glass factory back in the eighties. Mr. Brewer prospered and the town looked with high hopes upon this enterprise that made employment for every available man and woman in the place.

But with the ending of the war and of wartime orders for pancake flour - coupled to rising competition from the big mills in the West - the Ekenberg Company suddenly folded up, dragging down the Brewer business with them. The manufacture of Teco here came to a halt, the big force of hired help dwindled. Once more the old mill quieted down to the ancient job of grinding neighborhood grists, etc.

Such was this chapter of latter-day manufacturing enterprise in Freeville. The Teco episode was the last of any size or promise down to the present time. One today looking over the old cellar hole and concrete foundation about the boiler room can scarcely imagine those days back in 1918 when the old grist mill stood there, a big building full of whirring machinery and its yard a bee-hive of busy men, teams and moving grain.

Thus did Freeville's old mill, the core of its economic existence through generations, its first and last industry, go out in a final burst of glory! It was kept open for a few years after George Brewer's death but, like all old-time country grist mills, was a fading institution.

Almost every community has "fire and flood" experiences to record, and in this category at least two events are worth noting in the story of our village.

The biggest fire occurred in the fall of 1931. It started from a cigarette thrown carelessly on the floor of the barn back of the "Roe store", corner of Main and Union Streets, the barn being then used as a garage. This was about 11 P.M. In a few minutes the barn was in flames. The village chemical engine company responded to the alarm but was powerless to put out the

fire or to stop it from spreading to nearby buildings. The Leon Cady home, which adjoined the store lot on the south, quickly caught fire and burned. Then the rear of the old Roe store began to blaze and most of that old landmark building also went up in smoke. A small outbuilding or two went with it, as did one on the Ernest Blackman property west of the store. The A. C. Stone homestead, which stood close to the Cady house on the south, was saved only by the timely arrival of the big pumpers from Ithaca and Cortland.

In fact it was only due to the effectiveness of those city fire engines that the whole upper or central portion of the village did not burn that night, for there was a wind and the Freeville chemical was too small to cope with the conflagration. When this fire finally was brought under control - after one of the most anxious and exciting nights in the history of our community - the main corner of the "uptown" part of the village was a smoking ruin. The resulting eyesore was remedied eventually by the rebuilding of the Cady home on its former site and the building of the Carter house on the site of the old store.

The "Big Flood" came the night of July 7, 1935. It was the result of a virtual cloudburst - nearly 9 inches of rain falling in the night, within about 9 hours.

When our community awoke on the morning of July 8, it was to find all the sections anywhere near Fall or Virgil Creeks under water. Water was over the roads in all directions out of town except toward Dryden. The flats west of George Hart's house and the writer's lower farm (Shults farm) were one huge lake, with the old Lewis Cole house standing in water that lapped its first story floor. It was impossible to get to my farm in "Brooklyn" on the road. The McLean road was cut off. The bridge west of the Lew. Cole farm went out as did the Gilesville bridge and innumerable others in this vicinity. The old Brewer dam disappeared from sight as Fall Creek roared completely over all its banks in that vicinity.

Virgil Creek in particular went on a rampage this time so that all the valley near it suffered (including Dryden Village). Considerable stock was lost in pastures along the creeks and in flooded barns.

The water stood 5 feet deep in the basement of my lower farm barn and covered virtually the whole of that farm, even the higher fields. It flowed straight across from Virgil Creek over my highest fields west of the George Hart house. There near the Corporation line the main road to Ithaca was under water so deep that the fence posts were out of sight. Fall Creek lapped the back of the Stanton store on Main Street.

That 1935 flood was the worst in the memory of men almost 100 years old. It was devastating throughout this part of the Finger Lakes region. Some 45 lives were lost in it and property damage of \$25,000,000 resulted. None who saw it will ever forget it.

The population of Freeville Village, as shown by the census, has been as follows:

1890	————	312
1900	————	440
1910	————	318
1920	————	303
1930	————	374
1940	————	379

The high figure in 1900 may have included a number of the families that were connected with the George Junior Republic; although if that were the case it is not clear why the 1910 enumeration (when the Republic population was at its peak) showed such a decline. The rise since 1920 may reflect a rather general growth of population in the small towns coincident with the development of paved roads and automobiles.

VI

THE VILLAGE TODAY (1942)

One who has survived through a fair span of years must have been many times reminded of the ease and swiftness with which a generation lives out its lifetime and disappears from human sight and memory. A half-century goes by almost before we know it; and at its far end we scarcely can recall the people and circumstances which were so commonplace when we moved amidst them.

That is the reason for sketching briefly the situation of today. Time is a swift agent; all too soon our children's children will have little knowledge of the picture as we now know it, except as it is preserved for them on paper.

It is at once a reassuring, if rather melancholy truth that man's works outlive him. Fortunately this is the case with our houses, streets, schools and churches which are handed down from generation to generation and which are the physical instruments of our comfortable and civilized existence; we instinctively respect them as such and we have an inborn curiosity as to their

origin and successive tenants. That is one thing that makes neighborhood history interesting. I, for one, could wish that every 25 years or oftener somebody had taken the time to sketch a written picture of our home community and its people.

Our little village, fortunately, is able to show progress in respect to some of its physical features, accomplished within the last quarter-century, although in other respects we have retrogressed. The main streets have been paved; we have a fine new brick school house; there are a few new houses. However, it has not grown in size materially.

One striking fact is that the single development which, more than any other, really made Freeville - that is, the railroads - has all but run through its cycle of existence. The E.C. & N. has almost ceased to function (the tracks are torn up beyond Ithaca); and the Southern Central hauls only one milk train a day and very little freight and coal compared with former days. The branch line railroads have almost been displaced by automobiles and motor trucks.

But the same geography which caused the early Indian trails and later the railroads to intersect here has placed our village favorably with respect to the modern system of concrete highways. From Freeville these main valley highways now radiate to east, west, north, and south, giving us faster communication with Cortland, Ithaca, Groton and Dryden than ever before. The incessant

stream of trucks and cars that pass through the village now knit us far more closely to the business and social life of neighboring towns than was the case in the heyday of the railroads. This is the age of the motor car. Perhaps the next generation will write down its span as the age of the airplane.

