

OUR COUNTY AND ITS PEOPLE.

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A HISTORY  
OF  
TIOGA COUNTY,  
New York.

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CHAPTER I.

European Discoveries and Explorations—The French in Canada—The Puritans in New England—The Dutch in New York—Champlain Invades the Territory of the Mohawks—The First Battle—Dutch Troubles with the Indians—Grant of the Province of New York—Conquest and Overthrow of the Dutch in the New Netherlands.

FOUR hundred years ago the first Spanish adventurers landed on the shores of the American continent. Sailing under the patronage of Spain, Christopher Columbus, the daring Genoese, in 1492, made his wonderful discoveries. This event has generally been designated as the discovery of America, but it is evident that the first Europeans to visit the western hemisphere were Scandinavians, who colonized Iceland in A. D. 875, Greenland in 983, and about the year 1000 had cruised southward as far as the Massachusetts coast.

During all the ages that preceded these events, no grander country in every point of view ever awaited the approach of civilization. With climate and soil diversified between the most remote extremes ; with thousands of miles of ocean shore, indented by magnificent harbors to welcome the world's commerce ; with many of the largest rivers of the globe draining its territory and forming natural highways for commerce ; with a system of lakes so immense in area as to entitle them to the name of inland seas ; with mountains, hills and valleys laden with the richest minerals and almost exhaustless fuel ; and with scenery unsurpassed for grandeur, it needed only the Caucasian to transform a wilderness inhabited only by savages, into the free, enlightened republic which is to-day the wonder and glory of the civilized world.

Following close upon the discoveries of Columbus, and other early explorers, various foreign powers fitted out fleets and commissioned navigators to establish colonies in the vast but unknown continent. It is not within the proper scope of the present work to detail the results of those bold navigators, and yet they naturally led to others of greater importance, eventually rendering the great Susquehanna valley the scene of operations of contending powers. These events, however, will be but briefly mentioned, and only those will be noted which had at least an indirect bearing upon our subject.

In 1508, Aubert discovered the St. Lawrence river ; and in 1524, Francis I., King of France, sent Jean Verrazzani on a voyage of exploration to the new world. He entered a harbor, supposed to have been that of New York, where he remained fifteen days ; and it is believed that his crew were the first Europeans to land on the soil of what is now the state of New York. The Gallic explorer cruised along the coast about 2100 miles, sailing as far north as Labrador, and giving to the whole region the name of "New France"—a name by which the French possessions in America were ever known during the dominion of that power. In 1534 the same king sent Jacques Cartier to the new country. He made two voyages and ascended the St. Lawrence as far as Montreal. The next year he visited the same region with a fleet which brought a number of French nobility, all of whom were filled with

high hopes, bearing the blessings of the church. This party determined upon the colonization of the country, but, after passing a winter at the Isle of Orleans and suffering much from the rigors of the climate, they abandoned their scheme and returned to France. As a beginning of the long list of needless and shameful betrayals, treacheries and other abuses to which the too confiding natives were subjected, Cartier inveigled into his vessel the Indian chief Donnegana, who had been his generous host, and bore him with several others into hopeless captivity and final death.

The real discoverer and founder of a permanent colony in New France was Samuel de Champlain, a man born with that uncontrollable instinct of investigation and desire for knowledge of distant regions which has always so strongly characterized all great explorers. His earlier adventures in this country have no connection with this work, and it is therefore sufficient to merely mention that in 1608 he founded Quebec. To satisfy his love for exploration, Champlain united with the Canadian Indians and marched into the unknown country to the southward. The result was the discovery of the lake that bears his name; the invasion of the lands of the Mohawks in the country of the Iroquois; a conflict between the Algonquins (aided by Champlain) and a portion of the Iroquois confederacy, in which the latter were defeated with the loss of two of their chiefs, who fell by the hands of Champlain himself.

Thus was signalized the first hostile meeting between the white man and the Indian. Low as the latter was found in the scale of intelligence and humanity, and terrible as were many of the subsequent deeds of the Iroquois, it cannot be denied that their early treatment could foster in the savage breast other feeling than that of bitterest hostility. It seems like a pathetic page of romance to read Champlain's statement that "The Iroquois are greatly astonished, seeing two men killed so instantaneously," one of whom was their chief; while the ingenuous acknowledgment of the Frenchman, "I had put four balls into my arquebus," is a vivid testimony of how little mercy the Iroquois were thenceforth to receive from their northern enemies and the pale-faced race which was eventually to drive them from their domain. It was

an age, however, in which might was appealed to more frequently than in later years, and the planting of the lowly banner of the Cross was often preceded by bloody conquest. It is in the light of the prevailing custom in the old world in Champlain's time that we must view his ready hostility to the Indian.

Now, let us turn briefly to other events which had an important bearing on the early settlement of this state. A few weeks after the battle between Champlain and the Indians, Henry Hudson, a navigator in the service of the Dutch East-India Company, anchored his ship (*The Halfmoon*) at the mouth of the river which now bears his name. This took place September 5, 1609. He met the savages and was hospitably received by them; but before his departure he subjected them to an experimental knowledge of the effects of intoxicating liquor—an experience perhaps more baneful in its results than that inflicted by Champlain with his new and murderous weapon.

Hudson ascended the river to a point less than a hundred miles from that reached by Champlain, then returned to Europe, and, through information he had gained, soon afterward established a Dutch colony, for which a charter was granted in 1614, naming the region "New Netherlands." In 1621 the Dutch West India Company was formed and took possession of the Netherlands, and five years later the territory was made a province of Holland.

Meanwhile, in 1607, the English had made their first permanent settlement at Jamestown, Va., and in 1620 planted their historic colony at Plymouth Rock. These two colonies became the successful rivals of all others in that strife which finally left them masters of the country.

On the discoveries and colonizations thus briefly noted, three great European powers based claims to at least a part of the territory embraced in the state of New York; first, England, by reason of the discovery of John Cabot, who sailed under commission from Henry VII., and on the 24th day of June, 1497, reached the sterile coast of Labrador, also that made in the following year by his son, Sebastian, who explored the same coast from Newfoundland to Florida, claiming a territory eleven degrees in width and indefinitely extending westward; second, France, which, from

the discoveries of Verrazzani, claimed a portion of the Atlantic coast, and also (under the title of New France) an almost boundless region westward ; third, Holland, which based on Hudson's discoveries, a claim to the entire country from Cape Cod to the southern shore of Delaware Bay.

The Dutch became the temporary occupants of the region under consideration, but their dominion was of brief duration. Indian hostilities were provoked through the ill-considered action of Governor Kieft, whose official career continued for about ten years, he being superseded by Peter Stuyvesant in May, 1647. Stuyvesant was the last of the Dutch governors, and his firm and equitable policy had the effect of harmonizing the discontent existing among the Indians.

However, on the 12th day of March, 1664, Charles II., of England, granted by letters patent to his brother James, the Duke of York, all the country from the River St. Croix to the Kennebec in Maine, together with all the land from the west bank of the Connecticut river to the east side of Delaware Bay. The Duke sent an English squadron to secure the gift, and on the 8th of September following Governor Stuyvesant capitulated, being constrained to that course by the Dutch colonists, who preferred peace with the same privileges and liberties accorded to the English settlers to a prolonged and perhaps fruitless contest. The English changed the name of New Amsterdam to New York, and thus ended the Dutch dominion in America.

The Dutch, during their period of peace with the Iroquois, had become thrifty and prosperous by trading guns and rum to the Indians for furs, thus supplying them with doubly destructive weapons. The peaceful relations existing between the Dutch and the Indians at the time of the English accession were maintained by the latter, but the strife and jealousy between the English and the French was continued, the former steadily gaining ground both through their success in forming and maintaining an alliance with the Iroquois and also through the more permanent character of their settlements. The final surrender of the Dutch to the English power did not result in the withdrawal of the former from the territory. It made no great difference to the settlers from

Holland whether they were under their own or English jurisdiction, but had their preferences been consulted they would of course have preferred their mother country. Their settlements extended from New Amsterdam on the south, to Albany on the north, and thence were advanced westward through the valley of the Mohawk toward the region of old Tryon county. Beyond Schenectady their outposts were infrequent, while the western and southern portions of the province were uninhabited by the whites, and was aptly styled "*terra incognita*." Even thus early civilization gradually advanced toward the Susquehanna valley, although more than another century passed before any permanent white settlement was attempted in the region.

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## CHAPTER II.

The Indian Occupation—The Iroquois Confederacy—Remarkable Civil and Warlike Organization—Manner of Life—The Lenni Lenapes, or Delawares of Pennsylvania—Iroquois conquests—Extracts from Local Historians Relating to Indian Tribes Inhabiting the Susquehanna Valley—The Tuscaroras, Susquehannas, Nanticokes, Shawnese.

AFTER the overthrow of the Dutch in the New Netherlands, the region now embraced within the State of New York was still held by three powers—one native and two foreign. The main colonies of the French (one of the powers referred to) were in the Canadas, but through the zeal of the Jesuit missionaries their line of possessions had been extended south and west to the St. Lawrence river, and some attempts at colonization had been made, but as yet with only partial success. Early French accounts indicate the occasional presence of Jesuit missionaries in the vicinity of original Tioga county, but the debatable character of this region, lying between the possessions of the Iroquois and their old enemies the Lenni Lenapes, made this an unsafe place of abode even by the red man previous to about the middle of the seventeenth century.

In the southern and eastern portion of the province of New York were the English, who, with steady yet sure advance, were pressing settlement and civilization westward and gradually nearing the French possessions. The French and English were at this time, and also for many years afterwards, conflicting powers, each studying for the mastery on both sides of the Atlantic; and with each succeeding outbreak of war in the mother countries, so there were renewed hostilities between their American colonies.

Directly between the possessions of the French and the territory of the English lay the lands of the famous Iroquois confederacy, then more commonly known as the "Five Nations" of Indians. By the French they were called "Iroquois," but by the Dutch they were known as the "Maquas," while the English called them "Mingoes." The men of the confederacy called themselves Hedonosaunee," which means literally, "They form a cabin," describing in this manner the close union existing among them.

The Indian name just above quoted is more commonly and liberally rendered "The People of the Long House," which is more full in description though not so accurate in translation. But, however variously they may have been designated, they were savages whose peculiar organization, prowess on the field of battle, loyalty to friends, as well as barbarous revenge upon enemies, together with eloquence of speech and stoical endurance of torture, have made them the wonder of the world.

When, during the latter part of the fifteenth and the early part of the sixteenth century, the foreign navigators visited the American continent, they found it in possession of two formidable races of savages, between whom there was no unity; and yet, while open hostility was suppressed, they were nevertheless in a constant state of disquiet, each being jealous of the other and at the same time doubtful of its own strength and fearful of the results of a general war.

One of these nations occupied, principally, the territory which afterward formed the State of New York, and is known in history as the "Iroquois Confederacy," or the Five (and subsequently) the Six Nations. The Iroquois originally comprised five nations which were located from east to west across the territory now forming

our state, beginning with the Mohawks on the extreme east, the Oneidas next, and the Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas following in the order named. Each nation was divided into five tribes, and all were united in common league. Parkman says : “ Both reason and tradition point to the conclusion that the Iroquois originally formed one individual people. Sundered, like countless other tribes, by dissensions, caprice, or the necessities of a hunter’s life, they separated into five distinct nations.

The central council fire of the confederacy was with the Onondagas, while the Mohawks, according to Clark, were always accorded “ the high consideration of furnishing the war captain (Chief Tckarahogea), which distinguishing title was retained so late as 1814.”

In their peculiar blending of the individual, the tribal and the national interests, lay the secret of the immense power which for more than a century resisted the hostile efforts of the French, which caused them for nearly a century to be alike courted and feared by the contending French and English colonies, and which enabled them to subdue the neighboring Indian tribes, until they became really the dictators of the continent, gaining indeed the title of “ The Romans of the New World.”

DeWitt Clinton, speaking on this subject, said : “ They reduced war to a science, and their movements were directed by system and policy. They never attacked a hostile country until they had sent out spies to explore and designate its vulnerable points, and when they encamped they observed the greatest circumspection to guard against surprise. Whatever superiority of force they might have, they never neglected the use of strategem, employing all the crafty wiles of the Carthagenians.”

However, there is a difference in the opinion of authorities as to the true military *status* of the Iroquois. In the forest they were a terrible foe, while in an open country they could not successfully contend against disciplined soldiery ; but they made up for this deficiency, to a large degree, by their self-confidence, vindictiveness and insatiable desire for ascendancy and triumph.

While the Iroquois were undoubtedly superior in mental capacity and more provident than their Canadian and southern enemies,

and than other tribes, there is little indication that they were ever inclined to improve the condition in which they were found by Europeans. They were closely attached to their warrior and hunter life, and devoted their energies to the lower forms of enjoyment and gratification. Their dwellings, even among the more stationary tribes, were rude, their food coarse and poor, and their domestic habits and surroundings unclean and barbarous. Their dress was ordinarily the skins of animals until the advent of the whites, and was primitive in character. Their women were generally degraded into mere beasts of burden, and, while they believed in a Supreme Being, they were powerfully swayed by superstition, by incantations, by "medicine men," dreams and visions, and their feasts were exhibitions of debauchery and gluttony.

Such, according to the present writer's sincere belief, were some of the more prominent characteristics of the race encountered by Champlain when he came into the Iroquois country near three centuries ago and welcomed them with the first fatal volley of bullets, a policy that was pursued by all his civilized successors. It is not denied that the Indians possessed a few redeeming characteristics, but they were so strongly dominated by their barbarous manner of life and their savage traits, that years of faithful missionary labor by the Jesuits and others were productive of but little real benefit. It may be added that whatever is true of the Iroquois is equally true of the other nations or tribes, whether of New York, Canada or Pennsylvania. One was perhaps as peaceful and domestic as another, yet all the early efforts for their civilization and conversion to Christianity were uncertain and discouraging. No strong, controlling influence for good was ever obtained among them previous to the time of Sir William Johnson, and even then it is doubtful whether they were not moved more by the power of purchase than by love of right.

In the southeast part of the province of New York and as well in the province of Pennsylvania, as subsequently known, were the possessions of the second race of savages referred to in a preceding paragraph; the Delawares, descendants of the Lenni Lenapes, styling themselves by the latter name, the meaning of which is "Original People." When first visited by the Europeans

their seat of government was on the Delaware river, from which fact they became known as Delawares. Their possessions, however, extended from the Hudson river on the east to Chesapeake Bay on the south, thence westward, on the Delaware, the Susquehanna, the Allegany, the Ohio and the Potomac rivers. That portion of the Lenapes who dwelt along the Atlantic coast became divided into three tribes, the Unamis or Turtle, the Unalachtgo or Turkey, and the Minsi or Wolf, the latter being otherwise known as Monsey or Muncy. The Wolf tribe was the most fierce and warlike of the Lenapes and occupied the western extremity of their possessions, that they, like the Senecas or the Iroquois, might defend the border against invasion.

The three tribes above mentioned at length became divided into smaller bodies and each assumed a separate name suited to the locality in which it lived. In the Susquehanna valley dwelt the Shawnees, or Shawnese, the Susquehannas, the Nanticokes and the Neshaminies. The Susquehannas and the Nanticokes were in part at least within the boundaries of Tioga county, and the name of each is still preserved in the region. Reliable authorities on Pennsylvania colonial and Indian history state that these tribes were allied to the Delawares, and like them were descendants of the Lenni Lenapes; and, at the time of the conquest of the latter by the Iroquois, they, too, were subjugated and made subservient to the direction of the conquerors.

However, so good an authority as the late Charles P. Avery informs us through his historical contributions to *St. Nicholas*, in 1853, that the Susquehannas and Nanticokes were branches of the Iroquois, and were allied to the latter during the period of the later French and Indian wars and also during the revolution. Both authorities are undoubtedly correct, for the conquest of the Delawares by the Iroquois took place about the middle of the seventeenth century, after which the tribes of the vanquished nation were permitted to live in the Iroquois country, or in regions previously in dispute. Judge Avery describes the tribes and their location just preceding and during the revolutionary war, at which period they inhabited the localities now known as Athens (Tioga Point), and the vicinity of Nanticoke creek, fourteen miles

above Owego. This subject, however, will be further treated in a later chapter.

The dates furnished by various historians differ materially as to the time of the several conquests over other nations by the Five Nations. French accounts tend to show that the Kahquahs were first conquered, and the Eries after them, while others reverse the order of conquest. Be that as it may, both were subjugated, and the Neuter Nation, too, in turn, fell an easy prey to their relentless masters, and all between the years 1640 and 1655.

