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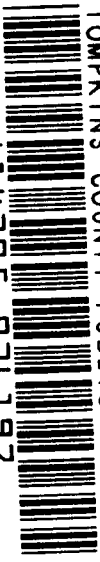
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German Dist. Schoolhouse—Built 1877, sold for dwelling 1950



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More Bits and Pieces of
Lansingville History

By Nellie Tucker Minturn



1971

DEWITT

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In Explanation

Though failing health has caused me to be a shut-in, yet when I learned that Mr. Heidt wished me to write concerning Lansingville history, the idea appealed to me so greatly that I became anxious to start at once. So, at the age of 87, I began but reached 88 a few days later.

Whenever I needed to ask friends concerning an event, they have been very kind, some even taking the time to come to my house and talk with me and offer family records, etc. These contributions have supplemented much material in my own files.

I wish to thank the following persons for such assistance: the Rev. Bruce Barden for bringing church records; Robert Quick and Rose Hoaglin for information pertaining to the fire company; Clara Fenner and Florence Van Nortwick of Ithaca; Mary Benson, Gladys Drake, Barbara Meal, Ruby Ferris, Bryant Dates, and Claude Davis.

NELLIE TUCKER MINTURN

August 30, 1971.

Lansingville, N.Y.

A PERSONAL NOTE

Preparation of this historical pamphlet has brought author and printer into teamwork for the second time in 47 years. In 1925, when I acquired the Groton *Journal and Courier*, Mrs. Minturn was a member of the rural staff with Lansingville her "beat." This is remarkable, perhaps, but the fact that our combined ages total 170 is still more so. Congratulations to Mrs. Minturn for her lifelong devotion to her home community.—
WILLIAM HEIDT, JR.

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The Settlers

All this territory, which includes Lansing along the Finger Lakes, was once occupied by a tribe of cruel and hostile Indians. Following Sullivan's Raid, though a small number remained, the opening up of the Military Tract created renewed interest in Central New York.

An act of Congress in 1776 ordered the enlistment of 88 battalions of men, with the promise that the land grants would be made to these officers and soldiers who remained in the service until the close of the war, but when the war was over and the soldiers given their certificates of discharge, signed by General Washington, the government found it could not keep its contract as to bounty land. New York, however, made the promise good to the officers and soldiers of her own state.

In 1780, the Legislature passed an act directing that bounty land, to be known as the Military Tract, be set aside in Central New York for the purpose of paying the enlisted and ranking men holding certificate of discharge. Later, a treaty was made with the Cayugas whereby they relinquished all their tribal claims to the land. The Tract was laid out in townships, which were divided into 100 lots of 640 acres. The state reserved some lots for the support of schools and ministers of the Gospel. Occasionally, these lots were sold to settlers, the money was invested, and income set to the Supervisors of the towns for distribution. It was later appropriated to the schools as the Gospel Fund.

In 1791, Salmon Strong and his father Benajah bought 2,000 acres of land along Salmon Creek where the ravine widens out into rich flat lands. This is east of what is now Lansingville. Steep hills lead down from the village to the creek.

Also in 1791, Samuel Baker and his brother-in-law, Solomon Hyatt, left their home in Westchester County and decided to emigrate to Canada. They followed Indian trails, for there were

no roads. After farming for a time in Canada, they decided to return. On they way back, they came near starving but obtained food from an Indian family. They had left their horses in Canada, finally deciding not to go back but instead, to live in a free country. So they purchased lot 54 of John Adams, who had purchased it from William Wheeler, a Revolutionary War soldier. Baker was greatly pleased by the acquisition of this rich farm land and decided to bring his family and settle here in what is now known as Lansingville.

He returned to his home in Westchester County to make preparations for moving his family. A short time after he arrived home, one night he heard the neighing of a horse. Going outside, he found his horse which he had left in Canada. How the horse found his way back he never knew.

In the spring of 1792, he hired a man to help him clear his new land. As they were Quakers they found favor with the Indians, who helped supply them with provisions.

They built a log house on the site a few rods south of where the Lansingville store now stands. Later, it was where the Murray house was built, and now occupied by the Otis Myers family.

During their clearing and chopping, they were surprised to hear ax blows and trees fall to the east of them. They started down the hill to investigate, and met Capt. Benejah Strong and his son Solomon, coming to see who was chopping on the hill.

When he later went back after his family, they traveled by water, landing at Himrod's Point, now Lake Ridge. He had to cut his way to make a road through the forest to get to his cabin. He brought his blacksmithing tools back with him and was the first blacksmith in the town. He had nine children. Jay and Roscoe Baker were two of his great-grandchildren.

Conrad Teeter had the first hotel, and the place was called Teetertown. This name it bore until a postoffice was established in 1830 under the name of Lansingville. It was named for John Lansing, secretary to Gen. Philip Schuyler.

White Settlement

In 1797, Daniel and Albert White, brothers of the circuit rider, the Rev. Alvord White, settled on farms about one-half mile west of what later was known as Lansingville. There were no roads then, only Indian trails; blazed trees were the only guides through the forests so dense that one might walk all day in summer without seeing sunlight.

Others who settled there were David Moore, Jonathan Colburn, Thomas Hamilton, Nathaniel Hamilton, and later Wesley Hamilton and his son Arthur and their families.

White's Settlement was the site of the first frame church in the conference. It was built on the site of a log church erected about 1797 and burned later.

In the old cemetery at the former White's Settlement, Thomas Hamilton, a Revolutionary War soldier, is buried. Besides others of the family, Brigham Young's mother occupies a long-lost grave.

The Bower Settlement

Deilman Bower, born in Germany in 1744, came to the United States and located in Pennsylvania. In 1794, Tilman, as he came to be called, moved to a part of Milton which became Lansing in Tompkins County when the latter was organized in 1817. With him came his wife Eve and their daughters Elizabeth, Catharine and Suzanna; also several sons, others came later. They settled on nearby farms about three-fourths of a mile north of today's Lansingville.

Eight or more farms came to be occupied by them and came to be called the Bower Settlement as shown on early county maps. A German Lutheran church was built of logs. The site for it and the cemetery back of it was purchased from John

Bower. John Houtz, first pastor, taught school in the building. A schoolhouse was built in its place and was also used for church services.

The present building, built in 1877, was sold in 1950 to Ronald Teeter who remodeled it into a dwelling.

The Bower Family

When Tilman Bower and his family came from Pennsylvania to what is now Lansingville in 1794 and formed Bower Settlement, they built log houses for their homes. Some of his sons went to other localities, and now there are Bower families in other parts of the town who are all distantly related.

John and Honteeter settled near their father Tilman who built a log house on the east side of what is now Lansingville Road, opposite the present Fenner Road. The family lived there until the brick house was built a few rods farther south.

His son John, who married Rosina Young, built his house farther north, as did some of the others. In time there were eight or more Bower farms in the group, and naturally it was called the Bower Settlement.

Tilman's son Honteeter married Susan Teeter and they had a son Jesse, the latter's children were: Katherine who married Charles Drake; Mary, married John Holden; Matilda married a Bloom; Susanna married Rhodes. Jesse had a son Honteeter, 2nd.

John Bower, Sr., a son of Tilman, had two sons: Amos and John, Jr. John, Jr., married Lucretia Bunnell. Their children were Mervin, Hannah, Jerusha, and Ann. Mervin married Wealthy White, remaining on the Bower farm until his death.

Hannah married Edward Devoll. She remained on one of the original Bowers farms which passed down from John, Sr., to John, Jr. She cared for her father until his death, then remained there for the rest of her life, with her daughter Helen Devoll Tait and family.

Ann married Josiah Emmons, and they lived south of Lansingville.

Jerusha married David Campbell, and they lived several miles away.

Amos, the other son of John Bower, Sr., married Eliza Min-
turn; they had two children, Helen and Tammie. Helen married
Burr Smith, son of Samuel Star Smith. Tammi never married
but stayed and cared for her mother until the latter's death.

Honteeter Bower, Sr., son of Tilman, had a daughter Sus-
anna who married J. W. Hamilton.