Some old landmarks that our fathers knew are gone from our village. Weeds grow on the empty lot where the Junction House used to stand. The railroad station is no more and that busy junction place is quiet and deserted most of the time. The big store on the corner of Main and Union Streets - run for many years by Harris Roe - is there no more: in its place stands the trim white house built and now resided in by Leroy Carter. The old grist mill, the original enterprise that was the very grand-daddy of our settlement, is gone; its property is just now being developed as a public recreational spot.

Perhaps, in making some brief inventory of the village appearance today, it is logical to begin at the west end, where the original settlement itself began.

The Old Abel White place - long the farm home of the Shults family - stands unchanged. That farm is worked as part of a Jersey cattle enterprise by myself, and the passer-by coming in from West Dryden way today is likely to see these fawn-colored Jerseys

dotting that creek pasture where old Elder White's mill stood a hundred and forty years ago. The road in from the west has been heavily graveled from the Williams corner to the Corporation line and is now a good dry road in all seasons although a bit rough.

The old grist mill property was bought from the Brewer estate three or four years ago and is being transformed into a village recreation spot. The mill buildings have been torn down and removed. In the summer of 1940 the concrete work of the main dam was repaired; last summer (1941) a power shovel was secured and the pond above the dam cleaned out, new banks rounded up around it, three islands built out in the center, etc. Trees were planted about the banks and the whole property cleaned up and graded. It is hoped to get the actual dam installed once more this summer (1942), thus restoring the beautiful long pond up through the village and giving an ample water supply for fire protection. This dam was washed out by the flood of 1935 and when restored will be the only surviving one of all those old dams along Fall Creek. The committee which has charge of restoring the old mill area consists of Frank Ellis, Claude Bascom, Fay Stafford, and myself - and not the least interested and helpful also is William B. Strong, President of the Village.

Mill Street has not changed materially in a half-century except that the old Fenner or Laisdell house which stood on the bank of the pond burned a few years ago. The road has been gravel surfaced and is in good condition. The old "Coon" Shaver house, corner of Mill and Main Streets, was remodeled and nicely landscaped by William A. Myers a few years ago and is now his home.

There has been little change in fact, in the whole lower or west end of the village for many years. The wagon shop on the Chas. Monroe property was converted into a garage a few years ago by Harrison Freese and is still so operated. Perhaps the most striking new feature is the excellent concrete highway which comes sweeping into town from Ithaca way and which, inside the Corporation, becomes Main Street. Also, the road south from the lower corner has been macadamized (1941) way through to Stan. Miller's Corner on the Bridle Road.

But in the main, Old Freeville looks about as it did 50 years ago - presided over as always by the majestic old Seager elm.

Viewing the Willey homestead on the southeast corner of the lower Four Corners, it is interesting to note that F. Ray Willey who still lives there is the only householder in the village who now owns and lives in the same house as he did 45 years ago (1897) when A. C. Stone made the map of Freeville which is published in the Centennial History of the Town of Dryden.

Coming on up Main Street, one sees Shaver's Hotel standing as always, flanked now on the west by the young grove of evergreen trees planted some years ago by the late Dorr Fellows (husband of Georgia Shaver Fellows who now runs the hotel. She is a daughter of George I. Shaver, long the proprietor.)

Across from and a little above Shaver's Hotel is an attractive new house, home of Lionel Werninck (his wife is Ella Bloom, daughter of Eli Bloom who has lived for many years in the former Crittenden or Sutfin house, next to Lyceum Hall), and built entirely by his own hand. This is the only new house on lower Main Street which has been built within 30 years or so - the only other one built since the Stone map is the Fred Bush house, corner of Groton Ave. and Main, now the home of Mrs. Nettie Danns.

The most sizeable addition in the way of building is the new brick school house which stands across from the old wooden school, and which was built in 1937. This new school stands where the W. B. Strong house stood. The school and church properties now adjoining make quite a substantial interlude there in the residential area of Main Street.

The Methodist Church has been enlarged within a few years by an addition on the rear. It stands now in a fresh coat of white paint and both it and the parsonage adjoining it look trim and neat.

The present pastor is the Rev. Emil Premru. The sound of the old church bell on Sunday mornings is one of the items in our village life which would certainly seem most familiar to a native son returning after many years. However, Herm. Strong who tolled that bell over a long stretch of his lifetime is no longer there; nor would the faces entering church for Sunday worship be familiar to one who was used to those of a couple of decades ago. As we have observed before, our buildings outlive us.

Groton Avenue has been changed somewhat by the addition of some new houses within 50 years. These include the McIntyre house on the northern end (west side); the Milo Smith (now Starkey) house nearest Main Street also on the west side; the Charles Seager house - also built entirely by the hand of its original owner - and the Mead Reynolds house on the east side of Groton Ave.

About 15 years ago the Standard Oil Company leased the lot across from the church, belonging to Doty Chase, and built an ample gasoline station thereon. This station has flourished in varying degree under various tenants ever since; but at present it is vacant and unused. In fact, the effect of war and of gasoline rationing and shortages generally is to be seen all about the countryside in idle "gas" stations and closed garages.

Coming on up Main Street, we pass the telephone exchange in the old Peck house, now in charge of Mrs Grace Jacoby, and presently are by Bascom's store (formerly Morey's), which is a busy place with a couple of clerks most of the time besides the genial

proprietor. Next to it stands the village hall and fire station, surmounted by a brand new siren bought to supplement the fire bell for arousing the community against fire and air raids. It was the latter fancied menace which really prompted the purchase of the siren this spring, at a cost of \$132, an item of expense not yet wholly digested by some of the taxpayers. The old red Ford fire truck - the chemical - had pretty well outlived its days of good service and was rebuilt with new motor and equipment by the firemen themselves a year or two ago. The citizens generally consider now, however, that their main protection against a big fire is the pumper in Dryden, to the purchase of which Freeville contributed, and the equipment in Ithaca and Cortland which can come out in a hurry, in these days of excellent concrete roads. In the big fire of 1931, when the old Roe store and several other buildings burned on Union Street, it was the Ithaca and Cortland fire companies that saved the village from going up in smoke.

