

# SCHOOLS

By Arthur B. Brooks  
President Board of Education

### Addition Made

The home is more than twice its original size. In 1929 it received the addition of a nurses' home. In 1930, through the generosity of Frank L. Morse, brother of Virgil D. Morse, the Morse Memorial Wing doubled the original capacity and in 1932 a new school and recreational building was built and surmounted by a sun-ramp.

For bathing and exercise the home is equipped with a pool which has a wooden platform at one end and a rail at the other. Here each patient is exercised at least three times a week.

All treatments at the home are under the supervision of Dr. R. D. Severance, district orthopedist, while the equipment and methods of procedure bear the approval of the State Health Department.

The Mary Hibbard Aid, a society of women, has just donated a modern ultra violet ray lamp. With the completion of the new building, the home will be able to accommodate a normal capacity of 85 patients.

### A PROPHECY FULFILLED

In THE ITHACA JOURNAL of January 3, 1871, John H. Selkreg penned the following words:

"An enthusiastic friend of the proposed Cayuga Lake Shore railroad writes to *The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*

that it is enough to drive a railroad man wild to see the superb, stony roadway of hard, stony beach, without a foot of grade, left by the receding of the waves to their Winter level, and then reflect that this magnificent route for a road is yet unused. \* \* \* The gradeless, nature-designated route of the Cayuga valley will yet possess its railroad. It

must come by the very law of level—by the law of economic power."

### OPENING OF WILGUS HALL

From The Journal, April 28, 1868.

It will be noticed in our advertising columns that Wilgus Hall is to be opened and dedicated by Sherry's Theater Company, commencing on Monday evening next. This Hall is the largest in this section of the State, and is calculated to seat a large audience comfortably. It has a magnificent space made and fitted up expressly for theatrical purposes, with four dressing rooms attached. The hall is very high, beautifully arched, and has sixty-four gas jets in a circle under a bright and shining reflector in the center, from which the hall is brilliantly illuminated. Wilgus deserves much credit for the expense and taste displayed in the erection of this magnificent building and the fitting up of this elegant hall. Against his own wishes the people have named it "Wilgus Hall," and it will be a fitting monument to his enterprise in the future.

OUR SCHOOLS are familiar to all who have attended them as pupils and students. They form our most popular city asset. They are the only things in the City that have been built, equipped and maintained entirely at public expense. Every resident in the City has a special interest in our schools. They are public properties.

The friendships and patriotic spirit which we acquired in our schools are the most powerful known to us as a uniting and patriotic influence. The child catches it in the primary department; it expands with his or her own development, and becomes fixed and tender, and is cherished until death. Eliminating the educational value of our schools the patriotic sentiments they teach and impart more than compensate us for all they cost us. Our schools are our pride, no matter how we may approach them.

The first thing that the pioneers of Ithaca did, when they had come to this locality in a modest number, was to erect a school. It was the good fortune of the hamlet to attract a very superior class of people from New England, the counties along the lower Hudson River, New Jersey and other parts where schools had been abundant and well maintained. The early records of the schools in Ithaca indicate, but do not prove, that the first school was built in 1816, a little red school upon the site of the present High School. It is certain that the most prominent men in the hamlet were active as leaders in its control.

THE ITHACA JOURNAL was then a year old and a champion of the school, and its editor and owner, Ebenezer Mack, made trustee when he was 25 years old, and one year a resident of the hamlet.

### The Academy Founded

Private schools for children were maintained until the red school was erected. The aspirations of the new comers were so high that they erected an academy upon the same site, and conducted it as a private school in which tuition was charged, and its ground floor leased to the public as a public school until the people of the hamlet, or village, in 1827, built a school on the corner now occupied as a residence by Attorney Edward H. Bostwick, on the northwest corner of Geneva and Mill streets. The village abandoned that school and corner and erected a larger school on the southwest corner of Albany and Mill streets in 1851-52 (completed in the fall of 1853), which burned down in 1912.

In 1874 the village became the owner of the old brick Academy. It was replaced by a new High School in 1884. This was enlarged in 1890 and burned in 1912. In 1874 a brick school was erected on West Hill, and another brick school on East Hill, in 1880, and the new school on South Hill in 1907, and a brick school at Fall Creek in 1879.

The school at the corner of Albany and Mill streets has not been rebuilt. The East Hill and South Hill schools have

been enlarged and a \$300,000 High School has been erected on the site of the former High School. The Catholics built a Parochial school on West Buffalo street in 1884 that graduates its pupils into the High School.

The city is splendidly equipped with schools and has a high standard of education for all of its children of school age; its truant officer, commanded by the State laws, and sustained by all the teachers of all the schools, and by loyal and efficient city magistrates, enforces compulsory attendance in a manner that guarantees education to every child in the city at public expense. It is a great improvement upon old laws that did not compel attendance.

The schools are under the control of twelve school commissioners, called the Board of Education, and are elected by popular vote. The Board selects all teachers, officials, and the superintendent of schools, employees, and fixes salaries, and orders school supplies, and audits all accounts.

The Parochial School is maintained by the Catholic church of the Immaculate Conception, whose teachers are Sisters of St. Joseph and under the supervision of the rector of the parish.

No private schools for children now exist in Ithaca except the modest little kindergarten for children too young for the regular schools.

This brief statement indicates the rapid growth of our local schools and their popularity. About 100 pupils and students from out of town attend them and pay tuition. Like most of our city institutions, our schools are held up to a standard required by our University influence, for the officials, and teachers and faculty of the University are residents of Ithaca and send their children to our schools.

### Known Far and Wide

I can say with truth that if Ithaca is specially noted outside of her boundary limits for any one merit or virtue it is for her schools, and her school system, and the loyal support given to the Board of Education in all of its efforts to improve that system for nearly a hundred years. Sectarian and political influences have never been known to enter into the selection of any person who has had any relation to our public schools as teacher, official or employee.

The approximate cash value of our schools is \$500,000, but the value of the system is above calculation and the unity and harmony of the people, the Board and teaching staff is still higher in value to the city.

## "ITHACA COLLEGE" WAS ADVOCATED ABOUT THE YEAR 1820

Few of the present residents of Ithaca know about the "Ithaca College" advocated in Ithaca about 1820 but which failed to be. As regards breadth and liberality of principle and place of location, the coincidence between it and Cornell University is so striking that local historians have found it difficult to believe a matter of pure accident and feel that surely Ezra Cornell must have known of the movement of the early days, although there is no evidence to substantiate the statement.

In 1821 the Genesee Conference resolved to establish within its bounds "a university for the education of the youth of both sexes." The progressive business men of Ithaca at once took steps to secure its location on the Hill where Cornell now stands.

THE ITHACA JOURNAL of May 30, 1821, set forth the facts about the "Ithaca College" that the inhabitants dreamed of and made an appeal for generous subscriptions to the needed fund. It said, "Our females may here acquire a useful and solid, as well as finished and polite, education, and our young men will have all the advantages that a college can afford." This was signed by a committee on behalf of the citizens of Ithaca: Charles Humphrey, Luther Gere, C. P. Heermans, Archer Green and Augustus Sherrill.

In that year, more than \$6,000 had been subscribed by the citizens of this vicinity as well as ten acres of ground donated by a man from New York City and located upon the brow of East Hill between the ravines of Cascadilla and Fall Creek, the site of the present University.

The Conference committee in charge estimated that \$40,000 would be necessary to erect the three needed buildings of brick, a central or college building, and two academies, one of which is

to be used exclusively for the education of females.

On the building committee were the following Ithacans: Charles Humphrey, Jesse Merritt, William R. Gregory, and Henry Ackley. Joseph Speed of Caroline, Dr. Lewis Beers of Danby, and Elijah Atwater of Ulysses, were also members.

The "Ithaca College" was "designed to combine all the branches of male and female instruction from the first rudiments of an English education to the higher sciences usually taught in American universities. The assurance is given "that although it has been announced under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church and will be conducted ostensibly under its direction, yet that it will be established on as broad and liberal principles as any college in the United States and a system of instruction adopted without regard either to particular religious or political opinions."

## Story of the Formal Opening of Cornell University Almost Fifty Years Ago

*From The Journal Files*

A COMPARISON of Cornell as it was in 1868, the first year after the University opened, and in 1915, forty-seven years later, is interesting.

The first University Register boasted of 23 faculty members and 412 students. There were 200 acres of land and \$500,000 donated by Ezra Cornell, as well as a fund of \$688,576.12 derived from the sale of 990,000 acres of script land. McGraw Hall was the only building in use when the University opened, but Morrill and White were soon finished. The first graduating class, in 1869, numbered eight.

Today Cornell has approximately 750 faculty members and, the last college year, 1914-15, 5,345 students. The Campus proper consists of 351 acres, and with the Agricultural College farm, 1,324 acres of land. Its productive and other funds are estimated at \$13,974,000 and its lands, buildings and equipment at \$8,157,000. It has 38 buildings, not counting the four new dormitories for men which will be completed this coming college year, all of them probably being in use the second term, if not the first. The graduating class last June numbered more than a thousand.

From The Journal, Oct. 7, 1868.

The inauguration exercises of Cornell University the 7th of October, a day so long anticipated, was ushered in by the joyous pealing of bells and the victorious salutes of cannon.

The conviction that the University was already a grand success had been stealing into the minds of our citizens for several weeks, and their enthusiasm, when the seal of public opinion had been put upon it, knew no bounds.