After spreading destruction among their enemies nearer home, and bringing them into a state of complete subjection, the Iroquois went forth "conquering and to conquer." They first turned their attention to the tribes inhabiting the rivers of Pennsylvania, on the Allegany, the Susquehanna, and the Delaware; on the Ohio and even as far west as the Mississippi; on the Potomac and the Savannah in the south, the Iroquois bore their conquering arms, filling with terror the dwellers alike on the plains of Illinois and in the glades of the Carolinas. They passed ruthlessly over the mouldering bones of the slaughtered Kahquahs to further conquests on the shores of the great lakes beyond. They fought and vanquished the Hurons, the allies of the French, and forced them to flee for safety to the frozen regions of Hudson's Bay. They conquered as they went, destroying as a mighty whirlwind villages and inhabitants alike, and stayed only before the steady approach of the sturdy white-faced pioneer, and even he for a time was held at bay by these fierce confederates.

In 1712 the Tuscaroras, who had become involved in a war with the Powhattans and white settlers in the Carolinas, were defeated, fled north and were received into the confederacy of the Iroquois. Thenceforth the Five Nations became the Six Nations.

After the conquest of other Indian nations by the Iroquois, the latter were regarded both as masters and owners of the country, although they never exacted tribute nor in any manner oppressed their conquered enemies, other than to demand that their authority be recognized. Indeed, these considerate masters even permitted the Delawares to sell their lands in Pennsylvania to the proprietary under the Penn charter, but at the same time the

treaties were held under the supervision of the Iroquois, and generally at Fort Stanwix or some other important point well within the conceded territory of the Six Nations. The adjoining counties of Bradford and Susquehanna, in Pennsylvania, were a part of a vast purchase made by the Penn proprietary on the 5th of November, 1768, at a treaty held at Fort Stanwix, where now stands the city of Rome, N. Y. The home lands of the Shawnese, and the hunting-grounds of the Nanticokes were purchased in 1753. However, in all conveyances by the Delawares to the agents of William Penn the chiefs or sachems of the Six Nations joined in the deeds as grantors.

In his Centennial History, published in the county press in 1876, William Fiske Warner says the Tuscarora Indians, the Sixth Nation of the Iroquois, were the occupants of the valley of the Susquehanna after their adoption into the confederacy. The following extracts from Mr. Warner's work will be found of interest :

“ At the time of the founding of the French, Dutch and English colonies in America, there were five powerful tribes of Indians inhabiting the middle and western parts of the State of New York. These were the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas. Subsequently a tribe of Tuscaroras, driven from the Potomac (other writers say from the Carolinas), took possession of the territory along the Susquehanna having their principal village at Tioga Point, now Athens, and became the sixth tribe which was added to what is known as the confederacy of the Six Nations.”

In explanation of seeming inconsistencies of statement by various Indianologists, we may say that some authorities assert that the Tuscaroras were originally a northern tribe, descendants of the ancestors of the Iroquois, to whom tradition gave the name of Mengwe, while others state that they were a branch of the Lenni Lenapes. The correct theory the present writer will not attempt to determine, yet the fact that the Tuscaroras were so readily received by the Iroquois and adopted as the sixth nation of their famous confederacy would seem to give color to the claim that they were of Mengwe origin. Again, history records the fact that the Tuscaroras gave material aid to the Iroquois when the latter were making war against the southern Indians, and their

adoption into the confederacy was merely an act of gratitude on the part of the Five Nations.

Be the truth as it may, the Tuscaroras of the Susquehanna valley were a peaceable tribe, and during the half century following the year of their adoption (1712) by the Iroquois, they increased in number and their villages were scattered along the valley from Tioga Point to the eastern border of the present county of Broome. Here they were found by a detachment of Sullivan's army during the late summer of 1779, the events of which period will be found narrated in a later chapter of this work.

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### CHAPTER III.

The Jesuits among the Indians—Other Missionary Laborers—The Early Wars—French and English Rivalry—Open Hostilities—Ineffective Peace Treaties—Final Struggle between the English and French—Iroquois Generally Neutral—Mohawks Fight with the English—Overthrow of French Power in America.

WHEN Champlain opened the way for French dominion in America the task of planting Christianity among the Indians was assigned to the Jesuits, a name derived from the Society of Jesus, founded by Ignatius Loyola in 1539. But while their primary object was to spread the gospel, their secondary and scarcely less important purpose was to extend the French dominion. In 1736 Canada was restored to France, and within three years from that date there were fifteen Jesuits in the province. They increased rapidly and extended their influence to a large number of Indian nations in the far west, while the Moravian missionaries, who established the little village called Friedenshutzen, a few miles below Wyalusing, in what is now Bradford county, Pennsylvania, were engaged in the laudable work of attempting to civilize and christianize the Indian occupants of the Susquehanna valley. However, through the sale of the lands in that

part of the province, the Moravians were compelled to abandon their field.

In 1700 the provincial authorities of New York passed an unjustifiable law which, were it strictly enforced, inflicted the death penalty upon every Jesuit missionary who should thenceforth come voluntarily into the province, on the ground that their teachings unsettled the savage mind and alienated the Indians from British influence. This harsh measure had not the effect to entirely stop the Jesuit labors, although they were greatly retarded by it. These faithful missionaries left the province within the next ten years following the overthrow of the French power in America, and were followed by such noble workers as Talbot, Henry Barclay, John Ogilvie, Spencer, Timothy Woodbridge, Gideon Hawley, Eleazer Wheelock, Samuel Kirkland, Bishop Hobart, Eleazer Williams, Dan. Barnes (Methodist), and others of less distinction, all of whom labored faithfully, but with varied perseverance, for the conversion of the Indians. All, however, were forced to admit that their efforts as a whole were unsatisfactory and discouraging; and even subsequent attempts to establish education and christianity among the Indians, while yielding perhaps sufficient results to justify their prosecution, have constantly met with discouraging obstacles.

The advent of European nations was the forerunner of the downfall of the Iroquois league, and doubtless will lead to the ultimate extinction of the race. The French invasion of 1693, together with that of three years later, cost the confederacy half its warriors. Their allegiance to the British (with the exception of the Oneidas) in the revolutionary war proved to be an alliance with a falling power, and this, in connection with the relentless vengeance of the American colonists, broke up the once powerful league and scattered its members to a large extent upon the friendly soil of Canada, or left them at the mercy of the state or general government, which consigned them to reservations with very imperfect provisions for their maintenance.

The causes which led to the protracted contentions between the French and the Iroquois Indians are clear and distinct. They began with the unwarranted invasion by Champlain and his allied

savages, and engendered an hostility that eventually cost hundreds of lives in battle, together with the ruthless slaughter of an equal number of persons who were guiltless of warlike intent. The real struggle of the period known in history as the French and Indian war began soon after the conquest of the New Netherlands by the English, and ended only with the extinction of the French power in America. The events of this long series of invasions and counter-invasions have little relation to the Indian history of Tioga county, or even to this part of the State, and it was not until about the beginning of the eighteenth century that the English colonists became concerned for the welfare of their own interests, and at last awakened to the conviction that they must thoroughly unite against the French.

To this end, in 1690, a convention of delegates of English colonists determined to raise a military force and subjugate Canada, but, after some years of strife with varying results, the treaty of Ryswick put an end to hostilities. The treaty was concluded in September, 1697, but while it established a peace between the French and the English, it practically left unsettled the *status* of the Iroquois. The French insisted on the protection of their own Indian allies, but were unwilling to include the Iroquois, and even made preparations to attack them with their whole force. The English, on the other hand, as strenuously claimed the same terms for their allies, and Earl Belmont informed Count de Frontenac that he would resist any attack on the Iroquois with the entire force of his government. This terminated the threats of the enemy.

Peace being thus established, the English left nothing undone to maintain the friendship between themselves and the Iroquois, and soon succeeded in obtaining from them a deed of a vast tract of their hunting territory. However, on the accession of Queen Anne to the British throne as the successor to King William, in March, 1702, what has been known as Queen Anne's war was soon begun. It continued until the treaty of Utrecht, April 11, 1713, but, though felt in the colonies, New York fortunately escaped its bloody consequences.

While the French were in possession of New France their influ-

ence over all the Indians within its limits was paramount, and they even disputed with the English the alliance of the latter with the Iroquois; but whatever may have been the foundation of French claims to even a portion of the territory of New York, they could hardly be recognized as holding any part of original Tioga county, although in 1663 four of the Iroquois nations had concluded a treaty with De Tracy by which they placed themselves under the protection of the French king. If the territory of original Tioga was not a part of the Mohawk country, and a portion of it certainly was not, the treaty may have affected that portion beyond the Mohawks' domain, yet none of the French maps show that any surveys were made in its southern locality.

On the other hand, the English early secured a firm and lasting allegiance with the Mohawks, a friendship more closely cemented in later years through the influence of Sir William Johnson. Further, the original charter of Virginia carried the English possessions to the forty-fifth parallel, and later grants extended her sovereignty to the St. Lawrence river.

The treaty of Ryswick (1697) declared that the belligerents should return to their possessions, as each occupied them at the beginning of hostilities, and England put forth the unconditional claim that, at the period referred to in the treaty, their Iroquois allies were in the occupation by conquest of Montreal and the shores of the St. Lawrence. The French government at the time seems to have acknowledged that the Iroquois were embraced in the treaty.

Thus the two European powers wrangled over the country which was but a little time previously the undisputed domain of the Iroquois, and was still occupied by them. When France disputed the claims of England and appealed to the council at Onondaga, a stern, savage orator exclaimed: "We have ceded our lands to no one; we hold them of heaven alone." (Bancroft.)

Whether so much importance should attach to the treaties in which these untutored savages were pitted against the intelligent Europeans, either French or English, is questionable; especially when we consider the methods often adopted in later years to induce the Indians to sign away their domain. Be this as it may,

it is now generally believed that the intrusion of France upon the possessions of the Iroquois in the Champlain valley, "at the sacrifice of so much blood and treasure, justice and the restraints and faith of the treaties were subordinate to the lust of power and expediency." (Watson.)

In March, 1744, war was again declared between Great Britain and France, and the former power at once prosecuted measures for the conquest of the French possessions. The colonies of New York and New England united in an expedition to co-operate with the fleet under Commodore Warren in an attack upon Louisburg, which capitulated in June, 1745. Then followed the descent upon Hoosic village, and its surrender, leaving unprotected the frontier.

However, an important object of the contest from 1744 to 1748 was the possession of the valley of the Mississippi, which both nations claimed by discovery and occupancy. The French forts now extended from Canada to Louisiana, forming "a bow, of which the line of English colonies was the string." At this time the English colonies in America contained a million inhabitants, while the French had only about sixty thousand. The Iroquois would not engage in this strife until 1746, and were disappointed at its sudden termination, having compromised themselves with their old enemies (the Indian allies of the French) now more numerous and dangerous than ever. The question of Iroquois supremacy was, therefore, renewed and intensified.

In April, 1748, was concluded the ineffective, if not actually shameful, treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, and while it was a virtual renewal of the treaties of Ryswick and Utrecht, it left unsettled the old questions in dispute, with others of equal importance to the colonies, and the fortresses of Louisburg and Crown Point were returned to the French without even a protest.

Opposed and embarrassed by political factions, Governor Clinton resigned his office in October, 1753, and was succeeded by Sir Danvers Osborne. The same distractions, aggravated by the loss of his wife, threw the latter into a state of melancholia, which ended in suicide. He was succeeded by Lieutenant-Governor James De Lancey, who called the attention of the Assembly to recent French encroachments, and urged united action by the

English colonies to resist them. However, the old sectional differences tended to prevent harmony in sentiment or action. The Iroquois were also to some extent becoming alienated from the English, whose apathy and failures they did not relish. The French, by reason of victories in Pennsylvania in 1754, were left in undisputed possession of the entire region west of the Alleghanies.

Under the advice of the British ministry a convention of delegates from all the colonial assemblies was held at Albany in June, 1754, the object of which was to secure a continued alliance with the Six Nations. Governor De Lancey presided, and opened the proceedings with a speech to the Indian chiefs and sachems who were present. Colonel, afterward Sir William Johnson, was also present and made many valuable suggestions to the delegates. He had by this time become well acquainted with the Indian character ; had ingratiated himself in their affections, not only among the Mohawks, but as well among all of the Iroquois Confederation. He was made by the former one of their sachems, having authority in their councils, and likewise he was created war-chief, and as such frequently assumed the costume and habits of the Indians.

Meanwhile, at the suggestion of the Massachusetts delegates, a plan for the union of the colonies was taken into consideration, and resulted in a committee of one from each colony to draw plans for the purpose, the fertile mind of Benjamin Franklin suggesting that which was adopted. It was the forerunner of our federal constitution ; but the colonial assemblies rejected it, deeming that it encroached on their liberties, while the home government rejected it, claiming that it granted too much power to the people.

Though England and France were nominally at peace for eight years following the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, each power was constantly engaged in strengthening its outposts and forming alliances with the Indians. The storm of war again broke upon the country in 1756, after two years of open hostilities. The Mohawks rallied to their commander, Colonel Johnson, and while the Senecas were friendly to the French they were reluctant to war against their brethren at the eastern extremity of the Long House. The Tuscaroras of the Susquehanna valley were close friends of the

Mohawks, and a few of them fought under General (soon afterward Sir William) Johnson, while others maintained a strict neutrality.

A detail of this contest is not necessary in this work, as the great theatre of events was far beyond the boundaries of Tioga county. At first the French were everywhere victorious, but in 1758 William Pitt entered the councils of George II, as actual though not nominal chief of the ministry, and then England flung herself in deadly earnest into the contest. Forts Duquesne and Frontenac were captured by the British, and other victories prepared the way for the grand successes in 1759. The cordon was broken, but Fort Niagara still held out for France.

In 1759 Wolfe assailed Quebec, the strongest of all the French strongholds; and at the same time Generals Prideaux and Johnson laid siege to Fort Niagara. After a fierce battle the fort surrendered, and with the capitulation ended the French dominion over any portion of the province of New York. Soon the life-bought victory of Wolfe gave Quebec to the triumphant Britons; but still the French clung to their colonies with desperate but failing grasp, and it was not until September, 1760, that the Marquis de Vaudreuil surrendered Montreal, and with it Detroit, Venango, and all other posts within his jurisdiction. This surrender was ratified by the treaty of peace between England and France in February, 1763, which ceded Canada to the former power. On the 30th of July, 1760, Governor De Lancey, of New York, suddenly died, and the government passed into the hands of Cadwalader Colden, who was commissioned lieutenant-governor in August, 1761. In October following General Robert Monkton was appointed governor of the province.

## CHAPTER IV.

Political Situation Previous to the Revolution—The Johnson Influence—Taxing the Colonies—The British make Allies of the Six Nations, except Oneidas and Tuscaroras—Joseph Brant, the Mohawk Chief—Wyoming—Cherry Valley—Sullivan's Campaign against the Indians—Clinton's March down the Susquehanna—The General Movement into the Iroquois Regions—Battle at Newtown—Subsequent Events of the Campaign—End of the War.

THE political situation in the province of New York, and indeed throughout the American colonies, during the revolution, and for some years previous, was at once novel and interesting, since it included influences politically antagonistic, while socially there was no animosity among the pioneers, and good will and friendship prevailed on every hand. The settlements founded by Sir William Johnson in the Mohawk valley were entirely under his control during his life, and their militia was subject to his command. His death, however, and the succession of his son (so far as it was possible for the latter to succeed him) caused a marked change in political events ; one indeed which created not only a division of sentiment, but in many instances the rupture of friendship. Had Sir William lived a few years longer his love of America might have led him to espouse her cause, and many think his policy indicated such a purpose ; but Sir John, and his brothers-in-law, Guy Johnson and Daniel Claus, were creatures of the king, having no sentiment in common with the people, and were evidently imbued with aristocratic notions.

Continuing this inquiry into the condition of public affairs, we are led to examine the prevailing causes of the above mentioned division, both in sentiment and action, and it also occasions a review of those events which precipitated the war. A careful examination of the province at the time leads to the conviction that the patriots were strongly in the majority. The taxation to which the colonies were subjected by the mother country really began almost as far back as the overthrow of the Dutch power in Amer-

ica, for it seems to have been the crown's determination to make them self supporting, which was more than their own share toward national greatness. The burden of debt was then very heavy on Great Britain, but it was chiefly created by the wars in which she had engaged on her own side of the Atlantic. That portion, however, incurred by the wars on this continent she proposed to be paid by the colonies, notwithstanding the great increase of her domain through these wars.