John Bower, Sr., son of Tilman, had a daughter Elizabeth
(Betsey) who married a William Hamilton.

Early Industries

Besides the blacksmithing, other industries were soon start-
ed. A shoe shop, a tannery on what was later the Fletcher
Place; a hat shop in a building since torn down; a tailoring
establishment; a wagon shop; a store; a school; a cabinet shop;
and later a veterinary. For many years Dr. Darius Hall, an
M.D., lived on the road leading west from Lansingville in the
house now occupied by Harry Barron. Dr. Hall's daughter
Marion married Clinton Haskin, a brother of Harvey Haskin
who lived on Salmon Creek Road and who sold the land to
James Ford, on which the latter built his gristmill.

Ford Hill Road led east from Lansingville, down a steep hill
to the mill and to the home of the Ford family consisting of
James, his wife Minerva, and children Archie, Jennie, Anna,
Major and Lee. The two girls became teachers.

The mill was run by waterpower from Salmon Creek and
was patronized by farmers from miles around. Mill and house
have been long gone, and the lower part of the road, containing
the steep hill, was abandoned years ago.

Wilmer Stout was a blacksmith in Lansingville for many
years. He had a shop in the north end of the village. Some of
his helpers were Robert Turvey, Edwin Palmer and Grant
Gere. Finally Gere started a shop of his own. Stout's son
George learned the trade and assisted his father. Wilmer, a
Civil War veteran, is buried in Lansingville Cemetery.

The Mervin Bower Family

Mervin Bower, great-grandson of Tilman Bower and son of John Bower, Jr., married Wealthy White and they lived on one of the old original Bower farms north of Lansingville. In time the house was moved and another built in its place. The rooms inside were patterned after the Warner-Tucker house just south, on the west side of the road.

Mervin Bower and his wife were charter members of the Lansingville Grange at the time of its organization in 1875; he was elected its first Master.

The Bowers had two sons Clayton and Charles R. Bower, and a daughter Maude. The latter married Clifford Townsend, a Lansingville merchant. Charles and wife, Emma McCarger, built a house across the road from his father, on the site of the former Bower dwelling. They were both enthusiastic members of the Grange.

Clayte, as he was called, was the eldest. His wife was a Bower, no relation unless distant. They lived a few miles away and Clayte would often get homesick for his boyhood home on the old farm. They had bought a new lumber wagon of which they were very proud and drove it with their one horse. They finally acquired a pig and a cow. When Clayte got homesick, on weekends, they would put the pig in a box and tie the cow behind the wagon, and off to his father's they'd go, with their horse, their pig and their cow.

The John S. Holden Family

The farm south of Lansingville which is now owned by Oliver Robinson was the family home of John S. and Patience Miller Holden and their children. John was born in 1783 and Patience in 1795. They had nine children.

Their eldest, Alvira, was my grandmother who was born in

1820, John, Jr., in 1822, Charles Nelson in 1825, Mary in 1827, Benjamin in 1831.

Alvira married George Warner; they are buried in the German Cemetery next to where I live. They will be mentioned in a later chapter.

Jerusha married Joshua Sharpsteen. Hiram married Abby Ann Baker. They, too, will be mentioned later.

Sally died in infancy. Jane married Charles Miller and later moved West to Omaha, Nebr. Her only son Charles Miller, Jr., became mayor of Omaha. He was killed by an underworld gang while trying to clean up the city of crime.

John, Jr., married Mary Christine Bower, a great-granddaughter of Tilman Bower. One son, Warren, now deceased, was the grandfather of Walter Holden who resides in Ithaca and is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mary married Oliver Johnson, and they later moved to Che-mung County.

Charles Nelson married Ruth Lyon Bower. One of their daughters Cora was librarian of the Dryden Public Library for many years.

Benjamin, youngest of the children of John S. Holden's, died in infancy.

The Hamilton Family

It has been mentioned elsewhere that Thomas Hamilton was among the first settlers of the White Settlement.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1752, he died in Lansing in 1829. A Revolutionary War veteran, he married Lydia Colburn, and they had three sons: Nathaniel, William, Alexander. Thomas and Lydia are buried in the northwest corner of the cemetery in the former White Settlement.

Thomas' son Nathaniel, a carpenter in Pennsylvania, was born in 1778, came to Lansing in 1801 and bought land of Jonah Tooker next to his father's farm; he built a house the next year. His first wife was Elizabeth Moore. Of their seven children, several went to Wisconsin to live. John Wesley, a son, married for his first wife Suzanna Bower, daughter of Hon-teeter Bower. They had two children, Arthur and Isabel.

Charles, a son of Nathaniel and grandson of Thomas, deeded in 1834, the north farm of 100 acres to his brother John Wesley Hamilton, father of Arthur and Isabel.

John Wesley Hamilton married, for his second wife, Susan Miller. They had six children, one of whom Elizabeth married first a Mr. Bishop, then Dr. John Winslow, as mentioned elsewhere.

Isabel, daughter of John Wesley and Suzannah Bower Hamilton, married the Rev. J. V. Benham. They had two pairs of twins. Two died in infancy. One of the others, Leslie, and mother Isabel both died when he was only a few weeks old, and are buried in the German Cemetery besides Isabel's mother, Susan Bower Hamilton who died when Isabel and Arthur were small.

Arthur, son of John Wesley Hamilton, married Elvira Mason and they had four children, all of whom are gone.

Arthur and Elvira bought the north farm of 100 acres from his father John Wesley Hamilton. He moved the house across the road and remodeled it. Four generations lived in this house which Nathaniel had built in 1802.

Arthur and family had moved to the south farm when his father John Wesley went to Ithaca to live with his daughter, and was living there when the house burned Thanksgiving morning in 1897. The family then went back to the house on the north farm, the place of his father's birth. The two farms, in possession of the Hamilton family from 1801 to 1904, are presently owned by George Tull.

Oscar Hamilton, a son of William Hamilton, never married. His father, a soldier of the War of 1812, is buried in the German Cemetery.

A daughter of Nathaniel, Fidelia, became a doctor of medicine in Rochester, New York. She was born in 1833, studied medicine in Boston, and graduated from New York City Medical College in 1871. She then located for practice in Rochester. She died in 1893.

Another descendant of the Hamilton family is a noted surgeon in Ithaca. A sister of Arthur Hamilton, Elizabeth, married a Mr. Bishop and lived in Ithaca. They had a daughter Bessie. After the death of her father, the mother married Dr. John Winslow; in the meantime, Bessie married a Hirshfeld

and they had a son whom she named for her stepfather, John Winslow Hirshfeld. This was told to me by Arthur Hamilton's daughter, whose name also was Nellie and who was one of my classmates in the German District School. I often spent the night in her home: a huge two-story house with a central hall and stairway; an upper hall with rooms on either side and an immense attic. This was the house which burned in 1897.

The Hiram Holden Family

Hiram Holden married Abby Ann Baker and they had eleven children: Smith, Dewitt, Charles, Luther, Frank, Jay, Mark, Caroline, Mary, Ann and Will.

Once, when Hiram was asked how many children he had, he replied, "I don't remember, ask Abby Ann."

They lived for some time on the Holden farm, later moving to Genoa. His son Charles and wife, Sarah Dean Holden, lived on the old homestead, then moved to Myers. Their son Oliver and wife, Veda Bush Holden, live in Myers; they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June 1971.

Hiram's daughter Mary married William Dates. Their grandson Byrant and his son Harris and their families have lived for several years in the former Leroy Lobdell house west of Lansingville. Harris is an Ex-Supervisor of the town and is at present Chairman of the County Representatives. He is a great-grandson of John S. Holden.

Hiram's daughter Caroline married Charles Dates. Their grandson Alfred owns a farm north of Lansingville. Charles was a farmer.

Dewitt Holden married a sister of the Dates boys, and his grandson Merle lives in Lansingville, in the former home of David Reynolds, Sr.

Clara Holden Fenner, daughter of Jay Holden and Jennie Francisco Holden, was the eldest of their three children and is the only one living. She lived most of her life in Lansingville, but now resides in Ithaca. Other members didn't live in this locality.