At an early hour the multitude began to assemble at the south end of the Cornell library, and thanks to the admirable arrangements of committee, were all admitted and comfortably seated.

The hall was tastefully decorated with crimson and white, the extremes of the stage being occupied with large vases, filled with masses of ferns and moss.

At 10 o'clock, the trustees, president and professors entered with the founder

of the University, Mr. Ezra Cornell, whom the vast crowd greeted as the ancients did their revered heroes by rising to their feet.

The president pro-tem, the honorable William Kelley, after an eloquent invocation of the Almighty blessing by the Rev. Dr. Strong, in a few brief but appropriate remarks introduced Mr. Cornell, who, when the enthusiastic applause had subsided, read his address. The ravages of his late illness were painfully apparent, but his voice was steady, and in a quiet and simple manner he stated the object of the University. He said that those who had come here that day must not expect to find anything finished—that was not the intention of the trustees—but that we had met this day to begin a great work which should bring forth its fruit in the future. But we add his remarks, nearly entire, as better than any description of them.

### Mr. Cornell's Address

"I fear that those who come expecting to find a finished institution will be disappointed. We did not invite you to such an entertainment nor did we expect or desire to have a single thing finished. We expected only to commence an institution which in the future will mature to a great degree of usefulness: which will place at the disposal of the industrial classes such facilities for acquiring practical knowledge and high mental culture as the limited means of the humble can command. I trust that we have made the beginning of an institution which will prove highly beneficial to the poor young men and the poor young women of your country. This is one thing we have not finished: but more and more we hope to perfect until the young men of honest effort and earnest labor, upon whom fortune has omitted to smile, shall be able to secure to themselves a thoroughly practical and useful education, thus making better the individual, the State, and society itself. I trust that we have made the beginning of an institution which shall bring science to the aid of agriculture. Chemistry has the same great store of wealth in reserve for agriculture that it has lavished upon the arts, and we must instruct the young farmer how to obtain

the hidden treasure, the farmer needs more light: and this we are preparing to supply. We also hope to strengthen the arm of the mechanic that he may multiply his production by means of a mind of higher culture. Millions have been wasted for the want of thorough scientific and practical training among our mechanics. The great wealth of our nation has been derived from mechanism applied to agriculture. We must labor earnestly in this inviting field.

I hope we have made a beginning toward a con-

dition in which men shall have enlarged culture, greater truthfulness, honesty and

manliness, and higher aims, and be better qualified to serve their fellow-men, their families and their God. It shall be our aim to make true Christian men without dwarfing or paring them down to fit the narrow gauge of sect. Finally, I trust, that we have laid the foundation of a university where every person can find instruction in any study."

The Lieutenant Governor, in the unavoidable absence of the Governor, administered the oath of office to the presi-

dent, and presented him in a few beautiful remarks, with the charter, seals, and keys of the University.

#### Dr. White Speaks

After music, the president of the University, the Hon. A. D. White, delivered his inaugural address. He had, like Mr. Cornell, but recently risen from a sick bed, but the public would never have known from the masterly manner in which he read his address.

It was perhaps the fullest and most perfect exposition which has yet been given of the great fundamental ideas on which the University rests. It was a most scholarly and logical defense of great principles, a fervent plea for true Christian culture, and training untrammelled by the fetters of narrow minded sectarianism and bigotry. He sketched the history of the University with a few bold strokes, and then expanded its guiding principles.

At length it came the time to address the

Founder of the Institution: but when he recollected the long hours of toil, the sleepless nights filled with weary

journeyings and tireless endeavors for the good of his fellowmen, when he recalled the hours of calumny, of wicked slander, the strong man was weak as a child and could only in a few broken words bear his solemn testimony to the unselfishness and sacrifices of him, who that day saw but the first fruits of his long labor.

None who were present can ever forget

it. There was not a dry eye in the audience as he said "You have been accused, sir, of erecting a monument to yourself. Would to God more men would erect such monuments to themselves!"

He was interrupted by frequent applause which was immense when in addressing the students he said, "In Heaven's

name, gentlemen, let us have done with stale college tricks!"

A new era in university government is inaugurated and we shall be much mistaken if the students in Cornell University seeing themselves treated as

gentlemen, do not act as such.

The professors then took the oath of office and one of their number, W. C.

Russell, delivered an able address in their behalf, promising the students the cooperation of the faculty, and the encouragement and sympathy of every member.

The exercises of the morning then terminated with an address by J. V. L. Pruyn, the chancellor of the regents of the University, (State organization) who promised in the heartiest and most honest manner, the cordial aid of the regents, and welcomed Cornell University into the number of established colleges.

In the afternoon the stores

were closed and the throng wended their way to the University to witness the pre-

sentation of the chime of bells on the behalf of Miss McGraw.

The Hon. Erastus Brooks was the president of the occasion and introduced Mr. Francis M. Finch on whom devolved the pleasant duty of presenting the bells for Miss McGraw. The Hon. S. L. Woodford received the bells on behalf of the University. Addresses were then made by the Hon. A. B. Weaver, superintendent of public instruction, Professor Louis Agassiz, and Professor G. W. Curtis.

The exercises of the day closed with a grand reception by the citizens to the guests and friends of the University. The entire second floor of the Cornell library was thrown open and brilliantly lighted and Whitlock's Band discoursed its sweetest

strains. The committee in charge, was composed of Messrs. John Runsey, Charles B. Curtiss, William Byington, and William G. Johnson. It was not an exclusive demonstration of respect from a select few of our citizens but a public reception where all were welcome, and to which, to judge by the immense throng pretty nearly all must have attended at some portion of the evening.

So closed in congratulations and enjoyment a day which will long be remembered as of the greatest importance not only to our town, but to mankind everywhere.

1872?  
↓

1872?  
←

#### ITHACA'S JUBILEE.

For three days Ithaca had already been boiling over with enthusiasm and good feeling. Cannon had roared; bonfires had burned; fireworks had been displayed; everybody was filled with happiness, and some few with something else beside, something that is not happiness itself, but with some conduces to the full development of that state. Yet the tide did not rise to its full height until Friday night, the 16th inst. Then Ithaca could not contain herself; for her boys, her heroes were coming in triumph. Brooms proudly held aloft their brushy heads everywhere; everywhere were decorations with the college colors, carnelian and white, on brooms, on houses, on lamp-posts, on men, on horses, on dogs, on carriages, on everything. Even "Ephraim," a colored gentleman, as well known to Ithacans as Tom Talliday once was to Elmira, was seized with the popular fervor and marched proudly to and fro, near the depot, in "sojer clothes" and with carnelian and white hung from his shoulders, crossing in front and behind.

Long before the train arrived an immense concourse had gathered at the depot. There were old men, young men, middle-aged men, boys, women, girls, people of every class, age, and color, all showing on their faces the same enthusiasm. Students gathered on the platform ready to receive their honored mates. During the suspense of waiting college songs rang out clearly and joyfully, and when at last the engine's head light hove in sight at 8.30, everybody was on tiptoe with excitement. Shouts and harras rent the air. Slowly the train decked out with flags steamed up to the platform. There were four coaches all heavily laden with passengers. The last was the palace car Duchess, Vanderbilt's favorite, which had been furnished by Wagner, the inventor, and was under the charge of the affable and well-known conductor, Loomis. In this were the crgws and their friends. Ritchie of the Saratogian, also was there. All the way from Saratoga they had been cheered and ovated, but here was to be the crowning feature, and the end of their triumphal journey.

As the palace car reached the platform how eagerly every face was turned, how loudly every body cheered, how joyously every student grasped the hand of his friend in either crew. Amid the shouts of men, the ringing of bells, the booming of cannon, the snapping of fire crackers, and the bright light of bonfires and illuminations, the boys were seized by their fellow students and carried aloft in the air upon the platform. They were set down before a temporary platform, and while they stood with their oars erect, the Hon. Wm. L. Bostwick addressed them in eloquent words of welcome. He told them how eagerly the citizens of Ithaca had awaited their coming, how honored they all felt by Cornell's honor, and what demonstrations of joy and appreciation there had been when they heard the news of the double victory. In the name of the president of the village and in behalf of the citizens he welcomed them back in glory.

Now out of the noise and confusion the procession began to form. The crews and those who had taken other prizes at Saratoga, were placed upon a platform built upon the truck of the Hook and Ladder Company, sitting in chairs and holding aloft the flags they had won and their oars. The train had brought a band of the the 51st Regiment from Syracuse and the Seneca Falls band. The citizens too, had a martial band. In front marched the Syracuse band followed by men with torches.— Next came the men drawing the Hook and Ladder truck which carried the oarsmen. Within the ropes by which this was drawn the boat of the University crew was carried aloft by students. Behind the truck came the Seneca Falls band followed by the students and alumni, some of whom carried torches. These were under the charge of Mr. Warner, an alumnus. The students and alumni marched far abreast, most of the time in open order and with arms crossed, hands resting on each others shoulders in a very brotherly fashion. The streets about the depot were filled with a dense throng of people and small boys were dashing about everywhere shooting off firecrackers and torpedoes.

