

Van Duzer was president until January 14, 1868, when he was succeeded by Howard Elmer, and Mr. Elmer continued in active charge of the bank to the time of his death, September 9, 1892. Frederick E. Lyford was elected to the position of president by the directors at a meeting held in January, 1893. He has since been at the head of the bank, and its present prosperous condition is in a good measure due to his management.

Mr. Lyford's connection with the First National began November 14, 1871, in the capacity of clerk. He was appointed cashier, in 1881, to succeed Richard A. Elmer, who had then recently retired to enter upon the discharge of his duties as second assistant postmaster-general. Mr. Lyford was cashier until the death of Howard Elmer, and was then made president. At the same time Percy L. Lang was chosen cashier vice Lyford.

The capital of the First National has always been \$50,000, and no losses other than in the regular course of business have been a part of its history. The surplus is \$10,000, with \$4,000 to the credit of the undivided profit account. The present officers are as follows: Frederick E. Lyford, president; Nathan S. Johnson, vice-president; Percy L. Lang, cashier; F. E. Lyford, N. S. Johnson, Percy L. Lang, Charles H. Shepard and Riton Durfey, directors.

The Citizens' bank of Waverly was incorporated June 18, 1874, and began business in July following. The capital was, and still is \$50,000, to which may now be added a surplus of \$10,000, and an undivided profit account of \$7,000. J. Theodore Sawyer has been president of the bank since its organization. S. W. Slaughter was vice-president until his death, in 1894, and was then succeeded by Dr. William E. Johnson, the present vice-president. The cashiers, in succession, have been Moses Lyman, one year; Hatfield Hallet, until 1878, and then succeeded by L. R. Manning. The next cashier was F. A. Sawyer, the present incumbent.

The Gas Light company of Waverly was organized January 3, 1873, with \$50,000 capital, and these officers: William F. Warner, president; Henry G. Merriam, secretary and treasurer. No change was made in the personnel of the management until the death of Mr. Warner, Nov. 7, 1890, when Mr. Merriam became president

and treasurer, and Moses Lyman was chosen secretary. The works were completed in August, 1873, and were built by Deily & Fowler, of Philadelphia, at an entire cost of \$50,000.

The Waverly Water company was incorporated in 1880, by J. T. Sawyer, S. W. Slaughter and J. B. Floyd, who were, in the order named, chosen president, vice-president, and secretary, the president also holding the position of treasurer. The work of construction was done during the year 1880, and now the company has ten miles of main pipe, about 600 taps, and 46 fire hydrants. As a result of this enterprise Waverly has an abundant supply of good wholesome water for all domestic purposes, and the village has fire protection as good as is found in the southern tier. The total reservoir capacity is 130,000,000 gallons of water. The company are J. T. Sawyer, president and treasurer ; Wm. E. Johnson, vice-president, and J. B. Floyd, secretary.

On June 2, 1897, the Waverly, Sayre, and Athens Electric Traction Co. purchased a controlling interest in the Waverly electric light and power company. At a meeting held the same day these officers were chosen : President, A. C. Wade, of Jamestown ; vice-president, Percy L. Lang, Waverly ; secretary and treasurer, A. N. Broadhead, Jamestown ; directors, A. C. Wade, Percy L. Lang, A. N. Broadhead, W. E. Case, and G. N. Tidd.

As a business and manufacturing village Waverly stands well among the trade centres of Tioga county, but has never attained any special prominence in this respect in the central or southern portions of the state. Old Factoryville owed its very existence to the several milling industries established there during the early years of the century, but now, even with the advantages of three separate trunk lines of railroad, only one industry remains, and that has been in operation but a few years. However, south of East Waverly and bordering on the state line are two of the largest and most important manufacturing industries of the region, and both of them have contributed in a large measure to local prosperity.

The large tannery formerly owned and operated by Abram I. Decker, but more recently by the United States Leather company, stands on the same site whereon Isaac and Job Shepard built a woollen mill more than three-quarters of a century ago. The early

history of the operations here have been mentioned in this chapter, in view of which it is only necessary to state that, in 1853, after the buildings were burned, they were rebuilt by William and Gilbert Brooks, sons of the former owner. In 1863, Charles C. Brooks bought a half interest in the property, and with his partners started a large foundry and machine shop. In 1873 the plant was sold to A. B. Phillips, who converted it into a tannery. In 1879, Abram I. Decker purchased the property and conducted the business until it passed into the control of the U. S. Leather company. Within a very short time the company has determined to close the works, by which action Waverly loses one of its best industries.

The Sayre Butter Package company is and has ever been regarded as an industry of Waverly, although the buildings are situated just across the state line. On the site Jerry Adams built a tannery, in 1824, the subsequent changes in which are narrated on an earlier page. About 1868, J. A. Perkins became sole owner of the property, and conducted the business until 1882, when the Sayre Butter Package company, of which Richard D. VanDuzer was the founder, leased the buildings. This is to-day one of the leading industries of the village. The proprietors are R. D. and H. C. VanDuzer.

Richard D. VanDuzer has been identified with the business history of Waverly for many years. In 1851 he opened a general store, and about 1864 built the Waverly steam flouring mills, the first of its kind in the county. He was the first president of the First National bank, was connected with other enterprises, and had a saw mill on Shepard's creek. The VanDuzer & Lyman planing mill was built in 1877, and succeeded the VanDuzer & Hallett mill of still earlier construction.

The Mullock & Sliter carriage works was one of the old industries of the village, and was established in 1867 by G. L. Mullock and J. B. Sliter.

The Waverly Furniture Factory was started by H. G. Fessenden, in 1875.

The Novelty Furniture Works, indirectly the beginning which resulted in the present Hall & Lyon Furniture Company, were

established in 1873 by S. C. Hall, former principal of the academy. Mr. Hall was partner with George S. Cummings in the enterprise. At first the business was unsuccessful and in the winter of 1875-76 was removed to Athens, where F. R. & G. F. Lyon acquired an interest in the works. In June, 1884, the buildings were burned, and the firm then operating the business, Hall & Lyon, removed the works to Waverly and erected the present extensive buildings in Broad street. The business was conducted by the firm of Hall & Lyon until the summer of 1893, when the Hall & Lyon Furniture Company was incorporated, having a capital of \$80,000. This is by far the most important industry of the village and the people feel a just pride in it. When running at full capacity 130 men are employed.

The Waverly Steam Flour Mills, in Broad street, were built in 1878, and for several years were operated by Weaver & Shear. Mr. Shear became proprietor in 1882, and the present owner, D. V. Personious, in 1891.

The old water power grist mill, over at Factoryville, which has been mentioned as one of the pioneer industries of the town, and which was burned in 1888, and then rebuilt, was sold by Levi Westfall to Ira Dodge and by him to Mr. Ward, the present owner.

The Lawrence-Letts Elbow Company, limited, was incorporated in the spring of 1893, having a capital of \$50,000. The works are located south of the railroad, and furnish employment to about twenty-five men. The company manufactures a patented metal elbow for water and stove pipes.

The A. H. Thomas Paint Company was incorporated in December, 1894, for the manufacture of oxide and white lead paints. The capital is \$10,000. This is a young but important industry in Waverly and is securely established. The officers of the company are Anthony Hemstreet, president and treasurer; F. E. Lyford, vice-president and secretary; and S. C. Hall, F. E. Lyford, E. E. Walker, Anthony Hemstreet, and A. H. Thomas, directors.

The East Waverly Steam Granite Works is another of the recently established industries of the village. The character of business done here is sufficiently indicated by the name, and we need only add that at times employment is here given to about thirty men. Proprietor, Charles F. Poole.

This brief review of the manufactures of Waverly, past and present, recalls those which have been of more than passing prominence in the village. But it is a fact that fire has been a strong destroying element in retarding what otherwise might have been a gratifying success, both in mercantile and manufacturing enterprises ; and in looking over the list of fires in this village it seems as if more than the ordinary number have been visited upon its commercial interests. In view of this fact it may interest the reader to glance at the roll of important fires that have destroyed Waverly and Factoryville property since the former village was incorporated.

- 1855, June 9—The Phillips & Murray tannery at Factoryville.
- 1856, March 7—The Clarmont house.
- 1856, Feb. 19—The Warford house.
- 1861, Dec. 21—H. M. Moore's foundry and adjoining buildings.
- 1862, March 3—Myers' brewery at Factoryville.
- 1865, Dec. 24—The Methodist Episcopal church.
- 1870, Feb. 8—The Hallet, Van Duzer & Marsh flouring mill.
- 1871, June 5—"The Big Fire" which originated over O. W. Shipman's store, corner Broad and Waverly streets, and burned 16 buildings and 25 business places ; loss \$86,000.
- 1873, Feb. 23—Persons & Hungerford's grocery and crockery store.
- 1873, March 25—William Manners' bakery, D. N. Harris's jewelry store, the opera house and several other business places.
- 1873, April 5—H. M. Wilcox's dry goods store and other places.
- 1873, June 16—J. G. Hawks's building on the state line and other places.
- 1876, Feb. 18—M. P. Fitch's planing mill.
- 1876, March 7—Van Gaasbeck's bottling works.
- 1876, Oct. 5—The Shepard block, including the Enterprise office and other property.
- 1877, Feb. 7—Hildebrand's shoe store and two buildings west, seriously injuring the stock of several firms. At this fire an explosion occurred, throwing John Bailey, a member of Tioga hose, from the Gilbert building to the street. A. R. Bunn and James McNee were also injured.
- 1877, July 30—Van Duzer & Hallet's planing mill.
- 1878, March 24—Crowley's restaurant and residence near the state line. This was the coldest night of a fire in the history of the local fire department.
- 1878, July 19—The Erie depot, the Courtney house and Bentley's livery.
- 1878, Nov. 4—D. D. Knapp's block.
- 1878, Nov. 23—The Susquehanna Woollen mills.
- 1880, Sept. 24—Van Duzer & Lyman's planing mill.
- 1881, March 21—Fessenden's toy factory.
- 1881, Aug. 13—The old coal pockets.
- 1882, Aug 27—Decker's tannery.

- 1883, May 26—The Campbell block, known as the “Town Clock Building.”
- 1884, July 4—The Warford house.
- 1884, Oct. 21—Merriam Brothers’ hardware store.
- 1885, June 11—Sayre Butter Package Company’s factory.
- 1885, June 30—Crandall toy factory.
- 1885, July 2—Eaton’s hardware and Wood’s grocery stores. Also Van Gaasbeck’s hotel and C. E. Tompkins’s residence, all at Factoryville.
- 1885, July 4—Old Waverly street roller rink.
- 1886, Sept. 13—Corner drug store.
- 1887, Oct. 16—Latimer’s planing mill.
- 1888, July 5—Clark’s hardware store.
- 1889, Feb. 9—Corner drug store.
- 1892, Oct. 30—Bark and leach house at Decker’s tannery.
- 1894, Jan. 9—The Shipman block, corner Broad and Waverly streets. Several occupants were “burned out” at this serious fire.

The ecclesiastical history of Waverly is both interesting and instructive. In the early history of the town the settlers had the same scrupulous regard for the spiritual as for the material welfare of their families, and the story of pioneer life is interspersed throughout with regular family devotion and on frequent occasion with informal assemblages for public worship. Previous to 1800 there was little attempt at denominational meeting, as the scattered character of the settlement made such action impossible, and the meetings which were held were for the purpose of general worship, through a sense of duty rather than otherwise. Glancing at the historical records of the several churches having an existence in Waverly, the fact is disclosed that the older societies were offshoots or branches of still earlier organizations of the town. Especially is this true of the M. E. church, which in its history must be treated generally.

The Methodist church history in Barton dates back to the year 1800, when Jacob Gruber preached occasionally to the inhabitants of the Susquehanna valley, followed three years later by John Osborn. In 1805 a class was formed at Ellistown by Frederick Stiver and Timothy Lee, at a meeting held in John Hanna’s log cabin. In this class were John Hanna, Luke Sanders, Ebenezer and Samuel Ellis and their wives, and Sarah Bingham. Early meetings were held in the log school house, and in 1834 the Emory chapel was built.

The Factoryville class was formed in 1828, and Elishama Tozer

was its leader, with Pierre Hyatt, Paris and Robert Sanders, Jacob Swain, G. W. Plummer, Nathan Slawson and Stephen Van Derlip among the earliest members. Later on came Daniel Blizzard, David Mandeville, Peter and Lewis Quick, and S. L. Van Derlip. The Fletcher chapel at East Waverly was built in 1840, and was dedicated December 10. It cost \$3,000. May 30, 1841, the Methodists organized their Sunday school.

The Waverly class was set off and held meetings in the room in which Lois S. Wells conducted private school in Waverly street. At the conference meeting, in 1854, a resolution was passed to establish a M. E. educational institution at Waverly, to be known as Tioga Seminary, but further than this no action appears to have been taken.

The village society erected a large and quite expensive church edifice, in 1863, and dedicated it March 17, 1864. This building was burned Dec. 24, 1865. The corner stone of a new edifice was laid June 15, 1866, and on April 4, 1867, the brick church was dedicated.

From the beginnings indicated in this brief sketch Methodism has grown in the town until now the church is numerically stronger than any other denomination, and is represented by six societies and six churches, all save one having an active existence. The old Ellistown church is now out of use, and no services are held there. The North Barton church was organized in 1869, and forms a joint charge with Barton and Smithboro, and is under the pastoral care of Rev. S. A. Terry. In the three churches are 150 members. The church at Lockwood built an edifice in 1854, and a second and more commodious home in 1886. Rev. A. F. Brown is the pastor of this charge, which with its associate charges has 177 members. The M. E. church at Barton village is separately mentioned in the town chapter.

So near as can be determined the pastors of the local church, beginning at the time the first itinerent preachers came into the valley, have been as follows: Jacob Gruber, 1800; John Osborn, 1808; Joseph Snell, 1810; Orrin Doolittle, 1811; Horace Agard and John Sayre, 1822; Horace Agard and Solon Stocking, 1824; Philo Barbary and Benj. Shipman, 1825-26; John Griffing and

Joseph Towner, 1827 ; C. W. Harris and E. B. Tenney, 1832 ; J. Griffing and C. W. Giddings, 1833 ; S. Stocking and S. B. Farrington, 1835 ; W. H. Pearne, and J. Boswell, 1836 ; Wm. Wyatt, 1837 ; Epenetus Owen and J. R. Boswell, 1838-39 ; John Mulkey and D. Simons, 1841 ; D. Simons and Benj. Ellis, 1842 ; Peter S. Worden, 1843-44 ; A. G. Burlingame and Morgan Ruger, 1845-46 ; Wm. Round, 1847 ; E. Owen, 1848 ; Vincent Matthews Coryell, 1849-50 ; J. W. Davison, 1851-52 ; O. M. McDowell, 1853 ; Geo. P. Porter, 1854-55 ; J. M. Snyder, 1856 ; D. A. Shepard, 1877-58 ; G. P. Porter, 1859-60 ; H. R. Clarke, 1862-63 ; S. W. Weiss, 1864 ; Henry Wheeler, 1867 ; W. B. Westlake, 1868-70 ; L. W. Peck, 1871 ; Wm. H. Olin, 1872-73 ; Samuel F. Brown, 1874 ; D. C. Olmsted, 1875-76 ; G. R. Hair, 1877-79 ; A. L. Smalley, 1880-82 ; Samuel Moore, 1883-85 ; J. O. Woodruff, 1886-88 ; W. L. Thorp, 1889-91 ; C. M. Surdam, 1892-97.

The First Baptist Church of Waverly had its origin in a little primitive meeting of sixteen persons held June 24, 1824, at which were assembled inhabitants of Smithfield and Springfield, Pa., and Tioga in this county. The meeting was held at Ulster, Pa., and the Athens and Ulster Baptist Church was the result. Elder Sawyer was chosen pastor, in 1825, and was followed by Dr. Ozias Spring, a physician and later a regularly ordained minister. In 1832, the name was changed to Athens and Chemung Baptist Church, and in May, 1836, to Factoryville Baptist Church. In 1842, the now known Old School Baptist Church edifice was built, and it is said the Rev. A. B. Stowell, the then pastor, drew the brick with his own horse and wagon, and laid the brick with his own hands, for by trade Elder Stowell was a mason. In 1863, this building was sold to the society of the Old School Baptist Church, and a fund was created with which to erect a new edifice at Waverly. It was built in 1865, and dedicated in November of that year. The present church, one of the most substantial structures of its kind in the county, was built during the years 1890 and '91, and was dedicated May 13 of the year last mentioned.

The succession of pastors in this church has been as follows :

Elder Sawyer, 1825 ; Dr. Ozias Spring ; Elder Thayer, 1830 ; Elder Brown, 1831 ; Amos Jackson, 1832 ; Henry Ball, 1835-39 ;

Elders Manning and Spencer, supplies two years; A. B. Stowell, 1841-49; Ira Smith, J. M. Cooley and W. Putnam, pastors for a period of twenty years, but no record is found of their service; William McCarthy, 1860-63; L. J. Huntley, 1864; T. J. B. House, 1865-69; H. S. Lloyd, 1869-78; B. G. Boardman, 1878-79; G. H. Hubbard, 1881; S. T. Ford, 1881-84; D. H. Cooper, 1885-89; Linn E. Wheeler, 1889-94; Charles De Woody, September, 1894, the present pastor. This church has a membership of 400.

The Chemung Old School Baptist Church at Factoryville, now almost a thing of the past, was organized as a society January 7, 1847, with nine constituent members, among them several of the most substantial families of the town. Feeble in point of numbers, and not well supplied in purse, the little society had no church home previous to 1863, but in that year purchased the edifice formerly owned by the Baptist society then recently removed to Waverly village. For many years this society was fairly prosperous, but never strong; and in more recent years there seems to have been a decline in interest, resulting in only occasional services.