The Knights of Pythias building, housing the post office on its lower floor, stands as always next to the village hall. It is well painted and trim. An unfortunate item at this writing is that the postmaster, George S. Hart, lies seriously ill in the hospital in Ithaca; this lifelong citizen of Freeville had painted many of the homes and hung the wallpaper therein before he became postmaster, about 10 years ago. (Mr. Hart died in May, 1942.)

The Knights of Pythias is the only fraternal order that ever established a lodge in Freeville. It has flourished ever since the latter eighties and today is larger and more flourishing than ever. (There is some personal interest to me in the fact that my father and maternal grandfather were charter members.) One of the interesting activities of this lodge for the last half-dozen years has been the sponsorship of a baseball team. This team played in the league which includes most of Central New York and for several years was one of the top teams - in fact won the league pennant once or twice. The war has put a damper on this as well as many other activities. In more serious social activities the Knights still play their important part in our village life and together with the church are probably to be reckoned as the most influential social agency in the adult life of the community.

Yates Avenue, opposite the post office, is unchanged.

John Cole, one of its longest dwellers and for half a century our town's Boss Carpenter, has been gone for several years; his daughters Helen and Florence still own the home and use it for a summer home.

The old Billy Dickson house, which was bought by Ernest Blackman some years ago and shingled over, is now the home of his son-in-law, Zora Church.

As already noted, the old store corner at Main and Union Streets has changed considerably. After the big fire of 1931 had cleaned out this store and the home of Leon Cady south of it, this site stood for a long time as an unsightly vacant lot and cellar hole. Mrs. Maizie Cady rebuilt her home, however, and after some years Leroy Carter bought the store lot on the corner and built his home - now a trim white house set in pleasant lawn and shrubbery. Across from it the old Hanshaw meat market, long run by George Cady, stands vacant now and badly run down. It has been used for an ice cream parlor and the like in recent years but is now unused and for sale and the old ice house back of it is falling into ruin.

The home of my father, Dr. Homer Genung, whose fifty years of practice as Freeville's physician were marked by a public celebration in his honor the spring before his death in 1934, has been occupied by myself since the latter year. It is used at present as a summer home.

William B. Strong, for several years Mayor of the village, moved into the house on the southeast corner of Main and Union, after selling his own home to the school district, and he has lived there ever since. Mayor Strong has done the village some very substantial service during his tenure of office, having

brought the streets and public property up to a high state of maintenance and what is more - and exceedingly rare in these times - has administered the village finances so well that we are practically out of debt and the tax rate is being lowered.

On Union Street the houses have not changed since the Leon Cady home was rebuilt after the big fire. The A. C. Stone homestead is still in the hands of that estate and has been rented to a succession of tenants the last ten years. C. Fitts Monroe has recently improved his home - the former Sovocool, Chapman house - by moving the garage back from the street and having the grounds extensively landscaped. The old Lyceum Hall at the end of the street, for many years the village entertainment center, was remodeled and somewhat enlarged, partly by Federal funds, half a dozen years ago, and is now owned by the village and used for all kinds of events, athletic and recreational. Union Street was given a coat of asphalt and stone last year (1941) which bettered the former surface of cinders and makes it now a well kept street.

Proceeding on up Main Street, we note that the Nathan Thompson home, owned since his death by his daughter, Mrs. Neva Van Horn, (who went to live with her daughter in Groton last year) is tenanted by the Jablonsky family. Next to that house the one owned by Walter Collins is at this moment under the shadow of the serious

illness of its owner. On the north side of the street we find Donald MacArthur living in the former Fred Darling home; he is the village electrical expert, although just at the moment working in Rochester in a war plant; he is also a trustee of the village. William A. "Bill" Myers owns and operates the former Darling hardware store and shop and has a gasoline station in front. Bill, in addition to being the chief hardware and plumbing factotum of the community, is also foremost in its list of mighty hunters and fishermen, and - no small honor - has just been re-elected for the second term as president of the Tompkins County Fish and Game Club.

Next to the hardware store stands the old Harter or Willey store, now and for some years past the property of Elroy Stanton. It is still the same enterprising grocery and light dry goods business as it has been for fifty years and more. Mr. Stanton employs one clerk besides himself, his helper for some years having been Edward Kane who lives in the apartment over the store (and who married Ina Sevy, daughter of Henry Sevy, L.V.R.R. engineer who lived for many years across the tracks on Union Street, where Henry VanArckle lives now.)

The old Dewitt Depuy house and the hitching shed which stood for many years just east of the Willey store were torn down several

years ago, so that the space along the creek front, between the store and the concrete bridge on the Groton road, is now in lawn.

The building of the new concrete road to Groton in 1935, straight out from the west end of Railroad Street through the Genung pasture, altered the appearance of that "upper corner" considerably. John Edsall's barber shop was torn down to make way for the bridge.

East of the new bridge, between that and the old bridge, stand two buildings now empty: the little old George Cady lard rendering shop because of the death of its owner last winter; and Spaulding's Garage (formerly the Brotherton, later Breese blacksmith shop) because of the war and its disruption of the auto business.

Across on the north side of the creek, in "Brooklyn", things look considerably different than they did half a century ago. As I have noted, Dr. Genung bought up all the property on that side of the creek, excepting the Riley Tripp place, now owned by Francis Smith, and developed it into a farm. This farm with its purebred Jersey herd - first government accredited disease-free herd in Tompkins County - has been continued by myself since my father's death. The man in charge of things there, John Collins, came down from Peruville and hired out to my father 27 years ago. He and his family have lived there in the remodeled Larkin house on the farm just across the creek all that time.