The procession moved up State street amid the firing of cannon and the ringing of church bells and fire bells. Thence it passed through the principal streets of the village. On both sides the houses were decorated and illuminated. There were none too poor to show a red and white flag; while some were finely draped with festoons of carnelian and white. There was not a single house that showed no recognition. The sidewalks everywhere were filled with people. The owners of the houses and their families appeared on their porches cheering and waving their handkerchiefs to the victors as they passed by on their carriage of state. The maidens had trimmed their bonnets with carnelian and white, and some wore besides shawls and dresses of the same colors. Whenever the students passed by a house extraordinarily decorated, at the command from their marshal they gave three rousing-cheers, ending up with a noise approaching somewhat to the beautiful song of a turkey gobbler, which we afterwards translated into the words "Cornell, I yell, I yell, I yell, Cornell, I yell." So often were the loud hurrahs rung out that many a voice was too hoarse to speak when the procession

reached its destination. Continually there were Roman candles firing, and immense fire-crackers and cannon booming. The full moon shone clear and bright, just tinging the clouds with silver, and would have made any landscape beautiful, but the colored lights and the brightness from bonfires and Roman candles and from Chinese lanterns suspended from the building fronts when the procession passed through the business streets made them look far more beautiful. Ithacans thought the moon insignificant. They needed no moon. Their very faces shone with a joy they could not control, but which made them dance about, shake hands with everybody and shout "You're all good boys, you're all good boys, every one of you."

On the corners of State and Tioga and Seneca and Tioga were presented what we considered the finest fireworks. A number of Roman candles securely fastened together in some way were all touched off together. By this a continual stream of fire was sent up, and into the smoke above, lighting it up beautifully with red and white, balls of fire continually shot up. A little volcano seemed to be belching forth from its crater its fire and smoke and lava. Arches of fire were extended across the street, and before the Cornell library building on the top center of a beautifully decorated arch in letters of fire shone the word "Cornell." The picture of Ezra Cornell was suspended from one of the windows. The crowd here was immense, and as the procession passed, the hurrahs were loud and long continued.

At last the procession reached Dewitt Park, where another immense crowd was congregated. From the stand in the center of the park, before which the heroes were stationed, the Rev. Mr. Tyler gave another address of welcome and congratulation, with wishes for future successes. President White then stepped forward and addressed his boys.

He congratulated them that they had won the greatest victory ever achieved by an American college. He had spoken before in favor of boating and his enthusiasm was not now aroused for the first time. It began twenty years ago, when he was a member of the class of '53 in Yale College, and a member of the first boat club that sent a challenge to another college club. Their defeat in the race following only aroused them to greater action and subsequent victories, as Cornell's defeats had aroused her. He spoke of the benefits of college boating in giving a sound body together with a sound mind. Without the former what was the latter worth. Boating aided the discipline of the University. For it taught self-denial and self-restraint. It gave a chance for working off the surplus energy of some lively ones. He alluded to the fact that objec-

tions to boating came mostly from colleges that are weak and haven't enough water to boat themselves. If it is a conclusive argument against these races that there is great immorality attending them, then we ought never to celebrate the ever glorious Fourth; for there is the same objection. Men say that it is bad because men bet on it. Men will bet on something. If they don't bet on college boat races they will bet on something else. At sea they bet on the rate of the ship's progress, or the color of the pilot's clothes or eyes when he comes on board for want of something better. Men say, "We

don't send our boys to college to learn to row, we send them to study." Not so. Colleges do what they can toward making perfect men, both physically and intellectually. He cited and answered other objections and gave an eloquent review of the beneficial effects of boating. He said that he was pleased to say that all these young men stood well in their classes and they were fair representatives of the intellectual culture of the University. He was gratified at the interest which the citizens of the town showed in their success. His speech was heartily cheered. In the Associated Press dispatch Friday night the speech of the President was wrongly credited to Mr. Tyler.

After the speeches, the procession re-formed and proceeded up the hill to the University buildings. At the top of the hill, close by the gymnasium, under the supervision of Prof. Sweet, and by the labor of the students who remain at the University during the summer, had been erected a beautiful triumphal arch of evergreens, reaching across the road. A shell, with oars artistically arranged, crowned the top. On one side appeared the motto, "Good Boys;" on the other, "Welcome Victors." Under this arch the procession passed, and proceeded to the University buildings. These were illuminated by colored lights; before the north and south buildings, red lights; before the McGraw, which stands between these, at one end a red, at the other end a white light, so arranged that the building was illuminated, half with red and half with white, the two colors blending in the centre. The chimes rang out clearly on the midnight air from the McGraw tower. The air was so still that the smoke from the balls of fire from the Roman candles which were fired over the buildings seemed to hang in wreathes and festoons over them, and as all was lighted up by the glare of the colored lights, it presented a sight at once beautiful and impressive.

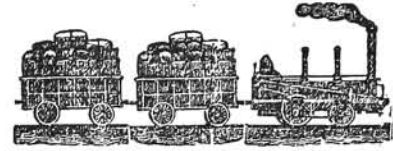
The procession then marched up to the President's mansion and scattered about in the beautiful grove in front. The programme here was in the charge of E. M. Howard, '73, Professor in Bridgeton Institute, N. J. After an address of congratulation to the crews he called upon Mr. P. H. Perkins, '75, President White and Professor Fiske. Mr. Ferguson, '75, addressed them in behalf of the working students remaining at the University during the summer in a spicy speech. He alluded to the arch they had built in honor of the crews. Hon. A. B. Cornell was called out by the assembled crowd. Ostrom, Captain of the University, and Lewis, Captain of the Freshman crew, were both called out and responded briefly. As they walked up the steps President White stepped forward and grasped them very cordially by the hand. The exercises here were interspersed with music by the bands.

The procession then moved back to the village, and at the Ithaca Hotel a supper was given to the crew by the citizens. After this until four o'clock in the morning sounds of revelry were continual. The bands played their finest tunes. The boys and men shouted their loudest. For two nights already Ithaca had not slept, and now at the climax of their enthusiasm they rejoiced until all their energy was gone. They were all hoarse, and some could do no more than squeak. The daylight was just appearing before the last reveller sought his weary couch, sleepy and tired. But still he could whisper in his sleep, "They're all good boys, they're all good boys, every one of 'em."

The next morning the streets were nearly deserted. Here and there were remains of fire-crackers, Roman candles, red and white rags, brooms with brushes still proudly held aloft, and specimens of humanity who seemed all the worse for a three days' stretch of hilarity.

For our own part we never saw such a celebration, such a decoration of every house, such a turn out of all the people, such loud rejoicings, such a pandemonium. Everybody seemed to be wild. The unexpected taking of both races, the grandest victory ever known in the history of college regattas, was too much for them. All the "pig iron" in the State could not have held Ithaca down before this final let off. But now that the steam is all spent and her surplus good feeling has ridden off on the smoke of her celebration, she will settle down, her sober old self again, let us hope, until next year, perhaps the tide of her enthusiasm may again break forth. We hope it may have reason to do so.

# ITHACA AND OWEGO



## RAIL ROAD.

NEW ARRANGEMENT WHILE FINISHING THE ROAD.

### TRANSPORTATION TRAIN.

**The train of Transportation Cars will leave Ithaca** every afternoon (Sundays excepted) at 4, and arrive at Gridley's at 8 o'clock. P. M., will leave Gridley's at 4, and arrive at Ithaca at 8 o'clock, A. M., stopping, both in going and returning, at Howe's Turnout, Whitcomb's and Wisley's Mills, to take in and discharge loading, and receive Cars that may be in readiness to join the train.

**The train of Transportation Cars on the Owego end** of the Road, will leave Owego every afternoon (Sundays excepted) at 5, and arrive at Gridley's at 8 o'clock, P. M., will leave Gridley's at 4, and arrive in Owego at 7 o'clock, A. M., stopping both going and returning at Jones' Cross Roads, Sacket's and Chidsey's Mills, at Candor Corners, and at Booth's Cross Roads to take in and discharge loading, and to receive such cars as may be in readiness to join the train.

**No burden Cars are permitted to run upon the Road** except such as are registered in the Secretary's Office in Ithaca, and have a Certificate of Fitness from the Engineer, and a way-bill of loading must accompany each car not belonging to the Company's Train, and toll paid at the Gates, at the rate of 3 cents per ton per mile.

DANIEL L. BISHOP, Secretary.

ITHACA, July 20, 1838.

Mack, Andrus & Woodruff, Printers.

# Personalities

## TOMPKINS COUNTY'S LEGISLATORS OF THE PAST CENTURY

BY WILLIAM B. GUNDERMAN

Former Mayor and four times Assemblyman

TRADITION and very short sketches of our State and Federal legislators since Tompkins County was organized in 1817 that are at the command of the writer in local libraries are of a character that measure up at least to the average of any county of its size and population. That is the light in which I view the

records and the personnel of our legislators.

Beginning with Judge Nicoll Halsey, or rather with David Woodcock as to priority of election, and running along the Congressional line with Judge Dana, Judge Bruyn, Judge Humphrey, Judge Wallbridge, Judge Wells, Milo Goodrich, Jeremiah W. Dwight and his son John W. Dwight, I am sure that we have cause of pride in our Congressmen. The Dwights were the special counselors of the Presidents and Cabinets of their days in Congress.

During the 98 years of its existence, Tompkins County has had its own citizens in Congress about 34 years. One of them, Judge Bruyn, to break a tie vote upon a measure which he judged of vast national importance, was taken upon his cot, while very weak and sick, from his rooms in his hotel in Washington, to the House of Representatives and voted, amidst the impressive silence of the House. Judge Bruyn paid for his loyalty to duty, party and country with a relapse and then with his life. That was long ago, 1838, when he was 47.