The time, however, arrived when tame submission to such measures could no longer be endured. The colonists themselves were heavily burdened with the expenses of the late French war, yet almost before the smoke of the battles had cleared away the ministry began devising plans to tax them without asking their consent. In 1764 a proposition was submitted to the House of Commons for raising revenue in the colonies by the sale of stamps, and a bill to that effect was passed in March, 1765. It was bitterly denounced in the colonies, especially in New York, and the "Sons of Liberty" were organized to oppose the obnoxious law.

So great, indeed, was the popular indignation that parliament finally repealed the act, but this was done more to satisfy English tradesmen than to relieve a distressed people; and in its place were enacted other oppressive laws, one of which required the provinces to pay for supporting the British soldiery in New York city. The colonial assembly refused to comply with the demand, and parliament in retaliation annulled its legislative powers.

In 1767 a bill was passed by parliament imposing a duty on tea, glass, lead, paper and painters' colors imported by the colonies. This renewed the opposition, and in the following year the Massachusetts assembly addressed a circular letter to the sister colonies asking assistance in defending the common liberties. More retaliation followed, for the ministry was so enraged that a letter was sent to each of the colonial governors forbidding their assemblies to correspond with Massachusetts. This mandate was ignored, and the New York assembly accompanied its disobedience with declarations of inherent rights, together with denunciations of parliament, and the people sustained their representatives and returned most of them to the new assembly of 1769.

In 1770 Lord Dunmore succeeded Colden as governor, and brought with him royal approval of the act authorizing the issue of the colonial bills of credit. The duties had meanwhile been removed from all articles except tea, and colonial affairs for a time moved more smoothly, but on July 18, 1771, William Tryon became governor, and soon afterward old difficulties were renewed. The East India Company, conscious of the injustice of placing a duty on tea, tried to have the latter removed, but in vain, for the ministry still adhered to its boasted right to tax the colonies. This was soon followed by the destruction of the tea shipped to Boston, an event which has ever been known as the "Boston Tea Party." The ministry, whose rage was still more excited by the bold defiance, again retaliated by closing the port of Boston against all commerce—an outrage which awoke national indignation. Public meetings were held for the consideration of the common grievances, and among the plans suggested for mutual protection was the assembling of a Colonial Congress.

The Continental Congress, as it has ever been termed, was held at Philadelphia in September, 1774, and, having adopted a declaration of rights, it added a petition to the king and an appeal to the people of Great Britain and Canada. The New York assembly was the only one that did not sanction these proceedings; instead of which it addressed a remonstrance to parliament, which was treated with disdain.

"On the 12th of January, 1775, at a cabinet council, it was declared that there was nothing in the proceedings of Congress that afforded any basis for an honorable reconciliation. It was therefore resolved to break off all commerce with the Americans; to protect the loyalists in the colonies, and to declare all others to be traitors and rebels." (Lossing).

At this time Tryon county, within which the territory of Tioga was included, was a new creation, named in honor of the governor, but young as it was it displayed a full degree of power; and its enormous extent led to its division into five provisional districts. Many of its people were earnest in the patriotic cause, and were open in their approval of the proceedings of the Continental Congress, but on the other hand Sir John Johnson, having suc-

ceeded to his father's military title (though never to his popularity and influence), warmly supported the British interests. In carrying out this policy Sir John was seconded by Guy Johnson and Daniel Claus, whose efforts were directed to the complete alienation of the Indians from the whig colonists. The Mohawks of course were friendly to the crown, for they loved the father too well to oppose his son. Prominent among them were the notorious leaders, John and Walter Butler, and also the chief, Joseph Brant, all of whom became infamous from their bloody deeds during the revolution; and yet their pillage and slaughter were generally ascribed to the instigations of the Johnsons.

Sir John and his fellow loyalists did not limit their schemes to the Mohawks; they sent emissaries to all the Six Nations, and to all other Indians within their reach, the object being to induce them to take up the hatchet against the Americans. In this effort they were too successful, for all except the Oneidas and the Tuscaroras, and a few other friendly Indians, joined the British. The Senecas held off for a time, but the prospect of both blood and gold was too much for them to withstand, and in 1777 they made a treaty with the British at Oswego, agreeing to serve the king throughout the war.

The question whether a price was actually paid or promised for scalps has been widely debated. Mary Jemison, the celebrated "White Woman," then living among the Senecas on the Genesee, declares that at the treaty the British agents, after giving the Indians numerous presents, "promised a bounty on every scalp that should be brought in." Whether a bounty was paid or not, the Indians were certainly employed to assail the inhabitants with constant marauding parties, notwithstanding their well known and inveterate habit of slaughtering men, women and children whenever opportunity offered, or at least whenever the impulse to kill seized them. In fact they were good for very little else, their desultory method of warfare making them almost entirely useless in assisting the regular operations of an army.

The most active and most celebrated of the Iroquois chiefs in the British service during the revolution was Joseph Brant, or Thayendanegea, a Mohawk who had received a moderate English

education under the patronage of Sir William Johnson. Indeed, Molly Brant, sister to the chief, was for years the housekeeper for Sir William at Johnson Hall, while the chief himself was frequently one of the family. Brant was intrusted by British officers with the command of detached parties, but it does not appear that he had authority over all the tribes, and it is almost certain that the haughty Senecas would never have submitted to the commands of a Mohawk.

W. L. Stone, author of the "Life of Brant," says that at the battle of Wyoming in 1778, the leader of the Senecas, who formed the main part of the Indian force on that occasion, was Guieng-wahtoh, supposed to be the same as Guiyahgwahdoh, "the smoke bearer." That was the official title of the Seneca afterward known as "Young King," he being a kind of hereditary ambassador, the bearer of the smoking brand from the great council-fire of the confederacy to light that of the Senecas. He was too young to have been at Wyoming, but his predecessor in office (probably his maternal uncle) might have been there. Brant was certainly not there.

The last assertion from so well known an authority will be the occasion of no little surprise, and possibly some question, as the opinion has ever been current that Brant was the leader of the Indians on that occasion. That he was at Cherry Valley during the same year, there can be no doubt, but as the Senecas formed the chief contingent of Indian forces present at Wyoming it is fair to assume that the savages were commanded by a Seneca. Three of the leading chiefs of the Senecas during the revolution were "Farmer's Brother," "Cornplanter" and "Governor Blacksnake," but who was in command is not certain. It is probable that the leader of each expedition received his orders direct from the English officers.

We have referred to the affair at Wyoming as a "battle" instead of a "massacre" as it has usually been termed. The facts seem to be that no quarter was given during the conflict, and that after the Americans were routed, the Tories and Senecas pursued and killed all they could, but that those who reached the fort and afterward surrendered were not harmed, nor were any of the non-

combatants. The whole valley, however, was devastated, and the houses burned. At Cherry Valley, the same year, the Senecas were also present in force, together with the Mohawks under Brant, and the Tories under Capt. Walter Butler, son of Col. John Butler. Then there was an undoubted massacre. Nearly thirty women and children were killed, besides many men surprised helpless in their homes.

These events, together with others of less disastrous results, attracted the attention of Congress and General Washington to the Susquehanna valley, and they determined to set on foot an expedition in the spring of 1779, for the purpose of destroying all Indian villages and driving their troublesome inhabitants from the region. At this time the valley of the Susquehanna had become an important highway of travel for the Indians in passing between western Pennsylvania and the Mohawk country. Indeed, as Judge Avery's narrative says: "The old mode of communication between the valley of the Mohawk and Upper Canada, well known to the natives and used by them, namely: up the headwaters of that river to Wood creek; thence to Oneida lake and Oswego river, was rendered unsafe for them by the establishment of Fort Schuyler. To reach within striking distance of his old home upon the Mohawk, Brant was forced to adopt another route, through the valley of the Susquehanna. Coming from the British possessions on Lake Ontario he landed his forces at Irondequoit Bay, near the mouth of the Genesee; thence up that river to the mouth of one of its eastern tributaries; thence up the tributary to a point near the headwaters of the Conhocton; thence down that stream to Painted Post; thence down the Tioga or Chemung, as formerly called, through Elmira (Skwe-do-wa) to Tioga Point (now Athens, Penna.,) his southern headquarters; thence up the Susquehanna, through Owego (Ah-wa-ga), Binghamton (O-che-nang) and Oquaga (Onuh-huh-quan-geh) to Unadilla (De-u-na-dillo), his northern headquarters. From the latter place he sent forth those untiring scouting parties; and also more formidable forces composed of English regulars, rangers, Tories and Indians, keeping our settlements upon the Mohawk, Delaware, and on some of the tributaries of the Hudson, as well as those on the headwaters of the Susquehanna, in constant alarm."

“Between Unadilla and Tioga Point,” continues the narrative, “free communication was maintained by the Iroquois throughout the war, interrupted only, for a brief interval in the summer of 1779, by the appearance of a well appointed American force of fifteen hundred men under General Clinton. From Otsego Lake he and his army made a romantic descent of the river in batteaux, forming a junction with General Poor’s brigade at Choconut (Chug-nut), fourteen miles above Owego, and with the main army under General Sullivan, at Tioga Point.”

“Well beaten trails on both sides of our river, of considerable width, were the avenues of communication used by the natives, and over them bands of warriors passed and repassed without hinderance, except the temporary one just alluded to. By the same trails our pioneer settlers, soon after the close of the war, made their way through our valley. They were found wide enough for the passage of pack-horses and cattle, and proved in after years, upon careful survey, the most direct and feasible routes from the east and north to this part of the state.”

“From Tioga Point to Unadilla our valley was their stronghold and war-path ; unvisited by the colonists throughout our memorable struggle, except as captives, or as officers or soldiers of our army of invasion. Here they drilled in martial exercise ; trained themselves to warlike feats, and prepared for those deadly incursions into our frontier settlements, and for those more formidable engagements where disciplined valor breasted their wild charge. To this valley they returned, as to a fastness, with their captives and streaming trophies.”

The many Indian and tory depredations in various parts of New York during the period of the revolution were instigated chiefly by the malice and wantonness of Sir John Johnson. He at first sought to establish a British military post at Johnson Hall, which he fortified, and also armed the Scotch Highlanders who formed a strong contingent of his tenantry. But the spirit of patriotism was too strong in Tryon county to tolerate such a presence, and, becoming alarmed by the determined attitude of the whigs, the Johnsons resolved to abandon the state. Guy Johnson first departed, and with him were John and Walter Butler and Joseph

Brant, the Mohawk chief, all of whom took up their abode upon the more friendly soil of Canada. The remaining, and by far the larger portion of the loyalists, placed themselves under the protection of Sir John Johnson, who armed and equipped them in true military style and sought to defend his vast estate against the Americans. The result was his arrest in January, 1776. He was released on parole, but violated this pledge of honor, and in May following, with his tenantry, proceeded stealthily by way of Sacandaga to Canada, taking up his residence at Montreal. During the war Sir John commanded a troop known as "Johnson's Greens," but his worst acts were the schemes by which he instigated the savages to destroy the frontier settlements and slaughter their inhabitants. The affairs at Wyoming, Cherry Valley, and as well the several invasions of the Mohawk valley were planned by him and his associates, and occasions were not wanting in which he led his troops in an attack upon the Americans. For the purposes of their depredations the Butlers and Brant established headquarters south of Lake Ontario, in the very heart of the Seneca country, from which point marauding expeditions were constantly sent out.

Perhaps the most important events in connection with the Indian history of the region which formed original Tioga county during the revolution were the affairs at Wyoming and Cherry Valley (neither, however, within the bounds of the county at any time), and the subsequent campaign of General Sullivan against all the offending Indians in the summer of 1779.

After the attack upon Wysockton, in May, 1778, "the captives," says Judge Avery, "were taken at once to Tioga Point and there given up to a British officer at the head of his rangers and Indians. They remained at that place during the whole of the preparation for the attack upon Wyoming, and were there, also, when the combined forces of the English under John Butler, and Indians under Gi-en-gwah-toh embarked in canoes and batteaux for that ill-fated place. Their destination was well known to the captives. Upon the return of the expedition from the massacre, with the booty, consisting of cattle, horses, etc., the captives were still there.

"In the latter part of July, all of the prisoners, including the

narrator (Mrs. Jane Whitaker), together with the Indians and other forces, came up to Owego, thence went to Bainbridge and Unadilla, in the vicinity of which points they remained several weeks. At the two last named places the captives had the privilege extended to them of cooking in a fire-place; a novel luxury since their captivity."

"While the captives were at Bainbridge, two British soldiers deserted, making their way toward Tioga Point. A detachment was sent in pursuit, overtaking them upon the beautiful plain in the town of Nichols, now (1853) owned by General Westbrook and the descendants of Daniel Shoemaker, deceased, and then called Maugh-an-to-wa-no, which was a favorite corn ground of the natives. The forms of a court-martial were dispensed with, and the deserters were shot down at once. The bodies were left where they fell, without burial, until Queen Esther, of She-she-quin, a notable personage of that vicinity, superintended the digging of graves, in which they were placed a few days after the event."

Referring briefly to a preceding paragraph in which the author of the "Life of Brant" says that the chief was not at the massacre or battle of Wyoming, Judge Avery says: "Mr. Miner, in his excellent work, the history of that valley, inclines to the belief that he led in the battle and was responsible for the massacre. As the question now stands, the statement of Mrs. Whitaker is important. To feel its force fully, we must bear in mind that for more than a month prior to the massacre she was at Tioga Point when the whole expedition fitted out and started for Wyoming, and was there when the forces returned. She says: 'I saw Brant at Fort Niagara, often. I became well acquainted with his children and family. I saw him for the first time at the fort. I do not recollect of seeing him at Tioga Point when the expedition was fitting out for Wyoming, nor when it returned. I think I should have recognized him, if I had ever seen him before. I knew the English officers by sight, heard their names, and also saw the Indians in command at Tioga, but it was not the man whom they called Brant at Fort Niagara. I was young, but things that happened during our captivity, I remember with great distinctness.'"

This statement by Mrs. Whitaker would seem to confirm the fact mentioned in a preceding paragraph, that Brant was not at Wyoming. In fact it cannot be regarded a specially material point whether or not he was there, except as the opinion is current that the noted Mohawk led the attack. Judge Avery applied to every reliable source of information for light on this point and reached the conclusion that Brant may have been present, though not an active factor, on that occasion.

Be the truth as it may, Wyoming and Cherry Valley massacres determined Congress to visit condign punishment upon the Indians of southern and western New York. General Sullivan's famous campaign was its result, and by it the beauty and fertility of the Susquehanna Valley became known to the American colonists.

Sullivan's campaign against the hostile Six Nation Indians of New York, particularly against the Senecas, was one of the notable events of the year 1779, and its effect was most salutary, for their villages and growing crops were destroyed and the natives themselves were forced to seek protection and maintenance from the British at Fort Niagara. In the order to General Sullivan, General Washington said: "The immediate objects are the total destruction of the hostile tribes of the Six Nations, and the devastation of their settlements, and the capture of as many prisoners of every age and sex as possible." Furthermore, Sullivan was directed "to lay waste all the settlements around, so that the country may not only be overrun but destroyed," and subsequent events proved that the determined commander faithfully performed the important duty entrusted to his management.

According to the plan of this campaign, General Clinton was to proceed down the Susquehanna valley, destroying as he advanced, and join forces with the main body of troops under Sullivan at Tioga Point. On the 15th of June Clinton was with his force at Canajoharie, and reached Otsego lake during the latter part of that month, and on the 22d of August arrived at Fort Sullivan, having in the meantime devastated the Indian country throughout the upper Susquehanna valley. When he reached a point near Unadilla, Clinton's army was within the limits of original Tioga county, in view of which fact we may properly record some

of the principal events of the journey as a part of local history ; and for this purpose we extract from the journal of Lieut. Erkuries Beatty, an officer in Clinton's division :

Thursday, August 12th, 1779. "Came to a small Scotch settlement called Albout, five miles from Unadilla, which we burnt." Albout was a tory settlement on the east bank of the Susquehanna.

On the following day the troops proceeded to the Indian village called Conihunto, fourteen miles below Unadilla. Another day's march brought them to the old Indian town of Onoquaga, located on both sides of the river in the present town of Colesville, Broome county. This is described as one of the "neatest" towns on the river, having good log houses with stone chimneys, and glass windows ; also mentions a church and burying ground, a great number of apple trees, and the ruins of an old fort. The Indians abandoned this village during the fall of 1778.

On Tuesday, the 17th, the troops proceeded down the river to the Tuscarora village called Shawhiangto, containing ten or twelve houses, all of which were burned or destroyed. On the same day Ingaren, another Tuscarora village, at or near the site of Great Bend, Penna., was reached and destroyed, as also were the corn fields and a primitive tannery, called by the officer a "tanfat farm."