A Bit of Family History

On June 26, 1971, it will be 88 years since I was born in the house in which I live. My parents, William Tucker and Mary Warner, were married in 1877 and began housekeeping in this house, where they lived the remainder of their lives.

My mother's father George Warner had owned the place, and in the 1840s lived here with his wife, the former Alvira Holden, and their seven children. Alvira died in 1849 at the age of 39. He lived on with his children.

At that time, what is now the back part of the house, stood east of where it now stands. It was later moved to its present location, and the front part, a story-and-a-half upright, was built on.

My mother was only 7 years of age when her mother died. She had a 2-year-old brother, an older sister and two older brothers. Two other brothers died after their mother's death.

My grandfather, George Warner, was a blacksmith whose shop stood by the road in the northeast corner of this yard. Men came from miles around with horses to be shod, and from as far south as Elmira. He made his own horseshoe nails and shoe. We have found remains of pieces of iron when the ground was dug up where the old shop once stood. George Warner was the son of Horton Warner who married Mehitable Cox. The Cox family came from England.

George Warner died in 1862 at the age of 51, his son Hiram taking over the blacksmithing. Hiram married Jane Breese. They both sang in the Lansingville Methodist Church choir for years. Both are buried in the Warner lot in the northeast corner of the German Cemetery.

My father and mother were laid to rest in the Lansingville Cemetery, but their parents, George and Alvira Warner, and five of their children were buried on the family lot in the German Cemetery, next to this place where I live.

As before mentioned, I am the oldest person on Lansingville Road who still lives in the same house where born.

Three other adults are Mrs. Mabel Haycock Pendell, and my daughter, Mrs. Ruth Minturn Bacorn, who each lives in the same house where born. Alfred Dates, who owns three of the original Bower farms, was born in the same house in which he still lives. Alfred and my daughter are both great-great-grandchildren of John S. and Patience Miller Holden, as also are Bryant Dates and Merle Holden.

J. B. Lockerby, who lives on the former Jefferson Brooks farm on Lockerby Hill Road in Lansingville, also lives in the house where he was born on his grandfather's farm.

Old Houses

There are quite a number of old homes in and about Lansingville, dating back to the 1830s and 1840s. Most, if not all, have been remodeled.

One, the old Fletcher house on Ford Hill Road, lately owned by the Claude Davis family, was years ago the site of a tannery, southeast of the house near the creek. Until recently, the large, flat stone in which the hides were laid was still there.

Another old house stands on the Brotherton farm, south of Lansingville. It was once the home of Simeon Strong, youngest son of Benejah the settler. Simeon's daughter married the Rev. John W. Pratt, a local preacher. They all are buried in the Strong Family Cemetery west of the farmhouse. It is likely one of the oldest houses hereabouts.

The former George Warner house in which I live is over 100 years old. Later, when the Mervin Bower house was built, they moved their older house back of the barn and built the new one on the old site. Location of the rooms inside was followed exactly as were the rooms in this house. The same idea was followed in building the house later owned by Edwin Smith, next north of Tilman Bower's. The pattern of the location of the rooms followed exactly that of the John Bower house farther north.

On the farm on which Tilman Bower settled in 1794 and

lived in a log house, a brick house was built by grandson Jesse Bower in 1838, a few rods south of the old house. The bricks were made in a brickyard on the farm in a field southeast of the house near the bank of a small creek. In case of rain, Jesse's young daughters Mary and Matilda would hurry down and cover the bricks.

The large, flat stones which were used to build a walk from the house to the driveway, were cut from the creek mentioned above. The house still stands as sturdy as ever, the only brick house on the Lansingville Road. It was the home of the descendants of the Bower family until a few years ago, when it was sold and the Orin Drake family moved to another location. The McWilliamms moved from Chicago and were the last occupants. They sold it recently to the Clarence Bensons and moved to Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Delta Inman, now 94, and her late husband Lemuel moved into the Samuel Baker house south of Lansingville in 1905 (this was not Samuel Baker the settler.) After having lived in a number of other places before they bought this farm, she said that this house seemed like a mansion to her, with its high ceilings and small windows around the front door. The Bakers had purchased the farm from Dana and Jane Fox in 1854, one-hundred seventy acres for \$9,000.

The Jefferson Brooks house on Lockerby Hill Road is another "over 100 years old" house. It is owned by J. B. Lockerby, a grandson of Brooks.

The house west of Lansingville, now occupied by the Bryant and Harris Dates families, was built in 1832. Dr. Darius Hall furnished the money for building it, and for the house in which the doctor lived, now the Harry Barron house.

The house south of Lansingville owned by the Clarence Benson family is another "over 100 years old house." A date on the glass in a door shows that it was remodeled in 1873.

Another old house is the former John Wesley Hamilton house, now owned and occupied by George Tull. Four generations of Hamiltons were born there. It has been greatly remodeled. The other old Hamilton house burned in 1897.

William Tucker's Cooper Shop

When I was a child my father had a cooper shop down south-east of the house, by the road. I used to enjoy watching him make barrels. A man by the name of Bulkley from near West Groton had a barrel factory, and each year at apple-picking time he would bring the staves and heads for my father to make into barrels. It was quite a wonder to me to watch him place the staves inside the wooden hoop, which he made, then fit the heads and the bottoms. He would pile the barrels in high pyramids outside to wait the coming of the men to take them away.

Neighbors and others from miles around depended upon him to keep their pork barrels and vinegar barrels in order: either new hoops put on or a new head put in or other odd jobs which fell to a cooper's trade. I spent much of my playtime in the old shop, sorting pieces of wood or riding the shaving horse and seeing how fast I could turn the grindstone.

MY FATHER'S OLD SHOP

By NELLIE MINTURN

The little old shop where my father worked—

How dear are its memories to me;

It stood out by the side of the road,

“Neath the shade of the old maple tree.”

A cherry tree grew by the window outside.

And no fruit tasted half so good

As that which I picked from the top of the roof

Of that little old shop by the side of the road.

On rainy days I would often go out,

Rattle the latch, and knock rather loud,

My father would call, “Come in, little gal!”

From the little old shop by the road.

*I would play so happily there by his side,
And all the dusty corners explored;
And sorted out wonderful pieces of wood,
In that little old shop by the road.*

*I climbed on the workbench and played with the tools
And no steed carried so happy a load
As the shaving horse I galloped so fast,
In that little old shop by the road.*

*By his side in wonder I stood.
Barrel-making time was my special joy.
Watching the staves and hoops shape into barrels,
In that little old shop by the road.*

*If I could only go back there just for a day,
It seems that life's cares would unload;
Could I play once more by my father's side—
In that old shop by the side of the road.*

Schools and My Years as a Teacher

In the early years of the 1800s school was taught in the log building erected for a Lutheran Church in the German District in the Bower Settlement. John Houtz was the first pastor and schoolmaster. In 1837, the log building was replaced by a frame structure which was moved in 1877 up to the Luther Hedden farm to be used as a wagon house. It was replaced by a second frame structure which was used for a school until the district centralized with Ludlowville. In 1950, it was sold and remodeled into a dwelling.

I attended this school, called District No. 3, through nine grades, taking regents examinations at Ludlowville, until I had enough credits, equalling two years in high school, to enter the Teachers Training Class in Ithaca. After graduation, I came back to teach in the same school I had attended and where a number of my pupils had been my former schoolmates. I taught here for two years, then two years in Lansingville school, then three years more back here in District 3.

Though some of the pupils were only a few years younger

than I, there was never any apparent trouble because of it. I often went out and played games with them at recess time; if I didn't, they would usually come in after me. On Arbor Day, we set out trees, planted flowers, and took our lunches and walked to the woods. There are a number of men with graying hair in this vicinity who were once my "boys." I received a note recently from one of them concerning some item of business, and he addressed me as "Dear Teacher." I have kept the note.

We had quite a scare at one time. One of the boys became ill during school hours with what was found to be diphtheria, which cost the little fellow's life. School was closed for a time by order of the health officer, and the room disinfected but no one else took it except his twin brother and a sister.