Our Senators have kept the county legislative record up to standard. Ebenezer Mack, founder of THE ITHACA JOURNAL, according to tradition, led the Senate during a long stretch of a profoundly important and sensational period. George D. Beers, Timothy S. Williams, Josiah B. Williams, John H. Selkreg who for forty years was owner and editor of THE ITHACA JOURNAL, Edwin C. Stewart, whose versatility and ability and influence in committee rooms was not surpassed by his modesty in open senatorial session, Francis A. Bloodgood, who served eight years, Peter Hazen, Ezra Cornell, Edward S. Esty, Benn Conger and others whose names are familiar to the elder students of local history and local development were citizens of Tompkins. Senator Morris Halliday is earning his spurs. Andrew D. White is one of us and has been since, while a young Senator from Onondaga County, he championed the cause of his senatorial colleague, Ezra Cornell, in the early sixties, and landed the great State educational institution in Ithaca and christened it Cornell University. Tompkins thus had two Senators in that branch of the law-making power of the State in 1864-65 and it was a toss-up between them as to which was

the greatest Senator of that great day. Senator Cornell made the occasion and Senator White gave it form and power and fame; and he lives to enjoy it in its plentitude, as Senator Mack lived to see the work of his legislation to curb and guide private and public banks and bankers and to construct and control railroads and railway corporations in developing the State and not permit them to neglect the promises made in their franchises and charters and their duties to the public and to depositors and investors.

The record of our Assemblymen is worthy of the Senators who generally served terms in the lower chamber and were graduated into the Senate. The list is a long one and I cannot ask THE JOURNAL to find space for it here. But names that are not found in the Senate roster, and names which meant much to their constituents in their legislative days, include Herman Camp, Henry B. Lord, Jonathan B. Gorman, Horace Mack, John James Speed, Ira Tillotson, Judge Humphrey, Speaker of the Assembly, Wm. H. L. Bogart, Judge Wallbridge, Judge Dana, Henry W. Sage, Elias W. Cady, Benjamin G. Ferris, Stephen B. Cushing, Jeremiah W. Dwight, William L. Bostwick, Lyman Congdon, George W. Schuyler, Samuel D. Halliday, Charles M. Titus, Dr. John E. Beers, Walter G. Smith, Frank J. Enz, Albert H. Pierson, Frederick E. Bates, Theron Johnson, Walter G. Smith, Benjamin Jennings, Elbert Curtis, George E. Monroe, Sherman Miller, Eli Beers, Fox Holden, Dr. Minor McDaniels, John Preswick, and scores more of the representative citizens of the County. Jennings went to and from Albany from Danby on his horse, taking his food in a saddle-bag, "on the trips."

For years the County had two members, and for years three members, until 1858 when the number was reduced to one member, the growth of some counties and formation of many new Assembly districts making the reduction necessary. Tompkins has stood about stationary in population since 1830, a period of over 85 years, but from no fault or neglect of its Senators or Assemblymen.

The distribution of our legislators among the townships and city is notable. Every township had its share of the honors. Every class of industry has had its representatives. The farm, the grocery, the editorial room, the factory, the bench, the bar, the banker, the pulpit, the dry-goods store, the bookstore, the hotel, the forge, the schools, in fact the entire gamut of social and financial conditions of citizenship have been elected and served as legislators in Tompkins.

In 1849 Charles J. Rounseville, of Caroline, country fiddler and blacksmith, was an Assemblyman and paid for his board while in Albany by playing at night dances in that city, and was known

there as the "sledge hammer from Tompkins." His colleague was Dr. Darius Hall, a leading citizen of the County, who might be called an aristocrat, for he was so regarded in his own town, Lansing.

Jason P. Merrill stands sponsor for the following amusing story of a spirited legislative contest in the Town of Caroline, between a proud Virginia father and his native, determined son, Robert H. S. Hyde, a former law student of Ben Johnson, and Democratic nominee for the Assembly in 1855. Robert senior was a strenuous temperance leader. Robert junior, the nominee, was not. Robert senior contended that Robert junior was the candidate of the whisky party. The father and son resided under

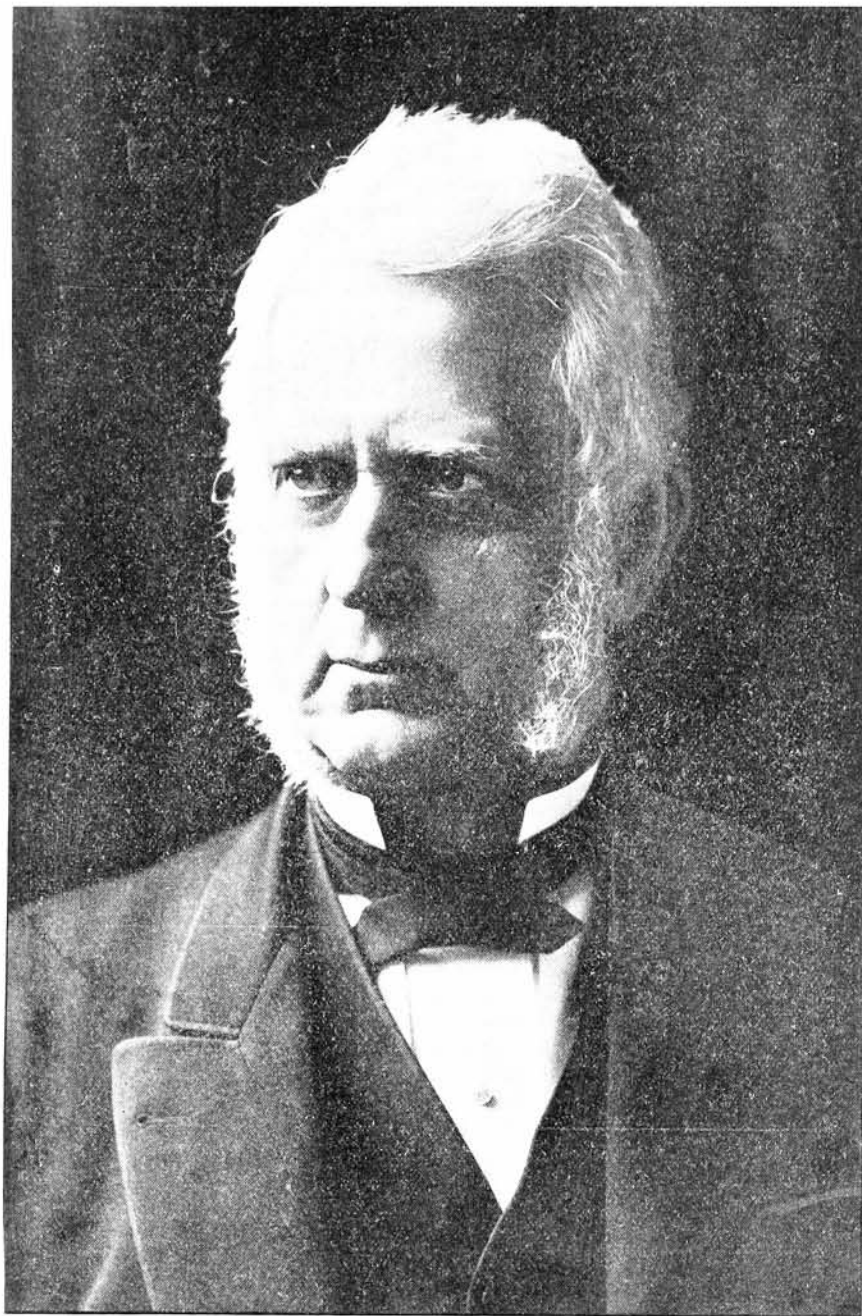
the same roof, proud and self-asserting descendants of old Virginia aristocracy. The son took issue with his father upon the title "whisky party." The campaign was between father and son as much as any other issue. It was bitter but dignified and watched closely by the entire County. The contest ended only when the voting ended on the evening of election day. The father denounced his son and his political principles and predicted horrible results if his son were elected. The son was known as "Bob" all over this vicinity. He came to Ithaca, after the polls had closed, for the election returns from the county. He returned to the family residence in Speedsville, eighteen miles from Ithaca, in the small hours of the morning after election. With due regard for his father's feelings he said to his wife: "Now, father will be up soon to learn the result of the election. I don't care to tell him. You can do that. I am elected." In a short time the father knocked gently at the bedroom door of his son and daughter-in-law and she asked what was wanted.

"As Robert returned?" asked the father. "Yes," she answered. "Did he say who is elected?" "Yes," she replied.