The First Presbyterian Church of Waverly was organized June 8, 1847, but in its history in the region Presbyterianism dates back to the year 1812, when there was formed at Tioga Point a Congregational society, including in membership the Presbyterians and Congregationalists of the valley country. Later on the church became Presbyterian, then Dutch Reformed, and eventually Presbyterian. March 2, 1847, a meeting was held at Milltown, and June 8, 1847, a committee of the Chemung Presbytery came to Factoryville and organized a new society with 18 members; and August 23 following the organization was made complete. Rev. Curtis Thurston, of the Athens church, was given pastoral charge of the new society. In 1849, an edifice was built, and was materially enlarged in 1860. In 1886, this old structure was replaced with the present large church home, built at a cost of \$30,000, and on the site of the frame church in 1889 was built the manse. May 1, 1848, Rev. Nathaniel Elmer came to Waverly as stated supply, and this relation soon developed into a pastorate of nine years' duration. He was the first settled pastor. The others, in order

of succession, have been as follows : Oliver Crane, D. D.; David S. Johnson, D. D.; James B. Beaumont, W. H. Bates, P. S. Holbert, J. L. Taylor, and P. R. Ross, the latter the present pastor, whose term of service began in November, 1889. This church has a membership of 300, and in the Sunday school are 200 attendants.

Saint James's church, Roman Catholic, at Waverly was organized as a parish soon after 1850, and the first church edifice was built in 1852 (a recently prepared sketch by a parishoner says 1856), and stood in Erie street, on the site now occupied by the works of the Elbow company. The edifice at the corner of Clark and Chemung streets was begun in 1870, and was dedicated Sept. 1, 1871. In the parish are 175 Catholic families. Previous to 1881 Waverly was an out-mission from Owego, and was attended from that place. Since that year the resident priests have been as follows: John Brady, 1881-85; Edward McShane, 1885-93; F. J. Naughton, the present priest in charge, from October 23, 1893.

Grace Church, Protestant Episcopal, of Waverly, was organized December 28, 1853, although services were held in Factoryville in the early part of that year, the church edifice was erected in 1854 and was materially repaired during the pastorate of Charles Seymour. At that time the handsome Yates and other memorials were placed in the church. The first rector was Horatio Gray, but George Watson held the earliest services at Factoryville. Grace church has 110 communicating members, and is under the rectorship of William Gordon Bentley. The succession of rectors, as near as can be determined from imperfect records, has been as follows: 1854, Horatio Gray; 1858-60, Charles E. Beardsley; 1860-63, John W. McCullough, D. D.; Francis F. Rice, 1863-65; Wm. Long, 1865-67; Rev. Mr. Nock, 1867; Moses E. Wilson, 1869-70; J. F. Esch, 1870-73; I. A. Brown, 1873-78; Charles Seymour, 1878-84; J. B. Murray, D. D., 1884-86; Alex. W. Rogers, 1886; George Bowen, 1886-89; J. H. Hobart DeMille, 1889; J. Hazard Hartzell, D. D., 1891; Ulric Graf, 1891; A. W. Ebersole, 1891-94; Charles Donahue, 1892-94; William Gordon Bentley, Dec. 1, 1894.

The Church of Christ, Disciple Christian, of Waverly, was organized July 8, 1877. The place of meeting is in Providence street.

SOCIETIES.—Waverly Lodge, No. 407, F. & A. M., was organized

under a dispensation June 3, 1856, and a charter was granted on June 9 following. The past masters of the lodge have been as follows :

1856-58—George H. Fairchild.	1879—G. B. Morgan.
1859-61—Philetus Lowrey.	1880-81—H. L. Stowell.
1862—H. C. Hubbert.	1882—J. M. Buley.
1863-64—Philetus Lowery.	1883-84—E. E. Rogers.
1865—O. W. Shipman.	1885-86—N. Ackerly.
1866—G. B. Morgan.	1887-88—A. T. Merrill.
1867-68—O. W. Shipman.	1889-90—C. E. Tuthill.
1869—G. B. Morgan.	1891—Jesse O. Robinson.
1870—O. W. Shipman.	1892-93—E. S. Hanford.
1871—A. J. VanAtta.	1894—John F. Tozer.
1872-76—J. M. Buley.	1895-96—C. W. Skellinger,
1877-78—H. L. Stowell.	

Cayuta Chapter, No. 245, R. A. M., was instituted August 22, 1869. Its present membership is 71. The past high priests have been as follows :

1870-72—O. W. Shipman.	1884-86—G. B. Morgan.
1873-74—C. F. Spencer.	1887—E. E. Rogers.
1875—J. M. Buley.	1888-89—G. L. Mullock.
1876-77—George H. Grafft.	1890-91—N. Ackerly.
1878-81—W. H. Spaulding.	1892-93—Charles Speh.
1882—G. B. Morgan.	1894-95—J. T. Tucker.
1883—George H. Grafft.	1896-97—William R. Isley.

Odd fellowship in Waverly has been equally strong with Free Masonry in point of numbers. The first lodge was Manoca, No. 219, chartered January 30, 1850, and having its seat of operations at East Waverly. This lodge was reinstituted September 7, 1869, having become disorganized about 1855.

Tioga Encampment, the first institution of its kind in the county, was instituted at Factoryville, February 9, 1853, and had fourteen petitioners for the charter. It is now a thing of the past.

Spanish Hill Encampment, No. 52, was instituted August 17, 1870.

In this extended review of the various elements of local history the annals of Waverly are written. Compared with other villages of the same size and conditions it must be said that Waverly stands in the front rank among them, and that its institutions

are as substantial and as firmly fixed as those of any interior village in southern New York or in northern Pennsylvania. Indeed there are many things in common with the inhabitants of Waverly and of its neighboring boroughs of Sayre and Athens, and in a measure their interests are identical. Waverly capital is invested in enterprises south of the state line while Sayre and Athens business men have made successful ventures on the north side. Again, these municipalities are bound together with steam and electric railroads, and their interests are thereby more strongly united. The Lehigh Valley company has not been content with the old system of transfer at East Waverly, and in furthering their own interests have established rapid steam railroad connection between Sayre and Waverly, to the great advantage of all private interests as well.

The Waverly, Sayre & Athens traction company began the operation of an electric railroad between the villages named in June, 1895. Two-thirds of the capital stock in this enterprise is owned by the Broadhead interests of Jamestown, N. Y., while the remaining third is owned by two business men of Athens.

With an actual population of about 5,000 inhabitants, and directly tributary to from 8,000 to 10,000 more, Waverly is in all material respects an important and progressive trade centre ; more important, perhaps, from a purely business point of view, than any municipality in Tioga county. Every branch of regular mercantile business appears to be well represented, and there is little indication that any is suffering from the results of over competition. The stores as a rule are large, well stocked, well appointed, and well managed ; and if there is any particular respect in which the village is not fully up to the standard set by critics of municipal life it is possibly in the line of manufacture. However, there has been little encouragement for capital to profitably invest in any manufacturing pursuit during the last ten or more years, and within that time there have been put in operation in the village several industries of more than passing note. With six church societies, representing as many different denominations, and each having a good house of worship ; with five well appointed school houses, and a general system of education equally high with any

of the same grade in the state ; with well lighted streets, and an abundant supply of pure and wholesome water ; with a volunteer fire department ranking among the best in the southern tier ; with three competing lines of railroad ; with two good newspapers ; with three hotels of far more than ordinary comfort ; with a complete system of police protection, and with a generous, hospitable and public spirited people, Waverly cannot be other than a desirable place of business and residence.

CHAPTER XXII.

THE TOWN OF SPENCER.

MORE than a hundred years ago the first adventurous pioneer settler came into that remote part of that old town of Owego which is now included within the boundaries of Spencer. The late Judge Avery in his interesting sketches of early life and settlement in Tioga county, the first reliable writer of local history in the vicinity, says that the families of Benjamin Drake and Joseph Barker were the first residents within the town, and that their settlement was made the year 1795 ; that pioneer Drake owned the land on which the village was laid out ; and that he erected the first frame building in the town, the same afterward known as the "Purdy House."

Later and perhaps equally reliable writers of Spencer history aver that the first settlement was made by the pioneers mentioned in the year 1794, but within the last year still another account is furnished, and by one of the descendants of Joseph Barker, a native and ever a resident of the town, in which is published the fact that John Barker was in fact the pioneer, and that he came to the town early in February, 1796. The present writer makes

no attempt to reconcile these discrepancies, nor to express an opinion as to which is right or which is wrong, but only says that Barker and Drake were the pioneers of Spencer, and as such are entitled to first mention in these annals.

Joseph Barker was born in Massachusetts in 1763, and at early age was left an orphan. When grown to man's estate he married with Phebe Dodd, and to them was born a family of eleven children. They lived for a time in New Jersey, thence returned to Massachusetts, and came to the Wyoming valley among the pioneers of that region after the revolution. From the valley the family came to Nichols, where they lived nearly a year, and then settled in Spencer. Mrs. Dodd's narrative mentions the exact date as February 10, 1796, and also says that Barker's was the first family in the town, but that others soon followed. She also states that pioneer Barker opened the first school in the town, in 1800, "in a little log house that stood just north of the blacksmith shop now occupied by J. Ellison," and that his dwelling house stood about on the site of the Bradley house, which was burned. Barker's lands extended south on the present village tract to the south bounds of the old burial ground. This lot opposite the church he laid out and donated for burial purposes. Joseph Barker was a prominent figure in early history in Spencer; was justice of the peace by appointment after the organization of the town until that office became elective, holding and serving from 1806 to 1830.

Benjamin Drake built his log cabin half a mile east of the village, near the bank of the creek, and here he devoted his time to clearing and improving the land, for he was a thrifty man. Later on, still at an early day, he built the first framed house, which has been mentioned, and he also built the first primitive grist mill in the town, a fact in itself which induced other settlers to come to the vicinity. Deborah, daughter of Benjamin Drake, was the first white child born in Spencer.

The next settlers were the brothers Hobart (Robert and Edmund), from Canaan, Conn., in 1796, according to Judge Avery, but in 1795 in later accounts. Rodney settled about a mile north of the village limits, and Edmund on the James B. Hull farm of later days, where pioneer Hobart sowed and raised the first crop

of wheat grown in Spencer. Near this field of grain was another pioneer industry, the first saw mill, about twenty rods east of the road, on the old George Watson farm. This mill, also, is said to have been built by Edmund Hobart. Prescott Hobart, son of Edmund, while using an axe, was accidentally injured, resulting in lockjaw and final death ; and his was the first death in Spencer. Charlottte Hobart, a daughter, married with Daniel McQuigg, of the old pioneer McQuigg family, of Owego, and lived on the old Hobart home farm for many years. Esther, another daughter, married, in 1814, Horace Giles, of Owego, but later of Spencer. Edmund Hobart died in Spencer in 1808.

Settlement in the new locality, once fairly and auspiciously begun, increased rapidly and the year 1798 witnessed the arrival of the families of John and George K. Hall, who settled and partially improved the John McQuigg farm as known in later years. In 1800 came Judge Joshua Ferris and family from Westchester county ; Dr. Holmes, the pioneer physician, from Connecticut, and Stephen Bidlack, also a Yankee, but who came to this town from the Wyoming valley.

Joshua Ferris was a farmer and surveyor, and withal, one of the most prominent men of his time in the town. He was the first town clerk on the organization of Spencer in 1806, and from that time down to 1830 he held the office. His clean, bold and perfectly legible handwriting on the record books is to-day as plain as when first written ; and it is doubtful if Spencer now has an inhabitant who under the same circumstances and conditions can produce a page of writing so clear and distinct as that made by Joshua Ferris three-quarters of a century and more ago with his ancient quill pen. Judge Ferris, as he was called, had served with credit in the American army during the revolution, and was a pensioner under the act of 1832. His children were Eliza, Benjamin, Joshua, Susan, and Myron. Of these Joshua married Louisa Fisher, who bore him four children, viz. : Mary Eliza, who married with Mosher Lott ; Myron B., George H., and Susan C., the latter the wife of Marvin D. Fisher.

Stephen Bidlack came to Spencer in 1800 from Tioga Point, Pennsylvania. He was born at Windham, Conn, in 1772 or '73,

and was the son of Capt. James Bidlack, Jr., and the grandson of Capt. James Bidlack, senior, the former a victim of the massacre at Wyoming during the revolution. The senior Capt. Bidlack married for his second wife Esther Lawrence Ransom, widow of Captain Samuel Ransom who also was killed at Wyoming. After the massacre, the widow of Capt. Bidlack, Jr., with others similarly distressed, and their families, fled down the river, wading in the water to conceal their trail, and lived for several days on berries and the milk of a single cow, which was taken along with them. The pitcher in which the cow was milked is now in possession of Blanche Louise Bidlack, the only living descendant of the family in Spencer. Stephen Bidlack was a farmer and a noted hunter. His wife was Lois Ransom, and to them were born these children : Abigail, who married Simon Lee McQuigg ; Sarah, who married Samuel Overshire ; Sybil, who died young ; Celistia, who married Samuel McKinney ; Marinda, who married John T. Morse ; Harriet, who married Peter M. North ; Emily, who married Moses Bertrand ; Ransom, who married, first Lavina D. Van Vorhis, and second, Delia Van Vorhis. Stephen James Bidlack was the son of the second marriage, and was born August 16, 1844 ; married June 16, 1868, Carrie Amelia Davis, daughter of Naaman Davis, of Brooklyn, N. Y. Of their three children only one, Blanche Louise Bidlack, is now living.

In 1798, Rev. Phineas Spaulding added his family to the new settlement. He was a native of Vermont, and an old revolutionary patriot, but on leaving Vermont he moved to Tioga Point and came thence to Spencer, settling on what was afterward called the McQuigg farm. Elder Spaulding was an earnest, industrious citizen and labored zealously for the spiritual as well as temporal welfare of scattered inhabitants. He was deacon of the Baptist church on its organization in 1810, and in 1813 was ordained its pastor. His wife died in 1832, and he in 1838.

John Underwood was a native of Connecticut and came to Spencer in 1798, settling on a farm about half way between the village and North Spencer. His wife was Polly, the daughter of Rev. Phineas Spaulding, and their marriage was the first event of its kind in the town. The family name is now unknown in

Spencer, but Mrs. Dr. Geo. W. Davis is the great granddaughter of the pioneer. Susan and Joseph Underwood were children of John, but both moved west many years ago.

John McQuigg, of whose name frequent mention has been made in this and other chapters of this work, came to Spencer about 1798, possibly earlier according to local history. He was the son of John McQuigg who came to Owego settlement in 1788, but the cause which impelled him to leave home and hazard the hardships of this then remote region is not known. When a child John McQuigg was lost in the woods and a full week elapsed before he was found. In Spencer he attained considerable prominence, was elected to the legislature in 1842, and though not conspicuous in public affairs he was regarded as one of the foremost men of the county in his time. He built the splendid residence now owned and occupied by Charles E. Butts. The records disclose the fact that Mr. McQuigg was town clerk four years. Daniel McQuigg may also be mentioned among the early settlers, but trustworthy record of his personal life is indeed meagre.

In 1800 Isaac and William Hugg came from Canaan, Conn., and settled in Spencer; and four years later their brother Daniel was added to the settlement. From this family the locality called "Hugg Town" was named. Isaac settled near the head of Spencer lake, but the region of their places of abode and improvement, for they and their descendants have ever been thrifty persons, is called North Spencer. The family is still numerous in the town, though the older members are all resting in town burial grounds. Isaac Hugg had eleven children, William had twelve, and Daniel had seven. Daniel Hugg and his wife Achsah, were original members of the Spencer Congregational church.

The settlers mentioned on preceding pages were located in the town as early as or previous to the year 1800, except as otherwise indicated. That there were still others cannot be doubted, and while the names of a few have been forgotten others were but temporary residents and left for other parts. Soon after 1800 settlement became more rapid and between that year and the organization of the town the local population increased several fold. Indeed, so rapid was this growth that in the year 1810 Spencer as then constituted contained more than 3,000 inhabitants.

Samuel Giles came from Wethersfield, Conn., in 1803, and settled in this town. At that time Horace Giles, son of Samuel, was only thirteen years old.

Judge Henry Miller came to Spencer in 1805, and was one of the associate judges of the old common pleas court. He came from Westchester county and in the new settlement was a person of much importance.

Abram H. Miller, son of Judge Miller, was born in Spencer, Dec. 11, 1818. He was educated at the Owego academy and Cazenovia seminary, and then entered mercantile life in Spencer, and was so engaged until 1855, when he sold his store to Fisher Brothers. Five years later he removed to Owego, and was in active business from 1864 to 1876. He died in Owego March 2, 1882. As the town civil list shows, Mr. Miller was supervisor and town clerk. He was postmaster at Spencer several years, beginning in June, 1853. He represented the county in the assembly in 1856, and was one of the original board of five commissioners, appointed by Gov. Hoffman, to build Elmira reformatory. In politics he was a strong democrat.

Andrew Purdy enjoyed a like distinction and gained an early prominence as builder of the court house when Spencer was the county seat. But Mr. Purdy fell into a dispute with the supervising commissioners and was delayed in collecting his pay for several years. He was one of the earliest, possibly the first, hotel keeper in the town, and as a host his reputation spread throughout the region, particularly during the period in which Spencer was the shire town. The old Purdy house still stands, occupying a conspicuous corner lot in the village, and is still substantial though much worn with age and the action of the elements.

Richard Ferris came in the same year, 1805, from Peekskill, and settled in the town. He was kinsman to Joshua Ferris, and also raised a large family. David Ferris came in from Westchester county in 1805, as also did George Watson, of whom previous mention has been made. Other settlers of about the same time, but of all of whom reliable data cannot be obtained (while several of them are fully mentioned in the department devoted to personal chronology, were Thomas Mosher, whose descendants are still in

Spencer, Leonard and John Jones, each of whom in his labors in life helped to build up the town in its early history.