It was hard to tell those Kintz twins apart and they used to delight in fooling me. I could often tell by the different coats, which was Floyd and which Carl; that is, until they went outside, changed coats and came back with such sober little faces that I would be fooled completely. Then the sober faces would turn to smiles.

There were three district schools on Lansingville Road: one in the German district, one at Lansingville, and one about two miles farther south, known as the Emmons District and later Lobdell, named for the families who lived near.

At one time, a teacher, Charles Lobdell, who lived at North Lansing but had no mode of transportation, walked "across lots" from his home to teach in the Emmons District.

When I was teaching in Lansingville, one morning while on my way walking to school, a Mrs. Vorhis came to the door of her home and called to me to come in, as she had a guest whom she wanted me to meet. I went in and there sat the blind hymn writer, Fanny Crosby. It was quite a surprise and I counted it a great privilege to shake hands and talk with Fanny Crosby.

Old Records of German District School

In checking records of the old German District School which is in the Lansingville area, I found the following interesting items in the district clerk's book starting in 1832.

Oct. 13, 1835—Voted to raise \$125 to purchase an old house and move it to the site of the log building for a schoolhouse.

Oct. 20, 1835—Voted to repeal above, and instead build a new building 20 by 20 ft. and paint it yellow trimmed with white. Voted to repair old building for winter.

Feb. 1836—Voted to build with raised seats.

March 1836—Voted to raise \$215 for construction.

Jan. 1837—A commission was appointed to act with the trustees of the church in examining and making out a title for the site for a schoolhouse.

Feb. 1837—Voted that the lease, conveying the land for a site on which to build the schoolhouse, be accepted. Voted this time to paint it red instead of yellow, and to have eight windows with 20 lights each, 7 by 9 inches.

March 1837—Voted to repeal proceedings of former meeting, except as pertaining to acceptance of the lease; also voted to build schoolhouse 20 by 28 ft. and that the windows have 15 panes each instead of 20. Voted to raise \$200 to build.

Henry Smith offered to take the job. He was to be responsible for finding all materials, and include a woodhouse adequate for two cords of wood, and have all completed by Nov. 1, 1837, for the sum of \$250.

For some reason, 4 years later it was necessary to repair the building, and in March 1841 it was voted to take out the inside and repair it anew, and to raise \$100 to defray the cost; then, at a meeting held in May, voted to raise \$60 more to defray the cost.

During these years, each family had to provide one quarter cord of wood for each child attending school. Later, in 1844, an item shows 6 cords of 4-foot wood bought for 14 shillings (\$1.75) per cord, delivered.

The first library was purchased in 1838, Record reads "Resolved that district purchase a library and receive the bookcase with books proposed by the American Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, and district to pay \$14 for same."

Public money during these years was around \$30 to \$40 per year. In 1850, there were 50 pupils, which seems to be the highest enrollment. The district had three trustees until 1860, when they voted to have only one.

Nine months of school were held; in 1850 the record reads: "Voted to have 4 months winter term starting Nov. 12, and a 5 months summer term."

In 1877, the district voted to raise \$500 to again build a new schoolhouse. The committee appointed was Mervin Bower, Luther Hedden, and Henry Blakely. The schoolhouse which had been built in 1837 was moved to the Hedden farm and used for a wagon house.

Theodore Swayze was the carpenter employed to build the new school. In 1877, he built the present structure.

The children wanted a bell. He told them if they would raise the money to buy a bell he would put it up free of charge. They raised the necessary \$25 and Swayze built the belfry and put in the bell, which hung there for more than 70 years. With the exception of a few years in the 1920s, when the district contracted with Lansingville or Ludlowville, school had been held in the present building until 1932, when Lawrence Clark taught the last year. Then the district contracted with Ludlowville until 1948, the year the school and other Lansing schools centralized with Ludlowville, now Lansing Central.

All three school buildings on Lansingville Road have been sold and remodeled into dwellings.

Merchants and Postmasters

The first post office was established in 1830, and the name of Teetertown was changed to Lansingville in honor of John Lansing, secretary to General Schuyler.

Often the post office was located in the store, and the merchant was the post master. Charles Drake, an old-time resident, at one time was both merchant and post master in the Lansingville store.

A temporary building to house the post office was built between what is now the Myers residence and the Fire Hall. Fred Davis, a Civil War veteran who lived on the Brooks Hill Road, moved up into the Fred Storms house across from the post office so as to be near as he had been appointed post master. The building was used as a post office for only a short time, however. Mrs. Wilmer (Lillian Stout) was post mistress for

many years until the advent of Rural Free Delivery. She kept the post office in her home.

Burr Knox carried the mail to and from the Lansingville post office and the Ludlowville railroad station twice each day, six days a week, winter and summer. He drove a horse as there were no automobiles here in those days.

James Stearns had previously carried the mail for a time before Knox.

Some of the merchants who owned or rented the Lansingville store in past years were George Hopkins, Lavern Main, Clifford Townsend, Clayton Townsend, Dewitt Davis, George Houghton, Bert O'Hara, John Brown, Floyd King, Charles Davis, and Floyd Ferris, who is the present owner. For a short time Paul Sutphin rented the store of Ferris who closed the store in 1963. He is our justice of the peace now.

The first house and store burned and the present square house and square store were built side by side on the same site nearly 100 years ago. They are well built as houses were in those days. The cellar wall of the house is double, the new wall being built inside of the old one.

Churches

In 1795-96, the Rev. Anning Owen and the Rev. Alvord White were appointed to the Seneca Circuit, and they formed the first Methodist Society here.

A log church was built about 1797 at the White Settlement west of Teetertown. It burned and a frame church was built at the same place, the first frame church in the Conference.

In 1833, a brick church was built in Lansingville. This church burned in 1863, and a year later, a frame church was built on the same site. The first minister in the new church was the Rev. Hiram Gee. This church burned in 1938.

A Presbyterian Church, known as the Teetertown Church, was erected on ground owned by the Lansingville Cemetery Association. This building measured 40 by 70 feet; it had spires and galleries and was one of the largest in the county. Finally abandoned and sold to S. S. Todd for \$175, its original cost had been \$2,000.

A German Lutheran Church was established in the German District one mile north of Teetertown in 1803. The site for it and the adjacent cemetery was purchased from John Bower. This was a log church. John Houtz, the first pastor, taught school in this building, back of which was the cemetery.

Before the Lansingville Church burned in 1938, it was attended by people from miles around. At first the minister lived in Ludlowville and served both churches. Later it was joined with North Lansing and East Genoa. The minister preached at Lansingville Sunday forenoons, ate his dinner, fed his horse at one of the Lansingville homes, then drove to East Genoa where he held a service in the afternoon. Then home to North Lansing, where he held a service in the evening.

After a few years, once again changes were made and Lansingville was joined with Ludlowville, until the Lansing Larger Parish was formed by the Rev. Chester Beebe. Lansingville Methodist Church burned in 1938.

Later the churches were sold and in 1963 the Lansing Methodist Church was built on Route 34B between Ludlowville and South Lansing.

Following are the names of pastors who served the Lansingville Methodist Church from the late 1800s. No earlier list is available: J. H. Ross, the Rev. Dodd, Fred Dewitt, H. A. Carpenter, M. Terwillinger, W. E. Smith, the Rev. Crosby, G. Winkworth, G. W. Hiney, J. C. Crooker, A. J. Anderson, Lloyd Stamp, Floyd Clark, the Rev. Martin, K. Stewart, C. Montgomery, the Rev. Manning, the Rev. Fairburn, Chester Beebe, Howard Bacon.

Names of some of the earlier attendants are: Barnes, Baker, Dates, Emmons, Bower, Smith, Devoll, Tucker, Hedden, Stout, Davis, Drake, Pearce, Tuttle, Teeter, Beverly, DeCamp, Minter, Warner, Hammond, Reynolds, Fletcher, White, Brooks, Pratt, Hamilton, Dean, Lobdell, Boles, Lowe, Holden, Bunnell, Vorhis, Inman, and Westervelt.