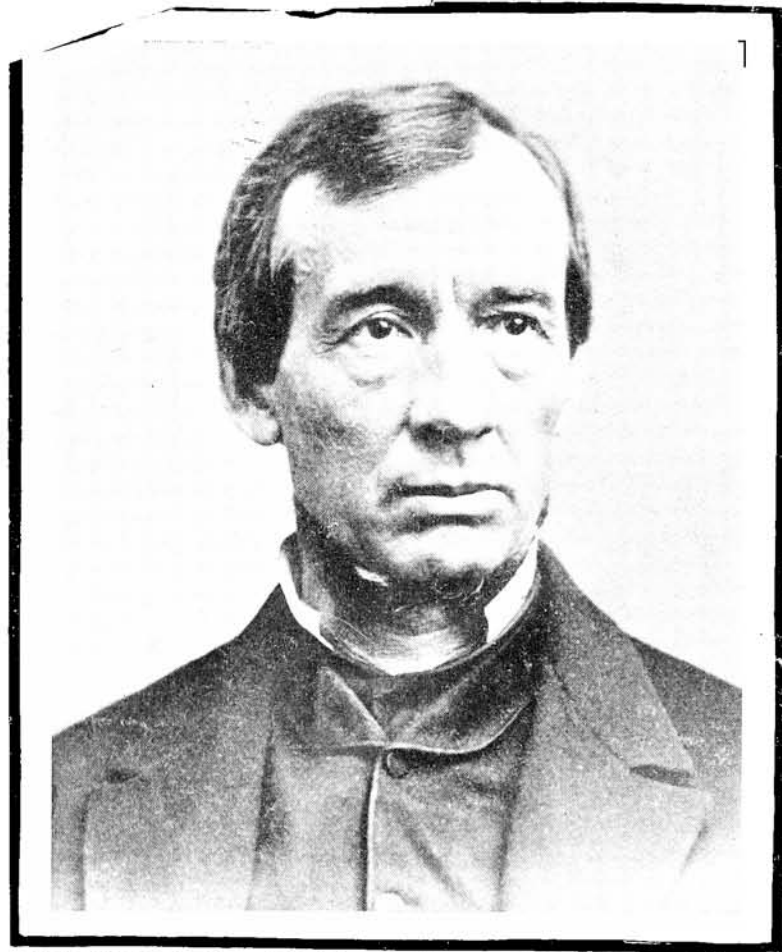
"Robert is elected." "My God! The streets will run full of whisky now!" exclaimed the father. The son rolled and laughed in his bed and enjoyed telling the story for many years thereafter.



DANIEL BATES  
First President of the Village of Ithaca



JEREMIAH DWIGHT



JOHN H. SELKREG



REV. WILLIAM WISNER

"Dominie" Wisner was the powerful head of the Presbyterians in this county and more distinctly original in personality than any pulpiteer in this section of the state. His residence is seen on the knoll now the site of the Sage mansion or Cornell Infirmary. He was always aggressive and in war paint in his sermons, and held contentions with every clergyman of every other sect until his last year or two on earth when he allowed a Unitarian minister, upon whom he had made a call at the Clinton House, take his arm and walk up Owego (State) street to his home, amid an astonished lot of people.



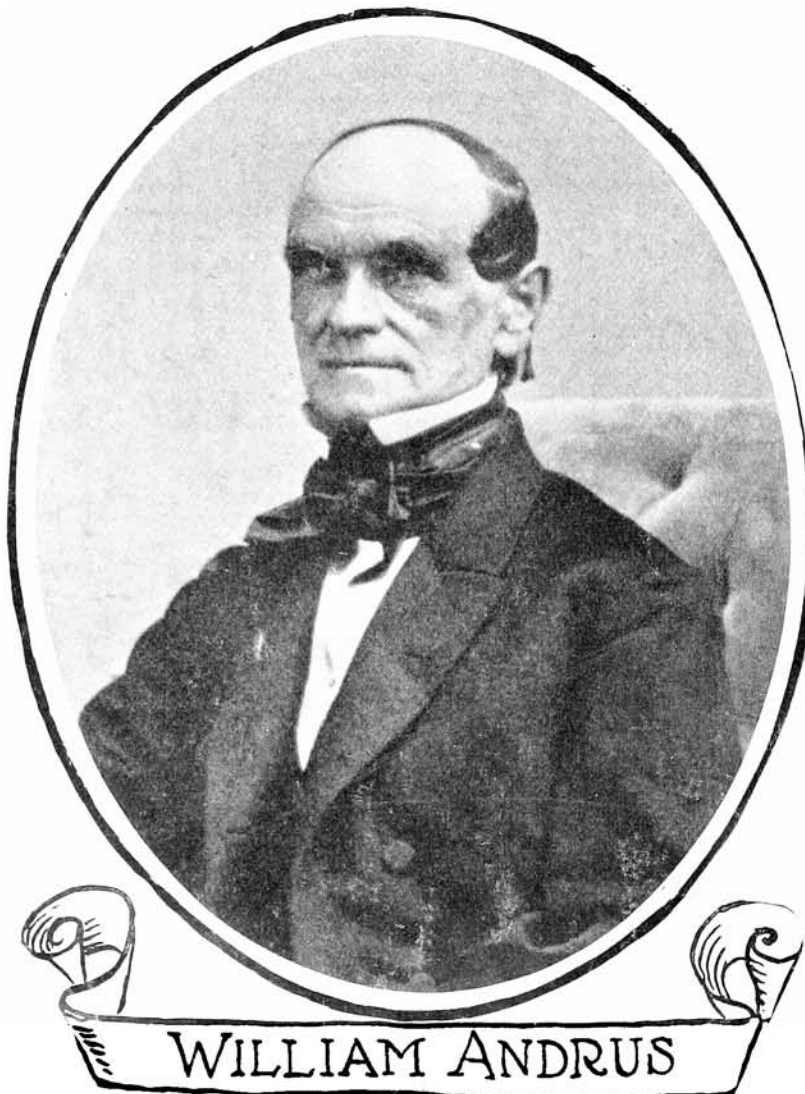
"AUNT" ELSIE BROOKS

THE JOURNAL has good reason to be proud of its collection of pictures of early scenes in Ithaca when a little village, and when a larger one and its gallery of old and famous Ithacans. A thrill will be inspired by our picture of old "Aunt" Elsie Brooks. She looks harmless and docile, but she was the most lively, most domineering, most influential woman in this county in her day (1845-1873). As she sits here "Aunt" Elsie is, it was claimed and not disputed, more than 100 years of age. She had the most powerful voice in the village and a tremendous influence as a leader in prayer and in other ways among her own colored people. She was very familiar with everybody and anybody; sharp, and fearless, aggressive, and robust in health and manners, and short and weighty in body. Her style of exhortation is illustrated in her call upon the Lord God to come down through the church roof and never mind the damage for, she shrieked, "I'll pay for de shingles." "Aunt" Elsie has friends to spare. She was really popular except among hoodlums and she enjoyed giving them her celebrated tongue thrashings. She was a runaway slave and a personality too unique to picture in words. In this picture the old and generous sized basket on her arm was her traveling companion and always filled, as a natural thing, "as a matter of course," with good things by store keepers and friends wherever she happened to stray. She was a slave plantation product, but she possessed wit, and intellect and spirit and used them freely everywhere. Miss Mary Hibbard owns "Aunt" Elsie's photo.



HERMAN CAMP, BANKER AND DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN

The portrait of Herman Camp has never been seen before now in public paper or magazine. He was a resident of Trumansburg although president of the Tompkins County Bank from 1836 to 1859, but a constant visitor to and attendant upon that bank and was much of his time in Ithaca. He was a distinguished personality in his day and an ally of the Presbyterian churches in Ithaca and Trumansburg.



William Andrus was a financier and merchant of the highest standing, and a superior example of the old time gentleman and from 1824 to 1831 was one of the proprietors of THE ITHACA JOURNAL. He passed away in 1869. In the memorial by Rev. Thomas C. Strong, D.D., this tribute is paid to Mr. Andrus: "He was industrious, modest, a self-sacrificing worker; pure in life; earnest in action; and withal, the sincere and conscientious Christian."





DAVID D. SPENCER

David D. Spencer was to the Whigs what Ebenezer Mack was, as an editor, to the Democrats, a powerful writer and active leader and honorable man. His sons Charles and Spense were prominent. His portrait has never been seen in the public press until now. He founded *The Ithaca Chronicle* in 1820 and, at his death, was succeeded by his brother Anson. *The Chronicle* was merged with several papers, became a Democratic organ in the fifties, and was supplanted by *The Daily News* several years ago when the two papers were merged by their owners and the old titles abandoned.