On up Main Street, one may note that the old planing mill and later coal yard by the railroad are no more, or rather the mill is gone and the coal yard in disuse. Likewise the old Richardson warehouse up at the end of Market Street stands unused. The east end of Main Street, out the McLean road, has been macadamized for several years.

Railroad Street, the upper road to Dryden, has changed somewhat. The old George Dupuy house on the west side, later owned by George Monroe, burned a few years ago and that lot is vacant. Next to it George Purvis, who married Anna Puderbaugh, had just finished some repairs and the building of a new garage when he died, about a year ago. The Elroy Stanton house on the east side of the street was built since the Stone map was made in 1897. Railroad Street was paved with concrete at the same time as Main Street and thus is in good condition, though it always has lacked the numerous shade trees which add a pleasant feature to some of the other residential streets.

Between the railroads the old produce firm of Blackman & Smith, later and for many years past Blackman & Stanton, is now run by Austin G. Blackman, son of Ernest Blackman (and who married Velma Ellis, daughter of Frank Ellis.) The familiar office building with its platform scales in front has had a coat of paint and its hospitable crates and boxes still supply conference seats

on summer days for such sages as have the leisure - George Burton, Bill Kinch, Frank Baird, once in a while Clay Dayton down from Groton, on occasion even the writer in the humble capacity of listener and observer.

Further up-street, the Spiritualist grounds have increased their facilities considerably over a period of years. About a dozen new cottages have been built in the grove, the auditorium remodeled, and the grounds beautified in various ways. Meetings are held there every summer, through July and August, and are well attended.

On Wood Street - sometimes now called Cook Street - which leads northward by the Spiritualist grounds, there is one comparatively new house, built by Donald Foote. This is on the north side of the street, across from the camp grounds.

Up "on the hill", the George Junior Republic carries on after a fashion, having now a citizen population of 30 or 40 boys and girls; Donald Urqhart, a son-in-law of Daddy George, is in charge. The Republic Inn no longer is run as an inn but is used for residential purposes.

Freeville has had no doctor since the death of Dr. Homer Genung in 1934. He was, in fact, its only physician for half a century, excepting one young man named Barker who came in for a

few months around 1904. It has no dentist, no lawyer, no cobbler, nor even a real barber shop at present although Frank Lampman still does some barber work at his mother's home on east Main Street. As already noted, it has two grocery stores and a feed store but nothing else in the way of business enterprises.

Several men drive to work regularly in Ithaca - Eli Bloom, Henry VanArkel, Alvin Groves and others; and several others normally have worked in the Corona Typewriter plant in Groton - William Apgar, Lewis Seager, etc. All of those jobs and the means of driving to them have been more or less disturbed by the war. Burrall Monroe works in Endicott, driving home about twice a week. Several work mostly on the highways - N. Burton, Ezra Williams, Bill Tripp, R. D. Simons.

At this writing (spring of 1942) the war dominates the thoughts and more or less the activities of Freeville people, along with most other Americans. From the village proper, the boys who have gone into the armed services so far are Walter Buttoff, Homer Collins, Victor Moore, and Robert Fellows - the latter in the Marines and stationed now on Midway Island, where the Japs have just been getting their stomachs full of action! Many other boys have been drawn from this vicinity and several more are expecting to be drafted this summer.

Our economic lives are beginning to be affected by the rationing of sugar, gasoline, kerosene, tires, rubbers, coffee, tea, and by the accumulating shortages, restrictions and mounting taxes. The war is not a truly popular war; yet people are submitting courageously to its griefs and hardships as something that must be endured and seen through to a finish. The recent sharp restrictions on automobiles and gasoline are bearing down harshly on all outlying villages such as ours, which have grown to depend upon easy access to neighboring cities for business, shopping, and entertainment.

The railroads have virtually ceased to carry passengers on our branch lines and we are off the main bus lines; but there is one local bus, the Giddings line, which makes several trips a day through here, between Ithaca and Groton.

The following names of householders in Freeville are listed from the map drawn in 1897 by A. C. Stone and published in the Centennial History of the Town of Dryden, with identical designations in March, 1942. The house numbers are those from the 1897 map; new houses are shown by the names inserted under the 1942 column without numbers.

Householders In Freeville, 1897 - 1942

1897

1942

Mill Street

2 Brewer's grist mill
3 Chas. Shults
4 Sarah Laisdell
5 Mrs. Mary Mineah
6 M. D. Shaver
7 Byron Brewer
9 Mrs. A. Ellis
11 George Seager

Old Mill Park (village property)
A. B. Genung
(House burned)
William Beck
William A. Myers
Laverne Danns
Harry Ellis
John & Georgia Seager

Groton Ave.

3 Seneca Smith
5 David Robinson
7 Frank Brotherton
9 Burdette Heffron
11 Edwin Smith

Mrs. Sadie McIntyre
Eugene Hulslander
Alvin Groves
Mrs Fleet Harter (vacant)
Donald Yontz
Homer Chase
Clifford Starkey
Mrs. Seager (K. Maxudian, tenant)
Lamont Danns

Brooklyn Street

2 J. L. Larkin
4 John Sample
6 John Brigden
8 Brigden blacksmith shop
10 W. R. Tripp

A. B. Genung (John Collins, ten.)
" "
" " (house removed)
" " " "
Francis Smith

1897

1942

Main Street

- 1 Lewis Cole
- 2 George Brewer
- 3 Mrs. Rhoda Case
- 4 Henry Brown
- 5 F. Ray Willey
- 6 William Dolson
- 7 V. B. Carl, store
- 8 Chas. Monroe, carriages
- 9 George Dolson
- 10 Charles Monroe
- 11 H. Pettibone
- 12 George I. Shaver, hotel
- 13 J. Pierce
- 14 Herman A. Strong
- 15 Albert Tripp
- 16 William Monroe
- 17 Luther Greenfield
- 18 School house
- 19 M. E. Church
- 20 D. M. Peck
- 21 M. E. Parsonage
- 22 James M. Carr
- 23 William Fisher
- 24 Sarah Bower
- 25 William Cady
- 26 "Freeville Leader", newspaper
- 27 William Skillman
- 28 Mrs. C. Chapman
- 29 N. J. Ogden
- 30 Blacksmith shop
- 31 Mrs. Kate Hanshaw
- 32 Weaver blacksmith shop
- 33 William Dickson
- 34 W. E. Sutfin, store, E. of P.
hall, postoffice