Around 1927, a Pentacostal Church was built on the same site where the former Fred Storms house stood. It has mostly been attended by people of that faith from other localities, and for Sunday School for children. The old Storms' house burned many years ago.

The Lansingville Hotel

A large, two-story hotel stood for many years on the corner of Main Road and Ford Hill Road in Lansingville. A large, spacious building with a wide central hall extending back to the kitchen, with rooms on either side. The bar and poolroom were on the left and the living rooms on the right.

Wesley DeCamp was the landlord for many years. The older men would meet to smoke and play pool, and though drinks were sold, no man ever left under the influence of enough to cause drunkenness, as DeCamp always refused their plea for more.

Many transients passing through, stopped for lodging, supper and breakfast, and many were the meals prepared by Aunt Debby, wife of the landlord. Ample in frame and warm and big hearted was Aunt Debby, in whom all strangers found a motherly welcome.

On the second floor of the hotel was a large ballroom occupying the entire front. A hall ran back of it to the east, with bedrooms on each side.

Dances were often held in the ballroom. After a number of years the hotel business was given up and the building was sold to the Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist Church for its regular meetings and for social gatherings. It was eventually sold to Herman Davis, who tore it down and built a dwelling on the site. The place is now owned and occupied by Robert Quick and family.

Entertainments

Before the days of television, the people relied on local entertainment for amusement.

Many concerts were held in the Lansingville Church when

elocutionists and musicians would come from the Conservatory of Music in Ithaca.

The Tennessee Jubilee Singers, who traveled the country, gave several concerts here.

I remember an impersonator who was a wonderful entertainer. His name was Benjamin Nichols. He could hold one's attention for two hours, impersonating each character in a book, and when he had finished one felt as if he had read the story and seen each character in it, face to face.

Singing schools were often held.

Before any family ever owned a phonograph in the community a Mr. Hill would come from Elbrige, New York, driving a horse and wagon, and bring a phonograph with its large brass horn, and give entertainments which were attended by crowds of people anxious to hear the music and to see the working of the great phonograph which Mr. Hill always explained. He stayed for the night with a local family, and went on the next day to give an entertainment at some other place.

On two different occasions which I remember, the Katonka Medicine Show set up its tents in a field in the south part of the village. It was headed by a Dr. Raymond who claimed "Katonka" to be a "cure-all." He said he could diagnose a person's case just by looking at them. He frightened one woman by telling her that she was going into Bright disease—of course, she bought a bottle of Katonka.

War Veterans

There are six Revolutionary War veterans' graves in the Lansingville vicinity: Capt. John Rouse on Salmon Creek Road, Benajah Strong in an old family cemetery on the Brotherton farm, Thomas Hamilton in former White Settlement, Caleb Lyon in Lansingville Cemetery, Micajah Starr in a former family plot on the Grams farm, and Tilman Bower in the German Cemetery.

A veteran of the War of 1812, William Hamilton, is buried in the German Cemetery, as are four soldiers of the Civil War.

In Lansingville Cemetery there are 15 Civil War, 4 World War I, and 4 World War II burials.

For several years, members of the Junior Grange with their Matron, Ruth Bacorn, have placed flags on the graves in time for Memorial Day. The flags were bought by members of the V.F.W of Ithaca.

My Father, William Tucker, was a Civil War veteran, having enlisted from Tioga County where he resided at the time. After the war, his family came to live in Lansingville, where his father Almon Tucker set up business as a boot- and shoemaker in partnership with David Reynolds, Sr. He did carpenter work and built the house later owned by Wilmer Stout, a blacksmith. The Tuckers later moved to Steuben County but my Father remained here.

The Country Doctor

The day of the country doctor is past. One must now go to the city to find a doctor or otherwise be taken by ambulance to the hospital.

In times of illness a family felt a sense of security if able to send for the doctor and know that he could be depended on for making regular calls until the patient recovered.

At one time there were doctors in most of the nearby villages who would come on call. Dr. Skinner in Genoa and later Dr. Gard and Dr. Stuard; Dr. Dudley and Dr. Hatch in King Ferry; and later the two Dr. Allens: Ira at Ludlowville and Frank at Five Corners. Before the latter, the well-beloved Dr. Rosen-crans who drove a horse and buggy for so many years.

The last doctor in Lansing was Dr. Ernest Foerster who lived in South Lansing and served the people of the community for 25 years, being the last to make house calls. He retired from private practice in 1970.

I remember in the past years of several cases in the neighborhood where a patient was taken ill with appendicitis and a surgeon came from Ithaca and performed the operation on the kitchen table.

I remember hearing my Father tell of once asking Dr. Lock-erby, who drove a horse and buggy, why he drove his horse just as fast when returning from a visit to a patient as he did when going. He replied, "There may be a call waiting for me from a very ill patient."

Tin Peddlers and Pack Peddlers

One could hear the jingle-jangle of the tinware as the tin peddler came in sight and the horse hitched to the high wagon came trotting up the road. The driver would get down from his high seat and open the back door of the cart, and what an array of shining tinware met my wondering gaze as I stood beside my mother looking inside. Pots and pans and kettles hung from hooks on the sides of the cart. My mother needed pans for milk. She could use also a tin skimmer to skim the cream for butter, and a basin or kettle would come handy .

The peddler would take bags of rags as part payment. We always saved "paper rags," as they were called, and pack them in paper flour sacks to await the coming of the tin peddler. If a person didn't need any tinware, he would weigh the rags, and pay money for them, which was only a few cents.

Pack peddlers often traveled through the country, on foot, some carrying two packs on their backs and one by hand. Max Shapiro had clothing, and Julius Leeberman jewelry. They were both quite well known in the community, and later started stores in nearby places. Then there were Syrian or Greeks, who were strangers, who carried all sorts of articles. It was hard to understand what they said.

A Mr. Wickes from Trumansburg, a gentle, kindly elderly man, made regular trips through the country with a horse and wagon, selling extracts, etc. My mother bought vanilla and lemon flavoring, also wintergreen and peppermint.

He once spent the night here with my parents and he gave me 25 cents to buy ice cream and lemonade at a neighborhood social held in a nearby home.

I remember two grocery carts that made weekly trips through the locality. James McGrail from Congers store in Groton and Frank Clement from West Groton were the operators.

Interesting Facts

Every community counts numerous minor incidents that deserve a mention, however brief, in its historical record. Lansingville is no exception as the following "Facts" indicate.

Runaway Marriage of Jennie and Jay

The Henry Francisco family was packing to move out West, but Jennie didn't want to go. She wanted to stay and marry Jay Holden, a neighbor, but her mother said, "No," and packed Jennie's trunk. The neighbors, Mrs. Moses Lowe and the Minturns, were on Jennie's side, and asked Jay if he was going to let Jennie go. "What can I do?" he asked.

They told him to be there the next morning at a certain time, with horse and buggy. At the appointed time Jay came driving his father's horse so he wouldn't be noticed. In the meantime, Mrs. Lowe and others kept Mrs. Francisco in the back of the house talking about articles they might buy, and Jennie changed her dress. When Jay drove up she ran out and got into the buggy, and away they went to find the Rev. J. W. Pratt, who lived a mile north on a farm.

Young Charles Minturn jumped up and down, clapping his hands and shouting, "They'll never catch the sorrel-roan," but the family didn't try to stop them. Meanwhile, the young couple found the Rev. Mr. Pratt working in a field on his farm. As time was short, he performed the wedding service right there in the field. They drove to Trumansburg and stayed with Jay's brother, then came back to the home of Jay's parents.

The Francisco family had left and taken Jennie's trunk with them, but they sent it back later. It was years before she saw her parents or brothers again.

Spiritualism

It has been told that Mrs. Pratt had a leaning toward Spiritualism, as did some other families at that time, and they often would hold seances at the Pratt home. Mrs. Pratt was the granddaughter of Benajah Strong, the first settler here.

Memorial to Dr. White

A blue-and-gold state marker stands along the road in Lansingville, in front of the Pentacostal Church, to mark the spot where the home of Dr. Elijah White once stood, and where later was the Fred Storms house which was destroyed by fire.