*Timothy D. Wilcox*

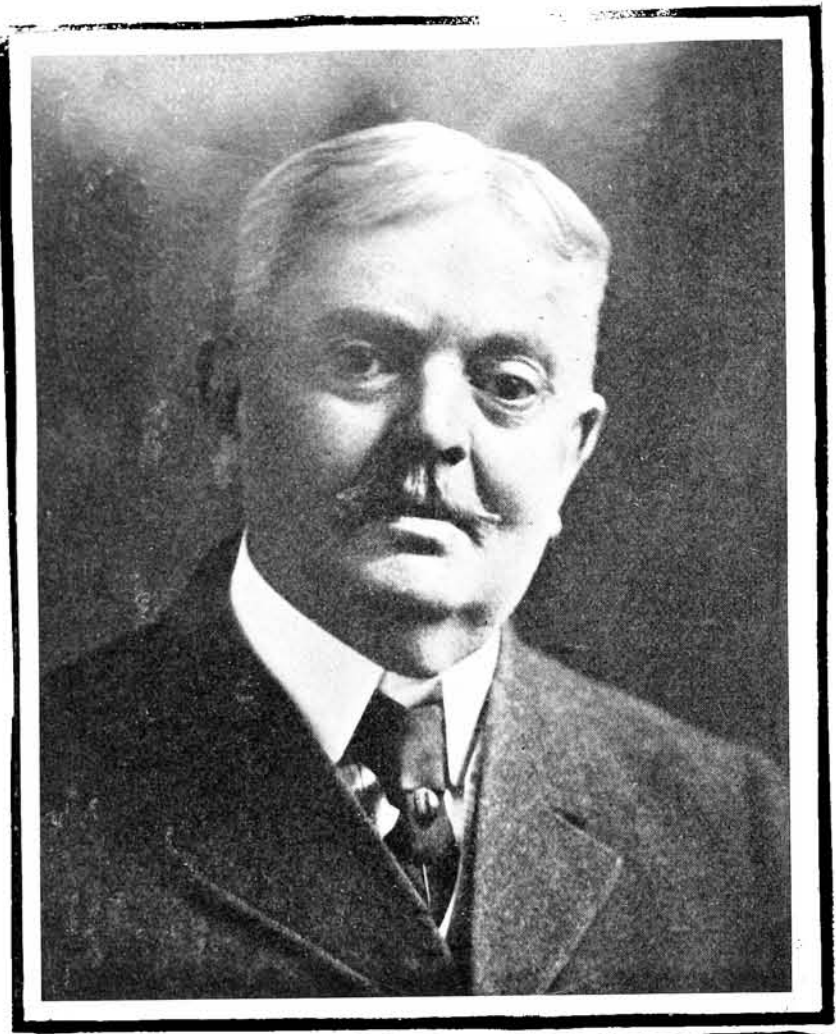
"T. D." Wilcox was a unique personality and found abundance of uses for it as owner and director of the fleets of side-wheel steamers on Cayuga Lake from 1840 until he died in 1884. His stately old colonial residence is now owned and occupied by his son-in-law, Dudley Finch, northwest corner of Seneca and Geneva streets. He earned his title, Captain Wilcox, while in command of watercraft, one of which was built by Robert Fulton, in the waters that flow into New York Bay and in the bay itself.



GEORGE DANA, A "FORTY-NINER"