- Mrs. Edna Wetherill
George Hart
Burrall Monroe
Mrs. Fred Skillman
F. Ray Willey
Clarence Manning
Loren Heath
Harrison Freese, garage
Angus Fenner
Harrison Freese
Helen Shaver Schultz
Mrs. Georgia S. Fellows, hotel
Lionel Werninck
Frank Ellis
Henry Fitts
Lavigne Stanton
Mrs. Ruth Beach
New brick school house
Old school house
Methodist Church
Mrs. Nettie Danns
Mrs. Burton Jacoby
Parsonage (Rev. Emil Pfemru)
William Apgar
Mrs. Harry Bush
Mrs. Dumont Morey
Fay H. Stafford
Claude Bascom
Lewis Seager
Eber J. Wells
C. Bascom, storehouse
Mrs. William Apgar, Sr.
Claude Bascom, store
Mrs. William Tripp
Village hall & firehouse
Zora Church
K. of P. hall & postoffice

Mrs. Wm. Tripp (old "Freeville
Leader" bldg. remodeled)

1897

1942

Main Street

35 H. W. Roe, store	Leroy Carter
36 Channcey Hanshaw	W. F. Moore
37 Dr. H. Genung	Mrs. Perry Hanshaw
38 George Cady, meat market	A. B. Genung (W. B. Strong, ten.)
39 J. E. Carr, drugs	William Neill (unoccupied)
40 Dr. H. Genung	Mrs. F. VanHorn (Mrs. Jablonsky, ten.)
41 Job Kells	A. B. Genung
	Walter Collins
42 F. E. Darling, hardware	Donald MacArthur
43 Jerome Heffron	W. A. Myers, hardware (R. Hughes tenant upstairs)
44 F. Ray Willey, store	Beatrice Edsall (A. Blackman, ten.)
	E. L. Stanton, store (E. Kane, ten. upstairs)
45 George Watson	Newton Burton
46 H. D. W. Depuy, grocery	(demolished)
47 Orson Luther	Milton Groves
49 Ernest Blackman	Mrs. Fred Lampman
50 John Edsall, barber shop	(demolished)
51 Frank Reeves, hay warehouse	W. B. Strong, coal yard
52 Chas. Parker, jeweler	Mrs. Walter Danns (unoccupied)
53 F. Dobson, planing mill	(burned)
54 DeWitt Depuy, harness shop	(demolished)
55 Myron Bronson	Mrs. Ada Burton
56 Frank Brotherton, blacksmith shop	Spaulding's Garage
57 J. E. Shaver	Frank Foote
58 W. J. Shaver	James Marquis
60 Richard Duryea	R. D. Simons

Dryden Road

2 E. M. Seager	Ora Johnson
3 C. L. Johnson	C. Pitts Monroe
4 D. H. Snyder	Roy Walden
6 Frank Burton	C. Pitts Monroe

Port Watson Street

1 Watson & George, planing mill	(Moved back of village hall for hitching shed.)
---------------------------------	--

1897

1942

Yates Ave.

2 John J. Cole	Miss Helen Cole
3 J. L. Larkin	Mrs. Hollenbeck
5 John Yates	V. Brown
7 Morris Stack	Robt. Groves

Union Street

2 E. A. Sovocool, meat market	C. Fitts Monroe (garage)
3 Lois Cooper	Mrs. Leon Cady
4 E. A. Sovocool	C. Fitts Monroe
5 A. C. Stone	A. C. Stone Est.
6 A. Haskin	Clifford Hurst
7 Harriet A. Hubbard	Fred Sickmon
8 W. E. Sutfin	Eli Bloom
9 E. C. Smith	Mrs. Clarence Parker
10 Lyceum Hall	Community Hall
11 Henry Sevy	Henry VanArkel

Factory Street

1 Glass factory	(demolished)
2 George Cady	Hugo Rabinowitz

Wood Street

2 Chas. Parker	George Burton
	Donald Foote
3 Mrs. G. Francis	Charles Foote
4 Dubois Cook	Walter Kinch
5 L. V. Freight deppt	L. V. depot

Market Street

2 W. H. Richardson	Loren Heath
	(unoccupied)

1897

1942

Railroad Street

2 Mrs. C. Darling
3 Mrs. A. L. Smiley

4 J. B. George
5 George Depuy
6 Mrs. Mary Puderbaugh
7 F. T. Reeves
8 D. G. Howell, glove shop
9 Neff Townley, shoe shop
10 Mrs. D. G. Howell
11 Bert Card, bakery
12 Junction house
14 L. V. depot
16 Baggage room
17 Smith & Blackman, office
18 Eliza Grinnell
19 Smith & Blackman, warehouse
20 John J. Giles
22 John E. Cady

Elroy Stanton
Mrs. Cora Genung
Harry Manning
Ezra Williams
Miss Louella George
(burned)
Harvey Buttoff
Mrs. George Purvis

(burned)
Frank Baird
Mrs. Minnie Davis, store
(burned)
(demolished)
(demolished)
A. G. Blackman, office
Glenn Cottrell
A. G. Blackman, warehouse
Harry Tucker

Mrs. J. B. Rogers

VII

REMINISCENT

Village Snapshots About The Turn Of The Century (1900)

Nate Thompson going down the street to church on Sunday morning, wearing his broad-brimmed, black felt hat - but seldom an overcoat, even in winter - Bible in one hand, gold-headed cane in the other.

Wilbur "Tip" Haskin and Lawrence Mazonovitch returning from a rabbit hunt down behind the glass factory, with two or three rabbits apiece tied to gun barrels and slung over their shoulders.