Dr. White was a pioneer medical missionary to Oregon. In 1842, he led a group of 120 men and their families across the Indian country to Oregon. The inscription on the markers reads: "Home of Dr. Elijah White Pioneer Oregon Settler; Indian Missionary; Agent for Indians in Oregon; wrote 'Ten Years in Oregon, 1842.' "

No Wells Until Recent Years

For many years Lansingville families carried their drinking water from an ever-flowing spring near the center of the hamlet, on the southeast corner lot owned for many years by Orlando White. When the first store and dwelling house burned, also the Storms house, there was no water to fight the fire except from the spring. It is still used by the Sill family who live there.

Last Bower Descendant To Live in Brick House

Charles Drake came one day years ago to work on the farm of Jesse Bower. He stayed on and later married Catherine, more often called Kate, Jesse's daughter. They had one son Orin. Kate was born in 1814 and died in 1879 when Orin was a small boy of two years. His mother's sister, Matilda Bower Bloom, had come there to live after her husband died three years previously. She stayed on, kept house for her brother-in-law and cared for Orin.

Charles Drake was a former farmer and justice of the peace and, at one time, a merchant and postmaster at the Lansingville store. He owned a racehorse named Musie which he raced at local and county fairs.

Meantime, Orin married and had a family. Matilda passed away and in 1931, Charles Drake died when near 90. Orin stayed until moving off the farm to another location, being the last member of the Bower family to live there. Orin died in 1963 at the age of 86.

Mysterious Disappearance of Lewis Baker

When the Lemuel Inman family moved on to the Sam Baker farm, the Baker's son Lewis was still living there. He stayed with the Inmans for two or more years, then one day he told them that he might go and visit his nephew, and left. His nephew came to the Inman's some time later, and they learned from him that Lewis had never gone there. Years passed. No one ever heard from him again. It was reported that he was last seen in Ithaca. He carried a large sum of money and it was thought that some unsavory characters in the neighborhood knew about it and followed him. It was feared that he may have met with a tragic end, but no one ever knew if such an event ever happened. No trace was ever found.

Supervisors Establish Records

In past years, Lansingville has sent three supervisors to the Tompkins County Board: David Crocker, 1877-78; Orlando White, 1907; Harris Dates finished his thirteenth consecutive year in 1969, being the only supervisor who had held the office continuously for so long a time. He is, at present, chairman of the Tompkins County Board of Representatives. Charles Howell is our present supervisor.

Rural Mail Carriers

Rural free delivery mail carriers since 1903 have been Dell Stearns, George Barden, George Ryan, William Minturn, Everett Nobles and the present one, Wallace Hammond. Substitutes have been George Northrup and Bernard Campbell.

The Story of Frances

This story was told to me by Mrs. Lila Bunnell Mann

Her name was Frances Thompson and she was only nine years old when her Mother died. Her Father was serving in the Civil War, and Frances went to live with the Hammonds in Lansingville.

When she was 15, she went to Burr Smith to apply to teach in the German District, as he was trustee. Certificates weren't

required in the 1860s. He told her if she would help his wife with the housework for a year, he would hire her when she was 16, and so she did. She taught a year in this district and one year in Lake Ridge then she decided to apply at South Lansing. Jay Bunnell, a young man with whom she sometimes went out, was taking her to South Lansing to apply, when suddenly he said, "You are not going to teach." She replied, "Of course I'm going to teach." He said, "No, you are going to marry me." He drove through Ludlowville and they stopped at the parsonage where they were married.

Jay Bunnell was the son of Henry and Martha Bunnell. Mr. and Mrs. Jay Bunnell were residents in the Lansingville area the rest of their lives. They had two children, William and Lila.

Every Rig a Challenge to Track-Trained Horse

There was a race track back of the store years ago. Dr. Lockerby of Ludlowville had a horse which he occasionally brought to try out on the track. My father bought the horse later for the family carriage horse, and he tried to pass every rig on the road.

Stocks Featured Teeter Hotel Frontage

There were at one time, years ago, stocks erected in front of the hotel of which Conrad Teeter was landlord. He was a Revolutionary War soldier and the one for whom Teetertown was named. Town meetings were held at his home in 1801 and 1806. The stocks were used to confine offenders against the laws.

Lansing, Michigan Capital, of Local Origin

Years ago, when one of the members of the North family went to Michigan, people there were debating what to name their new state capital. North suggested Lansing his home town, and thus it was named.

Scales Weighed Local Produce by Wagon Load

There was at one time, quite a number of years ago, large scales in front of the Lansingville store onto which a wagon-load of produce could be driven and weighed.

Lansingville Road—Then and Now

In past years the Lansingville Road was called the worst in the town during the winter, as the drifts always seemed deeper and more of them than elsewhere. It was a dirt road and when the rains came in the spring and fall the mud was hub deep.

Before the days of snowplows, the pathmaster, as he was called, would get the men who lived along the road out to shovel the snow by hand so as to keep the road open. They would usually go out in groups to shovel their own section.

I remember one time when twenty men with shovels and saws met to open a huge bank near the entrance to the Lansingville Cemetery. It was much higher than the men. It took them several hours to tunnel through so a funeral procession could get into the cemetery.

That is only a sample of the winter drifts, and the time and labor necessitated by the men.

When the spring rains came and the mud hub deep in places, the horses seemed to have to use all their strength to pull a loaded wagon through it.

When the road became dry enough, the road scraper would come and scrape all the stones, sods, and mud from the ditches on each side, and pile it in a long ridge down through the middle of the road, making it almost impossible for the public to wear it down. They would take their choice of driving on it or driving on either slanting side and be in danger of tipping over into the ditch.

At last the time came when the road was macadamized from the south end of the road, north through Lansingville to the Fenner Road, leaving the last mile north to the county line to be done later.

The day of the automobile had come, and when the mud was deep on this mile of road, no cars could travel on it. No school bus came this way, and my daughter drove the old Model T Ford to Ludlowville to school. When the mud became hub deep, her father would draw the car with the team of horses down to the good road and she would drive from there. The same process was repeated on returning from school in the afternoon.

Now, all is changed. The full length of the Lansingville Road has for many years been a well-kept county road, which school buses travel throughout the school year. We have a wonderful highway superintendent who sees that the roads are kept open both day and night during the winter.

Years ago, when the town acquired its first snowplow it was decided to try it out on the drifts on the Lansingville Road when it immediately became stuck and had to be pulled out.

Now we often hear the big plows go through in the night, as well as several times during the day, and often followed by the immense snowblower to remove the deep drifts by blowing the snow into the fields. We know that the road will be kept open so that the school bus, the mail, and the people who work in the city will be able to get through; and we know in case of emergency the road will be open to travel, thanks to Highway Superintendent Donald Sharpsteen.

The Day the Gypsies Came

It has been many years since we have seen gypsies traveling the roads with their horse-drawn, canvas-covered wagons but in times past they were a familiar sight, camping in some field at night and trying to persuade all they met to have their fortunes told in exchange for a bit of money.

I remember one summer afternoon years ago, when we had our three hammocks hung between the trees in the lawn. All at once, my small daughter came running to the house in tears, and indignantly said, "They're in all the hammocks." I looked out and saw all three hammocks were full of kicking, screaming children, not just contentedly swinging, but jumping in and out, until I was fearful of the hammocks' being ruined.

The group of gypsies, men and women, had come from their wagons. As we growups went out they crowded around us as close as possible, begging to tell our fortunes. We shook our heads and made them understand that we wanted nothing from them—only to leave and move on.

One woman kept edging closer to my father, an elderly man, while the other gypsies crowded in as if to help her persuade him to have his fortune told. But he kept backing away, and

she finally gave up and left. My father had mistrusted them, and he felt in his pocket to find if his wallet was safe. It was, but the strap had been slipped from the top and partly unwound, yet not enough to reach the bills. How she could have done that much, we couldn't understand.