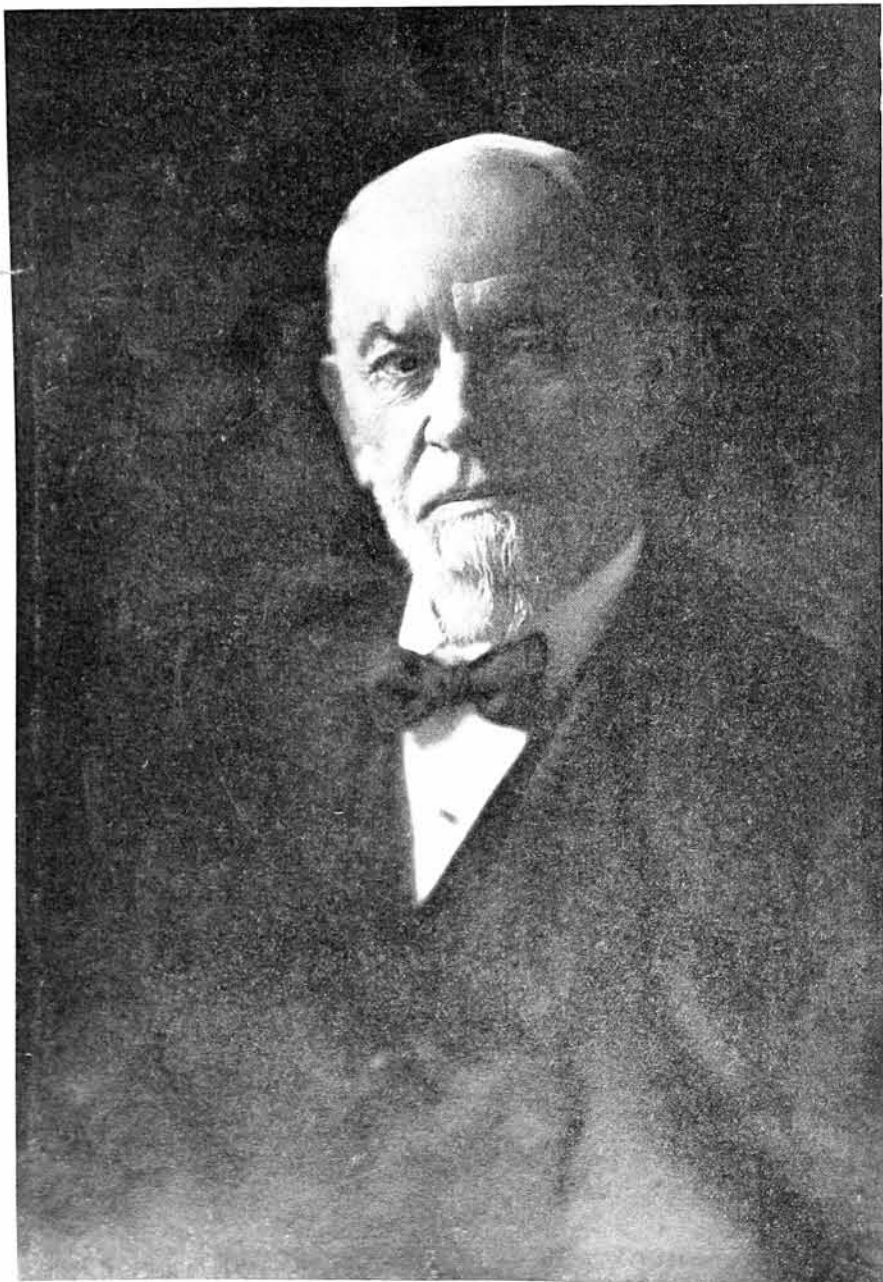
CAPT. HENRY STEPHENS



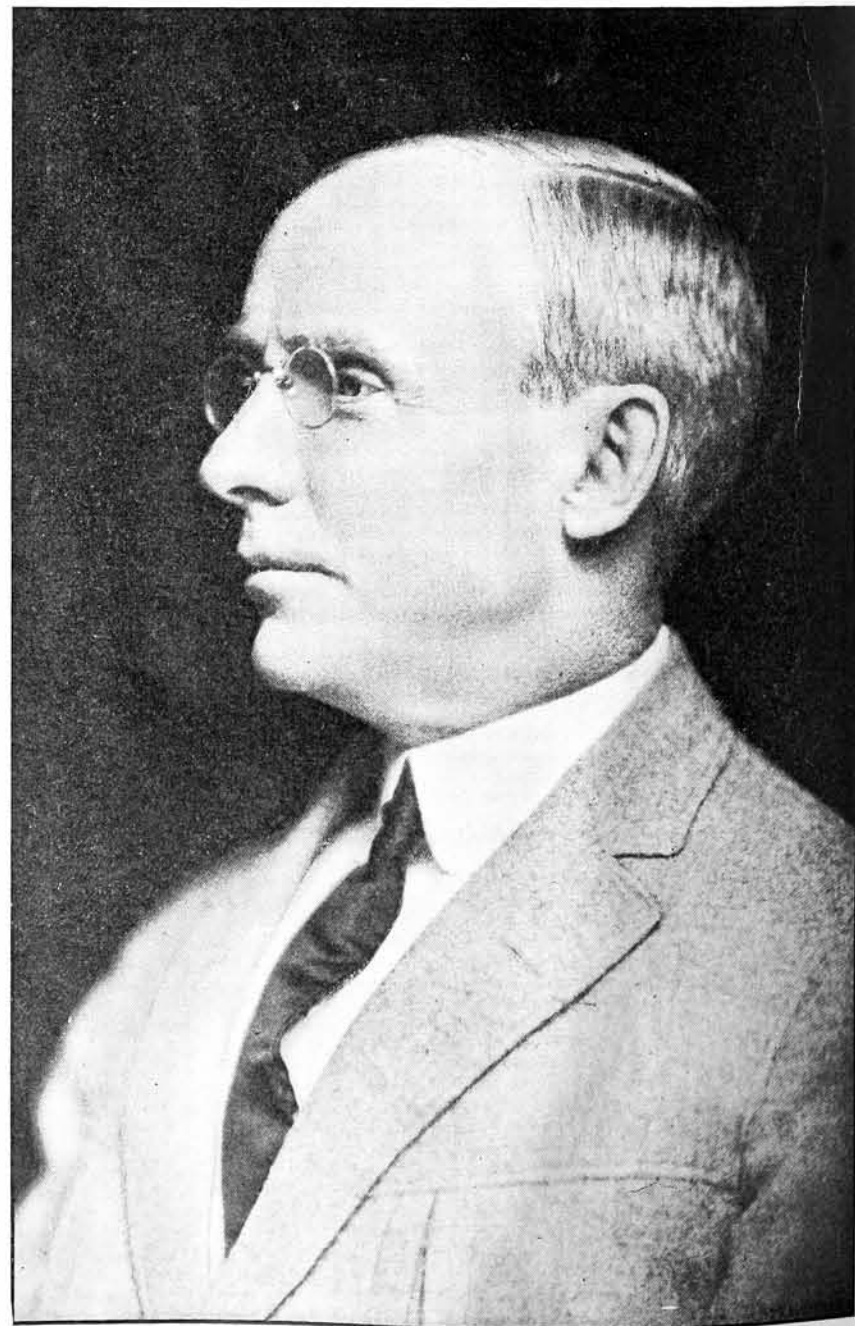
GEO. E. PRIEST



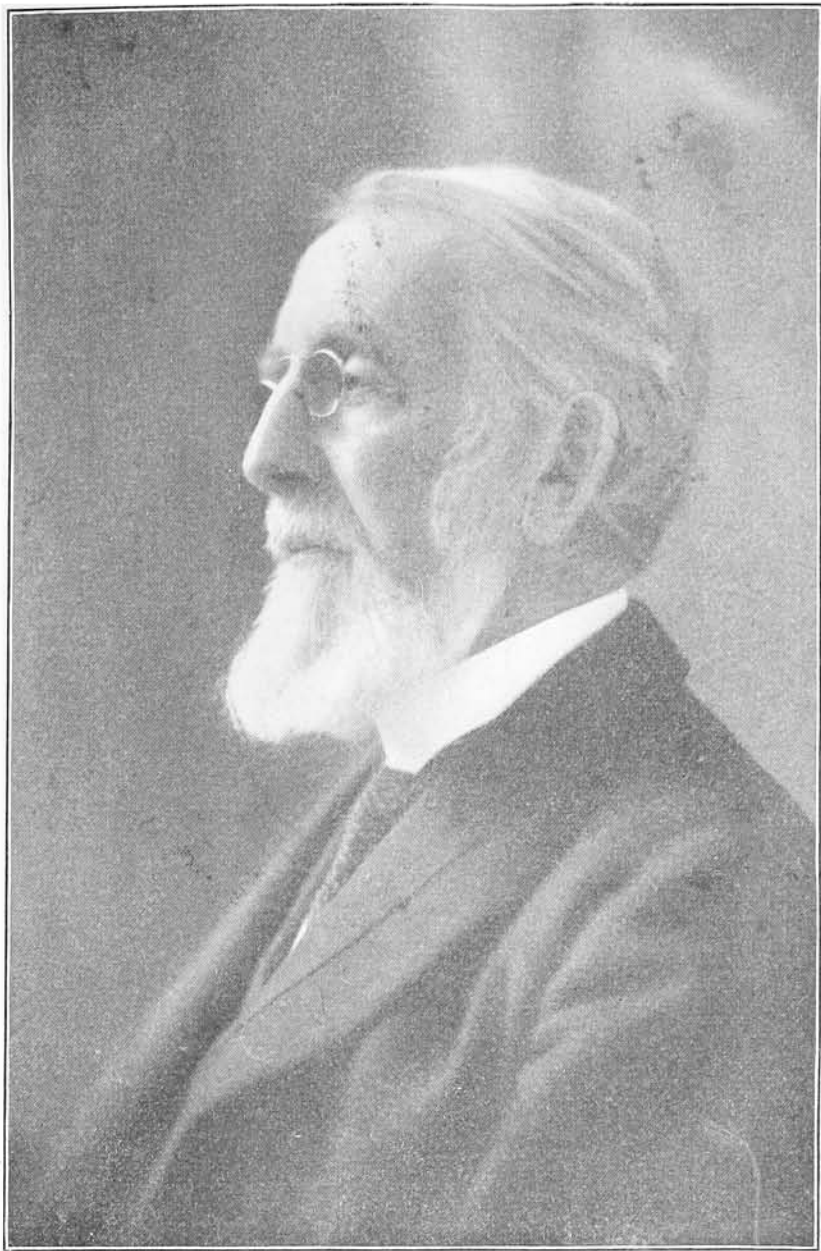
CHAS. M. BENJAMIN



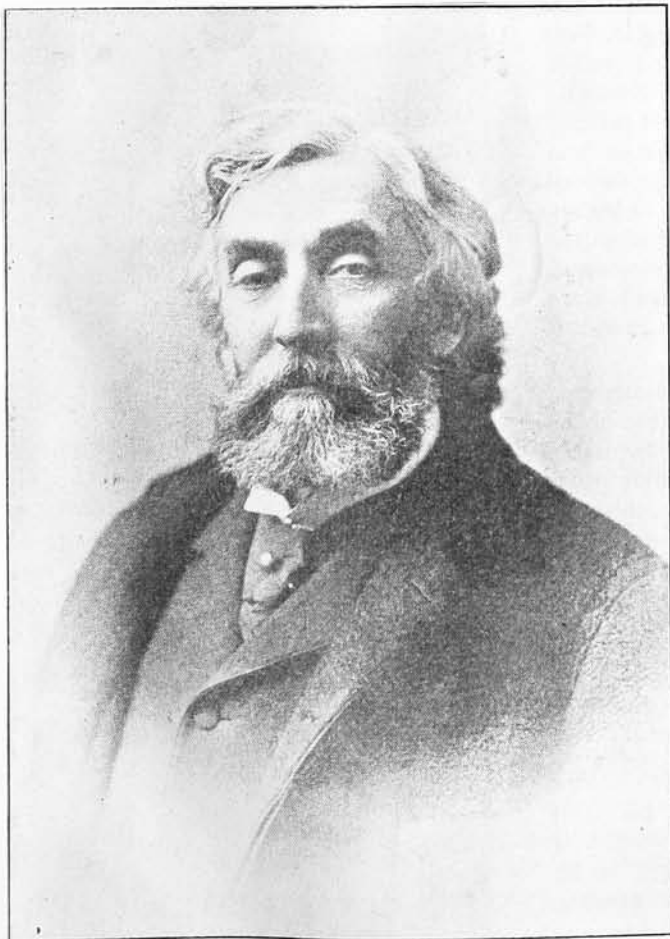
D. B. STEWART, LAST PRESIDENT; FIRST MAYOR



THOMAS TREE, MAYOR OF ITHACA



ANDREW DIXON WHITE  
First President Cornell University



CHARLES KENDALL ADAMS  
Second President Cornell University



JACOB GOULD SCHURMAN  
President Cornell University

# Ezra Cornell: 1807-1874



*E. Cornell*  
*Jan 11 1868*

From Ezra Cornell's speech on inauguration of Andrew D. White October 7, 1868:

"I desire that this shall prove to be the beginning of an institution, which shall furnish better means for the culture of men of every calling, of every aim; which shall make men more truthful, more honest, more virtuous, more noble, more manly; which shall give them higher purposes, and more lofty aims, qualifying them to serve their fellow men better, preparing them to serve society better, training them to be more useful in their relations to the state, and to

better comprehend their higher and holier relations to their families and their God. It shall be our aim, and our constant effort to make true Christian men, without dwarfing or paring them down to fit the narrow gauge of any sect.

"Finally, I trust we have laid the foundation of an University—'an institution where any person can find instruction in any study.'"

As the university community today observed Founder's Day, birthday of Ezra Cornell, a hitherto unpublished letter, written by him to the Rev. William M. Cornell, a distant relative, came to light.

It was written from Ithaca on May 26, 1872, some two years before his death.

Mr. Cornell was born Jan. 11, 1807. He died Dec. 9, 1874.

The letter:

Your favor of the 20th I found on my desk reaching home from Albany on Saturday. I am glad that you find much to please you in the plan of Cornell University as studied from the Register. I believe you are the first Presbyterian minister who has not consigned us to purgatory for our infidelity. I should be glad to know if you can show a "clean bill of health" from the church authorities, or perchance you may be sliding down the same declivity to perdition that we are. I should be sorry to see the whole family of Cornells on the broad road to ruin. I had hoped at least we might clutch your skirts for salvation.

Ithaca Journal  
 Jan. 11, 1938

## His Head White

You remark "If my head had not been so white I might have impressed your president more favorably when I saw him in Boston."

President White did not explain whether it was what he observed on the outside or the inside of the head that did not impress him favorably—his instructions had no reference to the color of a candidate's hair.

I shall take pleasure in calling President White's attention to your suggestions for delivering a course of lectures to our students. You enquire if we have any provision by which "a young man from Boston can be received into Cornell University free of charge." I answer no. I purposely avoided all provisions that should make Cornell University a charity school. At the same time I did organize it on a far better basis for the class of young men you refer to. The charges are made nominal—only \$45 per year for all fees and expenses of tuition and lectures, use of library, etc., etc. and opportunities presented by which students can earn enough by their own labor to pay the \$45 and much more towards their board and other expenses, if they will, thus placing at their disposal the opportunity to secure a first class education without sacrificing their manhood.

## Scholarships for Merit

The free scholarships you refer to (one for each Assembly district each year) are given as rewards of merit in scholarship in the public schools and Academies in this state. It is not a charity, but a mark of distinction, won by the scholar while in the primary school. We grant 128 of those free scholarships, one to each of the 128 Assembly districts of the state, each for four years, making when full 512 students.

The University has paid near \$40,000 already to students for their labor in the shops, on the farm and in the printing office and other departments. By this means many students have earned by their own labor money enough to pay all expenses, few however, comparatively, will do so well—many will not work at all. Our labor system is voluntary, and we pay those who work all they earn.

I will send you the cuts for the buildings so that you can illustrate an article for your journal.

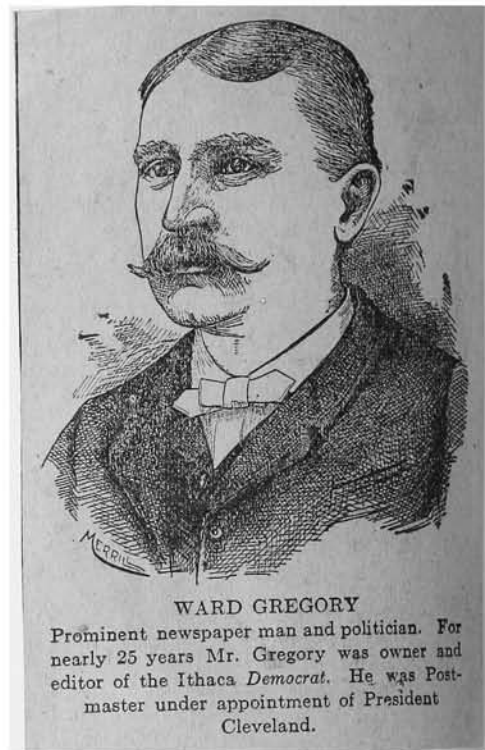
The American Peace Society may be a useful organization, but I think I know how to invest \$50 so that it will produce more peace than if placed for "a life Directorship" in that society, and I have no ambition of the honors of the position.