At four o'clock in the afternoon of the next day the party reached the junction of the Chenango with the Susquehanna, the site of the city of Binghamton. From this point a detachment went up the Chenango to the Indian village of the same name, but found the houses already destroyed. The men camped this night two miles below the mouth of the Chenango. At Chugnut (Choconut), an important Indian town of about fifty or sixty houses, Clinton's army fell in with General Poor's detachment which had come up the river, destroying villages and crops as they advanced. Chugnut was on the site of the present village of Vestal, Broome county. It was burned August 19, 1779, by Poor's men.

The united forces marched on down the river, Clinton's men in the advance and Poor's in rear. On the 19th, a detachment went to the Indian village of Owagea (Owego), containing about twenty houses, all of which were burned. It was located on Owego creek,

about one mile from the Susquehanna. On the 17th General Poor's detachment camped on the site of the present village, where was a small Indian hamlet. On the 20th another small village of about twenty houses was also destroyed. It was located about a mile lower down the river.

On the 15th of August, General Poor's regiment, comprising nine hundred men, was ordered to march up the Susquehanna river, destroying as they went, and meet General Clinton's command coming down. On the morning of the 16th the troops began the march, in two columns, and that night encamped near the ruins of the old Indian town called Macktowanuck (Maj. James Norris' Journal), and on the following day reached "Owagea, an Indian town which was Desterted last Spring, after planting. About the town is many Fruit Trees, and many Plants and Herbs that are common to our part of the Country. Heare is a Learge body of clear Intivale Covered with Grass."

On the 18th the troops proceeded to Chugnut, the remains of a large Indian town which had been abandoned during the summer. Here the men found about twenty houses, which they burned, and also found growing vegetables, cucumbers, squashes and turnips in abundance. The next day Poor and Clinton joined forces and returned down the river, camping at Owagea, where a large "bon-fire" was kindled at night "to grace our meeting," as the officer's journal states.

At four o'clock in the afternoon of the 21st, the troops encamped opposite the "Fitzgerald's Farm," on the north side of the river. "Manckatawangum, or Red Bank, here called Fitzgerald's Farm," appears to have been on the south side of the Susquehanna, in the town of Nichols, nearly opposite the village of Barton. Major Norris' Journal, in going up, says on the 16th the detachment encamped near the ruins of an old town called Macktowanuck. Lieut. Jenkins' Journal says "10 miles from Tioga, at the place called Manckatawangum, or Red Bank," and mentions encamping at the same point on the return march.

The point of historic interest in connection with this locality rests in the fact that in the early spring of 1779, two men named Sawyer and Cowley, the one an Irishman and the other a Scotch-

man, were captured by four Indians near Harpersfield, and while on their journey to the British lines, encamped for a night at this place. During the night, by a previous arrangement, the prisoners arose and attempted to make their escape. They removed the priming from the guns, secured a tomahawk and an ax, and at the given signal the weapons sunk deep into the brain of their captors. The noise awoke the others, one of whom received a disabling and the other a fatal blow. The wounded Indian escaped, but the mouldering bones of the three who were killed were found by the troops when camping at the place several months afterward.

On the 22d of August, Clinton's and Poor's divisions reached Tioga Point, and went into camp for a few days, preparatory to the grand expedition which was to effectually drive the troublesome Indians from the region of Central New York. Sullivan established a base of supplies at Wyoming, and with his army moved up the river to Tioga Point and there encamped at the most favorable point as a base of operations and built Fort Sullivan. After his force had been augmented by the arrival of General Clinton's command, Sullivan at once made ready for the advance into the Indian country of New York, and on the 26th of August took up the line of march, arriving at the site of Old Chemung on the evening of the next day. On Sunday, the 29th, the army moved forward carefully, for the enemy were known to be directly in front, making preparations to resist any attack. Indeed, so near were the Americans to the British and Indian line that they could easily hear the latter in their work of erecting fortifications.

“The troops behind the ramparts,” says Rev. David Craft, “consisted of a few British soldiers, the two battalions of Royal Green-tories and Indians.” Their several commanding officers were Colonel John and Captain Walter Butler, Captain McDonald and Joseph Brant.

The battle of Newtown, as it has ever been known, was fought on the 29th, and waged with greater or less severity, but with almost unvarying American success, for about seven hours. The British fought bravely, the Indians with their native shouting and whooping, but this had no terrors for the determined, avenging patriots under Sullivan and his worthy commanders. The Amer-

icans lost five or six killed, and about fifty wounded, while the enemy lost heavily both in killed and wounded.

This was the first and indeed the only battle fought on original Tioga county soil during the revolutionary war, and it was through the events of this campaign against the Six Nation Indians that the fertility of the Susquehanna and Chemung valleys first became known to the whites. Within the next five or six years civilized white settlement was begun although twelve years passed before any civil jurisdiction was extended over the territory. These events, however, are reserved for a later chapter.

After a few days of rest and recuperation Sullivan's victorious army again moved forward, but nowhere did they encounter the Indians in force. On the 3d of September Catharinetown (Watkins), once the home of the somewhat noted Queen Catharine, was destroyed, and thence on both sides of Seneca lake the avenging troops marched forward, destroying and burning as they went all vestiges of Indian occupancy. On the 5th and 6th Kendaia and Kanadesaga were laid waste, and from the latter point detachments were sent out to destroy villages and crops in localities less prominent.

The army entered the heart of the Seneca territory, the center of the vast and fertile Genesee country, and after completing the work of destruction, reassembled at Fort Sullivan, (Tioga Point), and on the 15th of October returned to quarters at Easton. As the result of the campaign eighteen Indian villages had been annihilated, 150,000 bushels (estimated) of corn destroyed, besides vast quantities of other grain, crops of vegetables and orchards. Sullivan's total loss amounted to about forty men. The best results of the expedition lay in the fact that the Indians were thoroughly subdued and disheartened and thenceforth sought protection from the posts at Fort Niagara and elsewhere within British lines ; nor could they be persuaded to any considerable extent to re-establish and occupy their former villages. The league which bound together the Six Nations was now broken. Its form remained, but its force was destroyed, and the friendly Oneidas and Tuscaroras were encouraged to increase the separation from the other confederates.

To the Indians this blow was a more serious matter than had been the destruction of their villages in earlier times, as they had adopted a more permanent mode of existence. They had learned to depend more on agriculture and less on the chase, and possessed not only corn fields, but gardens, orchards, and sometimes comfortable houses. In fact they had adopted many of the customs of civilized life, though without relinquishing any of their primitive pleasures, such as tomahawking prisoners and scalping the dead.

Meanwhile, the war in other localities had gone forward with varying fortunes. Guy Johnson and Walter Butler kept the Indians as busy as possible, marauding upon the frontier, but they had become so thoroughly broken in strength that they were unable to produce such devastation as at Wyoming and Cherry Valley. In October, 1781, Cornwallis surrendered, and thenceforth there were no more active hostilities.

In the fall of 1783, peace was formally declared between Great Britain and the revolted colonies, the latter henceforth to be acknowledged by all men as the United States of America. By the treaty the boundary line was established along the center of Lake Ontario, Niagara river and Lake Erie. Although the forts held by the British on the American side of the line were not given up until several years afterward, and although they thus retained a strong influence over the Indians on this side, yet the legal title was admitted to be in the United States. Thus the unquestioned English authority over the territory of the state of New York lasted only from the treaty with France, in 1763, to that with the United States, in 1783, a little more than twenty years.

CHAPTER V.

Treatment of the Indians Regarding their Territory—Tryon County Created—Its Extent—Name changed to Montgomery—Subsequent County Formations—Tioga County Erected—Its Boundaries—The Original Towns—Chenango County formed from Tioga and Herkimer—Broome erected from Tioga—Owego and Berkshire restored to Tioga county—An Act defining County Lines—Town Lines also Carefully Defined—Chemung County Erected—Descriptive and Natural Features of Tioga County.

NO provision whatever was made in the treaty of peace for the Indian allies of Great Britain. The English authorities offered them land in Canada, but all except the Mohawks preferred to remain in New York. The United States, and also this state, treated them with great moderation, although the Iroquois had twice violated their pledges, and without provocation had plunged into a war against the colonies. Yet they were readily admitted to the benefits of peace, and were even recognized as owners of all the land in New York over which they had ranged before the revolution. The property line, as it has ever been called, previously drawn between the whites and the Indians, ran along the eastern border of Broome and Chenango counties, and thence northeast-ward to a point seven miles west of Rome, and formed a part at least of the eastern boundary of Tioga county as originally constituted.

In October, 1784, a treaty was made at Fort Stanwix (Rome) between three commissioners of the United States and the sachems of the Six Nations. The Marquis de Lafayette was present and made a speech, though not one of the commissioners. The eastern boundary of the Indian lands does not seem to have been in question, but the United States wanted to extinguish whatever claim the Six Nations might have to Ohio and other western territory, and also to keep open the right of way around Niagara Falls, which Sir William Johnson had obtained for the British.

Previous to the year 1772, the entire western portion of the col-

ony of New York formed a part of the original county of Albany, which was erected November 1st, 1683. In the year first mentioned, on the 12th of March, the provincial assembly divided Albany county and created Tryon county, the latter comprising all that part of the province of New York west of the Delaware river, and also west of a line extending north through Schoharie and along the east lines of the present counties of Montgomery, Fulton and Hamilton, and continuing in a straight line to Canada.

During the course of the war, this splendid jurisdiction, in area amounting to a principality, became known to a class of people who had no previous means of judging of its beauty and fertility. The continual passage of New England, New York, and Pennsylvania troops through the numerous valleys of the state made them acquainted with its desirability as a place of abode, and when peace was restored, they were not slow to avail themselves of the opportunity of possessing the lands. They came and made miscellaneous settlements as the tracts were offered for sale, and thus the territory came under the control chiefly of Yankees, determined, energetic, upright men, with wives and families of corresponding character; and it was to this class that the people of old Tioga county owed much of their later development and improvement.

There was one name, however, in this vast and beautiful region that was the occasion of much annoyance to the inhabitants, being indeed in the highest degree offensive, and that was the name by which the county was then called. William Tryon first became governor of the province of New York by appointment July 9, 1771, and was re-appointed June 28, 1775, and it was in his honor that the county was named. But Tryon's toryism was as pronounced and offensive as that of any British subject in the land, and his official power was wholly devoted to the crown; and he was even implicated in a plot to seize General Washington and deliver him to the British. It was not, therefore, in the least surprising that the settlers in the county should object to so odious a name. As a result of this sentiment, on the 2d of April, 1784, the legislature passed an act changing the name from Tryon to Montgomery county, adopting the latter in honor of General Richard

Montgomery, who was killed at the storming of Quebec, December 31, 1776.

The first reduction in territory to which the mother county was subjected was in the erection of Ontario, January 27, 1789, taking off all that part of the state lying west of the "pre-emption line," the original western boundary of Tioga county. This act took from Montgomery county about six million acres of land, which soon became known as the "Genesee country," and also, by reason of the disposition of the title, as the "Phelps and Gorham Purchase" and the "Holland Purchase."

Again, on the 16th day of February, 1791, the remaining portion of Montgomery county was divided, and three new counties erected—Herkimer, Otsego, and Tioga. The act of the legislature, so far as it related to Tioga county, was as follows :

"Be it enacted by the People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That all that tract of land in the county of Montgomery, beginning at the eighty-two mile stone, in the line between this State and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and running from thence due north until the northwest corner of the township number twenty-one (Hector, in Schuyler county) in the military tract bears east ; then east crossing the Seneca Lake to the Cayuga Lake ; then easterly to the northwest corner of township twenty-three (Dryden) in the military tract aforesaid ; then east along the north bounds of the said township number twenty-three, and the north bounds of the townships numbers twenty-four (Virgil, in Cortland county) and twenty-five (Cincinnatus), and so continuing the same course to the west bounds of the Twenty Townships (Chenango Twenty Townships) lately laid out for sale by this State ; then along the same twenty townships north to the northwest corner of the township number twelve (probably Lincklaen, Chenango county) in the said twenty townships ; then east to the Unadilla river ; then down the middle of the westerly stream of the same river to its junction with the Susquehanna river ; then southerly along the line commonly called the 'Line of Property,' to the Delaware river ; then down the Delaware river to the beginning of the said partition line between

this State and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and then along the same partition line to the place of beginning, shall be and hereby is erected into a separate county, and shall be called and known by the name of Tioga."

As will be seen from the foregoing act Tioga county was originally a splendid jurisdiction, comprising the very best lands in southern New York, and including within its boundaries the rich and fertile valleys of several large rivers and other streams of considerable importance. The act creating the county also made provision for town government and organization by dividing the territory as follows :

"And be it further enacted, &c., that all that part of the said county of Tioga laying westward to the Cayuta creek and the township number twenty-two of the military tract shall be and hereby is erected into a town by the name of Chemung, and the first town meeting in said town shall be held at the house of George Hornwell."

Thus the original town of Chemung comprised a small part of the present town of Barton, together with substantially the entire county of Chemung. Its north and south measurement was about thirty miles, and extended east from the pre-emption line (the line between Steuben and Chemung counties) to the Cayuta creek.

Another section of that act provided "that all that part of the said county of Tioga, bounded southerly by Pennsylvania; westerly by the town of Chemung, as last limited, northerly by the north bounds of the said county of Tioga, and easterly by township number twenty-four (Virgil) in the Military Tract, and the Owego river and a line running from the mouth thereof south to the Pennsylvania line, shall be and hereby is erected into a town by the name of Owego; and the first town meeting in the same town shall be held at the house of Samuel Ransom."

The town of Union was described as "All that part of the said county of Tioga, bounded southerly by Pennsylvania; westerly by the said town of Owego; northerly by the north bounds of the said county of Tioga, and easterly by the rivers Chenango and Susquehanna." The first town meeting was directed to be held at the dwelling-house of Nehemiah Spaulding. The act further

provided that "all that part of the said county of Tioga bounded southerly by the tract of land called Chenango, and the tract of land called Warren ; westerly by the said town of Union ; northerly by the north bounds of the said county of Tioga, and easterly by the town of Otsego, shall be and hereby is erected into a town by the name of Jerico (Jericho); and the first town meeting in the same town shall be held at the house of William Guthrie."

The act further says, "All the remaining part of the said county of Tioga, bounded southerly by Pennsylvania ; westerly by the said town of Union ; northerly by the said town of Jerico, and easterly by the counties of Otsego and Ulster, shall be and hereby is erected into a town by the name of Chenango ; and the first town meeting in the same town shall be held at the house of Benjamin Bird."

Such was the character of the town organizations in Tioga county in 1791, but with settlement increasing rapidly throughout the beautiful valleys, further subdivisions soon became necessary, and in 1798 (March 15th), the legislature passed an "Act to divide the Counties of Herkimer and Tioga." By this act Tioga was made to surrender the northeastern part of her territory, and Chenango county was the result.

Eight years later, by an act approved March 28, 1806, all that part of the county of Tioga which was comprehended "in the towns of Tioga, Union, Lisle and Chenango," was erected into a new county by the name of Broome, while the "residue of the said county of Tioga, comprehending the towns of Owego, Spencer, Chemung, Newtown and Catharines, shall be and remain a county by the name of Tioga."

From this it will be seen that in the creation of Broome county, all that part of the present county of Tioga which lay east of Owego creek, and of a line drawn directly south from the mouth of that stream to the state line, formed a part of the new creation. However, by an act of the legislature, passed March 21, 1822, the territory now comprising the towns of Owego, Newark Valley, Berkshire and Richford, were restored to old Tioga county. At that time Berkshire contained the entire territory of the three towns last mentioned.

There was no further material change in the boundaries of Tioga county until the legislature passed (March 26, 1813), "An Act to divide the State into Counties," which action was necessitated from the fact that the described boundary lines of many of the counties were defective and imperfect. The act, so far as it related to this county, was as follows: "The county of Tioga to constitute all that part of this state bounded on the south by the line of division between this state and the commonwealth of Pennsylvania; on the west by the new pre-emption line, commonly so-called, beginning at the eighty-two mile stone in the line of division between this state and the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and running due north to Lake Ontario, as the same hath been run and established by law, until the said line be intersected by a line drawn west from the southwest corner of the military tract; northerly by a line drawn from the said place of intersection to the southwest corner of the said tract, and by the counties of Seneca, Cayuga and Cortland; and easterly by the county of Broome."

This act reduced the northern area of the county, excluding from it that portion of the military tract included by the original act erecting Tioga county. Of the three counties north of this, Cayuga was formed March 8, 1799; Seneca, March 24, 1804, and Cortland, April 8, 1808.