In 1806 or '7 there came to Spencer from Connecticut, and settled in the north part of the town, four brothers surnamed Cowell, from whom the locality and settlement called Cowell's Corners was named. They were Truman, Joshua, Abraham and Benjamin Cowell, men of physical and mental strength, well equipped for the hardships of pioneer life, and from whom have descended a line of worthy representatives, men and women, many of whom are still in the county, while others have removed to other fields of action.

General George Fisher was one of the most prominent of the early settlers of Spencer, although he is hardly to be classed with the pioneers. He was born in Philadelphia, November 18, 1782, and was the son of Lieut. Leonard and Susannah Fisher, the father an officer in the American army during the revolution. In the course of his business life Lieut. Fisher became possessed of a large tract of land in the town now called Spencer, and his sons George and Thomas were sent here to develop, improve, and dispose of it to the best advantage; therefore, in the fall of 1810, General George Fisher, and his brother, Thomas, were added to the population of the newly erected town. At that time General Fisher's family comprised his wife, Lucinda South Fisher, and three children: Susan, who became the wife of Philo Whitmore; George Leonard, who married with Angeline Leach; and Louisa, who became the wife of Joshua Ferris. Other children were born to them in Spencer, viz.: Mary Ann, who married with Tunis Riker; Henry Phillip, who died in Illinois; Charles James, now living in Spencer; Catharine, who married with Dr. John B. Benton; William Luther, who died in 1888; Olive Ida, who died in infancy; and Olive Henrietta, who became the wife of William H. Cook. Soon after coming to Spencer, General Fisher purchased a small store and stock of goods and at the same time operated an ashery, and was in business in the village until about 1845, when he retired. He died July 21, 1872. He was appointed major of the 95th regiment of infantry, March 4, 1817, and was promoted brigadier-general of the 18th brigade, June 8, 1827. General Fisher

became a mason about the year 1821. In politics he was a democrat, and was elected to the assembly in 1835. He was associate judge in 1840.

Thomas Fisher, next younger brother to George, was the fourth son of Lieut. Leonard Fisher, and was born in New York city, October 1784. About the year 1805 he went to sea and was promoted to first mate on a vessel plying between New York and the West Indies. He also made a voyage to China. He quit the sea in 1807, returned home, and in January, 1808, married with Olive White Hodges. In the fall of 1810 he came to Spencer and settled on the tract of land in the north part of the town which his father had purchased in 1805, comprising 7,200 acres. In the southeast corner of this tract Mr. Fisher, assisted by John McQuigg, then a boy, built a log house, in which the family lived until 1824, when a framed house was erected, (the same now owned and occupied by his youngest son, Robert H. Fisher, one of the most substantial farmers of northern Tioga county). Since 1824 this part of the town has been called "Fisher settlement." About 1825, Thomas Fisher purchased from his father 375 acres of land, and the remainder of the tract was divided among the heirs of Leonard Fisher. The children of Thomas Fisher were Leonard, for many years a successful merchant in Spencer; Alfred, who died in the west; Caroline, who married with Timothy Hutchings; Cornelia, who married with Smith Hall; Catharine, who married with Lewis Post; Thomas, who died in Ogden, Wyo.; John Philip, of Spencer; George, who died in Scranton, Pa.; Robert H., of Spencer; and Louisa Henrietta, wife of John Q. Shepard. Thomas Fisher died in Spencer, August 2, 1864, and his wife March 6, 1878.

John Avery Nichols was born at Athens, Pa., and came to Spencer in 1815. He was self-educated, studying law by himself, and was admitted to the bar. He was one of the most public spirited men of the village for many years, and was a prominent factor in building up business interests in the village. The civil list will show the town offices he held, but in addition he was twice loan commissioner, and was the democratic candidate for district attorney in 1865 and '67. He was one of the first directors of the G., I. & S. railroad and so continued to the time of his death. He was

twice married and left a wife and eleven children. Mr. Nichols died at Spencer, November 18, 1885.

One of the prominent early settlers on West hill was Daniel Brooks, who came from southern New Jersey about the time Spencer became a county seat. In his family were these children : Zebulon, Harris, George, David, Daniel, Polly, and Patience, a number of whom moved to and died in the west. Daniel, Jr., still lives in this town. Zebulon married Amanda Bull and had five children : Edmund, George, Almira, Daniel C., and Amanda.

In the same manner we may recall to mind and briefly mention the names of other old-time residents of Spencer, not as pioneers, nor yet as early settlers, but for many years identified with local growth and prosperity, therefore its best history, and naturally entitled to at least some brief mention in these pages.

Nathaniel Scofield came to Spencer about 1806, possibly three or four years later, and settled on what has since been called the Luther Bliven farm. Samuel G. Bliven, an older generation of the family so named, came here in 1823. He married with a daughter of Rev. Phineas Spaulding.

Captain John Fields came to Spencer before the second war with Great Britain, and in that struggle he served with credit on the American side. Indeed, in the revolution this doughty old veteran also saw service as one of the "Queen's rangers" in the British army, but at the expiration of his term of enlistment he asked for and was refused a discharge, upon which he deserted and came to America. At Lundy's Lane, during the war of 1812, he was made prisoner. His wife was Lydia Bates.

William Loring came from Barre, Mass., to Granville, N. Y., and thence in 1811 to Spencer. His children were Horace, Wm. T., Lucena, Wealthy, Susan, Sarah, Louisa, Mary and Harriet. James B. Hull, who removed from Candor to Spencer and settled on the McQuigg farm in 1844, married with Lucena Loring, and Loring William Hull, present supervisor of Spencer, is the only surviving descendant of that union.

Bartley Roots settled in the north part of the town in 1810, on the farm which was afterward purchased by Albert Signor. Two years later Peter Signor, the founder of a numerous and thrifty

family in Spencer, came to the same vicinity, and, by his marriage with Lorena Root raised up this family, prominent among whom were his sons Albert and Adonijah, and his daughter Anna, widow of the late Jehial House, of Danby. The surname Signor has ever since been prominent in Spencer social and industrial history, and some of its representatives are the most substantial men of northern Tioga county.

Dean settlement was named in allusion to Nicholas Dean, who came to Spencer from Westchester county, in 1816, and who is remembered as having been a thrifty farmer and worthy resident. In the near vicinity Elisha Sackett settled in 1820, coming to Spencer from Peekskill, on the Hudson. He, too, was the head of one of the prominent families in the town.

Truman Lake came from Green county in 1815, and was a substantial farmer in the town. His wife was Clarissa Brown, by whom he had six children.

In the same manner mention is also to be made of Jotham Vorhis, who came in the early years of the century. Of his children Rev. Stephen Vorhis attained prominence in the Presbyterian ministry. He was born in Spencer in 1812, graduated at Hamilton in 1836, and at Auburn theological seminary in 1838. He died July 17, 1885.

Major Tunis Riker was one of four brothers who settled on Riker's Island, in New York. From there Tunis went into the service during the war of 1812-15, holding commissions from both James Madison and James Monroe. He was in the historic battle at Plattsburgh, and by an accident in being thrown from his horse was disabled to such an extent that he was pensioned for life. In 1816 or '17 he came to East Spencer and took up a farm about two miles from the village. Here he married the daughter of Gen. Fisher. He was a man of means, an architect, draftsman, and artisan, and in New York, before coming to Spencer, was connected with the shrievalty. He was progenitor of a large family, his children being Abram, Maria, Eliza, Anthony, Jacob, James, and Oliver Perry, the last mentioned alone surviving. James Riker became a clergyman of the M. E. church. He married Cynthia Vose, who bore him three children—Ella L., George, and Ladorna.

Major Elihu Butts, who was in many respects one of the foremost men of this town in his day, was born in New Berlin, Chenango county, Sept. 17, 1792, and was by trade a tanner and currier. He came to Spencer in 1818, and established a little primitive tannery in the village, a little south and east of the Presbyterian church. The old building still stands and is owned by Judge Butts, son of the pioneer. Major Butts was connected with the tanning industry in Spencer from 1818 to 1851, and during a part of this time was also interested in a tannery and saw mill at Van Etten. His chief product was sole and upper leather and calf skins. In 1851, A. P. Butts & Bro. (Andrew P. and Charles E.) succeeded their father in business, and three years later Charles retired and engaged in other enterprises. A. P. Butts operated the tannery about three years more; then leased it to Brown & Estey, but about 1864 it was closed. Maj. Butts lived in the village until his death, July 21, 1870. His wife was Sarah M. Banks, a native of Fairfield county, Conn. She died April 11, 1882. Their children were Eliza, who married with William Post, an early merchant of Spencer; Susan, who died in infancy; Hyatt D., who died in Spencer; Susan Maria, who married with Thomas Fisher, Jr.; Andrew P., of Spencer; Charles E., of Spencer, and Myron, who died in 1855.

Edward Bingham came from the town of Jay, Vt., in 1819, and settled in the northeast part of the town. He, too, was a veteran of the war of 1812, an honorable and upright citizen, and the head of a large worthy family in Spencer.

Captain Jacob Vose, son of Lieut. James Vose, was born in New Hampshire, December 15, 1771, and settled in Spencer in 1819. He died in the town in 1854, and his wife died in 1826. She was Persis Dickerman. They had a large family of eleven children. Capt. Vose's second wife was Betsey Bassett, by whom he raised a family of eight children, of whom Thomas and Joshua are dead, and Mary, Rachael, John, George, David and Olive live in the west. Betsey Bassett Vose died August 29, 1865. Sumner Vose is the only one of the first children now living. He was born in Bedford, N. H., in 1813, and came to Spencer in 1819. He married Amanda Holcomb and raised a family of six children: Nancy,

Gilbert S., Lemuel D., Othniel J., Dr. Franklin J., and Enoch L. Vose.

Jeremiah Bassett came to Spencer from New Hampshire about the year 1820, and settled in the north part of the town. He had a family of nine children, five sons and four daughters.

Abel Beard came from Bedford, N. H., about the year 1820, and settled in the north part of the town. He removed to Illinois in 1843. In his family were five sons and seven daughters.

Elisha Holdridge came from Bridgewater, Penna., in 1822, but in 1838 removed to Cayuga county.

Lewis Van Woert, who was the son of Jacob Van Woert, of Washington county, N. Y., came to Spencer in 1827, and settled in the northeast part of the town, the farm purchased from W. G. Verplank, of still older residence here, but now owned by Lewis J. Van Woert. Lewis Van Woert had a large family of children, three of whom were born before the settlement in Spencer. They were Eleanor, who married with John Coggin; Lydia E. and William G., of Spencer. The other children were Lewis J., of Spencer, and Mary M., who married with E. S. Willett and is now dead. Lewis, the pioneer, died in 1879, and his wife about 1871. He was prominently connected with the Presbyterian church for many years.

John Brock came to Danby from Delaware county about 1826, and two years later removed to Spencer, where he afterward lived and died. He was a good farmer and left a fair property to each of his children. They were William, Etheal, Ann Eliza, John, Adeline, Thomas, and DeWitt C. Brock.

Alvah Austin came to Spencer from Long Meadow, near Springfield, Mass., in 1828, and located in Brook street, where he ever afterward lived. He was a farmer, but for one year was partner with Deacon Cooley in a tannery in Owego street, east of the town hall. His wife was Mary Cooley. She died May 22, 1871, and Mr. Austin, May 13, 1874. Their children were Walter, who died at 15; James A., late of Chattanooga, Tenn., who died October 22, 1878; Mary E., who married with Robert Bell, and, after his death, with Rev. Albert Livermore; and Laura, who died at the age of six years.

Dr. Christopher Maine was a native of North Stonington, Conn., born November 5, 1812. He came to Spencer in 1840, and with the exception of a few years spent at Geneva, was a resident medical practitioner in this town until his death in November, 1881.

Referring briefly to other prominent old families of Spencer, mention may be made of the late Rev. Luther Bascom Pert, who was born in the town, October 12, 1819, and was the son of Thomas Pert, a highly respected townsman. Luther graduated at Hamilton college in 1843, practised law from 1849 to 1869 in New York city, and in April, 1870, entered the ministry in the Presbyterian church. He died at Bergen Point, N. J., May 29, 1881. His wife was Ellen P. Smith, of Spencer, by whom he had one daughter, Helen M., who married with Rev. W. H. Newman, Jr.

ORGANIZATION AND CIVIL HISTORY.—The pioneer and early settlement of Spencer was accomplished while the territory of the town formed a part of the original jurisdiction of Owego. Indeed, all this vast region was settled at about the same time, and by pioneers chiefly from New England, with a few from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The settlers were occupied in clearing their lands and had little time to consider whether they were at any inconvenience by being compelled to travel long distances to the annual town meetings. However, when settlement was fairly progressed and the lands were well populated, the question of a new town was much discussed; and the result was an act of the state legislature, passed February 28, 1806, entitled "An act to divide the town of Owego, in the county of Tioga," providing as follows:

"That from and after the passing of this act, all that part of the town of Owego, in the county of Tioga, lying north of the old Chemung line shall be and hereby is erected into a separate town by the name of Spencer."

The town was named in honorable allusion to Ambrose Spencer, who at that time was one of the associate justices of the supreme court of the state, and afterward its chief justice. Judge Spencer was then one of the foremost public men of New York, and the perpetuation of his name in the manner indicated was an entirely worthy act. At that time Spencer included a vast area of territory,

and from out of it these towns have been created : Candor, Caroline, Danby, and Newfield were set off and each made a separate town, February 22, 1811, and Cayuta was set off March 20, 1824. As now constituted Spencer has an area of 29,136 3-4 acres.

The first town meeting was held at the dwelling house of Jacobus Shenichs, but just where that worthy old pioneer then lived is quite uncertain, and his house, probably, was not within the boundaries of Spencer, as now outlined. To the south and west of the town was a considerable settlement of Germans, and it is generally understood that Herr Shenichs was among them. However, at the time mentioned the first town meeting was held and officers were elected as follows :

Supervisor, Joel Smith ; town clerk, Joshua Ferris ; assessors, Edmund Hobart, Daniel H. Bacon, Levi Slater ; commissioners of highways, Moses Read, Benjamin Jennings, Joseph Barker ; overseers of the poor, Lewis Beers, and Samuel Beckwith ; collector, Isaiah Chambers ; constables, John Shoemaker, Nathan Beers, Wm. Curran, John Murphy, Isaiah Chambers ; overseers of highways, Jesse Smith, Orange Booth, Jacobus Shenichs, Robert Durland, John Manning, John Dumond, Elias Deyo, Daniel Cassell, Stephen Bidlack, John Fields, Andrew Purdy, Thomas Andrews, John Miller, John Cantine, Moses Reed, Joel Rich, Prince Tracy, Robert Durland, Phineas Spaulding, Jr., James Westbrook, Jacob Swartwood, Emanuel Ennes, Harmon White, Benj. Chambers. Wakeman Bradley, Thomas Parks, Abraham Everidge ; pound masters, John F. Bacon, John McQuigg, John Mulks, Jacob Swartwood ; fence viewers, John J. Speed, John English, Joseph L. Horton, Jacob Herinton, Alexander Ennes, Lewis Beardslee.

EXTRACTS FROM TOWN RECORDS.—The early records of the town recall many interesting reminiscences, and from them we discover an element of population of which no previous mention has been made, and they also carry us back in memory to the days when slavery was tolerated, though not then lawful in this state. Of date February 15, 1807, this entry in the town minute book appears : “I, Robert Hyde, an inhabitant of the county of Tioga, and town of Spencer, had sometime about the middle of January two children born entitled to service, one a male child named Richard, the other the female child named Judy.”

Likewise, a little later on, Catherine Depuy gave notice to the town overseers of the poor that a female child, Nancy, was born the 17th day of February, 1807, of the body of her female slave Catharine, "and I do hereby delivery up the body of the above mentioned child, Nancy, to the poormasters of the town." Again, on the 28th of March, 1809, Catharine Depuy recorded the birth of a female child named "Matilda," born of the body of her female slave Catharine. In the same year Samuel Westbrook recorded the birth of a male child, Harry, of the body of his female slave, Betsey.

Landlord Andrew Purdy was also a slaveholder, though to what number we have no knowledge. April 7, 1811, he recorded the birth of "a black child Jane" of the body of his slave Mira. Thus the record shows, and while other of the early settlers undoubtedly owned slaves they had not recourse to the town's books for the purpose of recording births. This, however, was not an unusual proceeding, and it was then a prevailing custom among New Englanders to possess one or more house slaves, and as a part of their personal effects the blacks were brought with the family when the settlement was made in this then western country. Nor can the custom in any manner be referred to as an evidence of barbarism, or even of a cruel nature, for such was the custom of the period, recognized by law in the east, therefore lawful, though forbidden in this state. But it may be said to the honor of the slave owning pioneers who came into New York that they soon granted freedom to their bound blacks, and in many cases made provision for their future maintenance.

Indeed, the early settlers in Spencer were a hospitable, generous and considerate people, and from the earliest history of the town have been noted for acts of charity and philanthropy. As late even as 1820 Samuel Hoyt had the misfortune to break one of his legs, and at the town meeting of that year the inhabitants voted to allow him \$25 out of the public funds of the town.

They also made early and ample provision for establishing and maintaining schools, and after the reduction in territory, through the erection of Candor, Caroline, Danby, and Newfield, the town was re-districted and permanent schools were provided for each district.

POPULATION.—As is elsewhere mentioned, the population of Spencer as originally constituted was about 3,000. In 1810 the exact number of inhabitants was 3,128, but in 1814, after the towns just mentioned had been set off, the remaining territory of the mother town contained only 670 inhabitants. From that until the present time the growth and condition of the town is best indicated by noting the fluctuations of population as shown by the census tables, viz: In 1820 the inhabitants numbered 1,252; 1825, 975, (Cayuta having been set off in 1824); 1830, 1,278; 1835, 1,407; 1840, 1,532; 1845, 1,682; 1850, 1,782; 1855, 1,805; 1860, 1,881; 1865, 1,757; 1870, 1,863; 1875, 1,884; 1880, 2,382; 1885, no enumeration; 1890, 2,211; 1892, 2,144.