I hope you will be able to realize your intention of visiting Ithaca, and when you do you will come direct to my house.

Yours Respectfully

(signed) EZRA CORNELL

P. S.—Have you anything new relating to the Cornell Genealogy?



WARD GREGORY

Prominent newspaper man and politician. For nearly 25 years Mr. Gregory was owner and editor of the Ithaca Democrat. He was Postmaster under appointment of President Cleveland.



JOSEPH BURRITT

**M**R. BURRITT came to the little hamlet of Ithaca October 15th, 1816, one year after the birth of this newspaper; and one year before the erection of Tompkins County. He was, indeed, a pioneer, for there were here when he came only a score or two of primitive houses; and he was a patriarch, for he had many children whose descendants, now here, are numerous. He served as a village trustee; a trustee of the Ithaca Academy; a director of the Tompkins County National Bank.

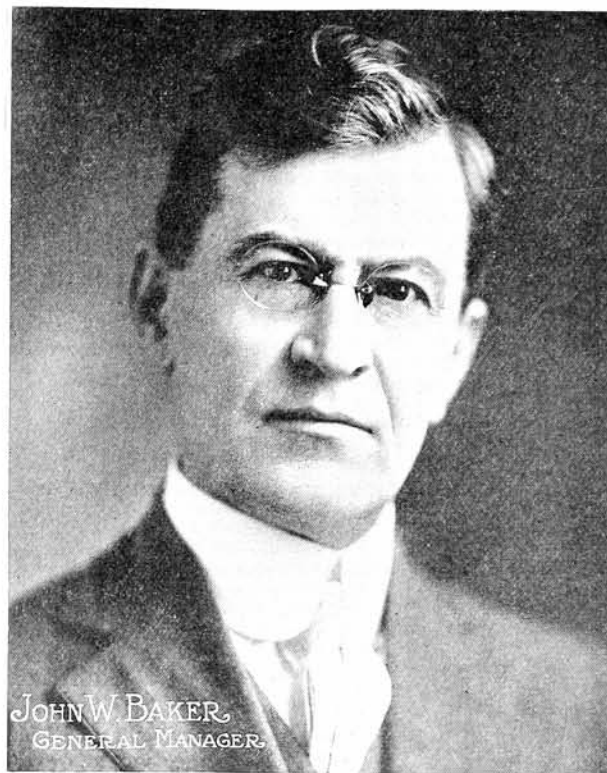
For more than fifty years Mr. Burritt was a devout member of the Aurora Street M. E. church, most of that long period an official thereof; a charter member of No. 2 fire company and a Free Mason through the stirring Morgan episode. Being the first watch-maker and silver-smith here he instructed in that calling almost all who conducted stores or worked at the bench in it in this and adjacent villages and cities during the more than half century of his activities. He erected several store-buildings and more than a dozen houses in the village.

Joseph Burritt was ninety-three years and seven months of age when he died here, March 9, 1889. He never had recourse to eye-glasses, artificial teeth or an ear-trumpet. He never used stimulants nor tobacco. Some of the clocks made by his hands are yet extant in this and adjoining counties. He read **THE JOURNAL** almost from its beginning until the final closing of his eyes, seventy-three years, and was an advertiser therein and knew well and personally all of its publishers and editors. Mr. Burritt was in all ways a creditable Ithacan of the first generation of craftsmen, merchants and upbuilders. **GEORGE E. PRIEST**



THOMAS W. BURNS, ESQ.

Well known newspaper correspondent and local historian who has contributed much to The Journal Centennial Number





MRS. SARAH HARTY, AGED 99 YEARS

MRS. SARAH HARTY, at the Old Ladies' Home, will be 99 years of age August 20, 1915, and is said to be the oldest person in Tompkins County. She came from New Jersey 81 years ago, when 18 and was employed as a domestic in the family of Joseph Esty. She was married to Jacob Harty, a carpenter. They began house-keeping close to the village boundary on South Aurora street and never changed their residence until after his death, when she became an inmate of the Home. They had two sons and two daughters, only one of whom, Mrs. Anna, wife of Charles Porter, of Minneapolis, Minn., now survives. Charles Porter was a JOURNAL employe when it burned out in April, 1851.

Mrs. Harty has been noted for her intense religious devotion. She was a Baptist for twenty years and has been a Methodist the last sixty years, affiliated with the old Seneca Street, now the State Street, congregation. She is also noted for her magnetic personality, her friendly cheerful greeting to nearly every person she met on the street or in private as well as public places, stranger or acquaintance. She was a faithful attendant at church service, walking up and down that steep hill, known in early years as Michigan Hill, more than a mile from her residence, until a few years ago.

Mrs. Harty has a comfortable front room on the first floor of the Home. She says she is well fed, well treated, has a good appetite, sleeps and rests well and that her sight is excellent for her age. She appears to be rugged and has girl-like rose-red lips and healthy complexion.

She seldom leaves her easy chair in front of the window where she returns the smiles and hand salutes of people who pass by on the street. Her hearing is considerably impaired.

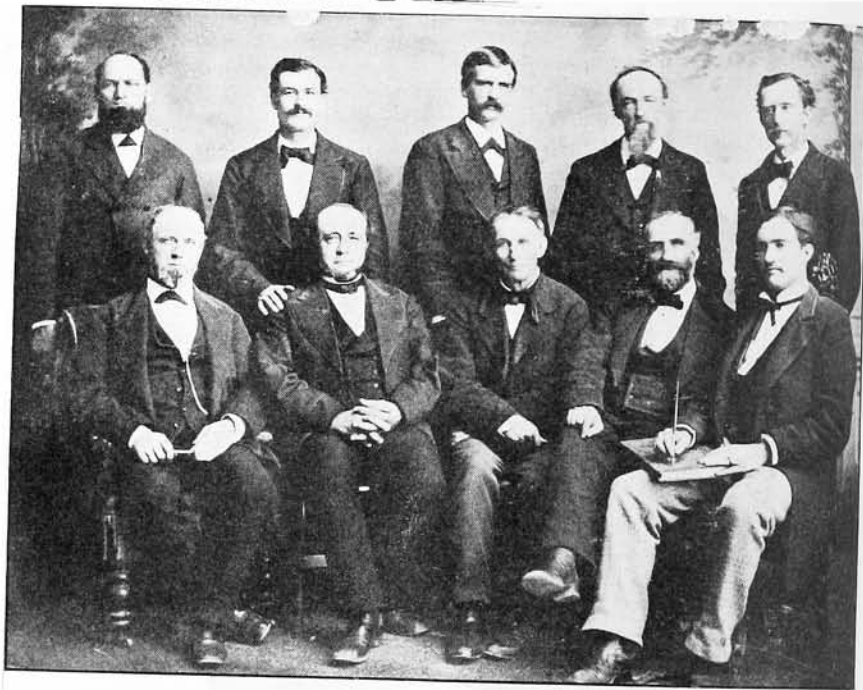
Asked what message she wished to send to the readers of the Centennial number of THE JOURNAL, a week or two ago, Mrs. Harty exclaimed with her old time warmth and strong, friendly, pleasing voice: "God bless them all! And may they live together in harmony and love forevermore." When told that her message could not be more impressive, nor more appropriate, coming from the oldest person and one of the best women in Ithaca, she modestly nodded and added: "There are many more good old women like me, but I don't know any as old."

It is like receiving the benediction of a saint whose life is regarded by all Ithaca so nearly perfect in her domestic and religious life to visit Mrs. Harty and, knowing her characteristics and age, to part with her. She is in a class of her own, her profound anxiety for the spiritual and mortal welfare of others and her familiar open, honest manner of expressing it having won her this honor and reverence for at least the last half century.

Mrs. Sarah Harty's age commands THE JOURNAL'S reverence; her blessing and benediction upon its readers inspires its respect and gratitude. May she live in good health and clear in mind to receive THE JOURNAL'S respects, and blessing and congratulations on the 20th day

of August, 1916, her own centennial birthday. She has been a shining light for man and heaven and has performed her own full share of the work that has made Ithaca a city worth while.

"State Street" Methodists have good reason to be proud of the staunch old flower of their flock. But Sarah Harty's rather tall and strongly built form, and her unique personality have been the object and subject of admiration for all Ithaca for many years. And in her generous and honest girl-like simplicity, she marvels at her celebrity.



FIRST GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF TOMPKINS COUNTY SUPERVISORS, 1876

First or upper row from left to right: Stevens of Groton, Marion of Newfield, Van Kirk of Enfield, Burt of Ithaca, Dr. Beers of Danby.

Second row: Wattles of Caroline, King of Ulysses, Woodbury of Lansing, Marvin of Dryden; T. W. Burns, Clerk.

Of the original group but three still survive: LeRoy Van Kirk and T. W. Burns of this city and Harrison Marvin who resides at Dryden.



CAPT. CHARLES HUMPHREY