At the same session (April 12, 1813) the legislature passed another act, entitled "An Act for dividing the Counties of this State into Towns," in which the several civil divisions of this county were described and bounded as follows:

"And that all that part of the County of Tioga bounded by a line beginning at the military line in the north bounds of the county on the section line of township number seven, and running thence southerly along the said section line to the center of the southwest section of said number seven, thence westerly parallel with the south line of said section to the east bounds of Catherinestown, thence along the same to the north bounds of the county, thence easterly along the same to the place of beginning, shall be and continue a town by the name of Cayuta."

"And that all that part of the said County of Tioga bounded

west and north by the bounds of the county, south by the south bounds of the northern half parts of the townships number one and four of a tract of land patented to John W. Watkins and Royal Flint, and easterly by a line drawn north and south from the middle of the bridge that crosses Balding's mill-creek so-called to the north and south line of the county, shall be and continue a town by the name of Catherinestown."

"And that all that part of the said county of Tioga bounded westerly by the bounds of the county, southerly by the Pennsylvania line, northerly by the town of Catherines, and easterly by the line drawn as aforesaid north and south from the middle of said bridge on Balding's mill-creek, shall be and continue a town by the name of Elmira."

"And that all that part of the said county of Tioga comprehended in the following bounds, beginning at the northeast corner of the town of Cayuta, and running thence easterly on the military line to the section line of township number ten, thence southerly along said section line to the north line of the second tier of lots in the southwest section of number ten, thence westerly parallel with the south line of number ten to the east line of township number seven, thence northerly along the east line of number seven to the centre of the southeast section of number seven, thence westerly parallel with the south line of number seven to the section line, thence northerly along said section line to the place of beginning, shall be and continue a town by the name of Danby."

"And that all part of the said county of Tioga bounded northerly and easterly by the bounds of the county, westerly by Danby, and southerly by a line beginning at the southwest corner of the northeast section of township number ten, and running thence easterly parallel with the south line of number ten to the west line of township number eleven, thence southerly along the west line of said township number eleven sixty chains, thence easterly parallel with the south line of township number eleven to the west line of section number six on Owego creek, thence southerly along the west line of section number six to the southwest corner thereof, thence easterly along the south line of the last mentioned section to Owego creek, shall be and continue a town by the name of Caroline."

“And that all that part of the said county of Tioga bounded northerly by Caroline, easterly by the bounds of the county, southerly and westerly by a line beginning at the Owego creek where the same is intersected by the Chemung line, and running thence westerly on the line of Chemung to the section line of township number nine, and thence northerly along said section line to the centre of township number ten, shall be and continue a town by the name of Candor.”

“And that all that part of the said county of Tioga bounded easterly by the bounds of the county, southerly by Pennsylvania, northerly by the old Chemung line, and westerly by the Cayuta creek, shall be and continue a town by the name of Tioga.”

“And all that part of the said county of Tioga bounded southerly by Owego, easterly by Danby and Candor, northerly by Danby and Cayuta, and westerly by the Cayuta creek, shall be and continue a town by the name of Spencer.”

“And that all that part of the said county of Tioga bounded easterly by Owego and Spencer, northerly by Cayuta and Spencer, westerly by Elmira and Catherinestown, and southerly by the Pennsylvania line, shall be and continue a town by the name of Chemung.”

On the 29th day of March, 1836, the legislature again divided Tioga county, and taking nearly one-half of its then remaining territory, erected the county of Chemung, a jurisdiction recognized as one of the most progressive interior counties in the state. The same may also be said of Broome county on the east, while the county seats of both, Elmira and Binghamton, in many respects rival cities, are of greatest importance among the municipalities of southern New York. Both of these enterprising cities are the offspring of the mother county, Tioga, and the site of each was for a time its half-shire seat of justice. Reduced to its present area, Tioga county contains about five hundred and forty-two square miles of land, hardly one-fourth of its original territory. Topographically, the county is easily described; the surface generally is broken by a series of ridges extending northerly through the county from the Pennsylvania line, and forming a northern continuation of the Alleghany mountains. The summits of the

ridges have a nearly uniform elevation of from 1200 to 1400 feet above tide-water. The valley of the Susquehanna cuts them diagonally and breaks the continuity of the general system of highlands. The numerous valleys, except that of the Susquehanna, extend generally north and south from the river, separating the ridges, giving both variety and beauty to the land surface. These valleys vary in width, in places only a few rods and again more than a mile, and all of them are bordered by hills, some of which attain a height of three or four hundred feet. The summits of the hills, generally broad and rolling, are susceptible of cultivation in agricultural pursuits, and when broken and rocky they afford excellent pasture lands. Indeed, all of nature's fancies have combined to make Tioga a distinctively agricultural county, in which respect it ranks well in the state. The rivers and streams, too, have been factors for good in producing this fortunate condition. The principal water course is the Susquehanna, a large river of both historic interest and commercial value in the annals of Tioga. Its chief tributaries are Owego, Catatonk, Cayuta, Pipe and Apalachin creeks, and their branches, all of which have fairly rapid currents, furnishing many superior millsites. The valleys of the Susquehanna and its several tributaries are justly noted for beauty, fertility and general productiveness.

Such, briefly, are the natural physical features of Tioga county to-day; such were the identical natural characteristics of the same region a century or more ago. In its general topographical character the ordinary changes of an hundred years have shown no substantial results. The territory thus described, and reduced to its present limits, is the subject of this volume. Even before the red man had vacated the region the white pioneer had settled in the valley, and several years previous to the formation of the county the entire territory was owned by the speculative land companies and individuals who, during the course of the war then recently ended, had become acquainted with this part of the state and knew at least something of the quality of its lands.

The subject of land patents, purchases and grants, in the early history of the state, is one of much importance, for upon those purchases rests the titles to land in the state, now divided into in-

numerable small parcels. As an element of local history, the grants and purchases in present Tioga county, are the subject of the succeeding chapter.

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## CHAPTER VI.

Land Titles in Tioga County—Royal Grants—The Plymouth Charter—Grant to the Duke of York—Conflict of Claims between Massachusetts and New York—The Boston Purchase—Coxe's Manor—Partition of Lands in Chemung—The Watkins and Flint Tract—Gospel and School Lands.

THE titles to lands in Tioga county, and as well throughout the state of New York, rest, primarily, on royal charters; letters patent, issued by the crown as a reward for fealty, for favor, or for consideration. The first of these grants by the British crown was made during the early years of the seventeenth century, and the practice was thereafter maintained for at least fifty years, without regard to the possibility of conflict of claims, or overlapping grants, for the king had only the most meager data by which to inform himself as to the extent or geographical situation of the lands of America.

As early as the year 1606, James I of England granted a charter to certain residents of Plymouth, which carried the title to all the territory between the fortieth and forty-eighth parallels of latitude, a region so vast in area as to almost equal in extent the whole United States. In 1620 the so-called Plymouth Council was incorporated, and was authorized to make any transfer of the land held under the grant of 1606. In 1608 the Massachusetts Bay grant was made, and it was confirmed in 1629. In the same manner the Connecticut grant was made in 1630, and was renewed and confirmed by Charles II, in 1662.

In 1664, the same king granted by letters patent to his brother James, the Duke of York and Albany, all the territory from the

river St. Croix to the Kennebec in Maine, and all the land from the west bank of the Connecticut river to the east side of Delaware Bay. The duke at once made a conquest of the New Netherlands, overthrew the Dutch power in America, and thus secured the gift by force of arms. The grant to the Duke of York created in its beneficiary a proprietary power of government, similar to that held by Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire and William Penn of Pennsylvania, each authorized to dispose of or govern the territory in his own manner, subject only to the royal approval. But, in 1685 the Duke of York himself became king, upon which his title was merged in the crown, and thereafter the province of New York was governed under the direct appointment of the king, the proprietary character being lost in and changed to royal character. This had no special significance in connection with the colonial history of New York, but the peculiar character of its government in a manner explains the reason of the extreme loyalty of Governor Tryon to the crown during the revolution. He was the special creation and creature of the king, chosen for the sole purpose of executing the royal authority.

Previous to the revolutionary war the unsettled political condition of our country precluded the possibility of a controversy over the title to lands in New York, growing out of conflicting grants, yet as early as 1749 the governors of New York and New Hampshire fell into dispute over what is now the state of Vermont, and it was not until the latter was finally admitted to the union, in 1791, that the controversy was amicably settled. However, after the revolutionary war was ended, and after colonies and provinces of America had become states, with a settled and recognized form of government for each, each commonwealth began casting about to determine the extent of its territory and to establish permanent boundaries. The result was that several of our now New England and Middle Atlantic states found themselves in dispute, but that which involved the most valuable and well settled territory was the controversy between Massachusetts and New York.

Briefly, the situation was this: By the terms of the charter of the colony of Massachusetts, the region between its north and south boundaries, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, was included,

and the title to all this territory was claimed by that state after the war. The later charter of New York intervened and conflicted with this claim, from which difficulties arose, and which were finally settled by commissioners at Hartford, Conn., on the 16th of December, 1786. It was there agreed that Massachusetts should cede to New York the sovereignty of all the territory claimed by the former lying between the limits of the latter, and that New York should cede to Massachusetts the property of the soil, or the right of pre-emption of the soil from the Indians. This agreement on the part of New York covered all that part of the state west of a line running north from the eighty-second mile stone, on the line between New York and Pennsylvania, through Seneca lake to Sodus Bay. Also another tract containing 230,400 acres of land between the Chenango river and Owego creek, north of the Susquehanna river.

This last mentioned tract of land is located in part in Tioga county, and has ever been referred to in history as the "Boston Ten Towns," and in conveyances generally as the "Boston Purchase." To acquire absolute title to this tract it was incumbent on Massachusetts, or the grantees of that commonwealth, to extinguish the Indian claims. In 1787, two hundred and thirty thousand acres of this tract were purchased from Massachusetts by eleven persons from Berkshire county in that state, at an original cost of twelve and one-half cents an acre, and subject to whatever title the Indians might have. However, it appears that in the year 1784, James McMaster, an old revolutionary patriot and one of General Clinton's army, made a prospecting tour down the Susquehanna, visiting once more the scenes of the campaign of 1779, but this time with an intention to settle in the valley. In the spring of 1785 he came again to the region and made a substantial improvement on the site of the present village of Owego, he being permitted by the Indians to locate there through the influence and kind offices of Amos Draper, trader among the natives, then living at Choconut. McMaster was distinctively a pioneer farmer and frontiersman, while Draper was an Indian trader, but between them and the natives there was established a firm friendship; so strong indeed that the Indians could not be

persuaded to part with their lands until some concession by the proprietary had been made to McMaster to satisfy his claim as first occupant of the territory. This demand the proprietors promised to satisfy, upon which McMaster and Draper gave material aid at the treaty.

The first treaty was held in 1787, on the west bank of the Chenango river, about three miles above the present city of Binghamton. Nothing, however, was accomplished at this meeting, but at a subsequent treaty held, as Mr. Warner's history states, on the site of Binghamton, the Indian title to the Boston Purchase was secured.

To satisfy the Draper and McMaster claim as occupants, which claim in law had no force, but was nevertheless necessary to be satisfied, the proprietary made a concession to the claimants, "by which the title to eighteen square miles of land, known as the McMaster Half-Township, was secured to James McMaster. This tract was bounded west by the Owego creek and south by the Susquehanna. The west line extended up the Owego creek six miles. The east line was to be three miles east of the Owego creek, and to be run straight, and to such distance as to make the quantity of land above mentioned. Upon this land stands the village of Owego and it forms a part of the town." (Warner).

Such, in brief, is the history of the title to one of the most important and valuable tracts of land in Tioga and Broome counties. Its original cost to the proprietors was twelve and one-half cents an acre, and the land was at first sold to actual occupants at twenty-five cents per acre, but soon advanced to one dollar and still later to five dollars per acre. The Boston Purchase now has thousands of owners and occupants, and its present average value per acre cannot be less than one hundred dollars.

The eleven original grantees of the Boston Ten Townships subsequently admitted others to their association until the whole number became sixty. However, for convenience in the transfer of title the conveyance was made to Samuel Brown and his associates.

Says Mr. Warner's history : "Among these we find the names of those who were residents, and many of whom have descendants

still (1876) residing at Owego, Binghamton and the vicinity : Asa Bement, jr., Josiah Ball, Henry W. Dwight, David Pixley, Anna Bingham, Isaac Curtis, Timothy Edwards, Theodore Sedgwick, Ezekiel Crocker, Benjamin Parson, Ebenezer Williams, William Bartlett, Ashbel Strong, William Billings, Thaddeus Thompson, Job Northrup, Eben Mason and others."

The proprietary of this large tract first caused it to be surveyed and divided into three townships and called respectively, Owego, Nanticoke and Chenango, from west to east in the order mentioned. These names are still preserved, the first in this, and the others in the adjoining county of Broome. The townships were then subdivided into lots and subsequently "drawn for" by the proprietors, in accordance with the prevailing custom of the period. After the partition was completed the legislature confirmed the title in the several owners by an act passed March 3d, 1789.

The western boundary of the three townships was distant about seven and one-half miles from Owego creek, the western limit of the Boston Ten Towns ; and this body of land was surveyed in two parts, known as the East Half-Township and the West Half-Township, portions, of course, of the original purchase, yet distinct from it so far as subdivision was concerned. The west half, by deed dated December 17, 1787, was conveyed by Samuel Brown, on behalf of the proprietary, to James McMaster, of Mohawk, and included 11,500 acres of land. In 1788, February 4th, McMaster in turn completed his agreement with Amos Draper, of Choconut, by deeding to him lots 16 and 19 of 100 acres each, also numbers 30, 32, 52 and 56, of 143 acres each. The East Half-Township was also surveyed, and subdivided into sixty lots, and was partitioned among the proprietors on the 12th of May, 1790, at the time of the "Grand Division of the Boston Purchase," as known in history and as designated on the county records. In the Grand Division tract were an aggregate of six hundred lots, of which one hundred and fifteen are situate in the town of Newark Valley ; ninety-three in Richford, and sixty-eight in Berkshire.

Under the English colonial government there was made but one grant of land within the limits of this county as now constituted. This was what has since been variously termed Coxe's Manor, or

Coxe's Patent, and included 29,812 acres of land south of the Susquehanna river, in the present towns of Owego and Nichols. The grant bore the date of January 5, 1775. The patentees were Daniel, William and Rebecca Coxe, John Tabor Kemp and Grace Coxe-Kemp his wife. These same grantees were also the owners of a 47,000 acre tract of land in the Mohawk region, granted May 30, 1770. According to Mr. Warner, that portion of the town of Owego now known as Apalachin was for many years particularly designated as Coxe's Patent or Manor.

According to the record of sales of land by the state, the so-called Hambden Township tract was originally granted to Robert Morris and Alexander Macomb; and in a publication, bearing on the same subject, the statement is made that the portion of the town of Owego south of the river, also the present town of Nichols, was once called Hambden Township. The lands in the township, except Coxe's Manor, were disposed of as follows: Several tracts in Owego to Robert Morris; in Vestal and Owego, 6,930 acres to Alexander Macomb; to Nicholas Fish, 7,040 acres in Owego, also 6,400 acres in township seven of the tract purchased of the Oneidas and Tuscaroras in Owego and Nichols; to William Butler, return of survey of 3,000 acres in Nichols, adjoining Coxe's Patent on the west (Jan. 12, 1775); to Richard Robert Crowe, similar return, January 20, 1775, for 2,000 acres between Reid's tract and the Susquehanna, which bounds it on the west.

However, on November 10th, 1784, the representatives of the Coxe Patent, or claim, filed a caveat in the land office, protesting against the action of the state in making any further grants of land west of the Delaware river and on the Pennsylvania line until their claim to the lands heretofore described should be recognized and confirmed. The lands were subsequently surveyed (1806-7) and found to contain 30,900 acres, title to which was confirmed in the claimants.

On the 22d of March, 1788, a new town in Montgomery county was created by act of the legislature, and included within its boundaries all the territory between the Owego river on the east and the pre-emption line on the west, and between the state line on the south and a line parallel therewith, distant two miles north

of the Tioga (Chemung) river where it crosses the pre-emption line. This act created a town by the name of Chemung, and the action was necessitated from the fact that a number of settlers had occupied the valley, made improvements, and were anxious to be quieted in their possessions. Furthermore, these pioneers were unable to agree upon a proper allotment of the lands among themselves, hence sought relief at the hands of the legislature. By the act three commissioners—James Clinton, John Cantine and John Hathorn—were appointed to settle the disputes among settlers, and also to apportion the lands according to equity and the improvements already made; but no settler was to receive more than one thousand or less than one hundred acres for his share.