From this it will be seen that the town attained its maximum population in 1880, in which respect it forms a remarkable exception to the rule as indicated by the history of other similar towns in this state. The close observation of the writer has shown that in the majority of towns situated as is Spencer the greatest population was reached between the years 1840 and 1850, since which there has been a gradual decline both in number of inhabitants and as well in commercial interests and importance. Since 1840 Spencer has increased its population six hundred, which shows that local institutions and interests are fixed and permanent, and that notwithstanding the fact that in 1822, by the removal of the county seat to Owego, this town received a blow which would have utterly discouraged a people of less physical and moral courage. This subject, however, is mentioned at greater length in the village history.

SCHOOLS.—At a special town meeting held October 4, 1813, the voters present resolved to divide the territory of the town into school districts, and appointed as commissioners for that purpose Col. Jacob Swartwood, Joseph Barker and Nathaniel Scofield. These persons constituted the first “commissioners of common schools” of Spencer, and the result of their deliberations was the division of the town into six districts. In 1814 the town elected as commissioners Col. Jacob Swartwood, George K. Hall, and John Field; and as inspectors of schools, Joshua Ferris, Abraham Garey, and Andrew F. Oliver. Thus, through the efforts of these set-

tlers and their successors in office a reasonably thorough educational system was established in Spencer, and upon which foundation, with the increased facilities accorded by more recent and liberal legislation, the present system, more perfect than ever before in the history of the town, has been built up.

The first school in Spencer, town or village, was opened by pioneer Joseph Barker in 1800, in a little log house in the north part of what is now the village. But Mr. Barker in his laudable enterprise had no support in the way of an appropriation of money by the town of Owego, but depended alone on the little contributions made by the heads of families in the town. Indeed, while the town of Owego voted a modest sum for the support of schools, no considerable part thereof was known to have found its way into this remote and sparsely settled neighborhood. Still from all these small beginnings the present excellent condition of education and schools in the town has grown.

As constituted in the year 1896 Spencer is divided into sixteen school districts, of which No. 9 is joint with Danby ; No. 11 with Van Etten ; No. 15 with Danby, and No. 16 with Van Etten. In the town are thirteen school houses, all of frame, and are estimated to be worth, including sites, \$8,800. During the year, a total of twenty-five teachers were employed, to whom were paid \$4,551.50. The town received for school purposes from all sources, \$6,277.82, of which \$594.55 came from the regents ; from public moneys, \$2,141.93, and \$2,831.96 were raised by tax in the town. The number of children of school age (except No. 9, from which no report was made) was 450. The assessed valuation of taxable property in the town was \$708,393.

TOWN OF SPENCER CIVIL LIST—SUPERVISORS.

1806-10—Joel Smith.	1846-47—Elihu Butts.	1868—No choice.†
1811—Nathaniel Scofield.	1848-52—Abram H. Miller.	1869—John A. Nichols.
1812-23—Isaac Swartwood.	1853—John A. Nichols.	1870-71—Silvenes Shepard.
1824-29—Horace Giles.	1854-56—George Fisher.	1872—Isaac S. Stanclift.
1830-32—Moses Stevens.	1857-58—Seth O. Sabin.	1873—John H. Palmer.
1833-38—Isaac Lott.	1859-60—Isaac S. Stanclift.	1874-76—Alonzo Norris.
1839—Leonard Fisher.	1861—Benj. Lott.	1877—Silvenes Shepard.
1840—Moses Stevens.	1862—Silas J. Shepard.	1878-81—Myron B. Ferris.
1841—Samuel Vose.	1863—Isaac S. Stanclift.	1882-83—Cyrenes N. Day.
1842—Elihu Butts.	1864—No election.*	1884-89—Marcus L. Swartout.
1843-44—John Vose.	1865—Seth O. Sabin.	1890—Frank W. Adams.
1845—Isaac Lott.	1866-67—Silvenes Shepard.	1891-93—Alonzo Norris.
		1894-96—Loring W. Hull.

*Tie vote between Mr. Stanclift and Horace Booth ; the latter appointed by town board.

†Mr. Shepard appointed.

TOWN CLERKS.

1806-31—Joshua Ferris.	1852-53—Lucius Emmons.	1867—John Day.
1832-34—John McQuigg.	1854—Chas. J. Fisher.	1868—A. S. Emmons.
1835-36—Elihu Butts.	1855-56—Lucius Emmons.	1869—W. E. Montgomery.
1837—John McQuigg.	1857-58—John Day.	1870-71—John P. Vose.
1838-43—Wm. Post.	1859—Isaac M. Lott.	1872—Rob't L. Post.
1844—Gideon Reynolds.	1860-61—John Day.	1873-74—Cyrenus N. Day.
1845—Aug. T. Garey.	1862—Jno. P. Vose.	1875-79—Jerome R. Platt.
1846—Gideon Reynolds.	1863—John Day.	1880—Aug. L. Garey.
1847—Abram H. Miller.	1864-65—Lucius Emmons.	1881-93—Isaac S. Stanclift.
1849—Aug. T. Garey.	1866—Fred M. Snook.	1894-96—LaGr'e S. Shepard.
1850-51—Gideon Reynolds.		

JUSTICES.

1806-29—Joseph Barker.	1856—Ellsworth Drake.	1878—Dempster N Guinnip.
1830—Israel Hardy.	1857—Wm. D. Griswold.	1879—Benj. F. Lewis.
1831—Elihu Butts.	1858—Aug. T. Garey.	Aug. T. Garey.
1832-33—George Fisher.	1859—Cero F. Barber.	Ira M. Howell.
1834—Robert Pennett.	1860—James L. Riker.	1880—L. J. Barnes.
1835—Thomas Pert.	1861—Felix Holdridge.	Jas. L. Riker.
Harry Cowell.	1862—Aug. T. Garey.	1881—Willard B. Georgia.
1836—John Watson.	1863—James E. Brown.	1882—Aug. T. Garey.
1837—John A. Nichols.	1864—James L. Riker.	Ira M. Howell.
1838—Harry Cowell.	Joseph Cortwright.	1883—Ira M. Howell.
1839-40—Elihu Butts.	1865—Wm. B. Garrett.	1884—John M. Stowe.
1841—John A. Nichols.	1866—Abel Lott.	1885—Frank W. Adams.
1842—Stephen Bassett.	1867—Wm. B. Kinney.	Eben Hull.
1843—Aug. T. Garey.	1868—Aug. T. Garey.	1886—B. F. Rogers.
1844—H. S. Hall.	1869—Lewis Clark.	Charles E. Butts.
1845—Samuel Vose.	1870—Silas Pierson.	1887—George Brooks.
1846—John A. Nichols.	1871—Elijah Osborn.	1888—John M. Stowe.
1847—Aug. T. Garey.	Darius Henderson.	Ira M. Howell.
1848—Orrin Dearborn.	1872—John Day.	1889—Frank W. Adams.
1849—Samuel Vose.	1873—Ira M. Howell.	1890—Ira M. Howell.
1850—Hezekiah Carpenter.	1874—Silas Pierson.	1891—George Brooks.
1851—John A. Nichols.	1875—Dana Robinson.	1892—Abram L. Garey.
1852—Timothy Hutchings.	Darius Henderson.	1893—Frank W. Adams.
1853—Aug. T. Garey.	1876—Wm. Montgomery.	Charles H. Puff.
1854—James H. Dickinson.	Robert Hedges.	1894—Wm. B. Garrett.
John A. Nichols.	1877—Willard B. Georgia.	John S. Clark.
Alfred Vose.	John A. Nichols.	1895—Harry Dumond.
1855—Jesse Rosencrance.	LeRoy Brooks.	1886—John S. Clark.

The outlying settled communities of Spencer are small and of little importance in the history of the town. They are known severally as North Spencer, Spencer Springs, Spencer Lake, West

Spencer, Cowell's Corners, Baptist Corners, and perhaps others of still less note, but among them all North Spencer alone has a post-office.

A score and more years ago Spencer Springs was a place of considerable note, and had all the appointments and accessories of a first-class health resort ; but the enterprise proved an unfortunate investment for its proprietors. The large hotel buildings were burned, and the old-time glory of the place has passed away.

North Spencer in the early history of the town was a hamlet of some importance, as in that locality dwelt several of the most substantial pioneers ; but with the growth of Spencer village, so, correspondingly, was there a decrease in prosperity in this vicinity. The present interests are the district school, the union church, a good store, and one or two small shops. A postoffice is also maintained here and is in charge of E. A. Ackles, postmaster. The store is kept by Ackles & Titus. The union church at this hamlet was erected in 1870 by representatives of different denominations and is occupied by them in common.

Spencer Lake is a small hamlet in the north part of the town, and derives its name from the little lake in that locality. However, in this respect the hamlet stands unparalleled in the county, for here is the largest and indeed the only considerable body of lake water of which Tioga can boast. More than that, it is one of the most charming spots in the entire region, and several comfortable cottages have been built along the lake shores. The lake is about a mile long and about half a mile wide. On the outlet is a grist mill, the property of Burdett Signor.

Cowell's Corners is the name of a small cluster of dwellings, and one or two shops, situated about a mile east of Spencer village, in the neighborhood where the Cowell family settled in the early history of the town.

Balcom's Mills was another of the places of note more than a score of years ago, but now the mills are out of existence and the place has lost all of its former prestige. The Free Methodists of this vicinity have a religious society, and hold meetings at stated intervals.

West Candor is a hamlet of the town of Candor, but the settle-

ment there extends into this town. The only industry in that locality worthy of mention is the milling interest owned by Samuel Eastham.

SPENCER VILLAGE.

On June 28, 1886, the qualified electors of the territory now included within the village met according to law and due notice, and then voted, 106 for, and 42 against a proposition to incorporate municipally. Nearly all of the leading men of ten years ago were earnestly in favor of the measure, but, on the other hand, it was opposed by several influential citizens, although they were outnumbered almost three against one. But, going away back into the early years of the present century, we find the little settlement of Spencer containing hardly more than half a dozen houses, with the saw and grist mill on the north side, and with no other business interests of any consequence. One thing, however, the settlement did possess at that time, as well as ten years ago, and that was a number of strong and energetic men who were ready to see and improve an opportunity. In 1806 the legislature passed an act by which the territory of the present towns of Owego, Newark Valley, Berkshire, and Richford was taken from Tioga county for the erection of Broome; and in consequence of this measure it became necessary to practically reorganize Tioga county, and to establish a new shire town. Here, then, was the opportunity presented to Spencer's people and they were not slow to act. This little hamlet was then near the geographical centre of the county, and when on February 17, 1810, the legislature passed an act appointing Nathaniel Locke, Anson Carey and Samuel Campbell commissioners to locate a new court house site, the leading men of this remote settlement showed quite forcibly to the residents of Elmira, that notwithstanding the fact that their locality was frequently called by the undignified name of "Pumpkin Hook," they were none the less men of action, for in the winter of 1811 Spencer village was designated as the new county seat of Tioga county.

For the site of the county buildings Andrew Purdy deeded to the commissioners two acres of land, for the sum of \$20. Mr. Purdy was awarded the contract for construction of the court house

building, and Joshua Ferris, Isaac Swartout, and Samuel Westbrook, all good, worthy Spencer men, were appointed to superintend the work. Mr. Westbrook gave the matter his personal supervision, and the result was an excellent structure, costing \$5,595.60, although the contractor and commissioners did fall into a somewhat warm dispute about the bill ; but in the end Mr. Purdy received all his pay.

The building was of frame, two stories high, with the prison department and jailor's quarters on the first floor, and the court and jury rooms above. It stood just north of the site of A. S. Emmons' large store, where now stands the store barn. In fact the old court house well is under the barn, and is still in use, though the owner has deepened it by a pipe driven down in its centre. The two acre site included the entire northwest lot of the corners. The building was occupied by John J. French, jailor, an early resident of the town and a veteran of the revolution. He was a good officer and worthy citizen, and had in his family three comely daughters ; and the rumor to the effect that either jailor French or one of his daughters set fire to the building in the interest of the Elmira contingent is generally repudiated by unprejudiced persons.

However, in January, 1821, an unfortunate fire destroyed Spencer's court house building, after which a temporary structure was erected, and stood about thirty rods west of the old site, adjoining the school house. Courts were held in the improvised building until the spring of 1822, when an act of the legislature restored Owego, Newark Valley, Berkshire, and Richford to Tioga county, and soon afterward Owego and Elmira were made half-shire towns, and Spencer lost all its prestige as county seat ; and with the removal of county properties and effects there also departed the little coterie of lawyers, court officers, and attaches of the average shire town of three-quarters of a century ago.

During the half score of years in which Spencer was the county seat, all local interests were fostered and, indeed, the village had gained a position of prominence in the county. The "corners" had become substantially built up and several good stores were opened. Here has since been the chief centre of business, although Gen. Fisher's store and ashery, and Elihu Butts's tannery had the

effect to attract growth toward the north part of the settlement, and in more recent years the Bradley stores and business operations have kept a fair share of trade in and above the same locality. And still more recently, through the efforts of John A. Nichols, followed by S. Alfred Seely and Seymour Seely, the west section of the village has been established upon a secure basis.

One of the earliest village merchants was Judge Henry Miller, beginning about or soon after the year 1805 and continuing until succeeded by his son, the late Abram H. Miller. Gen. Fisher opened his stock of goods in the fall of 1810, and also kept public house, both places of business being about where Centre street is laid out. He succeeded one Doolittle, and afterward took Philo Whitmore as partner. Leonard, son of Thomas Fisher, was another of the early merchants of the village. Elihu Butts started his tannery in 1818. Lucius Emmons opened store in 1844. Moses Stevens began business in the Bradley locality in 1842, and the Bradleys, Calvin and Lyman, followed in 1850. To them and their efforts in life is due the honor of building up "Bradleytown" as a business centre, and a later generation of the same family has kept even step with the progress made by the former. Charles J. Fisher began his business career in 1852, and has ever since been a merchant of the village. Charles E. Butts and A. P. Butts succeeded to their father's tannery business in 1850, and continued to 1853, after which Charles became partner with C. J. Fisher in general merchandise. Then came the firm of Post & Butts, in or about 1854; then Garey & Post in 1856; then Sackett & Butts; then Rosecrance & Butts, in 1857; then Fisher & Ferris, in the fall of 1859. In the spring of 1860, Leonard Fisher, Myron B. Ferris and Isaac S. Stanclift organized the firm of L. Fisher & Co., and after two or three years Ferris & Stanclift succeeded. In the spring of 1869 Ferris & Fisher (Marvin D. Fisher) succeeded Ferris & Stanclift, and in the following fall Stanclift & Platt opened on the opposite corner. The store burned in 1876, and then Mr. Stanclift moved to his present location.

In 1851, Lucius Emmons bought from John A. Nichols the property now occupied by Alfred S. Emmons's splendid store, and was in business there until his death, in 1864. He was succeeded by

Mrs. L. Emmons & Son, and this firm by Emmons Bros., in the fall of 1867. In 1886, the firm dissolved, Alfred S. Emmons taking the large store, and L. E. Emmons the drug store and other interests. Silvenes Shepard began mercantile business in Spencer in 1867.

The "corners," as the business part of the village has ever been called, was seriously affected by a destructive fire on the 1st of September, 1876, by which fourteen buildings were burned. Among them was the store on the Fisher corner; Platt & Stancliff's store on the northeast corner; John Day's hardware store, and nearly all the structures between the bridge and the corner. On the 29th of November, 1877, the Emmons store was robbed and burned, and was at once replaced with the splendid large building now owned by Alfred S. Emmons.

Over on the west side of the village tract has been built up within the last twenty-five years two of the largest industries of the town, or in fact, of the northern part of the county. As has been mentioned, John Avery Nichols began the development of this part of the village. It was chiefly through his efforts that the old Ithaca & Athens railroad was built on the west side in 1870 and '71, and he was also the owner of a store and a good hotel in the same locality. In 1873 the firm of A. Seely & Brother came up from near Elmira and began operations here, succeeding, in a large measure, to the interests formerly established by Mr. Nichols. At that time the west hill was covered with a rough slashing, but these energetic proprietors cleared and improved the land, built a large saw mill in 1873, which has been in constant operation to this time. In 1875, the firm built a large steam flouring mill, with three run of stones. In 1884 it was remodeled and made a roller mill, and as a buckwheat flour producing industry it is one of the largest in this part of the state.

The firm of A. Seely & Bro. was dissolved January 1, 1887, and S. Alfred Seely continued the mercantile and manufacturing business. The old Grove hotel, a large and somewhat pretentious structure, another of Mr. Nichols's enterprises, was burned in 1889, and in 1890 S. Alfred Seely purchased the land and built the new Grove hotel, one of the most complete and comfortable public

houses in the county. He also built, in 1895, the large factory now occupied by the Cornell Table Co., of which Joseph and Frank Cornell are proprietors. The Spencer Brick company was formed in 1893, and was the outgrowth of a business begun by Richardson & Campbell in 1882. The company was capitalized at \$10,000, with S. Alfred Seely, president, and W. H. Bostwick, Jacob S. Dresser, and Willis Sager, stockholders. The present officers are W. H. Bostwick, president ; J. S. Dresser, secretary and treasurer ; Willis Sager, director, S. Alfred Seely, manager.

In writing of the institutions of the west side of the village mention must be made of the old Spencer Camp grounds of the Wyoming conference, a notable place of assemblage for many years, and the annual meetings held here made Spencer known throughout the entire region. The camp meeting association seems not to have been incorporated, and just when it came into active life is not known. It dissolved about 1886 or '7, and its lands were put to other uses, and are now in part owned by the cemetery association.

Of the old cemeteries of the town one was located opposite the Presbyterian church, another at Baptist corners, so-called, a third at North Spencer, and it is understood that a burying ground was laid out on the site of Evergreen cemetery several years before that institution was in existence.