Lansingville Fire Company

The Lansingville Fire Company was organized in 1955, on July 15, at a meeting held in the Grange Hall, where they continued to hold their meetings until their own building could be built. They started at once to build and completed it the next year. It was all volunteer work.

The 38 charter members were: Carl Yengo, James Wray, Richard Inman, Don Dauk, Leo Teeter, Norton Holden, Fred Inman, Claude Davis, Glen Bacorn, Otis Myers, Harris Dates, Marvin DeGraw, Walter Inman, Robert Watrous, Steve Fedorka, Ronald Teeter, George Stout, Floyd Ferris, James Merrill, Victor Fousel, Peter Uher, Frank Nagy, Robert Inman, Herbert Robinsin, Paul Trinkl, William Hnatkowicz, Ralph Wallenbeck, Oliver Robinson, Robert Quick, Merle Holden, Carl Kintz, Fred Bowman, Jay Lockerbery, Orin Drake, Paul Sutphin, Sam Carrigan, Arthur Fuller, and Leland Tripp.

The first president of the fire company was Victor Fousel, and the first secretary, Claude Davis.

The company is now well equipped with both a tanker and a pumper.

The Women's Auxiliary was organized in 1957 with 30 charter members. The first officers were: president, Barbara Tobey; secretary, Jean Hnathowicz; treasurer, Shirley Inman.

Mrs. Rose Hoaglin, who joined a few months later, has had the job of treasurer for the past eleven years, and has never yet missed attendance at a meeting. This is an unusual record.

Present-Day College Grads and Careers

CHARLES BENSON—In Peace Corps in South America for two years; married; farming.

MARGERY BENSON RANGLES—married, took ag. course.

JOHANNA BENSON—Nursery education.

DARREL BACORN—Elec. operator and technician at Laboratory of Nuclear Studies at Cornell.

DONALD BACORN—Silversmith at Samuel Kirk & Son Co. in Baltimore; married.

JOHN DATES—Graduated from Airforce Academy in Colorado Springs; captain in Airforce; piloted planes between U.S. and S.E. Asia; married; taking law course in Colorado.

ARNOLD DATES—married; lives on Dates farm; drives to Seneca Falls to work for Sylvania.

WILLIAM (BILLY) DATES—Graduated from University of Rochester; employed in Texas.

RANDY QUICK—Married; laboratory technician in Carrier Air Conditioning in Syracuse.

EMILY STOUT HAMMOND—Married; nursing; lives in Calif.

EVELYN STOUT LAUDENSLAGER—Married; nursing; lives in Pennsylvania.

ALEXIE STOUT—Took ag. course; married; position in life insurance company in Syracuse.

STANLEY STOUT—Ag. course; married; supervisor of town of Penn Yan; has two farms.

JERRY SUTPHIN—In the Reserves at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

FLOYD FERRIS, JR.—Electronics; married, employed, Agway.

BILLY TEETER—Married; employed in Utica.

DON TULL—Graduated from Cornell; married; employed in store.

MICHAEL TULL—Graduated from Delhi; married; employed at Rock Salt.

NORA LOCKERBY GRIMM—Housewife; attended college in Florida and Washington; graduated Ithaca Colleg; lives in Lansingville.

History of Lansingville Grange

(The part of this history from 1875 to 1950 was read at Ludlowville at the 75th anniversary June 5, 1950)

The organization of Lansingville Grange, No. 282, was brought about mainly through the efforts of David Tuthill, Mervin Bower and Orlando White, who were instrumental in arousing interest and enthusiasm among the neighbors. They met on January 4, 1875, when the Grange was organized by Jesse Lyon of Schuyler County who was then State Deputy.

The charter members, numbering 30, were: Mervin Bower, Wealthy Bower, Edwin Smith, Harriett Smith, Miss Addie Owen, Orlando White, Hattie White, Allen Fletcher, Laura Fletcher, David Tuthill, Sarah Tuthill, Eugene Slocum, Mary Slocum, Samuel D. Baker, Louise Baker, Simon Emmons, the Rev. John Pratt, Wm. Baker, Hiram Holden, Henry Dean, Wm. Dates, George Atwater, Libbie Atwater, Josiah Todd, Isaac Hilliard, Lamar Green, Frank Campbell, Isaac Smith, Harrison Teeter, Amadel Teeter.

Motion was made and carried that the Master be voted for by ballot, and the rest of the officers by acclamation. The following were elected and installed:

Master, Mervin Bower; *Overseer*, Isaac Hilliard; *Lecturer*, John W. Pratt; *Chaplain*, David Tuthill; *Steward*, Eugene Slocum; *Assistant*, Frank Campbell; *Treasurer*, Josiah Todd; *Secretary*, George Atwater; *Gatekeeper*, Samuel Baker; *Ceres*, Louise Baker; *Pomona*, Wealthy Bower; *Flora*, Mary Slocum; *Lady Assistant*—Addie Owen.

At the second meeting, the Worthy Master appointed as executive committee Henry Dean, Samuel Baker and Orlando White. The receipts of the first meeting were \$65 from which was paid \$10 to Jesse Lyon for organizing, \$15 to National Grange, leaving a balance of \$40 in the treasury.

Needed equipment was bought, including a seal at a cost of \$4, and material for regalia which were to be partly home made. A Bible was purchased from the Rev. J. W. Pratt. Chairs, oil lamps, and a ballot box also were bought. At a meeting in February it was voted to buy songbooks having notes.

Meetings were held nearly every week during the first year and eighteen new members were added.

At one of the early meetings it was voted to fine each member 10c, if without a reasonable excuse, he or she was absent for more than two meetings in succession.

The membership increased rapidly and two degrees were given at nearly every meeting during the early years. In those records, when speaking of conferring degrees, instead of saying 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th degrees, they would say "The degree of Laborer and Maid; Harvester and Gleaner; Cultivator and Shepherdess; Husbandmen and Matrons, was conferred on the candidate.

An interesting part of the literary program at that time was the question box, which was used at each meeting. In the minutes of one of the meetings in those early days it was recorded that every member was to bring a question and those who did not might be put out into the outer hall until they thought of one.

The following from minutes of one of the early meetings may be of interest: "After refreshments were disposed of we were entertained by a few remarks by Worthy Master Brown of North Lansing Grange, W. Master Corwin of Genoa Grange, W. Master Perry of Lake Ridge Grange, and Brother Price of King Ferry Grange." Very few people now remember that a grange once existed in Genoa, King Ferry and Lake Ridge. This was in 1875.

The question of Patrons Fire Insurance in Tompkins County came up in 1876. A letter was read in regard to it from A. F. Curry of Enfield, and a petition for a fire insurance company was signed by 16 or 18 members. This was the beginning of grange fire insurance protection in this local farm organization.

During the years of the Grange the social side has never been neglected, especially the part relating to suppers: roast beef and chicken pie suppers, harvest suppers, strawberry and ice cream festivals, maple syrup and warm sugar eats, and others.

The following was copied from the minutes of August 25, 1876: "There was some talk of having refreshments at our

next meeting, something plain, if nothing more than crackers and herring.”

The following from minutes of September 9, the same year: “The lady members wanted to show their skill in slyness and cunning, and they did not know of a better way than to surprise the male members with something to eat and drink and this they did at the close of Grange, by inviting us all to partake of their bountiful repast.”

Installation ceremonies in the early days were often held in the daytime with dinner at noon, and public installation in the afternoon, with sometimes a speaker on some subject of interest.

The minutes of January 15, 1881, reported Grange incorporation and recorded with the town clerk at the expense of 15 cents.

On March 6, 1881, the executive committee reported that the hall had been purchased from the school district and deed recorded. The building also insured for \$200. The lower room had formerly been used for school and the upper by the Grange and the Masonic order, which later moved to King Ferry. Later the hall was used by the Good Templars.

The Grange has served the community in many ways. It has opened its doors frequently to meetings of an agricultural nature. In the days before the Farm Bureau, the Extension Division of the New York State College of Agriculture conducted Farmers Institutes. Its speakers discussed various branches of agriculture and new, practical methods of farming and marketing.

At one time a committee was appointed from our Grange to visit the gardens of members and see who was the most successful.