The state then extinguished the Indian title, caused a survey to be made by the commissioners, and upon the report submitted by the latter, confirmed the proceeding and patented the lands to the several claimants. The confirmatory act was passed February 28, 1789. The settlers paid at the rate of one shilling, six pence per acre for the land, upon which the commissioners issued certificates of title and location, in the nature of land warrants or patents, which, being assignable, were readily sold to speculators and actual occupants. By these purchases a number of persons became extensive land owners in the region described. The present town of Barton, and a large portion of the town of Tioga, was within the limits of this tract.

The so-called Watkins and Flint tract was patented to John W. Watkins and Royal W. Flint, as representatives of an association, and included a large body of land between the pre-emption line and Owego creek, and between the town of Chemung on the south, and the military tract on the north, and was estimated to contain 363,000 acres of land. For this patent application was made to the commissioners of the land office on the 4th of August, 1791, the return of the survey was made April 7, 1794, and the patent was issued June 25, 1794, to John W. Watkins, who afterwards conveyed the land to his co-proprietors according to their respective interests. The price paid for lands under this patent was three shillings, four pence per acre. The present towns of

Spencer and Candor were included in this sale, but the grant embraced a much larger area of territory.

In addition to what has been mentioned relating to the lands and foundation of land titles in Tioga county, we may state that "gospel" and "literature" lots were set off in several of the towns, one of which was in Owego, and comprised about three square miles of land. In the Hambden township a lot of 640 acres was reserved for schools, and a considerable tract of land in the present towns of Berkshire and Candor became the property of the "Connecticut School Fund." The office of "Commissioners of the Land Office," to which frequent allusion has been made, was created by an act of the legislature, passed May 11, 1784, for the purpose, among other things, of carrying into execution the promises of bounty lands for revolutionary services which had been made by the legislature in 1780. When state lands were to be sold, they were first surveyed, appraised, and advertised for sale at auction, and their minimum bid mentioned, but in case the minimum was not reached, they were generally re-appraised and offered at a lower rate. However, in the early history of the land office, applications for patents were so frequent as to obviate the necessity of a public offer of sale.

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## CHAPTER VII.

Locating the County Seat—The Early Courts—Held at Nanticoke and Newtown Point—Later Courts at Chenango Point—Tioga a Two-shire County in 1793—Newtown the County Seat after Broome County was Set Off—Spencer made the County Seat—The First Court-house and Jail—Elmira and Spencer made Half-shires—Court-house at Spencer Destroyed by Fire—Owego made a Half-shire Town—The County Buildings—Chemung County Set Off—The Court Houses, Jails and Clerk's Offices in Owego.

**I**N 1791 there were a few scattered white settlements along the principal valleys of the streams of Tioga county, but it is doubtful if the number of inhabitants in the entire jurisdiction at that time exceeded one thousand. Perhaps the most thickly popu-

lated district was that embraced in the old town of Newtown, or Chemung, on the western side of the county, while each of the eastern towns of Union and Jericho had a progressive but smaller number of inhabitants. Each, however, naturally sought to secure the designation of their own locality as the seat of justice of the newly created county; and while the records disclose nothing tending to show a warmth of feeling in the matter, the several proceedings on the part of the legislature lead to the belief that a strong desire did exist to obtain the county buildings in the western part of the shire.

The first officers of the county were Abraham Miller, first judge; James McMaster, sheriff; Thomas Nicholson, county clerk; William Stuart, district attorney (the office then being known as assistant attorney-general;) John Mercereau, surrogate. For temporary purposes the legislature provided that it should be lawful to confine prisoners in Montgomery county jail until one be provided for Tioga county. The freeholders and inhabitants were also authorized to erect a court house and jail, and until other legislative provision be made in the premises, courts of common pleas and general sessions of the peace were directed to be held at the house of George Hornwell, of Chemung.

On the 18th of February, 1792, the legislature authorized the supervisors to levy a tax of three hundred pounds with which to build a court house and jail, and directed the supervisors to meet at the house of Nehemiah Spaulding, near Nanticoke, for the purpose of directing the sum to be raised. The same act also provided for the appointment of three commissioners to superintend the construction of the county buildings, "which said court house and jail," says the act, "shall be erected *east* of Nanticoke creek, at the place fixed by the justices and supervisors of the said county, at a meeting for that purpose, on the 12th day of July last." The act still further provided that after the end of the term of court to be held on the fourth Tuesday of June, 1792, the same be "adjourned to and held at the dwelling-house of Nehemiah Spaulding, situate near Nanticoke aforesaid, until the court-house aforesaid shall be built and fit for the reception of the court."

From the direct tenor of this act it would seem that the settlers

in the vicinity of Nanticoke were not without influence with the legislative power, for they secured the fortunate designation of their locality as the temporary seat of justice of the county. However, in the meantime, other and possibly stronger influences were at work to bring the coveted buildings to a point farther west ; and notwithstanding the act quoted above, no county buildings were ever erected near Nanticoke, although courts may have been held for a time at the house of pioneer Nehemiah Spaulding.

An act of the legislature, passed the 14th of January, 1793, recites in part as follows : "Whereas, some of the inhabitants of the county of Tioga have erected a building for a gaol at New Town Point, in the town of Chemung, in the said county," Be it enacted, &c., "That from and after the passing of this act, the said building shall be deemed the gaol of the said county until other legislative provision shall be made in the premises."

Another section of the same act provided that from and after the first day of April following, courts of common pleas and general sessions of the peace be held on the first Tuesday in May, October and February in each year, and "shall be held alternately at the house of Joshua Whitney, Esquire, at Chenango, (Binghamton), in the town of Union, and at the said building now erecting for a gaol at New Town, in the town of Chemung."

Thus vanished the hopes of the Nanticoke contingent so far as the county buildings were concerned, while the pioneers of Newtown (Elmira) and Chenango were correspondingly elated by their success. This would seem to indicate that as early as the year 1793 Tioga was a two-shire county, the half-shire towns of which were Newtown and Chenango, or, as now known, Elmira and Binghamton. However, by an act passed the 31st of March, 1801, the judges and assistant judges were authorized to divide the county into two jury districts ; and by the same act it was declared lawful to hold courts at a house to be erected for that purpose at "Chenango point," in the town of Chenango, instead of the house of Joshua Whitney, in the town of Union, and at the court-house at Newtown, alternately.

By this act the two-shire character of the county was made complete, and in that form remained undisturbed until the divi-

sion of Tioga and the erection of Broome county out of its eastern territory. Yet this disposition of the governmental affairs of the county was not without many inconveniences, especially in the matter of county records and the difficulty in gaining access to them. To obviate this the legislature, on March 20, 1804, directed that the office of the county clerk "shall be kept in a central situation in said county, not more than three miles from the village of Owego, in the town of Tioga, on the north side of the Susquehanna river."

On the 28th of March, 1806, Tioga county was divided, and the towns of Tioga, Union, Lisle and Chenango, all that part of the mother county lying east of Owego creek, were taken for the county of Broome, then created. After the passage of this act, and on the 7th of April following, the legislature directed the clerk of Tioga county to keep and maintain his office in the village of Newtown. Thus, for a time, Newtown, or Elmira, was the full county seat and had all the county buildings of old Tioga. However, other inconveniences arose from this now remote situation of the seat of justice and government of our county, and after about four years the inhabitants began proceedings looking to still another change in location.

To remedy the existing inconveniences, the legislature, on the 17th of February, 1810, passed an act appointing Nathaniel Locke, Anson Cary and Samuel Campbell, of the county of Chenango, commissioners to designate a "place for a court-house and *gaol* in the county of Tioga, as near the center of said county as circumstances will permit"; and also authorized the board of supervisors to raise six thousand dollars in two years (\$3,000 each year) for the purpose of erecting court-house and jail buildings.

The same act directed the clerk's office to be removed to some convenient point within two miles from the proposed county buildings; the removal to be completed within three months from the time of holding the first court. This provision, however, was modified by an act passed in 1812, which directed the clerk to appoint a deputy to have an office within two miles of the court-house in Spencer, while the office proper was to be retained at Elmira.

By the act of February 17, 1810, Joshua Ferris, Isaac Swartwout and Samuel Westbrook, all of the town of Spencer, were appointed a committee to superintend the construction of the court-house and jail in that town. The site for the buildings was obtained from Andrew Purdy, and he, being local contractor and builder, was awarded the contract for construction. The building complete cost nearly \$6,000. In 1818, Joshua Ferris, Abel Hart and Henry Miller were appointed commissioners to procure the erection of a fire-proof clerk's office, for which an appropriation was authorized on the 20th of February of that year. This building was also erected by Mr. Purdy.

Among the more central towns of the county at that time, Spencer was perhaps the most available and suitable for the seat of justice of the county, and the worthy commissioners undoubtedly acted for the best interests of the inhabitants of the county at large in making their designation, and in no quarter at the time was their action criticized. Still, Newtown had been a half-shire town under a previous act, and was provided with suitable buildings both for court-house and jail. The village, too, had become reasonably important in the Tioga valley, and commercial and professional interests were so well established as to demand and merit recognition. Therefore, when the act of the legislature and the commissioners fixed the seat of justice of Tioga county at the little northern hamlet of Spencer, the inhabitants of the valley to the southwest felt themselves especially aggrieved, and again besought the legislative power for relief.

The result was that on the 8th of June, 1812, the legislature passed an "Act to divide the county of Tioga into jury districts," to be done by the judges and assistant judges of the county at the September term of court in the year 1812; and also provided that in future courts be held alternately in the town of Elmira and the town of Spencer. The sheriff was authorized to collect his mileage from the house of Thomas Baker in the town of Chemung.

No further material change was made in the administrative affairs of the county for the succeeding ten years. The second war with Great Britain had just ended in complete success to the American arms, and now the whole people were earnestly engaged

in improving and developing their lands ; fine villages were being established and built ; manufacturing, yet in its infancy, nevertheless an important factor in the general welfare, was constantly adding to the commercial importance to the county. This short half score of years was indeed an era of peace and prosperity in the history of Tioga county, during which the wealth and population increased in greater ratio than in any similar period in later years.

However, in January, 1821, an unfortunate fire destroyed the county building in Spencer, and in the next year the now named towns of Owego, Newark Valley, Berkshire and Richford were taken from Broome county and restored to Tioga. This addition changed the center of population, and also the geographical center of the county, and necessitated a change in the two-shire system. The act therefor passed the legislature March 22, 1822, and by it Elmira was still a half-shire town, while the location of the county buildings for the eastern jury district was fixed at Owego, the latter at this time an enterprising village, situate in the center of one of the most fertile agricultural regions of the entire Susquehanna valley.

The act authorizing the removal of the county seat from Spencer to Owego was conditional, the inhabitants being required to raise \$2,000 by subscription, and also that there be deeded to the county a suitable tract of land whereon to erect the county buildings. These conditions were complied with, and the county became possessed of a good lot at the corner of Main and Court streets which had previously been acquired from James McMaster as a portion of land given for the village park. The supervisors were authorized to raise by tax in the year 1822 the sum of \$4,000, with an additional \$2,000 in 1823. The three commissioners to supervise the work of erecting the necessary county buildings were John R. Drake, Anson Camp and Charles Pumpelly. While the court-house was in course of erection the act directed that terms of court be held at the tavern of Erastus S. Marsh, then standing on the site of the present Ahwaga House.

Pending the removal to Owego, courts were still held in Spencer in an improvised building adjoining the district school, and

were continued there until the spring of 1822. In the western jury district the legislature also made ample provision for the permanency of the county buildings, and holding courts therein, and likewise appointed a commission to superintend all necessary work of construction.

The deed from the trustees of the Owego site to the county of Tioga was dated October 29, 1822, and carried title to the lot whereon now stands the jail and sheriff's residence, and the old county clerk's office, the latter now used for library purposes.

The first court-house in Owego was an unpretentious building, fronting Court street, with a hall running from front to rear, while on either side were rooms for the sheriff's residence, county offices, and two fairly large apartments to be used for jail purposes. The court-room occupied nearly the entire second story. The building was erected in 1823, Ralph Manning, of Berkshire constructing the foundation, and Seth Bacon, of Candor, the brick superstructure. In 1824 the old clerk's office in Spencer was sold and a new one directed to be built at Owego. The work was done in 1825, at a cost of \$810.

These things being completed, no further material change was made in the disposition and arrangement of county buildings, and their ordinary purposes, until the year 1836, when by an act of the legislature Tioga county was again called upon to surrender a part of its territory to a new formation. Chemung was set off from the mother county on the 29th of March, of the year mentioned, taking all that part thereof west of the present towns of Barton and Spencer, and reducing the area of Tioga to about five hundred and forty-two square miles of land, and with the number of towns it now contains. After the act the estimated population of this county was about 34,000 inhabitants.

This last division of Tioga had the effect to set aside the previous existing two-shire character, and centered all its government in every department at the village of Owego; a consummation in many respects advantageous to the people of the old eastern jury district. However, as years passed, still other improvements became not only desirable but necessary, and in 1851 the supervisors determined upon the erection of a new jail. A loan of \$6,000

was negotiated for this purpose, and during the year contractor J. Conklin of Elmira erected for our county a substantial jail building and sheriff's residence. The latter still stands, just east of the new sheriff's residence, and is occupied for various purposes; the jail portion was used until the present splendid sheriff's residence and jail were completed, and was soon afterward sold and removed.

In the meantime the old court-house had become inconvenient and in many respects unfit for occupancy, and although substantial repairs were put upon it during the summer of 1852, at an expense of \$1,500, the relief sought was not obtained. Still, many more years passed before the county was furnished with a modern court-house. The question was agitated more or less seriously at each annual meeting of the supervisors, and in 1868 the grand jury declared the old court-house to be both "unsuitable and inconvenient for the transaction of legal business," and likewise presented the jail as being "insecure and inconvenient for the confinement of persons charged with crime." In 1855 the county clerk had vacated his former quarters and occupied the new building (now used as a library) erected during that year.

However, nothing substantial was accomplished in the matter of a new court-house until the supervisors in 1869 appointed a committee comprising John A. Nichols, of Spencer, John H. Deming, of Richford, and Frederick O. Cable, of Owego, to procure plans, specifications and estimates for a proposed court-house, and to report at the next meeting of the board. This was done, and on the 1st of December, 1870, John H. Deming, John J. Taylor \* and Daniel M. Pitcher were appointed a committee to obtain plans, and estimates of the probable expense of the building. The committee reported to the board on the 28th of December, recommending the public square in Owego as a desirable site, and on the 9th of January, 1871, the people of the village generously consented to the proposition. Yet no other structure than the court-house was authorized to be built on the square. On the 14th of February following, the park was deeded to the

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\*—Commissioners Deming and Taylor declined to serve, and Lucien Horton, of Berkshire, and Hiram A. Beebe, of Owego, were appointed in their stead.

county, the village being authorized so to do by an act of the legislature passed January 20, 1871.

The result of this determination and public-spiritedness, particularly on the part of the people of Owego village, was the court-house building now standing in the center of the public square. It was built during the years 1871-73, after plans and specifications of Miles F. Howes, the work of construction being done by contractors Albert H. Keeler and Jonathan S. Houk. The total cost of the building and fitting was \$65,318.90. On its completion the county clerk moved his office to quarters in the southeast corner of the new structure.

From this time the question of a new jail and sheriff's residence was temporarily dropped, but at the end of about ten years the subject was revived; and after some necessary delay the supervisors determined to build a new jail on the site of the former court-house. On the 17th of April, 1882, the board adopted plans, and awarded the contract of construction to John F. Corchran of Owego, while the contract for interior cell and iron work was given to the Owego Iron Works. The combined buildings, of brick and stone, were erected in 1882 and '83 and cost complete the sum of \$22,739.13.

Although Spencer was made the seat of justice of Tioga county as early as the year 1810, it was not until 1818 that a regular county clerk's office was provided; and then more than another five years passed before contractor Andrew Purdy received pay for his work. The commissioners who caused the building to be erected fell into a dispute with Mr. Purdy over the amount of his claim, and the matter was finally settled by a special commission designated by act of the legislature, and comprising Richard Townley, Richard Smith and Luther Gere.

However, after the burning of the court-house at Spencer, the village of Owego became a half-shire town with Newtown, and of course the office of the clerk or his deputy naturally followed the removal. Yet, as early as the year 1804, the office of the clerk was directed to be kept within three miles of Owego village, and in accordance with the order, Clerk Matthew Carpenter appointed as deputy Samuel Avery, brother to John H. Avery, the latter one

of the old bar of the county and whose office, standing near the site of Dr. C. L. Stiles' residence, was also the office of the deputy clerk. On August 3, 1805, James Pumpelly was appointed deputy, and moved the clerk's records to his land office on Front street, a little further east. Dr. William Jones for a time acted as deputy clerk at Owego, but in 1806, after Broome county was set off, the records and office went to Newtown and were kept there until removed to Spencer in compliance with the act of 1813.