Evergreen Cemetery Association of Spencer filed articles of incorporation Oct. 27, 1864, and named as trustees John A. Nichols, Isaac S. Stanclift, Robert H. Fisher, Isaac M. Lott, Charles J. Fisher, and H. S. Hall. The original cemetery tract included four acres, but later on six more acres were added from the old camp grounds. This tract the association has improved and decorated, and is known as one of the most beautiful cemeteries in Tioga county. The present officers and trustees are Myron B. Ferris, president ; Dempster N. Guinnip, secretary ; Isaac S. Stanclift, treasurer ; and Silvenes Shepard, Seymour Seely, and Layton N. Hedges.

The Spencer Springs Petroleum and Mining Company was hardly an institution of the village, neither of the town, yet may be briefly noted here, and briefly noted, as the life of the company itself was brief. It was incorporated April 22, 1865, for the purpose of " min-

ing and boring for and collecting, refining and selling petroleum or rock oil, iron, coal, and other minerals." Waverly had five incorporators in this company, and the towns of Spencer, Candor, Newark Valley, and Owego one each. Lyman Bradley was the local member.

The Spencer Agricultural Society filed articles of incorporation July 13, 1888. The originators of the enterprise are mentioned in another chapter, and it is sufficient to say here that four consecutive fairs were held on the old abandoned camp meeting grounds, but profited nothing substantial to the investors; the race track was taken by the cemetery association, and the society dissolved.

The Spencer Academy, conveniently situated near the geographical centre of the village, is one of the most praiseworthy institutions of either town or village, and there are few, indeed, of the business and professional men who have been reared in Spencer and gone out into the various occupations of life, who have not received an early educational training within these honored walls. The building now standing was erected in 1859, as the school house of district No. 4, although the wing or extension was added by the new board of education after the adoption of the free system. This change was made in 1870, and as near as can be determined, for the records are lost, the first board of education comprised Rev. Stephen Vorhis, Marvin D. Fisher, Dr. Theodore C. Bliss, Myron B. Ferris, Silas Shepard, and Charles E. Butts.

After the wing was built, the library was added. It now contains 530 volumes, and is worth \$600. The district includes nearly all the corporation, and extends west to the town line. In fact a branch school is maintained in the western division, between Spencer and Van Etten. Six teachers are annually employed, one of the number being in the branch school. In all 300 pupils are on the roll. The personnel of the present board of education is as follows: Isaac S. Stanclift, president; Dempster N. Guinnip, secretary; and Marvin D. Fisher, Alfred S. Emmons, Charles E. Bradley and Daniel C. Brooks.

Spencer Lodge, No. 290, F. & A. M., was chartered September 13, 1853, with these members: George W. Hathaway, John Vose, Elijah Daimon, Samuel Bliven, Elihu Butts, James Van Etten,

Benj. Sniffin, Milton Hugg, George K. Hall, and Ira Pew. The present members number about 55 persons. The masters, with year of election, have been as follows :

1853—George W. Hathaway.	1872—C. A. Murray.	1883—Ira M. Howell.
1855—George Fisher.	1873—Ira M. Howell.	1884—Seymour Seely.
1856—Isaac S. Stanclift.	1875—C. A. Murray.	1886—Charles Riker.
1863—Henry Mowers.	1876—Isaac S. Stanclift.	1888—Jacob S. Dresser.
1864—Isaac S. Stanclift.	1879—David L. Snook.	1890—M. P. Howell.
1866—C. A. Murray.	1880—I. W. Martin.	1892—Thos. C. Washburn.
1871—John Q. Shepard.	1881—Seymour Seely.	1895—Sylvanus J. Vose.

Owasco Lodge, No. 697, I. O. O. F., was organized April 19, 1894, with sixty charter members. The past grands have been Christopher J. Evlyn, Lucius E. Emmons, Dr. M. A. Dumond, and John W. Vorhis.

The Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Spencer was incorporated February 20, 1884, with a capital of \$25,000. The originators of the enterprise were Charles P. Masterson, who is now president of the Pacific National Bank of Tacoma, Wash., and Marvin D. Fisher and Thomas Brock. The first president was Mr. Fisher, with Mr. Masterson as cashier, but at the end of a year the cashier left Spencer and was succeeded by Marvin D. Fisher, who has held that position to the present time, although the assistant cashier, Myron B. Ferris, has had charge of the business management of the bank since Mr. Masterson resigned. At the end of the first year Mr. Fisher resigned the presidency and was succeeded by Thomas Brock, who is now president. The present directors are Thomas Brock, Marvin D. Fisher, Myron B. Ferris, B. F. Lewis, and Charles E. Butts.

On the preceding pages we have mentioned the business interests and other institutions of Spencer, past and present. The condition of things is to-day much as it was ten and even twenty years ago, but the village has shown in that time a slow and not material growth. But in the course of events it became necessary to incorporate, and while the measure met with opposition, a good majority pronounced in its favor. At that time (1886) the village population was 1,000, and within the corporate boundaries, as run by Loring W. Hull, were 680 acres of land.

As is well known the geographical situation of Spencer is peculiar, and suggests to the visiting stranger the first lines in the old latin reader: "*Omnes Gallia in tres partis est dividitur*," with "*Spenceria*" substituted for "*Gallia*," with the interpretation "All Spencer is divided into three parts." This appears to be the case, for we have the "Corners," "Bradleytown," and "Seelyville," each an independent settlement, yet all within the same corporate bounds. The corners is the largest and first in importance and contains the mammoth store and stock of M. D. Fisher & Sons; the large store of Alfred S. Emmons; the stores of Isaac S. Stancliff, Silvenes Shepard, David A. Nichols, LaGrand Shepard, and L. E. Emmons, the bank, and other mercantile interests incident to a well-settled village. Bradleytown is in the north and residence portion of the village, and its largest interest is the store of Charles E. Bradley. The drug store here is kept by Charles J. Fisher. Seelyville owes its being to the work begun by John A. Nichols, and carried to successful end by S. Alfred and Seymour Seely. Taken altogether no village in this part of the state, even of three times greater population than Spencer, can boast of four such mercantile enterprises as those conducted by M. D. Fisher & Sons, Alfred S. Emmons, Charles E. Bradley and S. Alfred Seely.

At the first village election, held July 24, 1886, Alfred S. Emmons was elected president; Loring W. Hull, Seymour Seely and C. N. Day, trustees; Myron B. Ferris, treasurer (and continued in office to this date), and Laton N. Hedges, collector.

The village presidents, in succession, have been as follows: 1886-87, Alfred S. Emmons; 1888, William H. Fisher; 1889, S. Alfred Seely; 1891, Charles E. Bradley; 1892, Myron P. Howell, and W. R. Swartout to fill vacancy; 1893-94, Marvin D. Fisher; 1895-96, Dempster N. Guinnip.

The town hall in the village was built in 1885, at the expense of the town at large, and cost \$1,500.

The present village fire department was established in 1890, when the trustees voted \$150 to purchase a hose cart. In 1896, the sum of \$500 was appropriated to purchase a chemical engine, and on the 11th of August following Spencer Chemical Company, No. 1, was incorporated.

The Baptist church of Spencer dates back in its history to the year 1798, when Rev. Phineas Spaulding settled in the town and assembled the people in informal religious meeting. He preached the first formal sermon in 1799, but it was not until February 11, 1810, that a society was organized with fifteen constituent members. The early meetings were held at North Spencer. The second Baptist church of Spencer was formed in 1823, with a place of meeting at Baptist Corners ; whereupon the old church moved to Danby. The new organization then took the name of Baptist church of Spencer. In 1830 another separation took place, and the Spencer Valley Baptist church was organized. In 1835 a reunion was effected and the meeting house at Baptist Corners was built. In 1854 the society removed to the village and erected the large church edifice. The present members number 307. The pastors and supplies of the church in succession have been as follows : Phineas Spaulding, 1810 ; Calvin Philleo, missionary ; Caleb Nelson, nine years ; Mark Dearborn, 1833-37 ; John Wilder, 1838-40 ; Phineas Taylor, 1840-44 ; C. A. Fox, 1844-48 ; Elisha Kimball, 1849-50 ; D. W. Littlefield, three months ; W. H. Spencer, 1854-57 ; G. W. Huntley, 1857-66 ; H. R. Dakin, 1869 ; C. A. Votey, 1870 ; B. B. Gibbs, 1871-74 ; J. Nichols, 1875-82 ; H. W. Barnes, 1882-86 ; D. B. Grant, 1886-87 ; G. M. Whittemore, May, 1887, and continued to the present time. Other licentiates and supplies who filled the pulpit here were Benj. Oviat, Wm. Spaulding, James Lewis, and Abraham Cowell.

The First Presbyterian church of Spencer was organized as a Congregational society, November 23, 1815, by those earnest pioneer missionary workers, Revs. Parker, Wisner, and Seth Williston. It is believed the "plan of union" was adopted at the organization, for tradition says that after a time the church became Presbyterian, then returned to Congregational form of government, but at length permanently adopted Presbyterianism. The early meetings were held frequently at North Spencer, and also in the court house in the village, and occasionally in the woods or in barns. In 1826 Rev. G. K. Clark became pastor, and in 1827 the church edifice was begun, and was dedicated in 1828. The old structure still stands, though by frequent repairs it has lost much of its original appearance. The most radical changes were made

in 1882 through the generosity of friends of the church, pioneer Spencer families. The original edifice was built by Thomas Pert, and cost him all his worldly possessions. The church now has 148 communicants. The pastors have been as follows : Revs. Gardner K. Clark, 1826-30 ; Mr. Perry and Mr. Headly, time unknown ; Gardner K. Clark, 1838-47 ; M. R. Cushman, 1849 ; F. Lilly, 1850-52 ; Milton Waldo, D. D., 1853 ; John Campbell, 1853 ; C. W. Higgins, 1855-58 ; Corbin Kidder, 1858-62 ; E. Scoville, 1863 ; Stephen Vorhis, 1865-76 ; R. J. Beattie, 1876-78 ; H. C. Hazen, 1878-79 ; Stephen Vorhis, 1880-83 ; James Umberger, 1883-85 ; Charles Anderson, 1885 ; Albert Livermore, 1885, the present pastor.

The Methodist Episcopal church of Spencer was organized in the year 1809, with six original members, and for many years, indeed until within a quite recent period, it has been a part of a circuit or station in connection with another church. The early meetings were held in private dwellings, school-houses and other convenient places and it was not until 1828 that a church home was provided. The old edifice yet stands, in good condition, and is to-day an ornament to the village. The entire church property is estimated to be worth \$5,800. In this church, and the Halsey Valley charge, which is a station with it, are 200 members. Both are under the same pastorate. The greatest difficulty has attended all efforts to secure a complete succession of the pastors, and the attempt resulted in failure through imperfect records. However, it is known that the first pastor was Rev. Morgan Ruger, but from that time down to 1841, there is no church record whatever. Since that year, as near as can be ascertained, the pastors of the church have been as follows : 1841, A. G. Burlingame ; 1842-43, B. D. Sniffin and Asa Brooks ; 1843-44, Jno. Griffing and Seneca Howland ; 1847-48, Jasper Hewitt ; 1855, J. K. Peck ; 1856, C. W. Judd ; 1857, F. Burgess ; 1858-59, King Elwell ; 1860, L. Cole ; 1861, G. S. Stevens ; 1862-63, C. W. Todd ; 1864, W. P. Abbott ; 1865-66, Almus D. Alexander ; 1867, P. Krohn ; 1868, Dr. Round ; 1869, W. N. Cooley and Wm. B. Kinney ; 1870-72, C. S. Alexander ; 1873, J. F. Williams and J. S. Wells ; 1874-75, James Ryder ; 1878, R. Varcoe ; 1880, D. F. Waddell ; 1883, I. N. Shipman ; 1885, D. W. Sweetland ; 1887, C. H. Basferd ; 1888, L. B. Howard ;

1891, I. B. Wilson ; April, 1896, J. B. Davis, the present pastor.

St. John's Mission, Protestant Episcopal church, at Spencer village, was organized in 1888, or '89. In the parish are fifteen communicating members and regular service is held in the town hall, conducted by the rector of the church at Van Ettenville. A lot for a church edifice has been secured, and a considerable sum of money has been pledged for a church home.

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE TOWN OF NEWARK VALLEY.

MORE than a century ago, in the year 1790, a party of surveyors and explorers visited the southern portion of Montgomery county, and directed their investigations particularly into the character and quality of the land then recently ceded by the state of New York to the commonwealth of Massachusetts, the tract being the same always designated in public records and documents as the Boston Purchase, and also as the Boston Ten Townships.

In this party was Elisha Wilson, of Stockbridge, Mass., but in just what capacity he came with the surveyors is not known. However, on his return to Stockbridge in the fall of that year, young Wilson went at once to proprietor Elisha Blin and purchased from him lot No. 184, on which in April, 1791, he made the first settlement within the limits of the present town of Newark Valley.

The story of the journey of Elisha Wilson and his companions from old Stockbridge to this region is an oft told tale, yet is never without interest. The party of adventurous pioneers comprised Elisha Wilson, as guide as well as prospective settler, Isaac and

Abraham Brown, Daniel Ball, John Carpenter, and two others named Dean and Norton, both of whom left the party at Chocunut and there made a settlement. All left Stockbridge February 23, 1791, and after a journey covering a period of just thirty-seven days, reached their destination on April 1, 1791, and on that day founded what was for many years known in local annals as Brown's Settlement, but in later years as old town of Berkshire, and still later the towns of Berkshire, Newark Valley, and Richford. In the course of their journey the party was compelled to leave a part of their goods at Oquaga, and after they had arrived at and established the settlement all the pioneers except young Wilson returned to Oquaga for the needed supplies. In their absence Mr. Wilson tapped the maples and made 150 pounds of sugar.

Of these original settlers and pioneers Elisha Wilson, Abraham Brown and John Carpenter were residents in the territory afterward a part of this town, and are therefore entitled to first mention in this chapter.

Elisha Wilson was the eldest of the children of Elijah and Mary (Curtis) Wilson, and was born at Stockbridge, Aug. 13, 1767, hence at the time he made the first improvement here he was less than 24 years old. His log cabin was thatched with bark and stood on lot 184 near the bank of the creek. While his companions cleared land for wheat Wilson prepared his ground for corn and vegetables, for whatever he did in the way of clearing was done without help from the others. However, in the course of time the farm was well cleared and was known as one of the best in the settlement. Mr. Wilson married with Electa Slosson, by whom he had four children : Elijah, Mary, Susan Maria, and Charles Frederick Wilson, all natives of Tioga county. Mr. Wilson died Nov. 11, 1857, aged a little more than 90 years.

Abraham Brown, one of the original pioneers, was also a member of the surveying and exploring party of 1790, hence had some knowledge of the country hereabouts previous to his settlement in 1791. He was the son of Capt. Abraham and Beulah Brown, and the nephew of Samuel Brown, the head of the proprietary of the Boston purchase. Abraham's beginning was made on lot 257,

which was his mother's land, and was in the north part of the town, the old pioneer Congregational church standing on a part of the tract. Later on his mother came to the town after which Abraham lived with her for he had no family. He died September 19, 1828.

John Carpenter, of the pioneer party, came in the capacity of employee of the Browns and assisted them in making their improvements. He returned to Stockbridge every winter, and there about the first of January, 1797, he married. A few weeks later he started for the settlement, where he arrived in good season and was living with Ezbon Slosson's family. April 10, Isaac Brown died, upon which Carpenter at once proposed to take and work the Brown farm, but three days later Carpenter himself died and was buried in the settlement graveyard by the side of Mr. Brown. His death, April 13, 1797, was the first in Newark Valley and the second in the settlement.

Ezbon Slosson, whose name has been connected with many early events of history in this town by reason of the fact that his purchase included at least a part of the village tract, came to the settlement in the early spring of 1792, with the pioneers of the previous year who had returned to Stockbridge for the winter. Mr. Slosson made an improvement on lot 138, then went back home for the winter, and came again in 1793, this time bringing his wife and daughter and also his parents to the settlement. Ezbon Slosson's first house was nearly carried away by high water in the fall of 1795, whereupon he built another on the site of the old lecture room of the Congregational church. In 1806 he built the first framed house in Newark Valley, and in later years he kept a public house and a store, and also had a distillery. Mr. Slosson died June 2, 1838, and his wife died Feb. 12, 1853. Their children were Caroline, Sarah, William, Franklin and Semantha Slosson.

Enoch Slosson and family came with his son, Ezbon, to the settlement in March, 1793, but the neighbors at that time were far apart, for Enoch's wife and daughter saw no other female until September following, when Dr. Tinkham's wife came up from Owego and visited them. On the roll of members of the Newark Valley Congregational church the name of Mrs. Enoch Slosson

stands first among the admissions. She died March 10, 1819, and he died Feb. 21, 1827, in his 94th year. Their nine children were Mabel, Lucinda, Sarah, Electa, Ezbon, Electa (the first so named having died), Jerusha, Ruth and Enos Slosson.

Asa Bement, one of the sixty proprietors of the Boston purchase, first came to the settlement in the summer of 1792, with the Slosson families, but returned east in the fall. The next spring he came again, worked during the summer, went east in the fall, and the next spring (1794) returned with his family. His first improvement was made on lot 177, which was drawn by him in the "grand division," as history has recorded it. Pioneer Bement was a blacksmith as well as farmer, and was a very useful man in the settlement; and his old home farm, although he died many years ago, has always been regarded as one of the pleasantest places in the town. Asa Bement died April 21, 1847. He was twice married and had nine children, viz: Parthenia, Betsey, Frances, Abigail, William B., Emily, Mary, Frederick B., and Jane Bement, the latter by his second marriage.

Peter Wilson, brother to Elisha Wilson, the pioneer, came to the settlement in the spring of 1793 and located on lot 217, west of the creek. He died April 28, 1845. His children were Phebe, Eliza A. (died in infancy), Eliza A., Laura, William, and Mary Elizabeth Wilson.

Abraham W. Johnson, who was a laborer when he first came to the settlement, in 1794, married with Mabel Slosson, daughter of Enoch Slosson. He is well remembered among the early settlers.