Lem Larkin limping up Main Street (has one stiff knee) with long cane fishpole and a string of suckers and bullheads that drag the ground. (Times when he doesn't catch a big string he goes home up through the back fields from the dam.)

Group standing around in front of the post office about 7 o'clock on summer evenings, waiting for the mail to be put up. Frank Reeves, cigar clamped in one corner of his mouth, Charley Monroe, Billy Monroe with white beard, John Cole, Doc Genung, Ray Willey, A. C. Stone, Byron Brewer wearing his dusty miller's cap, Perry Hanshaw, Fred Bush, Jay Shaver, Orson Luther with his thin, flowing beard, Abe Haskin, Ed Smith also with a long sandy beard, Ernest Blackman, Nelse Ogden and his hair lip, and various others young and old.

Through the open door of Fred Darling's hardware store on a summer evening: himself, Dr. Genung, John Cole, Billy Monroe holding down the well worn old wooden chairs, discussing everything under the sun; possibly Byron Brewer there spinning a yarn about the days when he sailed in a whaler.

Frank Brotherton sweating away as he shoes Lew Cole's team. The latter, Peter Seamon, DeWitt Depuy, Humphrey Williams sitting around the door of the shop, watching and passing judgment on this and that.

Riverside Park on a Sunday afternoon: crowds of people; speaking in the auditorium; folks strolling around the pond feeding the bass; young folks getting a thrill going high in the big steel swings; all boys with a spare nickel waiting to board the steamer "Clinton" on its next trip to the mill dam; couples sitting on the dock or out on the creek in rowboats. Owner, Harris Roe, selling tickets in the little gatehouse by the sidewalk (present location of the Lewis Seager house on Main Street.)

Old Luther Greenfield among his beehives, back of his house (site of present school.) Never gets stung himself - bees even roost in his beard once in a while - but any visitor runs long chances.

Deaf Lew Greenfield along the creek with a string of pickerel. He could catch them where nobody else could.

Portly school principal, George D. Sykes, strolling up the street in evening with his arms ostentatiously about the shoulders of Halsey Hanshaw and Albert Genung. Latter two due for a razzing later from their contemporaries.

Fourth of July hullabaloo on the upper corner: Guy Maricle, Leon Cady, Burrall Monroe, Earl Chapman shooting off cannon crackers; younger fry looking on excitedly - George Case, Earl Johnson, Lloyd Cady, the Sovocools, Halsey Hanshaw, Clarence Buck, Ard Reeves, and the writer.

Herm. Strong proceeding up the street with his little ladder, lighting the street lamps, he being street commissioner. They stand on wooden posts at the street corners and every so far; are not lighted on moonlight nights.

George Cady loading up his yellow meat cart at 4 A.M. in front of the market, for his weekly trip to Ithaca. White bulldog, "Prince" on the steps watching all that goes on.

Jud. Oviatt - crippled in one leg and one arm - limping around, selling papers at the station when the trains are in. He always gets a nickel for the "Syracuse Post-Standard", even though it is a penny paper, and does right well. Jud. is an expert bicycle rider in spite of his deformity.

Old Neff Townley, the cobbler, sitting by his window, up near the railroad, mouth full of nails, hammering on a new sole.

Jimmy Carr doling out five cents worth of paregoric in his little drug store (now Bascom's store-house) and stuttering over the price.

The thrill of Christmas toys and gifts in Sutfin's store and likewise up the street a little further in Willey's store. Will Sutfin grinding coffee and weighing sugar out of the barrel for a customer. Ditto Ray Willey measuring off calico on his counter. Both merchants know, and are known of, all the folks for miles around.

Burdette Heffron, minus one hand, pushing his wheelbarrow up the street, having a rope from the handles looped over his shoulder. Burdette was baggage master at the station until well up in his seventies and did work enough for two men.

Ol' "Professor" Groce, wizened colored porter and general factotum at the Junction House, shuffling down to the post office

in the forenoon; wearing a loud blue and black striped blazer jacket, straw hat, cigar in an amber holder tilted in one corner of his ample mouth, market basket on his arm. Exchanging genial greetings and chaffing with everyone. Groce was the only colored person ever to live in the village for any length of time. Also, by reason of the fact that he had once run a barber shop on some little college campus, he was sometimes spoken of as "the only man in Freeville who had been to college."

W. H. Harter, affectionately known as the Old Dutchman, with his bow legs firmly planted on a ladder, wielding paint brush on Fred Darling's new house. Maintains at all times that the virtue of a good paint job lies in "rubbin' her right hum!"

Dr. Genung driving up the street with his top buggy - in winter top cutter - and black horse "Dan." Both figures familiar to the whole countryside for many years.

Winter scene: the filling of Cady's ice house. Busy crew cutting ice back of Genung's house - Newt Burton, Fred Skillman, R. D. Simons, John Dolson, Jay Appleby. Leon Cady driving the horse

hitched to the long rope that makes the old wooden pulley squeal as it draws up the ice. Perry Hanshaw handling the steel "grab" at the end of the rope and trailing half a dozen cakes up the chute each trip. Numerous spectators, from small boys to graybeards, all in felt boots, caps pulled down over their ears, breaths frosty in the cold air of February.

Ditto ice scene: filling milk station ice house. Usually cut ice down at the mill pond, many teams and bob-sleighs hauling it up to the milk station - among the teamsters are R. D. Simonds, Bert Runner, Orson Cotanch, Bert Smith, Mike Reagan, Will Monroe, Jimmy Cole, Will Shaver, Fay Skilling, Lee Sickmon. Small boys having the time of their lives "riding the bobs" back and forth - such as Johnny and Clifford Sovocool, Halsey Hanshaw, Lloyd Cady, Frank Breese, Earl Johnson, George Case, Ray Conklin, Ernest Mineah, Willie Smith, and the writer.

January evening: people going over Union Street to Lyceum Hall to a dance of the Entre Nous Club. Snow crunching under foot on the sidewalk, maybe snowdrifts along the street; bells jingling on the cutters of the young couples; lights on the white snow from

the street lamps, from Roe's store on the corner and from Willey's store and Sutfin's store nearby; laughter and boys calling out; over by the hall more people, and sounds of Happy Bill Daniels tuning up his fiddle.