In July, 1823, after the restoration of the towns of Owego and Berkshire to Tioga county, the clerk's office was permanently located at Owego, and was kept for a time in a small one-story building south of Front street on the bank of the river, and was placed in charge of deputy Horatio Ross. In April, 1825, the legislature passed an act by which Joseph Berry, Elizur Talcott and John Ripley were constituted a commission to cause to be built a sufficient fire-proof clerk's office in the village of Owego, and authorized the gross amount of \$1,000 to be raised by tax for that purpose. Accordingly, a good clerk's office was built on the southwest corner of the court-house lot, by Abner Beers, contractor. The building was 18x28 feet on the ground, twelve feet high, provided with brick floors, and the window shutters were of wood, cased with iron.

In 1854 the supervisors determined to build a larger and more suitable clerk's office, for which purpose Harvey Coryell, of Nichols, Samuel Mills, of Barton, and Josiah Rich, of Candor, were constituted a committee to procure plans and estimates. The proposed cost of the new structure was \$2,000. The office was built in 1855, on the site of the old building, the work being done by Thomas Ireland, mason, and Almerin S. Warring, carpenter. During the time the office was in course of erection, the clerk occupied the grand jury room in the court-house.

In 1873, on the completion of the new court-house, the clerk's office was moved into that structure where comfortable and commodious rooms had been prepared for it, and the old clerk's office building is now used for the Owego library.

The only other of the county properties is that commonly known as the Poor House Farm, a comparatively recent acquisition, yet proper to be mentioned in this connection. As early as the year

1828 the supervisors made arrangements for the care of the county's poor at the public expense, and on the 18th of April, 1829, the legislature authorized the board to levy a tax of \$3,000 in each jury district for the purpose of procuring land and the erection of suitable buildings for the care and maintenance of the indigent poor. In the eastern district, as then known but now comprising substantially the county, a sixty-acre farm tract was purchased, on which in 1836 and '37, a house and outbuildings were erected, sufficient for the requirements of the county at that time. The approximate cost of these improvements was about \$3,500. In 1850 additional buildings were erected on the county farm, by which increased facilities for the care of inmates were secured, yet there was need of a larger tract of land in a more favored locality, and the supervisors voted, in 1852, to sell the farm and procure one elsewhere of greater extent. This, however, was not done. In 1856 the building for insane inmates was erected, and in 1866-7 the superintendents of the poor caused to be erected a large substantial stone poor-house building at an expense of \$4,784.13.

As is well known, the county infirmary, as sometimes called, is located on lots 11 and 12 of McMaster's Half-township, about three miles north of the village of Owego, and the entire property, as now situated, is valued at about \$10,000. In compliance with the law requiring the state care of all insane patients or inmates, the county authorities are relieved to that extent, yet the measure had not the effect to reduce the expenses of the county in that respect; on the contrary, that expense has increased by the state care.

In Tioga county the management of the poor-house farm, and the general charge of all matters and persons within their jurisdiction, is entrusted to three superintendents of the poor, instead of one, as is usually the case in interior counties. This system has been employed since 1828, when each jury district had three superintendents, and has proven economical rather than an increase of expense. For the current year 1895, the total services of the three superintendents cost the county less than \$450; and the general summary of accounts of the county farm for the same period shows a total expense of only \$3,651.77.

## CHAPTER VIII.

## TIOGA COUNTY CIVIL LIST.

In the preceding chapter we have mentioned at some length the various properties and interests of Tioga county, and it is therefore proper that there should also be made a record of the names of persons who have been identified with the administration of its affairs. In other words, the present connection is a proper one in which to furnish a complete civil list of officers who have represented Tioga either in federal, state or county government.

## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

1808—Matthew Carpenter.	1848—Charles R. Barstow.
1816—Samuel Lawrence.	1860—Frank L. Jones.
1832—Darius Bentley.	1884—Frederick O. Cable.
1836—Whitcomb Phelps.	1888—William E. Johnson.

## SENATORS IN CONGRESS.

Thomas C. Platt, elected January 20, 1881 ; resigned May 14, 1881.  
Thomas C. Platt, elected January 19, 1897.

## REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS.

1803-5—John Patterson.	1839-41—Stephen B. Leonard.
1809-11—Vincent Matthews.	1845-47—Stephen Strong.
1817-19—John R. Drake.	1853-55—John J. Taylor.
1829-31—Thomas Maxwell.	1855-59—John M. Parker.
1831-33—Gamaliel H. Barstow.	1867-69—William S. Lincoln.
1835-37—Stephen B. Leonard.	1873-77—Thomas C. Platt.

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT ATTORNEY, EASTERN DIST. OF NEW YORK.

Benjamin F. Tracy, appointed October 1, 1866 ; re-appointed January 23, 1871.

## SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

Benjamin F. Tracy, appointed March 5, 1889.

## MEMBERS OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS.

1801—John Patterson.	1867—Charles E. Parker.
1821—Matthew Carpenter.	1867—Oliver H. P. Kinney.
1846—John J. Taylor.	1894—H. Austin Clark.

## COUNCIL OF APPOINTMENT.

1804—Caleb Hyde.

## ADJUTANT GENERAL.

1845—Thomas Farrington.

## STATE TREASURER.

1825—Gamaliel H. Barstow.	1842—Thomas Farrington.
1838—Gamaliel H. Barstow.	1846—Thomas Farrington.
1867-71—Wheeler H. Bristol.	

## LIST OF CIVIL OFFICERS.

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### SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE.

William Smyth, appointed January 31, 1876, *vice* Orlow W. Chapman, resigned.

### CANAL APPRAISER.

Andrew H. Calhoun, appointed July 1, 1850.

### STATE SENATORS.

1796-1803—Vincént Matthews.	1841-44—Nehemiah Platt.
1804-7—Caleb Hyde.	1852-53—Nathan Bristol.
1819-22—Gamaliel H. Barstow.	1858-63—Lyman Truman.
1824-27—Latham A. Burrows.	1872-73—Thomas I. Chatfield.
1832-35—John G. McDowell.	1896-97—William E. Johnson.

### MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY.

1792—Jonathan Fitch.	1831 { John G. McDowell.
1793—John Patterson.	{ David Williams.
1794-5—Vincént Matthews.	1832 { Nathaniel Smith.
1796-7—Emanuel Coryell.	{ Joel Tallmadge, Jr.
1798—Benjamin Hovey.	1833 { Thomas Farrington.
1799—Matthew Carpenter.	{ Jacob Westlake.
1800—Samuel Tinkham.	1834 { John R. Drake.
1801—Edward Edwards.	{ George Gardner.
1802-3—Caleb Hyde.	1835 { George Bennett.
1804—Ashbel Wells.	{ George Fisher.
1805-6—John Miller.	1836 { Elijah A. Goodwin.
1808-10—Emanuel Coryell.	{ William H. Sutton.
1811—Thomas Floyd.	1837—Ezra Canfield.
1812—Henry Wells.	1838—John Coryell.
1813—Jabez Beers.	1839—Wright Dunham.
1814-15—Caleb Baker.	1840—Thomas Farrington.
1816-18—Gamaliel H. Barstow.	1841—Washington Smith.
1819—Henry Wells.	1842—John McQuigg.
1820—Judson Jennings.	1843—Simeon R. Griffin.
1821—Samuel Lawrence.	1844—Nathaniel W. Davis.
1822—Jared Patchin.	1845-46—Gideon O. Chase.
1823 { Matthew Carpenter.	1847—Charles R. Barstow.
{ Benjamin Jennings.	1848—Erastus Goodrich.
1824 { Grant H. Baldwin.	1849—Ezra S. Sweet.
{ Gamaliel H. Barstow.	1850—Isaac Lott.
1825 { Charles Pumpelly.	1851—James Ely.
{ Samuel Winton.	1852—William Pierson.
1826 { Isaac Baldwin.	1853—Thomas I. Chatfield.
{ Anson Camp.	1854—Louis P. Legg.
1827 { Gamaliel H. Barstow.	1855—Carlisle P. Johnson.
{ David Williams.	1856—Abram H. Miller.
1828 { William Maxwell.	1857—David Rees.
{ Jacob Swartwood.	1858—William P. Raymond.
1829 { Caleb Baker.	1859-60—David Earll.
{ Samuel Barager.	1861—Cero F. Barber.
1830 { John G. McDowell.	1862—Benjamin F. Tracy.
{ Wright Dunham.	1863—Nathaniel W. Davis.

1864—James Thompson.	1878-9—J. Theodore Sawyer.
1865—William W. Shepard.	1880-1—Edward G. Nowlan.
1866—John H. Deming.	1882—Jacob B. Floyd.
1867—Oliver A. Barstow.	1883—Myron B. Ferris.
1868—Oliver H. P. Kinney.	1884-5—Charles F. Barager.
1869—Lyman Truman.	1886—Adolphus G. Allen.
1870—John H. Deming.	1887-8—Jonathan C. Latimer.
1871—Burnet B. Bignall.	1889-90—Abram I. Decker.
1872—William Smyth.	1891—Royal W. Clinton.
1873-4—Jerome B. Landfield.	1892-3—Edward G. Tracy.
1875—James Bishop.	1894-95—Epenetus Howe.
1876-7—Eugene B. Gere.	1896—Daniel P. Witter.

## JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS.

Benjamin F. Tracy, appointed December 8, 1881, *vice* Andrews.

## SUPREME COURT JUDGE SITTING IN COURT OF APPEALS.

John M. Parker, appointed January, 1867.

## JUSTICE OF GENERAL TERM.

John M. Parker, appointed December 25, 1870.

## JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT.

John M. Parker, elected November 8, 1859 ; died December 6, 1873.

Charles E. Parker, elected November 8, 1887.

## APPELLATE DIVISION, SUPREME COURT.

Charles E. Parker, appointed presiding Justice, October 8, 1895.

## COUNTY JUDGES. \*

1791—Abraham Miller, appointed Feb. 17.	1843—Alanson Munger, appointed Feb. 2.
1798—John Patterson, app. March 27.	1847—Charles P. Avery, app. June.
1807—John Miller, app. April 3.	1855—Stephen Strong, elected November.
1810—Emanuel Coryell, app. March 31.	1859—Thomas Farrington.
1818—Gamaliel H. Barstow, app. June 22.	1871—Charles A. Clark.
1823—Latham A. Burrows, app. Feb. 8.	1883—Charles E. Parker.
1828—Grant B. Baldwin, app. Feb. 5.	1887—David T. Easton, app. Dec. 31.
1833—John R. Drake, app. March 27.	1888—Howard J. Mead.
1838—Stephen Strong, app. April 18.	1894—Howard J. Mead.

## SPECIAL COUNTY JUDGES.

1852—Charles A. Munger.	1874—Jacob B. Floyd.
1855—Alanson Munger.	1877—J. Newton Dexter.
1858—William F. Warner.	1880—D. Wellington Allen.
1861—Alanson Munger.	1883—Adolphus G. Allen.
1864—Charles A. Munger.	1886—William F. Warner.
1867—Adolphus G. Allen.	1886—Judge F. Shoemaker.
1870—James B. Caryl.	1889—Ambrose P. Eaton.
1871—J. Newton Dexter.	1895—Adolphus G. Allen.

\* Previous to the constitution of 1846, this office was known as First Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. In 1846 a County Court was organized in each county except New York and provision was made for the election of a judge each. See Bench and Bar chapter.

# LIST OF CIVIL OFFICERS.

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## SURROGATES.\*

1791, Feb. 17—John Mercereau.	1821, Feb. 24—Robert Lawrence.
1798, Mar. 27—Balthazar De Haert.	1825, Apr. 13—Caleb Baker.
1802, Feb. 22—William Woodruff.	1829, Feb. 10—William Maxwell.
1805, Jan. 28—William Jenkins.	1835, Apr. 30—Thomas Farrington.
1806, Apr. 7—Caleb Baker.	1840, Jan. 20—Nathan'l W. Davis.
1808, Feb. 27—Robert Lawrence.	1844, Jan. 24—Alanson Munger.
1820, Mar. 4,—Isaac S. Boardman.	

## STATE RAILROAD COMMISSIONER.

Frank M. Baker, appointed December 17, 1896.

## JUSTICES OF SESSIONS. †

1848-49 { J. Talcott Waldo. { Thomas Yates.	1872 { Luther B. West. { George Cooper.
1850 { Gamaliel H. Barstow. { Samuel Barager.	1873 { Luther B. West. { Daniel B. Nash.
1851 { J. Talcott Waldo. { Israel Hoyt.	1874 { Anson M. Kimball. { John C. Parmelee.
1852 { J. Talcott Waldo. { Sylvester Knapp.	1875 { Daniel B. Nash. { John C. Parmelee.
1853 { Oliver A. Barstow. { Samuel Barager.	1876 { Gershom A. Clark. { Robert B. Miller.
1854 { Gaylord Willsey. { Augustus T. Garey.	1877 { Charles F. Curtis. { Robert B. Miller.
1855-6 { Robert B. Miller. { Samuel Barager.	1878 { Daniel B. Nash. { Junius Collins.
1857 { Nathaniel F. Moore. { John L. Howell.	1879 { Gershom A. Clark. { Charles F. Curtis.
1858 { Nathaniel F. Moore. { Thomas Yates.	1880 { John C. Parmelee. { Daniel B. Nash.
1859 { Edwin H. Schoonhover. { Augustus T. Garey.	1881 { Ira Hoyt. { George H. Grafft.
1860 { Robert B. Miller. { Lorain Curtis.	1882 { William B. Georgia. { Noah Goodrich.
1861 { Robert B. Miller. { Samuel Barager.	1883 { Ira M. Howell. { Ira Hoyt.
1862 { Samuel C. Bidwell. { Samuel Barager.	1884 { Ira Hoyt. { Noah Goodrich.
1863 { Horace C. Hubbard. { Samuel Barager.	1885-6 { Ira M. Howell. { Ira Hoyt.
1864 { William E. Gee. { Luther B. West.	1887 { Junius Collins. { Ira M. Howell.
1865 { Lorain Curtis. { Samuel Barager.	1888-9 { Simon Van Luven. { George Brooks.
1866 { Oscar Glezen. { John H. Yontz.	1890 { Peter Turner. { Charles H. Moore.
1867 { Samuel C. Bidwell. { William F. Belden.	1891 { Peter Turner. { George Brooks.
1868 { Herbert Richardson. { John H. Yontz.	1892 { Walter C. Randall. { George Brooks.
1869 { Herbert Richardson. { William F. Belden.	1893 { Peter Turner. { Richard Andrews.
1870 { Samuel C. Bidwell. { John H. Yontz.	1894 { DeWitt C. Bensley. { Walter C. Randall.
1871 { Luther B. West. { H. H. Bidwell.	

\* Since 1847 the county judge has been surrogate of the county.

† Office abolished in 1895.

## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Previous to the constitution of 1821 (and the modifications of 1826), justices of the peace were appointed ; since that time the office has been elective. The following list is incomplete, and cannot be regarded as official :

- 1811—Elijah Shoemaker, Owego ; George Allen, Thomas Gridley, Joel Smith, William Scott, Candor ; Isaac Swartout, Samuel Westbrook, Spencer ; Seneca Howland.
- 1812—Lodowick Light, Tioga.
- 1814—Nathaniel Schofield, Asa North, Walter Herrick, Candor.
- 1816—Emanuel Coryell, Tioga ; Caleb Baker, Henry Wells, Phineas Catlin, Joshua Ferris, Noah Goodrich, John Konkle, Thomas Floyd, John Cantine, Benjamin Wynkoop, Elijah S. Hinman, Robert Miller, John Gregg, Charles Deming, Joseph Barker, Enos Canfield, Gamaliel H. Barstow, John Light, Charles Taylor, John Newcomb, Jared Patchin, Erastus Granger, Benjamin Starr, Jacob Miller, Salmon Johnson, James Ashley, Josiah Perry, Hudson Jennings, Augustus Lyon, Samuel Winton, Thomas Mills, Samuel Barclay.
- 1819—Orange F. Booth, Candor ; George K. Hall, Joseph Hollister, Spencer ; Wright Dunham, Tioga.
- 1822—Asa Camp, John Jewett, Ziba A. Leland, Owego ; Anson Higbee, Gad Worthington, David Williams, W. H. Moore, Berkshire.
- 1823—Jotham Rounds, Latham A. Burrows, William Platt, Owego : Elizur Goodrich, Berkshire ; Jacob Willsey, Samuel Barager, Joel Tallmadge, jr., Candor ; Gilbert Smith, Tioga ; Thomas Peart, Spencer.
- 1824—Nathaniel Potter, John Crotsley, Jonathan Barnes, Barton ; Peter Wilson, Elisha P. Higbe, Newark ; John Hedden, John Butts, Spencer ; Ziba Miller, David Wallis, Tioga ; Ezra Canfield, Nichols.
- 1825—Luke Sanders, Barton ; Joseph Benjamin, Francis Armstrong, Newark ; John Coryell, Nichols.

## DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.

The office of District Attorney under its present name was created in 1801, and was previously known as Assistant Attorney-General. Each county was created a separate district in 1818. The office was appointive prior to the constitution of 1846. In this county the succession of incumbents, with date of appointment or election, has been as follows :

- |                                      |                               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1796, March 31—William Stuart.       | 1853, Nov.—Benjamin F. Tracy. |
| 1802, March 2—William Stuart.        | 1856, Nov.—Benjamin F. Tracy. |
| 1813, March 12—Vincent Matthews.     | 1859, Nov.—Delos O. Hancock.  |
| 1818, June 19—John L. Tillinghast.   | 1862, Nov.—Delos O. Hancock.  |
| 1822, March 21—William Maxwell.      | 1865, Nov.—Isaac S. Catlin.   |
| 1823, May—Eleazer Dana.              | 1867, Nov.—Delos O. Hancock.  |
| 1826, Jan.—Andrew Konkle.            | 1870, Nov.—Eugene B. Gere.    |
| 1835, March—Andrew K. Gregg.         | 1873, Nov.—Lyman Settle.      |
| 1836, July—Stephen Strong.           | 1876, Nov.—Lyman Settle.      |
| 1838, July—Ezra S. Sweet.            | 1879, Nov.—Howard J. Mead.    |
| 1841, June—John J. Taylor.           | 1882, Nov.—Howard J. Mead.    |
| 1843, Feb.—George Sidney Camp.       | 1885, Nov.—John G. Sears.     |
| 1844, Feb.—Stephen Strong.           | 1888, Nov.—Jerry S. Gross.    |
| 1847, June—Ezra S. Sweet.            | 1891, Nov.—Frank A. Darrow.   |
| 1850, Nov.—(elected) Alanson Munger. | 1894, Nov.—Frank A. Darrow.   |

## LIST OF CIVIL OFFICERS.

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### SHERIFFS.

This office was appointive previous to the second constitution. The month and day mentioned indicates date of appointment.

1791, Feb. 17.—James McMaster.	1846—John J. Sackett.
1795, Feb. 18.—Joseph Hinchman.	1849—Nathan H. Woodford.
1799, March 19.—Edward Edwards.	1852—Robbins D. Willard.
1800, Feb. 18.—Guy Maxwell.	1855—Samuel Mills.
1804, Jan. 19.—John Cantine.	1858—Daniel L. Jenks.
1805, Jan. 8.—William Woodruff.	1860—Frank L. Jones. *
1806, Apr. 5.—William Jenkins.	1860—Barney M. Stebbins. †
1810, Feb. 16.—Jonathan Platt.	1860—Hiram W. Shoemaker.
1811, Feb. 8.—Miles Forman.	1863—Joseph B. Upham.
1813, Mar. 3.—Jonathan Platt.	1866—Lewis W. Truesdell.
1819, Mar. 27.—Elijah S. Hinman.	1870—Thomas F. Pearl.
1819, July 3.—Henry Wells.	1872—Charles C. Brooks.
1821, Feb. 24.—Miles Forman.	1875—William H. Rightmire.
1822, Nov. (elected)—William Jenkins.	1878—Timothy Robertson.
1825—E. Shoemaker.	1881—Burr J. Davis.
1828—Henry McCormick.	1884—Charles Rodman.
1831—Lyman Covell.	1887—Albert P. Cleveland.
1834—Peter Jackson.	1889—Burr J. Davis. ‡
1837—Prentice Ransom.	1889—George M. Geer.
1840—Robert L. Fleming.	1892—LaRue H. Conklin.
1843—Charles R. Barstow.	1895—Leonard D. Myers.

### COUNTY CLERKS.

1791, Feb. 17.—Thomas Nicholson.	1858—Thomas C. Platt.
1792, Jan. 13.—Matthew Carpenter.	1861—Horace A. Brooks.
1829, Mar. 27.—Thomas Maxwell.	1873—John J. Van Kleeck.
1822 (elected)—Thomas Maxwell.	1876—John C. Gray.
1828—Green M. Tuthill.	1882—John J. Van Kleeck.
1834—David Wallis.	1888—Orlando G. King.
1843—Moses Stevens.	1895—Frederick W. Richardson.
1852—Leroy W. Kingman.	

### COUNTY TREASURERS.

Previous to 1846 county treasurers were appointed; elected afterward.	
1793—Jonathan Fitch.	1848—Charles Platt.
1795—Orringh Stoddart.	1851—Franklin Slosson.
1798—David Pixley.	1854—Ezra S. Buckbee.
1803—Samuel Tinkham.	1860—Gurdon G. Manning.
1804—Joshua Ferris.	1863—John B. Brush.
1837—John Carmichael.	1872—Eli W. Stone.
1843—Daniel Armstrong.	1881—Charles F. Parmelee.
1846—Franklin Slosson.	1887—Clarence A. Thompson.
1847—William P. Stone.	1895—Eli W. Stone.
	1896—Edward O. Eldredge.

### SUPERINTENDENTS OF COMMON SCHOOLS.

The office of County Superintendent of Common Schools was authorized by the act of April 17, 1843, and appointments were made by the supervisors. The office was abolished in 1847. The incumbents of the office in Tioga county were William Williams, Dr. Elijah Powell and Robert Harlin.

\* Appointed Feb. 9, 1860, *vice* Jenks, removed.

† Appointed Dec. 4, 1860, *vice* Jones, resigned.

‡ Appointed May 24, *vice* Cleveland, resigned.

## SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.

The first election under the act creating this office (Laws of 1856) was held in November, 1859. The succession of incumbents in this county has been as follows :

Dr. Elijah Powell.

Henry W. Childs.

William Smyth.

Leonard O. Eastman.

Andrew J. Lang.

Leon O. Wiswell.

William H. Cole.

Oscar Granger.

Lemuel D. Vose.

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CHAPTER IX.

Character of the Pioneers of Tioga County—Incidents of Pioneer Life—Increase in Population—Early Steamboating on the Susquehanna—Old Mail Routes and Service—The Days of the Stage Coach—Brief Reference to the War of 1812-15.

FOR more than a quarter of a century following the close of the revolution nothing occurred to interrupt or retard the progress and developement of the Susquehanna Valley after its permanent settlement had once begun. During this period, the region of Tioga county was favored in a remarkable degree. The New England pioneers were a hardy and patriotic class, and under their energetic efforts lands were cleared, the forests gave place to farms of rare fertility, and the agricultural resources were thus developed to an extent which more than supplied domestic requirements.

In writing of the early settlement of the county and the character of its pioneers, Mr. Warner says : “Several causes operated to bring settlers to the county of Tioga from several localities. The army of General Sullivan, which passed through the valley in the summer of 1779, was composed of officers and soldiers from New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York. The officers of the expedition were astonished at the advance the Iroquois had made in agriculture.” A letter of General James Clinton states that the corn was “the finest he had ever seen,” and another officer states that there were ears of corn that measured twenty-two inches in length.

“The broad valleys of the Susquehanna, Chenango, and Chemung, with their rich fields of corn and orchards of apple trees, must have presented to the soldiers an inviting and attractive appearance, as contrasted with the sandy soil of New Jersey, and the rocks and harder soil of Connecticut and Massachusetts. Upon returning to their homes at the close of the war, these soldiers carried their reports of the territory they had traversed to their friends and neighbors in their several states.”

“We have seen that Massachusetts claimed the territory which forms the county of Tioga, and, as early as 1787, made a grant, which, not being disputed, as was the case with grants of the territory of Wyoming, many settlers in the Wyoming valley abandoned their possessions and came to this county to find new homes; and Tioga thus gained some of her very best citizens among the early settlers from that locality. These coming mainly from Massachusetts and Connecticut, brought with them the general characteristics of the people of those states. Among them were men and women of culture and refinement, who exerted a powerful influence in restraining others who might have been inclined to acts of lawlessness.”

“In general, this body of pioneers was composed of entire families; and the good order maintained was greatly owing to the presence of the noble wives, mothers, and sisters of the pioneers, and who, while sharing in the hardships and privations incident to a pioneer life, presented examples of piety, virtue, and true womanly heroism. Scantily furnished with domestic utensils and implements of husbandry, a spirit of liberality and mutual assistance was fostered. Many had for years suffered the fatigues and hardships of service in the army, and came empty-handed, but with stout hearts, to carve for themselves a home in the new settlement. The exigencies of a pioneer life are always severe, but frugal means lead to frugal habits; common necessities unite a community in a common brotherhood. Doubtless there were many incidents, in the lives of these early settlers, of generosity and bravery, but when all were brave and generous so little notice was taken of such deeds that no record of them was thought to be necessary, nor is there record of a single act of violence.”

“The settlements at Owego, Tioga, Nichols, Berkshire, and Spencer must have increased quite rapidly in population, and an incident happened as early as 1803 that gives some idea of the number of inhabitants at that time. \* A lad of seven years was lost in the forest, and a paper published at the time states that *four hundred* persons were out in search of the boy.”

“For a period of five years the people were obliged to convey their grain to be ground either to Wilkesbarre or to Fitch’s mill on the Chenango, by canoes. In 1793 Col. David Pixley built a grist-mill on the west side of the Owego creek, a very great relief and convenience to the inhabitants of this part of the county. Game and fish were abundant, but so needful a condiment as salt was laboriously transported on pack-horses along the Indian trail from Onondaga.”

As evidence of the substantial growth of the county even during the pioneer period of its history, the statement may be made that in 1800 the number of inhabitants within its limits was 6,862, and that notwithstanding the fact that in 1798 Chenango county was formed in part from Tioga, taking from Tioga a large territory and also a good population. In 1810 the number had increased to 7,899 the county then being so reduced in area, comparatively, as to include only that part of its original territory as was situated between the pre-emption line and Owego creek. During the next decade the population substantially doubled, being 14,716 according to the census of 1820, while the enumeration of 1830 showed a population of 27,690. In 1836 Chemung county was set off from Tioga, by which the number of inhabitants in the mother shire was reduced to 20,527 in 1840, as against 33,999 in 1835. No reductions in the territory of Tioga were subsequently made, and from that time the various changes in population are best noted by quoting from census tables, as follows: In 1845 the inhabitants numbered 22,456; 1850, 24,880; 1855, 26,962; 1860, 28,748; 1865, 30,572; 1870, 33,178; 1875, 32,915; 1880, 32,673; 1885, no enume-

\* This lad grew up to be the well known and venerable Hon. John McQuigg of Spencer. He represented the county in the legislature of 1842. He had been sent toward evening on the occasion mentioned, in search of the cows, accompanied by the house dog; and wandered in the woods a week before found, living upon water-cresses and berries, protected from wild animals by his faithful dog.—Ed.

ration ; 1890, 29,935, and in 1892, according to the count of that year, 29,675.

Another element of history general to the county rather than local were some of the early internal improvements, and among these may be mentioned the state road leading from Kaatskill Landing, on the Hudson, to the town of Catharines, then (1797) in Tioga but now in Schuyler county. The completion of this work led to a later enterprise within the county in the construction of the Owego and Ithaca turnpike. The company was incorporated in 1807 (April 6) by the legislature, and the prime movers of the enterprise, incorporators named in the act, were Mason Wattles, John Hollenback, Lemuel Brown, Eleazer Dana, Charles Pumpelly, John H. Avery, Nathan Camp, Jabez Beers, John Smith, Archer Green, and Eleazer Smith. By the construction of this highway ready connection with all the leading thoroughfares of the state was given to the inhabitants of the southern and central portions of the county.

In an editorial note in one of Mr. Warner's articles is found this incident connected with the construction of the Owego and Ithaca turnpike: A contest arose between the owners of the two rival taverns in Front street (Owego), the Bates tavern (site of Ahwaga House) and the Franklin (the old Goodman tavern, northeast corner of Front and Court streets) as to the terminus of the road at Owego. The present McMaster street was the original highway leading northward from the village. Each of the owners of these public houses strove to secure the terminus of the turnpike at his inn. The contest was sharp and even bitter. The proprietors of the turnpike finally compromised the matter by fixing the terminus of the road at the intersection of North avenue with Main street, about midway between the rival taverns.

"The opening of this avenue" (the turnpike), says Mr. Warner, "gave an outlet from the north, through the county, to Owego upon the Susquehanna, and a very considerable traffic in salt, plaster, flour, and grain was carried on to supply the markets in Pennsylvania and Maryland. Large storehouses were built at Owego, and for many years this was the principal source of supply of these articles for a large territory. The traffic became so large,

in fact, that in 1825 an effort was made to navigate the Susquehanna by steamboat, but it was not only a failure, but in one instance caused a serious disaster by the explosion of its boiler."

*Navigation on the Susquehanna.*—In connection with the subject of river navigation the statement may be made that in 1825 three steamboats were built for the purpose of experimenting on the Susquehanna. One of these was the *Cadorus*, built at York Haven, Penna., by Davis, Gordon & Co., which was constructed chiefly of sheet iron. Her first voyage up the river was begun in the spring of 1826, and finally Binghamton was reached. The *Cadorus* remained at Owego some time and was tied up in Hollenback's eddy. The complete voyage occupied four months and as its result the originators considered river navigation under then existing conditions as impracticable. The second boat of the year was the *Susquehanna*, built in Baltimore by a company of capitalists who desired to secure and control the river traffic. This boat was eighty feet long, a stern-wheeler, with thirty horse-power, and a carrying capacity sufficient for one hundred passengers. The trial trip up the river began May 5, 1826, but in the ascent of the rapids at Berwick, Columbia county, Penna., the boat struck a rock and foundered, and at the same instant her boiler exploded. Several persons were killed or wounded by this accident, among them William Camp, father of George Sidney Camp, of Owego. The third boat of the season was the *Pioneer*, built and operated on the West Branch, but, like her companions of the year, she proved a failure.

In Owego the first steamboat built was the "*Susquehannah*," so plainly lettered on her paddle wheels, the peculiar spelling of the name being the source of considerable comment and discussion among the people. This boat was built for the purpose of carrying merchandize and passengers between Owego and Wilkesbarre, including intermediate stations, and on the return voyage her owners proposed to carry a cargo of coal from the mouth of the Lackawanna.

This famous boat was built by New York contractors for the use of the Susquehanna Steam Navigation Company, an organized association having a capital stock of \$50,000. July 16, 1834, a

committee comprising John R. Drake, Stephen Strong, William A. Ely, Henry W. Camp, Stephen B. Leonard and Thomas Farrington met at the old Owego hotel and appointed Mr. Camp and Mr. Ely a sub-committee to obtain subscriptions to the capital stock of the then proposed company ; and on the 19th of the same month a committee of Wilkesbarre citizens was appointed to meet the Owego committee at Towanda, to consult as to the best measures expedient to be adopted to establish permanent steamboat navigation on the river.

August 21, 1834, the stockholders of the company held a meeting at Lewis Manning's hotel in Owego, and elected the following board of managers : James Pumpelly, William A. Ely, Henry W. Camp, Latham A. Burrows, Thomas Farrington, Jonathan Platt, Amos Martin, George J. Pumpelly, and George W. Hollenback, of Owego, and Samuel D. Ingham, Edward Lynch, Henry Colt, and Henry Pettibone, of Wilkesbarre. James Pumpelly was chosen president, William Platt treasurer, and Judge Burrows secretary of the board. In August following the managers employed the services of John Hopkins, a noted civil engineer of the period, to examine the river between Owego and Wilkesbarre (a distance of 120 miles) and determine the probable cost of removing obstructions and creating a channel for the safe passage of steamers. In September of the same year Thomas Blanchard came from New York to Owego and contracted to build for the company a steamboat, to be 100 feet in length, 14 feet beam, with four steam engines, and all the necessary machinery ; a truly novel craft supplied with patented appliances for making speed ; to be completed and ready for operation on the 1st day of May, 1835, and all at a cost of \$12,500. The building committee appointed to superintend the work of construction in the interest of the company comprised George J. Pumpelly, Judge Burrows, and William A. Ely.

The work was begun during the latter part of September, the keel being laid on the bank of the river in the rear of John R. Chatfield's present residence, on Front street, in Owego. The preliminary work was done under the direction of Captain John J. Tobey, of New York, but the practical ship carpenter in charge was Mr. Bampton, also of New York. In April, 1835, the boat