Levi Bailey, who was a hatter by trade, and as well a farmer, came in 1795, and brought his family in the next year. He lived in various places on the village site, but about 1814 or '15 removed to Ohio.

Beulah Brown was the widow of Captain Abraham Brown, an officer of the revolution, who died of small pox January 8, 1777. The widow Brown was one of the proprietors of the Boston purchase, and came to the settlement in February, 1796, with her sons John, Joseph, and Lemuel, and took up her home on lot 257. Her children were John and Isaac, both of whom settled in Berk-

shire ; Abraham and Joseph, who lived in this town, and Lemuel, who in later years became identified with the history of Owego village.

William S. Lawrence came from Canaan, Conn., in 1796, but met an accidental death in the summer of 1797, his team running away and he being thrown violently against a pile of logs. His widow afterward remarried and moved to Canada. She drowned herself, and three of her children were also suicides.

Abel Lawrence, brother of William S., also came from Canaan, Conn., in 1796, and settled on lot 58 where he was a farmer. He was twice married and had a large family of fourteen children, three by his first and eleven by his second marriage. Mr. Lawrence died July 26, 1835.

Solomon Williams was another of the settlers of 1796, and was related to a number of the prominent families of still earlier settlement in the town. For a time he lived with his brother-in-law, Ezbon Slosson, but later in a house in Whig street, where both he and his wife died. In this family were nine children : Elisha, George, James, Nancy, Sabrina, William H., Robert, Sarah, and Mary Elizabeth Williams.

Joseph Hosford was an old soldier of the revolution, and was another addition to the settlement in 1796 ; and he too was related to the old families of the region, the Williamses, the Slossons, and the Browns. Hosford street was named in allusion to this pioneer. In later years Mr. Hosford removed to Livingston county, and died there in 1843. Joseph Hosford, who lived several years in Newark Valley and died there in May, 1806, was the father of Joseph Hosford, first mentioned.

Michael, Laban, and Elisha Jenks were brothers, and were also early settlers in the northwest part of the town, where they built up and founded the little hamlet called Jenksville. However, the settlement there was named directly for Michael Jenks, who in the early history of the locality was a prominent person. All came from Massachusetts in or about the year 1797. Michael built a saw mill at Jenksville and carried on an extensive lumber business until on one occasion he rafted a quantity of lumber to market, sold it and received pay, then suddenly disappeared and was never heard from

afterward. He left two sons, Otis and Michael Jenks. The Jenks saw mill was built in 1803, and the grist mill in 1814.

Jonas Muzzy, Thomas Baird, and Captain Scott were also among the first settlers in the northwest part of the town, and came there probably with the Jenkses about or in the year 1797. Muzzy lived for a time with Michael Jenks, but soon went over to the settlement and worked for Elisha Wilson as farm hand and also as miller. He married in the town and had a large family of eleven children. Mr. Muzzy died Dec. 17, 1864. The stream called Muzzy Brook was named for him.

Uriah Simons, Thomas Thayer, John Freeman, Barney Freeman (son of John), and a Mr. Fellows settled in the town, some of them in Brown's settlement and others outside its limits as regarded by the pioneers, in the year 1797, as near as can be determined from early records. Mr. Freeman was one of the early town officers and undoubtedly a man of influence. He removed to Tompkins county soon after 1800. He had four children. Mr. Simons was a substantial farmer and had a family of nine children. Mr. Thayer lived in the settlement but a short time. He was a millwright and helped to build the grist mill in the town.

David S. Farrand and Benjamin Sparrow are believed to have settled in the town as early as 1798, and to have comprised the contingent of settlers of that year. Both were good men in the settlement, but neither was specially active in public affairs. It was at the house of Benjamin Sparrow that Dr. Tinkham died, as is narrated in the medical chapter.

In 1798 Abraham Brown was pathmaster for the sixteenth road district of the town of Union, which district included all of the present towns of Berkshire and Newark Valley; and in the performance of his duties it was necessary for him to keep an accurate list of the inhabitants of his district who were liable to assessment for highway work. This list has been brought to light through the research of the late Dr. D. Williams Patterson, of this town, and is reproduced here by reason of its historic interest and value, as every taxable inhabitant of the towns for the year 1798 is believed to be mentioned therein.

Ball, Daniel	Farrand, David S.	Lawrence, Abel
Ball, Josiah	Gleazen, Daniel	Olney, Benj.
Ball, Stephen	Gleazen, Jesse	Olney, Zelotes
Ball, William	Gleazen, Caleb	Seeley, Josiah
Brown, Abraham	Gleazen, Joseph, Jr.	Sparrow, Benj.
Bement, Asa	Howe, Josiah	Simons, Uriah
Brown, John	Hovey, Azel	Slosson, Ezbon
Bailey, Levi	Harris, Josiah	Slosson, Enoch
Cook, Ephraim	Hosford, Joseph	Thayer, Thomas
Cook, Ebenezer	Johnson, Abraham	Wilson, Elisha
Campbell, Jeremiah	Jenks, Michael	Wilson, Peter
Freeman, John	Leonard, Asa	Williams, Solomon
Freeman, Barney	Lawrence, Consider	

From the list it will be seen that thirty-eight heads of families were settled in the towns now Berkshire and Newark Valley in the year 1798. This number probably represented about one-third of the voting population of the territory, and, as the families averaged, about one-eighth of the entire population. Indeed these New Englanders were energetic in the work of settling the region, for the valley of Owego creek was far more fertile and productive, and more easily tilled, than the rugged hill lands of the east. Therefore when settlement was once fairly begun it increased rapidly ; one led to another, and in the early years of the century the tide of travel from the east to the Boston purchase was indeed wonderful, and seriously reduced the population of Massachusetts and Connecticut, whence came the major portion of the first settlers in this county. But, to return to the record, we may further recall individual settlement, though but briefly, as after 1800 settlement soon became lost in the rapid growth of the town.

Henry Moore settled on lot 178, in 1799, and in the same year his daughter Thersey taught school in Asa Bement's barn. Timothy Williams was the advance settler of his father's family, and came to the region in 1800, taking up lodgings with Ezbon Slosson. He married in the town, later on removed to Ontario county, thence to Michigan, where he died. Lyman Rawson came in 1800 and lived on the farm known for many years as the Deacon Curtis place. Rawson had a distillery, and his product was much more sought, and was far better in quality, than are such wares at this time in this town. Lemuel Blackman was a member of the Raw-

son household. Isaac Rawson and Nathaniel Blackman also settled here about the same time.

Stephen Williams, Jonathan Hedges, and Joseph Waldo, 2d, the latter a nephew of Dr. Joseph Waldo, came to what is now Newark Valley in the year 1801, and all were afterward well known in the town's history. Mr. Hedges located on lot 183, and was both farmer and weaver, and in 1802 Joseph Waldo opened a stock of goods and began to trade.

Mial Dean was one of the pioneers of Owego, he having settled there in 1793, but after the unfortunate death of Wm. S. Lawrence, he came up to Brown's settlement and took a part of lot 63, on which he built a dam and also a saw mill, both pioneer industries in that vicinity. The dam was said to have been the first constructed across the creek.

Joel and Linus Gaylord, Enoch Slosson Williams, Pynchon Dwight, and Adolphus Dwight were all settlers in the town in or before the year 1802. All were earnest, hardworking men, and descendants of nearly all are still in this part of the county. Joel Gaylord was a shoemaker, but left the town and went to Erie county. Linus Gaylord met an accidental death June 29, 1820, being killed by a falling limb while chopping in the woods. Enoch Williams was a wheelwright and cabinet maker in the settlement, and learned the trade with that worthy old pioneer of Owego, Joel Farnham. Williams had a family of thirteen children, one of the largest in the settlement. Pynchon Dwight lived in the settlement fifteen years, then removed to Royalton, N. Y.; thence in 1840 to Jackson, Mich., where he died. Mr. Dwight is remembered as a man of much intelligence and of excellent personal appearance. He was an early school teacher. Adolphus Dwight was a farmer.

Parley Simons settled on lot 19, Richard Colt Ely on lot 224, and John and Gaylord Harmon on lot 257, all during the year 1803. About 1814 Mr. Ely sold his farm to Capt. Levi Branch, his son-in-law, and returned to Massachusetts. In 1831 John Harmon built a large brick house on the old meeting house site, and was charged with extravagance when he went to Stockbridge, Mass., for marble caps for his doors and windows. Gaylord Harmon died in Mansfield, Pa., in 1850.

David Hovey, Samuel Addis, Daniel Churchill, Alanson Dewey, Rev. Jeremiah Osborn (first pastor of the first church in the settlement), and John Waldo were added to the settlement in 1806, as near as can be determined at this time; and some of them were among the leading men of the town in later years. David Hovey was the son of pioneer Azel Hovey. Samuel Addis died in Canada. Daniel Churchill died in this town in 1847. John Waldo was a brother to Joseph Waldo, 2d, and nephew to Dr. Waldo.

John Bement and his wife and six children came to the settlement in 1807, his being one of four families to settle in the town in that year, according to the records of Dr. Patterson. In his family were twelve children. The other comers in the same year were Hart Newell, who afterward removed to Cayuga county, but who died in Erie county; John Rewey, who came into the region in 1794, and who on coming to this locality learned blacksmithing with his cousin, Asa Bement. In 1812 he built a shop, but ten years later moved to a farm in the town.

Edward Edwards came to the Boston purchase from the old city of Elizabeth, in New Jersey, about 1807 or '8, lived on lot 143 several years and then removed to Union. Jonathan Edwards came from the same place, but about one year later than his brother. His family lived several years at Moore's Corners and then removed to Broome county. Jesse Truesdell was a settler of about the same time, and is remembered as the maker of spinning wheels, which he sold all through the region in early days.

Otis Lincoln was one of the most prominent early settlers in Newark Valley and one who did as much for the welfare of the town as any man in its history. Mr. Lincoln was a native of Worcester, Mass., and came to the Boston purchase about the year 1803, with his father, Thomas Lincoln, and the family of Thomas. They settled first at Owego, but soon moved up to Brown's settlement, where they afterward lived. About the same time, possibly a little later, came Ezekiel Rich, also a New Englander, and as early as 1808 we find these men, Otis Lincoln and Mr. Rich, actively engaged in business, tanning and making and selling all through this part of the state buckskin gloves and mittens. After about ten years they dissolved and Mr. Lincoln

continued the business and his many other enterprises, while Mr. Rich removed to Richford and built up that village. In Newark Valley Mr. Lincoln started and operated a tannery, built and kept a good hotel, opened and kept store, and in fact founded, it is said, the village settlement. In later years in Newark Valley Mr. Lincoln was associated in business with his son, William S. Lincoln, the latter concededly one of the foremost men in the county in his time, and who was honored with an election to congress for the session of 1867-69. However, for further facts of the life of both Otis and William S. Lincoln reference is had to the personal chronology department of this work.

Elijah Curtis was one of the later settlers in the town, having come from Stockbridge with his wife and three children in the fall of 1817. He was an earnest and industrious farmer and a man much respected in the town. He died Oct. 19, 1856, and his wife died Nov. 14, 1860.

The pioneer and early settlement of this part of the county began at a time when the region formed a part of Montgomery county and continued through the organization of several towns and later subdivision of towns. It cannot be claimed that pioneer-ship extended much beyond the year 1800, or that early settlement in the same manner continued beyond the time old Berkshire town was formed from Tioga. Still the later settlement was of such a character that at least a passing mention should be made of persons and families who came to the locality previous to the year 1820, after which, it may be said that settlement was lost in the rapid increase in the town's growth. However, for the purpose of making a record of the names of all early residents or heads of families in Newark Valley previous to or in 1820, recourse is had to the publications of the late Dr. Patterson, from which it is learned that the additional residents in the town in or before 1820 were these :

George Sykes.
Jonathan Belcher.
Alex. McDaniel.
Nathan A. Gates.
John Belden.
Benj. Walter.

Alex. F. Wilmarth.
John Bunnell.
Eleazer Robbins.
Ebenezer Pierce.
Marcus Ford.
Jonathan Hedges.

John Watkins.
Adolphus Pierce.
Elijah Higbe.
Stephen Williams, Jr.
Dexter Parmenter.
William Wilbur.

Tunis Decker.	Joseph Allen.	Hosea Eldridge.
William Millen.	Silas Allen.	Elijah Johnson.
Lyman Legg.	Harvey Marshall.	William Jaynes.
Lyman Waldo.	John Gould.	George Lane.
Roswell Livermore.	John Stedman.	Seth Stevens.
Jason Hedges.	Spencer Spaulding.	Elijah Walter.
Duick Whipple.	Alanson Higbe.	Luke McMaster.
Luke Baird.	Samuel Johnson.	John Millen.
John Allen.	Jacob Conklin.	Zelotes Robinson.
Oliver Williams.	Simeon Galpin.	Joseph Freeman.
Henry Williams.	Jabez Stevens.	Levi Branch.
Chester Goodale.	Charles Brown.	Lucius Wells.
Alanson Dean.	John Brown.	Joseph Prentice.
Moses Spaulding.	Wm. Richardson.	Mial Dean, Jr.
David Beebe.	John Bunnell, Jr.	William Baird.
Elihu McDaniel.	Loring Ferguson.	Horace Jones.
Daniel Mead.	Lyman Barber.	Wm. Gardner.
Jacob Remele.	Stephen Wells.	Daniel Churchill.
Ethan Brown.	Absalom Baird.	Richard Perkins.

ORGANIZATION.—According to the compilation made by Dr. Patterson, the population of the territory comprising Newark Valley at the present time had 655 inhabitants in 1820, and even then the people were agitating the question of a division of old Berkshire and the creation of a new town. The matter took definite form in the early part of 1823, and on April 12 the legislature passed an act erecting a town by the name of Westville, comprising 28,679 acres taken off the south end of Berkshire. However, the name Westville was changed to Newark March 24, 1824, which was retained until April 17, 1862, when the present name, Newark Valley, was adopted.

In accordance with the provisions of the creating act, the first town meeting was held March 24, 1824, and officers were elected as follows :

Supervisor, Solomon Williams ; town clerk, Beriah Wells ; assessors, Francis Armstrong, Ebenzer Pierce, Benj. Waldo ; inspectors of common schools, Benj. Walton, Wm. B. Bement, George Williams ; commissioners of common schools, Henry Williams, William Richardson, Otis Lincoln ; commissioners of highways, Anson Higbe, Abraham Brown, Reuben Chittenden ; constable, William Slosson ; collector, Lyman Legg ; overseers of the poor,

Peter Wilson, Ebenezer Robbins ; sealer of weights and measures, Joseph Benjamin.

Town records are generally regarded a fruitful source of information in all matters pertaining to local history, and whatever is there written may be considered truthful and reliable ; but unfortunately, in October, 1879, the Dimmick house in Newark Valley was burned and with it were also burned several valuable town record books. However, having recourse to county and other records there has been prepared a succession of the supervisors of Newark Valley, that being the principal office in the town.

1825—Solomon Williams.	1852—Elliot W. Brown.	1873-79—Edward G. Nowlan.
1826-30—Anson Higbe.	1853-54—Otis Lincoln.	1880-82—William Elwell.
1831—John Waldo.	1855—John M. Snyder.	1883—Sherwood B. Davidge.
1832-36—Elisha P. Higbè.	1856—Sanford Comstock.	1884—Chas. L. Noble.
1837—Otis Lincoln.	1857-59—Fred H. Todd.	1885-89—Royal W. Clinton.
1838—William Slosson.	1860-62—Aaron Ogden.	1890—Robert Donley.
1839-40—James P. Hyde.	1863-64—C. H. Moore.	1891—Jira F. Councilman.
1841-44—William S. Lincoln.	1865-66—Wm. S. Lincoln.	1892—Sherwood B. Davidge.
1845-49—Ozias J. Slosson.	1867-68—Lyman F. Chapman.	1893-94—Fred W. Richardson.
1850—Daniel G. Taylor.	1869-71—Chas. A. Clark.	1895-96—Theo. F. Chamberlain.
1851—Ozias J. Slosson.	1872—Jerome B. Landfield.	

POPULATION.—In the year 1820 Amos Patterson, of Union, made the census enumeration of Broome county, which shire of course, then included all the territory of this county east of Owego creek. In the town of Newark Valley, as erected three years later, he found 655 inhabitants. In 1825, the first regular enumeration of inhabitants after the town was set off, was shown a considerable increase over the number as counted by Mr. Patterson five years before. However, we may briefly turn to the census reports and notice the several changes in population in the town from 1825 to the last count in 1892.

In 1825 the population was 801 ; 1830, 1,027 ; 1835, 1,385 ; 1840, 1,616 ; 1845, 1,728 ; 1850, 1,983 ; 1855, 1,945 ; 1860, 2,169 ; 1865, 2,133 ; 1870, 2,321 ; 1875, 2,403 ; 1880, 2,577 ; 1885, no count ; 1890, 2,339 ; 1892, 2,296.

From this it is seen that the greatest population in the history of the town was attained in 1880, since which time there has been a gradual decrease in number, due perhaps to the same causes

which have created a like diminution in population in nearly all the inland towns of this state, and also of other states. The prime causes of this decrease have been the general desire of the youth of the country towns to find employment in cities and to the still more important fact that agricultural pursuits during the last twenty years have been unprofitable ; and while a residence in the city can only add to the unfortunate condition of affairs on the farm the pleasures and excitements of city life are erroneously supposed to more than compensate the loss. However, it may be said that in Newark Valley there has been less tendency to quit the old home than in many farming towns in the region. This is in part accounted for in the fact that Newark Valley is an excellent farming town, and has been so regarded from the time pioneers Elisha Wilson and Abraham Brown came into the region in 1790 and selected what they considered the most desirable locality in which to found a settlement.