The railroad station on a summer morning. Four trains meeting there; passengers moving across the platform to change trains; strolling about the fountain in front of the Junction House, looking at the goldfish. George Depuy in blue uniform and cap coming out of the gray, triangular station with a sheet of orders for Conductor Tom Lynch of the Elmira train. Burdette Heffron and Harry Cady hauling a truckload of express and mail across the platform. Comfortably seated in high-backed chairs up on the Junction House porch, where they can see everybody and all that goes on, Marc. Holton, the proprietor, Frank Reeves, Dr. Genung, Ernest Blackman, Ed Smith.

Will Sutfin gathering mailbags from the different trains and piling them in his red, high-sided little cart to take down to the post office. Jud. Oviatt limping about, jingling a pocketfull of coins in his black alpaca coat, selling penny papers to ready buyers for a nickel apiece. Arlington Smith selling sacks of popcorn from a basket on his arm. Pop Smith with his horse and light lumber wagon gathering express for the Republic.

Bells clanging, engines puffing, conductors crying "a-a-board", the four trains finally moving out one by one, leaving everything quiet and dead again.

Fred Darling in overalls going down the street, pushing his two-wheeled cart filled with roofing tin; ladders laid on the red cart, projecting fore and aft - bound for a roof job at Shaver's Hotel.

In September, crowds of people, family parties with their horses and carriages, bound for Dryden Fair; and then homeward bound in the evening streaming through town in what seems like an endless procession. Street a cloud of dust. Freeville almost deserted for three or four days while everyone goes to the fair.

Fleet Harter and Frank Burton laying the cellar wall for Fred Darling's new house. Wall on the west side pronounced by all onlookers as the finest piece of masonry work in town.

Gene Morey and Ed Watrous from Groton, driving a well for Dr. Genung. Morey in his wet overalls and battered felt hat perched up on the derrick, a hand on the drill pipe as it goes up and down; steam engine puffing away; steady pound, pound of the drill; all the idle men in town sitting around watching. Excitement at the end of a week as the well begins to come in, a fine stream, at about 170 feet.

John Edsall working in his barber shop, opposite the end of Railroad Street. It is very handy for Frank Reeves to toss his cigar butt out of the open window into the creek. John is shaving Ernest Blackman - says he has the toughest beard in town. Charley Wheeler and Charley Burton playing checkers in one corner. H. D. Simonds and two or three others standing by the cigar counter discussing the bullhead situation at Dryden Lake.

Summer boarders sitting on the porch at Shaver's Hotel, waiting for one of Del Shaver's famous chicken dinners. Stubbed George Shaver, in his shirt sleeves, out in the garden gathering vegetables. Old Coon Shaver tilted back in a chair, outside the bar room, visiting with a New Yorker named Gould.

Dude Shaver driving downtown to Willey's store, team dragging him along on a stoneboat, Dude seated thereon, on a potato crate. Says he can't get in and out of a wagon any more.

Humphrey Williams jogging up Main Street with bay horse and well worn top buggy with the top pushed way down, one foot in felt boot dangling outside the wagon box. Ties his horse into Roe's shed. Carries a new cheese into the store.

Daddy George leading his boys in a patriotic march through the village. Fife and drum corps ahead playing "There'll Be A Hot Time In The Old Town Tonight" - makes your blood tingle! (Dewey has just smashed the Spanish fleet at Manila!) Bill Dolson, Frank Burton, and the other masons working on cellar wall of Nate Thompson's new house stop work and wave at the marchers. Everybody out in the street to watch and cheer. Daddy George is proud as a peacock of his boys; leads them with great spirit. Whole town gets a great thrill out of it!

Grist mill front steps at a slack moment at mid-day. George Brewer, Fred Bush, Bert Eagan standing outside the door, their overalls, caps, and faces white with flour dust. Have just piled a load of grist into lumber wagon of Johnny Grover, who still sits there chatting while his team whisk their tails at the flies. Sign beside the door says Brewer will pay a dollar a hundred for Buckwheat.

Charley Seager peddling milk in the morning with his covered milk wagon and the old strawberry roan hitched to it. Rings his bell, ding-dong, in front of each house. Dips a pint or a quart from his big milk can into the housewife's basin as she comes out, shawl over her head. Sniffs and mumbles a few words of greeting to each one.

Elder Pierce picking apples from his Twentyounce tree near the sidewalk (where Frank Ellis now lives.) Stands up on the ladder in black vest, white shirt-sleeves, black string tie, old black derby hat on the back of his head.

Elder Roskelly entering church on Sunday morning, Bible in hand, looking benignly over his spectacles. His sparse, iron-gray beard is neatly brushed, white collar and tie spotless. His long black coat flaps gently against his legs; black derby accurately on the middle of his head. Close behind him are Aunt Amazilla George, Elder Dayton and wife, Seneca Smith and wife, Mrs. Puderbaugh, Mrs. Fred Darling, Old Miss Cooper and Mrs. Hubbard.

Abe Haskin sitting in the front room of his new house a few minutes after dinner, tooting on his cornet. "Rock of Ages" - audible throughout the entire Union Street locality. Pretty soon he emerges in overalls and straw hat and heads back over to his planing mill.

Job Kells coming back from a morning's fishing down by the dam. Carries a big snapping turtle, headless and dangling. He likes turtle soup.

William Jennings Bryan stops his campaign special for a five minute rear platform appearance at the station. All the village out to hear the Peerless Leader and all about the "sixteen to one" silver issue. Junction House porch, windows, cinder drive, and wooden station platform filled with people. Bryan speaks - and all realize why he is called the Silver Tongued One. Engine toots, train slowly pulls out amid the cheering; John Cole slyly tells Will Sutfin what a slim chance McKinley has, and Will gives him back tit for tat - Will is Republican Committeeman for the Town of Dryden.