From the minutes of April 1884: “There was a discussion about chairs for the Hall. It was proposed that each member bring a chair of some sort, providing it’s a good one, to be used until the Grange found a set suitable for the room.” Five months later, from the Minutes in September I found these records: “The matters of seats for the Hall was discussed, and the general opinion seemed to be that sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof, or, in other words, that the best time to provide seats was when there was a demand for them.”

In 1896, a frame was purchased in which were placed the photographs of a majority of our charter members for which use it was bought, but not all the photos could be procured, so a number of the photos of the Past Masters were placed in it. It hangs on the wall of the upstairs room of the Hall.

Here are a few interesting items from the minutes of the 1800's: "It was moved and carried that two weeks from date, there will be a free oyster supper given to just those members who are always faithful in attendance at the regular meetings. None of the other members are to be told, under penalty of the informant paying for his supper."

Another record read thus: "We were invited downstairs where a free maple-sugar eat was privately given for the enjoyment of the few faithful ones."

Another item from the records: "Grange met at the usual hour, that being about 1/2 hour after the first arrivals were ready to take their departure."

Do any of you remember the horse block? I don't but the records of 1892 show that there was one in the Grange yard, and they voted that the executive committee be allowed to paint it any color they wished.

The 20th anniversary was celebrated in 1895 when Charles Smith read an article giving the names of some of the officers who served and the number of members received each year. Installation of officers was held at that time.

Now we come to the 1900s. Up until and after 1905, passenger boats were common on Cayuga Lake. The Grange voted to donate all members who attended 35 meetings from September 1, 1904, to September 1, 1905, a free ride to Cayuga.

In going over the records of the 1900s we find similar programs and activities as in all granges and, while the mention of these may not be of so much interest at the present time, they may be of interest to those who will be Grange members 25 years from now, as are the events of 50 and 75 years to us today.

Down through the years, the Grange has participated in community and other activities, such as arranging floats for an Old Home Day Parade, exhibits at the Tompkins County Fair, food sales, camp sales, smorgasbord, and one year served ice

cream and strawberries and sent the proceeds to the Ludlowville Fire Company Almedo Ambulance Service.

In August 1956, we held a Jamboree together with the Firemen, the W.S.C.S., the 4H and Juvenile Grange. Booths similar to fair and fishpond, etc., were featured.

Twice we united with South Lansing Grange for a smorgasbord and bazaar. We helped in the Doctor Project in Cayuga County.

We have donated each year to: Cancer Fund, T.B. and Red Cross, Eyes for the Needy, Care, Charlton School, March of Dimes, Easter Seals and other charities. State and National projects such as needlework, baking and others have not been overlooked.

In December 1947, we put on a mock wedding at the Grange and repeated it at Ludlowville.

A number of years ago we raised money toward new regalia by holding a poverty social, when fines were imposed for good clothes and jewelry.

In 1925, we celebrated our 50th anniversary in January at which four of our charter members were present. At that occasion one of the visiting charter members told of how he used to help the lady assistant steward of 1875 to mount his saddle horse which she rode to her home from Grange while he walked by her side.

At the time of the 50th anniversary, the room was lighted by oil lamps. The prophecy at that time was: "In 50 years more our Hall may have electric lights, both large and small." In less than 25 years, in 1939, the Hall was wired and electricity was installed. Now we have lights and an electric range.

The educational side has not been neglected. Prize essays, original poems and songs, serial stories, debates and discussions have been included in programs.

In 1933, we received the Bronze Medal for the best balanced Lecturers' Booster Program in New York State. This award was presented by the New York State Grange to a Grange having less than 100 members.

In 1934, 130 people attended our Booster program. It was held in the church which has since burned. Over 60 were our Grange members and the rest were guests.

That same year, Lansingville Grange gave the Traveling Sickle Program in Ithaca, at the Junior High School gymnasium as the auditorium would not hold all the people. Around 1,000 from this and other counties attended. We entered two of our members in the duet-singing contest that year and they won first prize at the New York State Fair..

We celebrated our 60th anniversary in 1935, which was attended by 88 persons.

In 1948, a Juvenile Grange was reorganized. Up to 1924 we had had for a few years a Juvenile Grange. The present Matron of our Junior Grange is Ruth Bacorn, a member of the first Juvenile Grange. It is now called Junior Grange.

In 1938, the church burned. From the minutes recorded in July 1948, we read: "The trustees of Lansingville Methodist Church property, through a vote of the conference have given use of the church property next to the Grange property for the use of the Grange as long as we're able to operate as a Grange on the present site."

None of our charters members is now living.

In 1950, we celebrated in the Ludlowville Church our Diamond Jubilee (75th year).

We have graveled a parking space, set out Juniper trees and shrubs, made flower beds, painted the hall and the kitchen for which the Junior Grange bought curtains. In 1960, we put new ceilings in the upstairs room.

In closing I am going to quote the last two stanzas of a poem which I wrote and read for our 50th anniversary 46 years ago.

*Just what they do; I wish we might,
In 50 years from now.
But all the years that lie between
The Now, and Then, seem but a dream,
Of our descendants there, that night;
O, don't you wish we all could be
Some little place where we could see
Methinks, perchance, that it would be
Some great surprise if we could see
In 50 years from now
The fashions and the customs then,*

*There's still one thing that's always real
The Brotherly love that we can feel.
And cannot believe that they will know
Any dearer ties than we do now
As we are gathered here tonight.
I don't think so, but still they might
In 50 years from now.*

NELLIE MINTURN.

Grange's 90th Anniversary

The 90th anniversary of Lansingville Grange was celebrated on the evening of July 12, 1965. A supper was served at 6:30 and a program presented at 8:00. It was attended by more than 60 persons.

Other Granges represented were Groton, Dryden, Ithaca, Ulysses, Enfield, East Lansing, and South Lansing. Four of the Past Masters were present: Miss Marion Nichols, Mrs. Addie Smith, Clarence Benson and Westbrook Stelle. The latter is still a member of this Grange though he now lives in Onondaga County and teaches in a Syracuse High School.

Marion Nichols, program chairman, presented the following program: Officers March, Presenting the Flag and Singing of the National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance. Master Claude Davis welcomed the group. The history of Lansingville Grange was given by Nellie Minturn who read an original poem she had written, entitled "Our Grange."

Mr. Stelle sang a solo, "Love's Old Sweet Song." One of our guests was Fred Rumsey of Enfield. Nearly 95 years old at the time, had been a Grange member for nearly 75 years. He made a few remarks. He is since deceased.

The Tompkins County deputies, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Luce, and the Pomona Grange Master and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fellows, also were our guests.

The speaker of the evening was State Grange Secretary Morris Halliday who was present with Mrs. Halliday. Among other statements, he said, "Now, after 90 years, it is time to look to the years ahead." He presented the following awards: a Golden Sheaf Certificate and pin to Mrs. Ethel Campbell for

50 years' membership. Mrs. Lila Stout received a Silver Star Certificate and pin for 25 years as a grange member.

Mrs. Barbara Meal conducted a musical quiz and led in group singing.

Our 100th anniversary will be in 1975, when I hope it may be celebrated in some way.

I received my 50-year Golden Sheaf Certificate and pin in 1970.

Past Masters of Lansingville Grange

In order of their service.

Mervin Bower	Gurnee Smith	Alexie Stout
Samuel Baker	Leslie Armstrong	Leila McClure
Orlando White	Jerry Smith	Stewart Thompson
Oscar Hamilton	Dallas King	Leila McClure
Charles Smith	Jerry Smith	Stewart Thompson
Stephen Barnes	Wm. Hamilton	Clarence Benson
Stephen Westervelt	Orin Drake	R. W. Stelle
Mrs. Emma Bower	Ralph Tait	George Tull
Orin Drake	Wm. Hamilton	Marion Nichols
Mrs. Estella Bissell	Thad Brown	Paul Sutphin
Will Bunnell	Addie Smith	Mary Sutphin
Charles R. Bower	Wm. Hamilton	Orin Drake

Claude Davis, Master from 1963 to present