More than this, Newark Valley has ever been regarded as one of the patriotic towns of the county, for among its pioneers were men who had seen long and arduous service in the American army during the revolutionary war, and several of the early settlers came here with titles won on bloody battlefields in that memorable struggle. A little later on in the history of the town we find a number of the young men in the service in the war of 1812-15, but, unfortunately, no record of old Berkshire's soldiery in that strife has been preserved. At that time the settlement was substantially completed and the inhabitants were reasonably well prepared for the struggle.

After the close of the second war with Great Britain there followed a long and uneventful era of peace ; uneventful so far as war and turmoil were concerned but eventful in the fact that during that period the resources and capacity of the town were fully developed and the greatest advances were then made in all the various directions of civil and social life. Therefore, when in 1861 the war of the rebellion began, Newark Valley was as well prepared to withstand its shock as any town in the southern tier ; and in the four years of constant war which followed, the patriotism of the people was fully tried and fully proven. In a preceding

chapter of this work the history of Tioga county in the war of 1861-65 is told, and a record is there made of the contribution of men from this town so far as can be determined from the imperfect state records, for as yet New York has not published a reliable roster of her soldiery. The work is in progress, but not complete. The 44th, 50th, 76th, 109th, and 137th regiments of infantry, the 15th and 21st cavalry, and the 16th battery were the more important commands having recruits from Newark Valley.

FIRST EVENTS OF TOWN HISTORY.

- 1790—Elisha Wilson and Abraham Brown first visited the Boston purchase.
- 1791—Elisha Wilson, Abraham Brown, Isaac Brown, Daniel Ball and John Carpenter made the first settlement.
- 1796—David McMaster taught the first school in Elisha Wilson's bark-covered cabin.
- 1797—John Carpenter died April 13.
- 1797—Asa Bement and Elisha Wilson built the first grist mill.
- 1799—Thersey Moore opened a school in Asa Bement's barn.
- 1800—Enos Slosson opened a tavern on the village site.
- 1803—A Congregational church society formed.
- 1803—Michael Jenks built a saw mill at Jenksville.
- 1806—Ezbon Slosson erected the first frame house at Newark Valley.
- 1808—Otis Lincoln and Ezekiel Rich began the manufacture of gloves and mittens at the village.
- 1812—Newark Valley was made a post office, Enos Slosson, postmaster ; and Stephen B. Leonard carried the mails from Owego, also the *Gazette* to his subscribers up the valley.
- 1814—Michael Jenks built a grist mill at Jenksville.
- 1825—David Settle built the first regular tannery, located about three miles east of the village.
- 1830—The first steam saw mill built by Chester Patterson and Jonathan Day.

VILLAGES AND HAMLETS.—During the period of its history there have been built up within the limits of the town four villages and hamlets, only one of which has ever attained sufficient importance and population to become incorporated. Named in the order of business importance they are Newark Valley, Jenksville, Ketchumville, and West Newark. To name them in the order of seniority would be more difficult as neither pioneer Slosson, Jenks, nor Ketchum had any thought to found a hamlet when the first improvement was made on the site whereon the settlements were subsequently established.

Jenksville is a small hamlet in the northwest corner of the town,

in the locality where Michael, Laban, and Elisha Jenks settled in 1797. The hamlet, however, owed its existence to the efforts of Michael Jenks, who built a saw mill there in 1803, and followed that industry with a grist mill in 1814. This mill gave the hamlet a start in business importance ; and as it increased a postoffice was established and has since been maintained there. A store has also been kept at Jenksville and both saw and grist mills a portion of the time. The public buildings of the present time are the Alpha M. E. church and the district school. The merchant here is Alonzo Blanchard, who also is postmaster, while Charles D. Nixon is owner of both saw and grist mills, and Jay White of a grist mill. The Jenksville steam mills were built in 1879, by Daniel L. Jenks. The grist mill was built in 1882 by Jenks & Nixon. Mr. Nixon became their sole owner in 1884.

The Alpha Methodist Episcopal church was organized in 1852, with twenty-five constituent members. From that time the membership has remained about the same in number, and the church has formed a joint charge with another M. E. church. The church edifice was erected in 1852.

West Newark is a postoffice in the west part of the town about two miles south of Jenksville. The place is without industries or stores, and the only public building is the Congregational church, which will be mentioned in connection with the church at Newark Valley of which it is a branch.

Ketchumville is a small hamlet in the northeast part of the town, in the locality where Samuel Ketchum and other prominent members of the same family lived for many years. However, during the last twenty-five years this settlement has lost much of its old time importance and all that remains of a once busy hamlet is a single store, two creameries, two churches, a postoffice, and the district school. Half a century ago Ketchumville was the rival of Jenksville and second in importance among the villages of the town. The merchant here is Charles Finch, at whose store the postoffice is kept. The creameries are owned by Charles E. Dean and the Standard butter company.

The Reformed Methodist church at Ketchumville was organized with nine members in 1830 by Samuel Ketchum. The meeting

house was built in 1832, and from that time the society has maintained a healthful existence. The present pastor is Rev. Willis C. Bailey.

In the same locality for many years has been a Methodist Episcopal class and society, but only within the last three years has a church edifice been built. This church forms a joint charge with Maine.

SCHOOLS.—To the honor of the inhabitants of the Boston purchase the statement has ever been made, and the fact is conceded, that in no part of the state did the pioneers have a higher regard for the educational welfare of their youth than in the region first mentioned; and in the original town of Union, or the later towns of Tioga, Owego, Berkshire and Newark Valley, of which this town at some time formed a part, the inhabitants from first to last made ample provision for schools and their maintenance. Elsewhere in this chapter is told how in 1796 David McMaster opened a primitive school in pioneer Wilson's cabin, and also how in 1799 Thersey Moore began teaching in Asa Bement's log barn. In Newark Valley this was only the beginning of the system, and as soon as old Berkshire was created from Tioga, or as soon as the legislature passed the act establishing a uniform school system for the state, the territory was divided into twelve districts for school purposes. Later, in 1823, after this town was erected, commissioners Henry Williams, William Richardson and Otis Lincoln divided its territory into new districts, and made provision for a school in each; and in later years, as the population increased, these districts were changed to suit the convenience of the inhabitants.

With a present population of about 2,300, Newark Valley is divided into thirteen districts, each of which has a good school. According to the commissioner's report for the year ending July 31, 1896, the town received public moneys to the amount of \$2,122.35; received from the regents, \$252.03, and raised by town tax, \$3,241.54. In that year there were paid to teachers, \$4,853.69, and for libraries, \$58.33. The number of children of school age in the town was 459, for whose instruction twenty teachers were employed. The school buildings, except that in the village, are of frame, and all are estimated to be worth \$17,700.

THE VILLAGE OF NEWARK VALLEY.

September 18, 1894, the electors of Newark Valley held a special election and then voted 106 for and 71 against a proposition to incorporate the village, including within its limits 678 72-100ths acres of land. The certificate of election was filed in the county clerk's office September 22, 1894, and in October following the first village officers were elected.

Just one hundred and two years before the incorporation was effected Ezbon Slosson settled on the site of the village and built a log cabin, near the bank of the creek. In 1795 the waters of the stream were swollen with heavy rains and pioneer Slosson and family were compelled to vacate their domicile and seek refuge with his father, Enoch Slosson, another pioneer of the town. Mr. Slosson then built a new dwelling in a safer place, on the site afterward occupied by the lecture room of the Congregational church. However, Ezbon Slosson had little thought of founding a village settlement, although he built a framed house in 1806, and about the same time kept a tavern, opened a small store, and built and operated a distillery. The distillery was not an innovation for the time, as good home-made whiskey was almost as much a staple article of trade as tea, sugar, cloth, and many other wares; and few indeed were the families of that period who did not keep in their homes a supply of whiskey.

Among the factors in early village history were Ezekiel Rich and Otis Lincoln, who as partners started a tannery and began making gloves and mittens in 1808, and kept up the industry until 1820, when Mr. Rich sold out and removed to the town afterward named in his honor. But Mr. Lincoln continued operations at our little hamlet and did as much to build it up and promote its interests as any man in its early history. He purchased a considerable tract of land in the vicinity and laid out and donated to the public a park tract, although the action was wholly informal; and it was not until within the past year that Mr. Lincoln's heirs quit-claimed the park to the village. This worthy proprietor also built and kept a large hotel, and was engaged in tanning and also in mercantile business on a large scale. He was for many years partner

with his son, William S. Lincoln, and the firm was looked upon as one of the strongest in the county. The Lincoln hotel stood on the site now occupied by the high school, and was for many years an assembling place in the village. The tannery was on the site of the present industry of the same character, although the present one is much larger and conducted on quite different plan. Nevertheless, a tannery of some kind has been in operation on this site for almost 90 years.

From its infancy in Newark Valley there has been an almost constant growth in business interests and population, yet in all this time the number of inhabitants has not exceeded 850. It is the youngest and one of the four incorporated villages in the county. The now called Lehigh Valley, but originally the Lake Ontario, Auburn & New York railroad, was constructed through the town during the years 1869-71, and was an important factor in promoting the welfare of the village, but the chief factor of all has been the enterprise, generosity, and public-spiritedness of the people which have made Newark Valley what it is to-day.

The village is pleasantly situated in the very centre of one of the best agricultural regions of the county, and although but ten miles from the county seat the principal part of mercantile trade is kept at home. All branches of business incident to small villages are well represented, and there is little indication that over-competition has worked to the disadvantage of any interest. Several of the stores are large and well stocked, and all appear to be conducted on safe principles. The tannery is by far the leading manufacturing industry of the vicinity and furnishes employment to about forty workmen, and directly supports as many families. During the period of its history, the buildings have been twice burned. In its present capacity the firm of Allison, Davidge & Co., began tanning in 1865. Two years later Mr. Allison became sole owner, but in 1868 Davidge, Landfield & Co., succeeded, and under that management, and that of S. B. Davidge & Co., the plant was operated until the firm joined interests with the United States Leather company in May, 1893.

The Newark Valley Wagon Company was incorporated in February, 1882, with \$30,000 capital, and for several years was a lead-

ing industry, but at last misfortune came and the works were abandoned.

Moore, Cargill & Co., started a saw mill in the village in 1867, and from that time a mill has been operated on the site. The present owners are L. E. Williams & Son. The other manufacturing interests of the village may be mentioned about as follows : Burch & Wells' saw, cider, and thresh-mill ; P. P. Moses & Son's grist mill ; Bert Bliss's feed mill ; the Newark Valley wagon shops, C. H. Quick, owner ; Moore's wagon works, succeeding Donley Bros.' marble works.

The Northern Tioga Agricultural Society is one of the notable institutions of the town, the villages and in fact of the county. It originated in a proposed basket picnic among the farming element of the town. These worthy agriculturists were desirous of meeting to discuss matters of interest in their special pursuit in life, and one suggestion led to another until the subject at last contemplated an organization of considerable magnitude, and the result was that Frederick W. Richardson proposed an agricultural society, very much like that which now does so great good in this part of the county. The society was informally organized Nov. 23, 1880, and was incorporated March 2, 1881. From that until the present time it has been a remarkable success and productive of much good in the county. The grounds, which are leased, are ample, and are furnished with all the accommodations of any well appointed fair ground. Annual meetings are held and all promised premiums are paid in full. The present officers are Stephen L. Ball, president ; J. F. Councilman and George E. Barney, vice-presidents ; G. E. Purple, secretary ; E. F. Belden, treasurer.

The Newark Valley trout ponds and pleasure grounds are purely a private enterprise, but are of such a character that a brief mention of them is proper. They are the property of Norman K. Waring, and were begun in 1869 and opened to the public in 1872. The grounds are abundantly supplied with water, well stocked with fish, and good buildings are provided for the public accommodation. Various proprietors have undertaken the management of the grounds, but they have as often reverted to the founder.

The Newark Valley high school was established in its present

form in 1896, successor to the Newark Valley union free school, and the latter the result of the generosity of the late Royal W. Clinton. Previous to 1887 all attempts to unite the school districts which included portions of the village were unsuccessful, and in the fall of 1886 such a proposition was voted down, 112 against and 101 for. On February 14, 1887, Mr. Clinton said to the inhabitants of the village that if they would unite districts 2 and 14 of the town, and secure a site, he would cause to be erected and donate to the consolidated district to be established a school building suited to the necessities of the village. The result was the formation of Union free school district No. 2, and on October 25, 1887, the building was formally presented to the board of education. It is an attractive structure and stands on the site of the old hotel, built many years ago by Otis Lincoln.

The first board of education was elected April 14, 1887, and comprised Edward G. Nowlan, Robert Donley, Sherwood B. Davidge, E. G. Kinney, and William Cargill. The board organized April 19, 1887, electing Mr. Kinney president; Robert Donley clerk, and Morris Elwell, treasurer. The first principal was Prof. W. H. Ryan, followed by Profs. J. S. Kingsley, F. P. Webster, Miss Fannie L. Hughes, and J. S. Kingsley, in the order mentioned. The members of the present board are Oscar S. Randall, president; Myron L. Williams, clerk, and Austin Dickerson, Gilbert E. Purple, and John O. Roberts. Treasurer, Sherwood B. Davidge.

The Newark Valley fire department as now constituted is the outgrowth of the little company formed at a meeting held Sept. 8, 1886. At that time Rescue Chemical Engine Co. was organized, and the engine was purchased with a subscription fund of \$600 and the percentage paid by the insurance companies doing business in the village. Old Rescue has retained its identity to this time, but Dec. 14, 1887, the company was divided and Lincoln Hook and Ladder Company, No. 1, was formed from its members. The department was incorporated in January, 1888. The first chief engineer was Oscar S. Randall. The present officers are Geo. F. Sherwood, chief, and Dr. R. S. Fellows, assistant engineer. The officers of the social organization are J. T. Joslin, president; D. C. Hand, secretary; John O. Roberts, treasurer.

Newark Valley lodge, No. 614, F. & A. M., was chartered June 26, 1866, and from that time has been one of the substantial institutions of the village. Its membership at this time is about 70.

Oketa lodge, No. 685, I. O. O. F., was instituted with five charter members, January 3, 1894. The present members number 57.

The First Congregational church of Newark Valley, as now known, is the direct outgrowth of the little society formed during the early years of the century through the devoted missionary labors of Rev. Seth Williston, that famed old christian worker under the direction of the mother church in Connecticut. Through his efforts on Nov. 20, 1803, a society was formed, and in the same year a church edifice was built in the north part of what is now Newark Valley, then known as Brown's settlement. (The second edifice on the same site was built in 1817.) The constituent members were Dr. Waldo, Nathaniel Ford, Jesse Gleazen, Levi Bailey, Beulah Brown, and Caroline Ford. April 4, 1805, the first officers were elected, and October 23 following the Society of Western was fully organized. Dec. 24 of this year Rev. Jeremiah Osborn was called, and began his pastoral labors Jan. 11, 1806. Sept. 11, 1811, the church was admitted to membership in the Cayuga Presbytery, a relation which was maintained until July 2, 1869, when the full Congregational form was adopted. January 12, 1823, eight members from the old church were dismissed to form a new society in what is now Richford, and September 14 following fourteen other members withdrew to form a church at West Newark. Still later July 24, 1833, the Berkshire church was organized and took from the mother society seventy-two more of her members. In September, 1831, it was decided to remove the base of operations of the church from the north part of the town, which was immediately done and a new edifice was then built in the village on land donated to the society by Otis Lincoln. This building in turn gave way to a more commodious structure in 1867, the latter being dedicated Jan. 14, 1869. The chapel was built in 1895, and cost \$1,500. Notwithstanding the fact that three churches have been formed from the mother society the latter is still one of the strongest churches in the north part of the county and now has a membership of 283. This church has been noted for its long pastorates,

which fact will be shown by reference to the succession of pastors, viz.: Jeremiah Osborn, 1806-18 ; Marcus Ford, Dec. 3, 1820,-April 27, 1859 ; Samuel F. Bacon, 1866-71 ; Samuel Johnson, 1871 ; Jay Clizbe, Jan. 14, 1872-Dec. 1886 ; J. S. Ellsworth, Sept. 1, 1887,-Jan. 1, 1896 ; A. Y. Wilcox, June 25, 1896.

The West Newark Congregational church was formed Sept. 16, 1823, and in 1832 the church edifice was erected. Rev. Zenas Riggs was the first pastor. A complete church organization has ever been maintained here and in a measure auxiliary to the society at the Valley. However, the branch society has been without a pastor for two years.

The first society of the M. E. church of the town of Newark was set off from Berkshire and made a station in 1842, although in its history in the town Methodism dates back to the year 1822, when Rev. George W. Densmore included this village in his circuit and preached here regularly. The society and class were organized in 1833 and in that year a church home was erected. It answered the purposes of the society until 1884, and was abandoned for the large brick edifice built in that year, the latter one of the best structures of its kind in northern Tioga. Auxiliary to the society in the village is that at East Newark, which was established in 1849. The edifice was built about the same time. This society is under the village pastorate, but has an independent officary. The early ministers who preached on this circuit before Newark Valley was made a separate charge were Revs. G. W. Densmore, Herota P. Barnes, Fitch Reed, and David A. Shepard. The pastors, in succession, have been : Moses Adams, 1833 ; Jesse Peck, 1834 ; Hanford Colburn, 1835-6 ; Morgan Ruger, 1837-9 ; C. W. Giddings, 1840-1 ; H. L. Rowe, 1842-3 ; Benajah Mason, 1844-5 ; Darius Simmons, 1846 ; Sylvester Manier, 1847-8 ; H. Colburn, 1849 ; P. S. Worden, 1850-2 ; N. S. D. Davison, 1853-6 ; George H. Blakesley, 1857-8 ; O. M. McDowell, 1859-60 ; Nelson Rounds, 1861-2 ; C. V. Arnold, 1863-4 ; King Elwell, 1865-7 ; Leonard Cole, 1868-9 ; G. K. Peck, 1870-2 ; C. S. Alexander, 1873 ; G. H. Blakesley, 1873 ; George Comfort, 1874-6 ; Wm. S. Wentz, 1877-8 ; W. J. Judd, 1879-81 ; H. M. Crydenwise, 1882 ; T. P. Halstead, 1883-5 ; Wilson Treible, 1886-9 ; H. L. Ellsworth, 1889 ;

C. H. Sackett, 1890 ; F. A. Chapman, 1891 ; A. D. Decker, 1893 ; J. B. Cook, 1894.

This church in connection with that at West Newark numbers about 320 members. Another M. E. church has an organization in the town, on East hill, which is a part of the Maine charge.