Mrs. Mazonovitch, a well known "summer boarder", proceeding majestically up the sidewalk from Shaver's Hotel. All dresses are long and most women "carry their skirts" in one hand; but hers are longest of all and trail unconcernedly along the rough boards and splinters of the walk, raising a little cloud of dust as she walks. Her bustle rears itself jauntily and her leg-of-mutton sleeves billow in the breeze like sails.

Small boys skating on the pond that stood unwanted between Nelse Ogden's and Bill Skillman's houses. That pond a bone of contention between the aforementioned two but in winter a delight to the youngsters.

John Shaver in rubber boots and apron, taking in many heavy cans of milk at the milk station. Runs the station for A. J. Flower & Co. of Philadelphia. Calls every farmer far and wide by his first name - cracks a joke with most of them.

Bill Dolson, sitting on Fred Darling's steps after supper, telling about the results of a fishing trip to Dryden Lake. Chews tobacco rapidly and spits freely as he talks. Says the damn bull-heads were on strike, but got several nice pickerel by skitterin' with a piece of pickerel belly.

The railroad section gang coming in from work at night. Mike Roach, the foreman, with his sideburns and derby hat. Billy Dickson likewise wearing his unfailing derby; Morris Stack, red eyed Pat Gallagher, and a couple more Irishmen, boarders at the Stacks.

Sam Dunton, hostler at the Junction House, spanking along down the street on Sunday afternoon, with his smart pair of sorrel Morgans hitched to a light road wagon. Sam, in tan suit and tan derby hat to match, cuts a pretty fine figure. His sorrels can step along with the best of them.

John Teeter hitches his horse to post in front of Ray Willey's store and carries in a basket of eggs. Stops on the steps to talk to George Seager who sits, blue bandanna around his neck, occasionally taking off his big straw hat to wipe his forehead.

Home talent play at Lyceum Hall. A. C. Stone has remodeled the hall; the old scene painter, Wilson, is painting new drops and wings and is also putting on a series of plays during the winter. This one is "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Cast includes Wilson as Legree, Mrs. Wilson as Topsy, Mr. Stone as Uncle Tom, Lena Genung as Eliza, also Fred Bush, Nelly Bush, Will Sutfin, Milo Smith, R. D. Simonds, Mabel Stone, etc.

Old Noah George, the Indian, and Jay Appleby, shovels in hand, coming up the street at supper time. They have been digging a cellar drain for Fred Bush's new house, corner of Main Street and Groton Ave.

The first trip of the three rural mail carriers. They are lined up in the street, in front of the post office, to have their pictures taken - each rig with a horse and heavy, enclosed wagon, somewhat like a milk delivery wagon. Will Sutfin, postmaster, and his clerk, Billy Weeks, standing by; each rural carrier in his

wagon: Frank Smith, Milo Smith, Fred Cotanch. The photographer is Verne Morton of Groton. (The heavy official wagons proved to be too hard on the horses for the 20 mile daily trip and were soon discarded in favor of light buggies.)

Will Shaver on a summer evening riding his celebrated old high-wheeled tricycle down the middle of the street, to the vast entertainment of young and old.

Leon Cady riding his yellow bicycle along the wooden sidewalk - first modern bicycle owned in Freeville. (The writer received a small sized bicycle for Christmas, 1897 - first "junior" model ever seen in the village - and Leon Cady taught me to ride.)

Mrs. Larkin standing in the doorway of her house, across the bridge in "Brooklyn", surveying the swirling waters of Fall Creek on a spring rampage. In another hour the flood will lap her doorstep; Lem, her husband, already has retired to the shed on higher ground.

Harris Roe in front of his store discussing with A. C. Stone the chances of the Prohibition candidate for President.

Perry Hanshaw working in the meat market; expertly cuts off a slice of beef, weighs and wraps it up for Mrs. Sarah Bower; throws in a piece of kidney for her cat.

Burr Besemer - Ithaca surgeon known far and wide - and Dr. Genung leaving Henry Sevey's house in the evening after a remarkable operation to save Henry's broken and shattered leg. Young Jay Sevey and Mable and little Ina on the porch looking very sober; many neighbors at hand to offer help - Mrs. Haskin, Mrs. Stone, Mrs. Sutfin, and others. Henry's leg was smashed when his engine was in a wreck and he was brought home this forenoon.

Upper Main Street during a February blizzard. Men shoveling snow off the sidewalks, caps pulled down over their ears, overcoat collars turned up, mittens on - Ray Willey, Nate Thompson, Harris Roe, Perry Hanshaw and others farther down the street, No teams are in sight for the middle of the street is drifted full. The north wind is sweeping across between the houses; snow swirls and drives along in clouds like white dust. A few hardy boys are playing in front of the post office; there is no school today. Nor is there any mail because the railroads are blocked; the last story that came over the wires was that the Canastota train was stick in a big drift up above Cuyler and that it would take three days at best to get the line opened up. This storm is an "old-timer!"

The Freeville Band at Saturday night practice in room up over Townley's shoe shop, on R.R. Street. Will Shaver, leader, stands with clarinet in one hand, baton in the other. Abe Haskin is the first cornet, Bert Eagan trombone, Jimmy Cole alto horn, Wilbur Haskin bass horn, Merritt Cole alto, George Monroe clarinet, Ray Willey piccolo, Milo Smith bass drum, and the writer snare drum, etc., etc. A respectable band of about 18 pieces, nicely uniformed in blue, which played many engagements round about.

Men and boys who have joined the armed forces from Freeville,
up to date of Jan. 11, 1943:

Robert Fellows	William A. Myers
William Fellows	Elmer VanArkel
Robert Bower	David Maclure
Robert Milligan	Charles Taylor
LaVerne Brown	Stanley Wheaton ("Eugene Brown")
Emmett Foote	Donald Ellis
Donald Foote	
Robert Foote	
Carl Foote	
Russell Buttoff	
Homer Collins	
Victor Moore	
Edgar Dellow	
Dorris Sponaugle	
Frank Lampman	
Audley Bloom	
Donald Smith	
Leroy Carter	