The Baptist church of Newark Valley was organized Oct. 27, 1857, with twenty-six members. The first edifice was built in 1868, and the second, the present large brick structure, in 1869. This church numbers 111 members. The pastors in succession have been as follows : Revs. D. T. Leach, John Branch, Ranson T. Gates, John Ball, Henry T. Leach, Jacob Gray, R. H. Spafford, W. N. Tower, Adam H. Todd, J. S. Aineslie, G. E. Weeks, Ezra Crowell, D. F. Leach, J. G. Dyer, G. E. Benn and E. D. Hammond.

St. John's church, Roman Catholic, at Newark Valley was built in 1880, although mass was said in the village at an earlier date. This parish and church are an out-mission from Owego.

A Free Will Baptist church had an abiding place in Newark Valley village as far back as the year 1820, and a meeting house was built at the corner of Main and Silk streets. The society, however, passed out of existence many years ago.

The first election of village officers in Newark Valley resulted as follows : President, Edward G. Nowlan ; trustees, Dr. Cornelius R. Rogers, Eli D. Tibbitts, and Levi S. Burch ; treasurer, Edgar E. Chapman ; collector, Fred. W. Barber. The board appointments were : Street commissioner, Daniel H. Miller ; police justice, Lorenzo F. Rockwood ; clerk, Dewitt A. Millen.

The second president was Dr. Hiram L. Knapp, elected in 1895, succeeded in 1896 by Sherwood B. Davidge.

CHAPTER XXIV.

THE TOWN OF CANDOR.

AFTER the close of the revolution, land operators and speculators laid almost constant siege to the legislature and to the land office in their attempts to secure grants or patents, or certificates of purchase and survey, of the most desirable portions of New York ; and about the same time this state and the commonwealth of Massachusetts fell into a controversy which involved almost the entire area of New York. This, however, was amicably settled by the Hartford convention, but all the territory west of Seneca lake and as well a vast area elsewhere was ceded to the contesting state. Then New York set apart the military tract to compensate revolutionary services, and also made provision for the disposition of the old town of Chemung, then one of the civil divisions of Montgomery county.

Between Chemung on the south, the military tract on the north, the Boston purchase on the east, and the vast Phelps and Gorham purchase on the west, there was in 1791 a large tract of ungranted land lying entirely within which was the town of Candor as afterward created.

In 1791, John W. Watkins, a New York lawyer, and Royal W. Flint, in behalf of themselves and their associates applied to the commissioners of the land office for a grant of the land described in the preceding paragraph, estimated to contain 363,000 acres, and for which they offered to pay the sum of three shillings and four pence per acre. The proposition was accepted, a survey was made, and June 25, 1794, the so-called Watkins & Flint patent was granted, and then began the history of the town of Candor.

However, while negotiations were pending certificates of location and survey had been granted to other proprietors covering lands in what is now this town, one of which was to John W.

Ford, for 300 acres, dated January 23, 1794, and known on records as the Ford location. A second was made to John Cantine of 800 acres, known as the "*Big Flatt*" tract, including lands where Willseyville is built up. Mr. Cantine also had a 1,200-acre tract elsewhere in the town ; James Clinton, 200 acres ; Nathan Parshall 200 acres, all of which were granted previous to or on March 7, 1792. These were a few of the many patents made.

The entire purchase included twelve townships, and the present town of Candor is made up of parts of numbers nine, ten, eleven and twelve. This vast area was at once subdivided by the proprietary and sold at a moderate advance above the original cost and expenses of survey. Yet when settlement was well begun the price increased, and in 1800, when the number of acres under cultivation in what is now Candor was but 390, unimproved lands were selling at from three to four dollars an acre, and in 1825 had advanced to three dollars for the inferior to seven dollars for the best tracts.

In general the lands in Candor were not unlike those in other towns in the region, and the topographical conditions were also much the same, as elsewhere, yet the pioneers were attracted to this special locality by the fact that here the original forest growth was far more dense and luxuriant than in many other places in the county ; and it is said that the pines frequently reached the height of about 200 feet and were five feet in diameter at the ground. Indeed, everything in the early natural condition indicated a rich and productive soil, and this it was which attracted the first attention of the hardy New England pioneer.

The honor of having been the first settlers, the pioneers, of this town seems to have fallen to Elijah Smith, Collins Luddington, Thomas Hollister, and Job Judd, Sr., all of whom came from Connecticut to Owego by way of the Susquehanna valley and thence journeyed up Owego creek to the point where the first improvement was made during the summer of the year 1793. Hollister, Smith, and Luddington were afterward permanent residents in the town, and while Judd joined in all the improvements of the first year, and for nearly thirty years more, in 1820 he removed to In-

diana and was one of the first settlers in that western region of country.

These four men were the pioneers of Candor, and to them all the accompanying honor is due, yet mention must also be made of the work of surveyors Captain Joel Smith and Isaac Judd, whose visit here was made during the year 1793. They described to friends and relatives in the east the desirable character of the lands and the timber, and upon their report the coming of the others was induced. Again, Abel Hart was a factor in bringing about settlement in the town, for as early as 1792 he had visited friends on the Boston purchase and thus became acquainted with the country, although his residence here did not begin until several years later.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Watkins & Flint tract was not ready for settlement as early as some other of the large purchases in this part of the state, the Connecticut Yankees proved as energetic colonizers as their neighbors from Massachusetts on the Boston purchase east of Owego creek. In 1793 Joseph Booth purchased a lot for his son Orange F. Booth, when the latter was only twelve years old, and on this lot he came to live in 1801, thus founding a settlement by a family which became as prominent in the later history of the town as any within its borders.

Captain Thomas Park an old Connecticut sea captain, privateersman, and patriot, came from the east to the Boston purchase among the earliest pioneers, and located first in Vestal, but in 1788, according to George Truman's genealogical record, and 1796 in other but not more reliable records, removed to the southeast part of what afterward became Candor and made the first improvement there. The statement has been made that Capt. Park was in fact the pioneer of this town, but whether so or not cannot at this time be determined. He cleared a large tract of land, and had one of the first saw mills in the county. So early, indeed, was his settlement made that when he passed through Owego on the journey to the town there were only four log houses in that settlement.

Joel Smith, Jr., the surveyor of the Watkins & Flint tract, came and made a permanent settlement in 1795, and with him also came his wife and five children. He had served with credit as captain of a company in the third Connecticut regiment during

the revolution, and was present at the surrender of Cornwallis, in 1781. In Candor Capt. Smith was both farmer and school teacher, and was in other ways identified with early history in the region.

Israel Mead, another patriot of the revolution, came to the tract in 1795 from old historic Bennington, in Vermont, and with him also came his wife and five children. He settled in West Candor, and his son William was the first white child born in the town. Elijah Hart and David Whittlesey also came in the winter of 1794-95, and soon built a small saw mill and also a grist mill on the site where the Ryan saw mill stands. The old mill was burned in 1813. Elijah Hart was the father of Capt. Abel Hart, of whom mention is made in a preceding paragraph. The family came from Stockbridge, Mass., and settled in Broome county in 1792, but four years afterward came up to the Watkins & Flint patent and built a plank house, which was used as a dwelling and tavern, and also as a meeting house for religious worship. In 1810 Capt. Hart built a more pretentious framed hotel, which he conducted several years. He also built a blacksmith shop, started a distillery, and set up a loom for weaving, in which were made three grades of cloth. In 1806, in company with Thomas Gridley, who had come to the settlement in the meantime, Capt. Hart built a saw mill. He was indeed one of the most enterprising men of the town in its early history and by his works added much to the comfort and convenience of the settlers.

Elijah Smith, of whom mention has been made as one of the four pioneers of the town, built one of the first framed houses and was otherwise identified with early history. His farm contained 200 acres and his descendants are still known in Candor. He had six children, four of whom were sons.

Daniel Bacon was also among the earliest pioneers of Candor, and was, withal, one of the most enterprising men in the new settlement, and to him is given the credit of making the first clearing in the town. So near as can be determined at this time, Mr. Bacon first came to the town in 1793, with or soon after the pioneers, and took up a temporary abode with Thomas Hollister, and with him returned to Connecticut in the fall. The next spring he came again, this time in company with his brothers Seth, Cap-

tain Eli, and John F. Bacon, all of whom were afterward identified with the early events in the region and from whom descended several prominent families in Candor and elsewhere. John F. Bacon first settled and lived for a time in Danby, but soon came to Candor and took up land in the vicinity of his brothers. Daniel Bacon, son of Seth, came in 1805. He is remembered as a civil engineer and millwright, but best, perhaps, as Colonel Bacon, by reason of his connection with the state militia, in which he held a colonel's commission.

Ezra Smith was one of the pioneers in the Willseyville neighborhood, but the date of his settlement is now unknown. He was of New England stock but came here from Westchester county. He died in the town in 1818, and left a family of four children, all of whom grew to maturity and married. William Bates came to this town from Owego in 1796.

Jacobus Senich settled on the Big Flatt, or Cantine tract in 1797, but lived in the region only a few years. At his house the first town meeting in Spencer was held.

Abel Galpin is said to have settled in the town as early as 1790, which fact, if correct, would have made him its pioneer ; but it must be remembered that in 1790 no disposition of this region had been made by the state, and if Mr. Galpin came then he was a squatter. Such settlements were occasionally made in the county but it is doubtful if any were made in this remote territory. However, Abel Galpin was a pioneer in the town and a very worthy man as now recalled. He came from Stockbridge, Mass., married with Mary Wright, and had a family of thirteen children.

Jared Smith, Hiram Williams, and Jasper Taylor, all New England Yankees, settled in this town in 1795. Jared Smith was the son of Joel and Lydia Smith, and some of his descendants have ever since lived in Candor and are numbered among its thrifty families. Hiram Williams made his first improvement on what has been described as the Ford location. His wife was Abigail Ford, by whom he had six children. Jasper Taylor was an old patriot of the revolution. He located in the Weltonville neighborhood, and the first saw mill there was built by a member of his family. Mr. Taylor married with Maria Edmunds and by her had eleven children.

Levi Williams, Joseph Schoonover, and Charles Henderson are also to be mentioned among the early settlers, though perhaps not as pioneers. However, it is thought that they were located in the town as early as 1800. Each took up lands and made the first improvement on them. Joseph Schoonover and Caleb Hubbard were also early settlers, Mr. Hubbard coming in 1805. He was a carpenter and his work in building houses and barns made him a valuable man in the settlement. He, too, had a large family, and his descendants are still living in the town. Joseph Schoonover located on what was afterward known as the Samuel Barrott farm. He was one of the first town officers elected at the organization meeting in 1811, and was otherwise identified with early events in Candor. In his family were ten children. Selah Gridley came from Connecticut in 1803, and settled on lot 12. Elisha Blinn and Beriah Strong settled at and founded "Blinn's settlement" in 1804.

Cornelius Cortright, Sylvester Woodford, and Chauncey Woodford came to Candor in 1805. Mr. Cortright being one of the first settlers in the eastern part of the town. The family came from Delaware county and numbered ten children, nine of whom, however, were born in Candor. The Woodfords were from Farmington, Conn., and Chauncey seems to have been an advance settler for his family, as he came first in 1804 and built a rude log cabin, and in the following year Truman and Ira Woodford, and James North and Mana Hart came to the town. Bissell Woodford, who was prominent in Candor nearly three-quarters of a century ago, came in 1825. In Chauncey Woodford's family were six children. Sylvester Woodford's family had five children. Jacob Clark also settled in Candor in 1805, on lot 1, N. W. section 11.

Walter Herrick was one of the few natives of this state who settled early in Candor. He was born in Dutchess county and came here in 1806, settling in the east part of the town. Solomon Hover came in 1807 from Delaware county, and made an improvement on the farm since owned in the family. Henry Hover came about the same time, and from the same place. Both families had children, among whom were some of the first men of the town. Solomon Vergason settled in Candor in 1808, coming from Standing Stone, Pa.

Samuel Hull, a native of Massachusetts, and Daniel Cowles, of Farmington, Conn., were settlers here in 1809. Both had families and were much respected men. Mr. Cowles and his son Rufus were masons by trade and found plenty of employment among the settlers. Caleb Galpin and Ebenezer Lake also settled in the town in 1809, both in the Fairfield locality.

Dr. Elias Briggs, of Massachusetts, Ahira Anderson, a native of Connecticut, and Miles Andrews, from old Wallingford, Vt., came to live in this town in the year 1810. Dr. Briggs practised medicine at Weltonville about thirty-five years and was one of the oldest physicians in the town. He died in 1850. Miles Andrews was in the service from this town during the war of 1812-15. Jonathan Andrews, also a Vermonter, came to Candor in 1810, but later on removed to Newark Valley. Ahira Anderson settled on what was known as Anderson hill. He was a tanner as well as a farmer. In his family were ten children, of whom eight grew to maturity. Moses Grimes came from Washington county, N. Y., in 1811, and located in Park settlement.

George Douglass was of Irish birth, Osgood Ward was a New Hampshire Yankee, and both settled in Candor in 1812. Reuben Fletcher came from Moravia and settled in the west part of the town about the same time. John J. McIntyre first came in 1813, driving from northern Vermont with a yoke of oxen and a team of horses, and he was then only eighteen years old. The next year his father and family came and the name has ever since been known in the locality.

James Ross came from Barkhamsted to Candor in 1814. Caleb Sackett was here in 1815, and built a saw mill north of the old brick mill. Timothy C. Reed, Joel Robinson, John Whitley and Beri Strong were settlers here in 1816, and came, Reed from near Penobscot, Maine ; Robinson from Vermont, and Beri Strong from Duanesburg. All had families and were men much respected in the town. Mr. Reed lived in Candor village thirty-two years, and was a substantial farmer. In 1820 Isaac Comstock came from Smithfield, Rhode Island, and bought a 400 acre tract of land on west Owego creek, and in the same year Captain William Scott came from Adams, Mass., and settled on the farm which remained so long in the family.

Samuel Barager came to Candor in 1815. He was a prominent man in both town and county ; was justice of the peace many years, and was elected to the assembly in 1829.

In this chapter so far as progressed it is believed that mention has been made of nearly every settler in the town previous to the year 1820. True, there may have been others whose names are lost with the lapse of years, or who lived in the town for a short time and then removed to another locality. However, for the purpose of recalling the names of as many as possible of both pioneers and early settlers mention may be made of still later arrivals in Candor, each of whom in some manner was identified with the events of history in this special locality. Joel C. Strong came soon after 1825. Daniel Lounsbury settled in Tioga in 1816 and about ten years later came to this town. Abel Owen came from Tompkins county about 1821. Jonathan Hart came in 1825 and was for half a century an undertaker in the town. Josiah Hatch settled here in 1823, and Charles Dennis in 1826. Stoughton S. Downing came in 1837, and Mansfield Bunnell three years earlier.

Other old residents who were in some manner associated with the history of the town in the past were Rowland Van Scoy, Lewis J. Mead, Charles C. Howard, Van Ness Barrott, Radaker Fuller, Samuel Miller, John M. Van Kleeck, William L. Fessenden, John E. Robbins, Henry Hull, Augustus Holmes, William White, Aaron Lovejoy, Cyrenus Elmendorf, Richard Field, Frederick L. Parmele, William L. Carpenter and others of still later date. However, in writing of village and hamlet history, in another part of this chapter, allusion will be made to early settlers in each locality, and to still others whose names have not been mentioned.

Among the settlers in Candor were several who had served in the American army during the revolution. Their names have been preserved from one generation to another and it is appropriate that they be again recorded in this volume for the reason, first, that service in that struggle was in itself an honor both to the patriot himself and his descendants ; and second, that during the last score of years there has been a tendency on the part of descendants of the revolution to organize into social bodies, and proven eligibility thereto is often sought by the present genera-

tion. The old patriots of the revolution who came to settle in this town were Captain Joel Smith, Job Judd, Thomas Gridley, Israel Mead, Captain Thomas Park, Hiram Williams, Bissell Woodford, Elias Williams and Aaron Whitley. Special mention should be made of the service of settler Whitley, who was forcibly pressed into the British service and compelled to serve four and one-half years before he could effect his escape.

Captain Thomas Park, the founder of Park settlement, was also in the service during the war, in command of a sailing vessel, and the fact is handed down to us that his services to his country in that struggle were of great value.

No less praiseworthy or patriotic was the record of the town during the second war with Great Britain, the war of 1812-15. The men of Candor who served in that struggle were Miles Andrews, Ephraim Personeus, Lewis Wheeler, Capt. Daniel Park, Capt. Eli Bacon, Wait Johnson, Thomas Hewitt, and Phineas Judd.

ORGANIZATION AND CIVIL HISTORY.--The pioneer and early settlement of the town now called Candor was begun and substantially accomplished while the territory formed a part of the original township of Owego ; and unlike the majority of towns in this county, settlement in Candor was not begun until after the civil authority of both county and town were extended over the region. However, settlement in this part of the old town of Owego, although somewhat delayed, progressed rapidly after the proprietary perfected the title and made the necessary survey. Soon after the beginning of the century the legislature was asked to create a new jurisdiction in this part of the county. Therefore on February 28, 1806, Spencer was erected, including all that is now Candor and a vast area of other territory.

Candor was formed from Spencer by an act of the legislature passed February 22, 1811, and tradition has it that there was a strong desire on the part of many of the town's people to call the new jurisdiction *Washington*, in honor of the commander of the American army during the revolution and the first president of the United States, on the anniversary of whose birth the creating act was passed. But it so happened that in the old county of