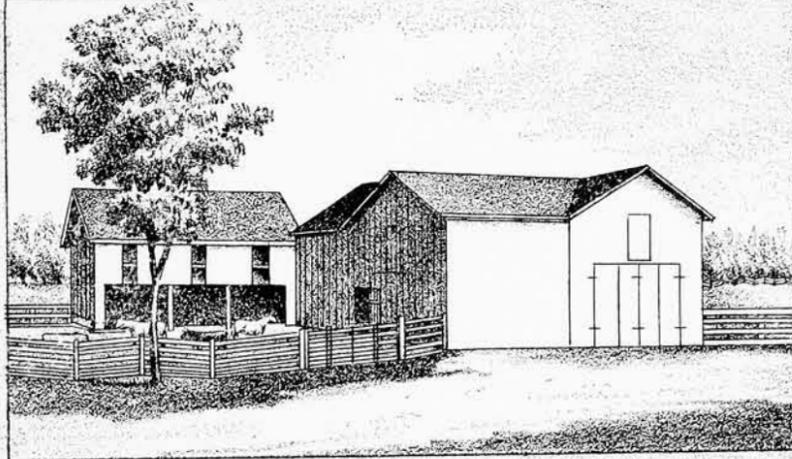




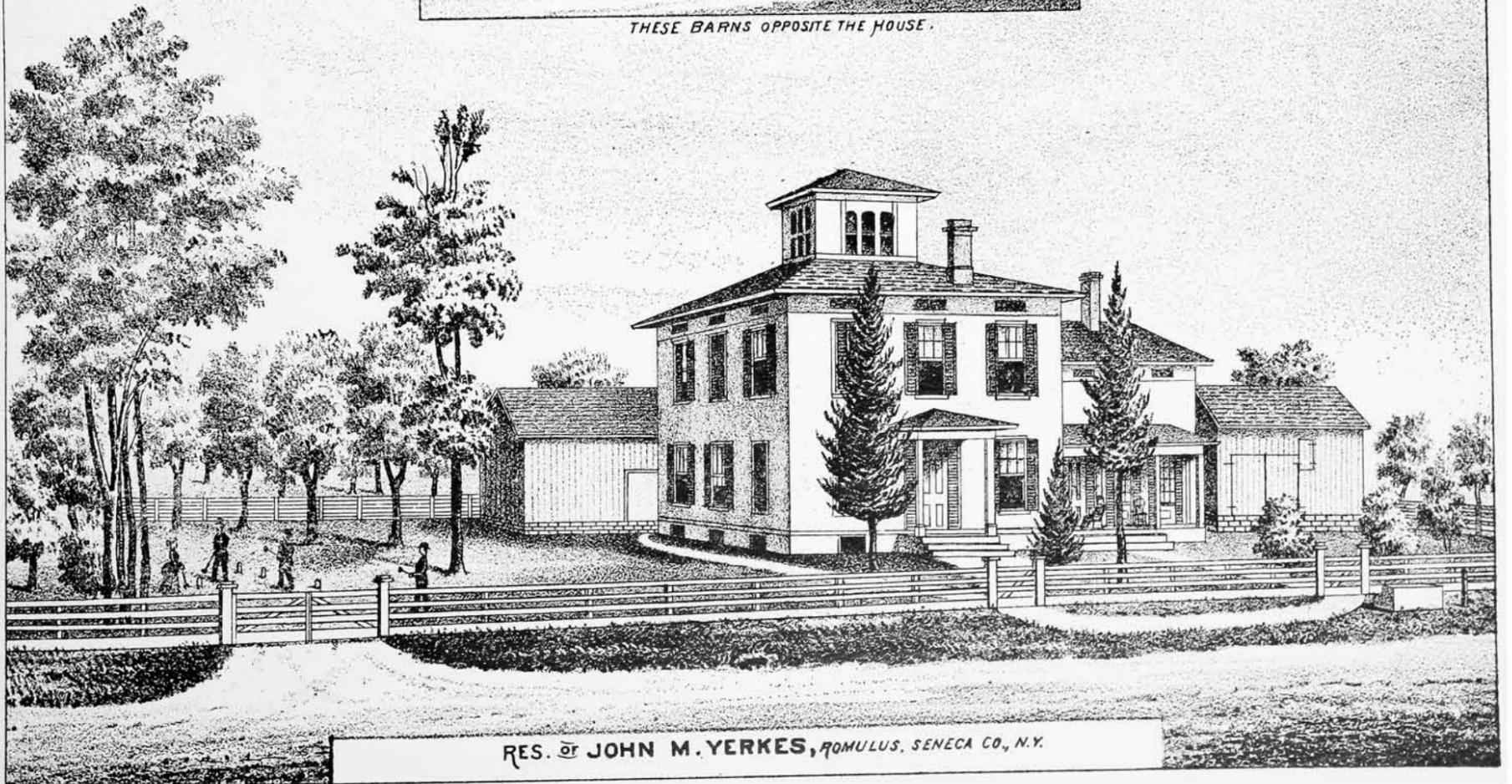
*D Boardman*



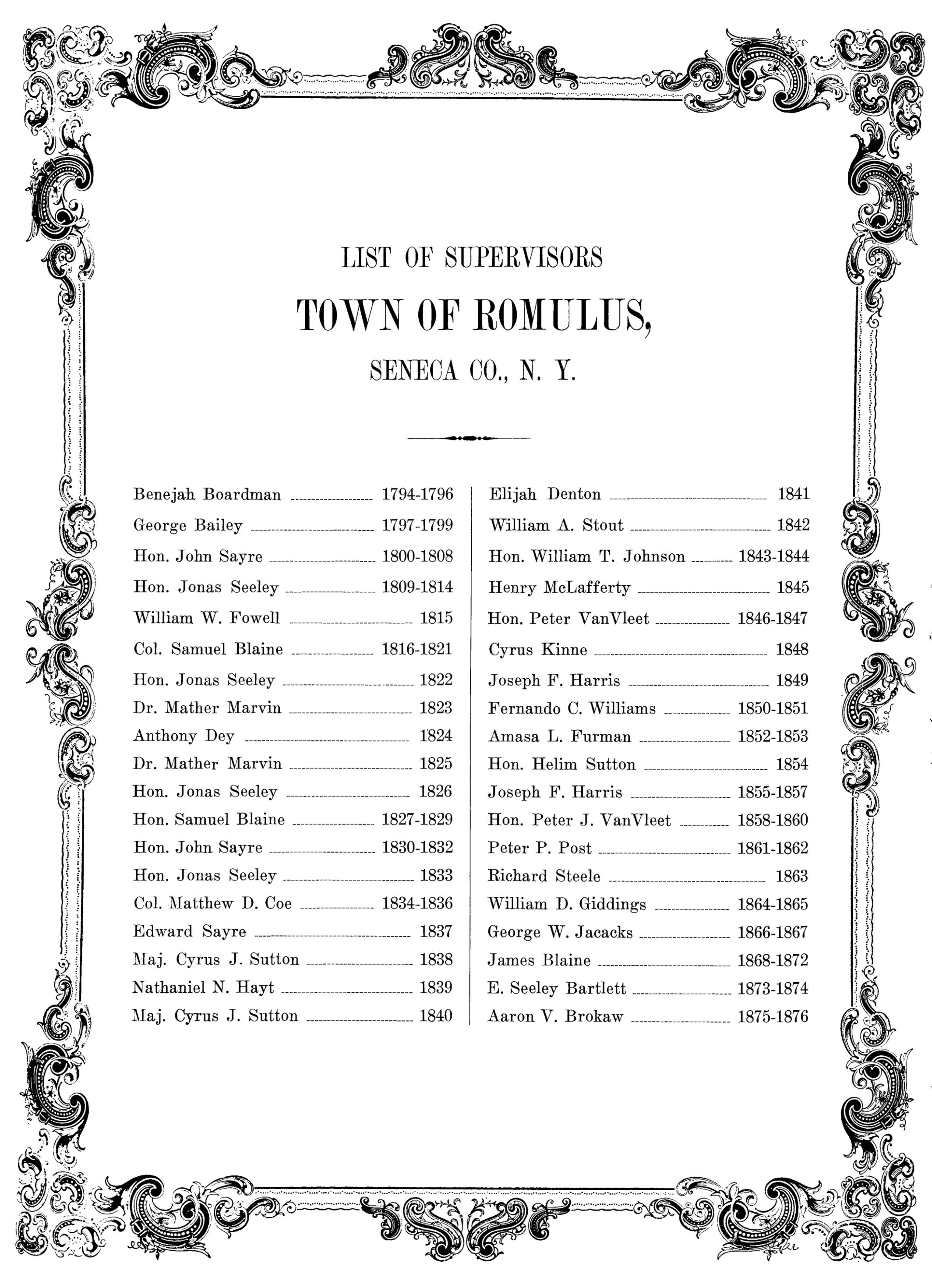
ROBERT WOODEN.



THESE BARNs OPPOSITE THE HOUSE.



RES. OF JOHN M. YERKES, ROMULUS, SENECA CO., N.Y.



LIST OF SUPERVISORS  
TOWN OF ROMULUS,  
SENECA CO., N. Y.

---

Benejah Boardman .....	1794-1796	Elijah Denton .....	1841
George Bailey .....	1797-1799	William A. Stout .....	1842
Hon. John Sayre .....	1800-1808	Hon. William T. Johnson .....	1843-1844
Hon. Jonas Seeley .....	1809-1814	Henry McLafferty .....	1845
William W. Fowell .....	1815	Hon. Peter VanVleet .....	1846-1847
Col. Samuel Blaine .....	1816-1821	Cyrus Kinne .....	1848
Hon. Jonas Seeley .....	1822	Joseph F. Harris .....	1849
Dr. Mather Marvin .....	1823	Fernando C. Williams .....	1850-1851
Anthony Dey .....	1824	Amasa L. Furman .....	1852-1853
Dr. Mather Marvin .....	1825	Hon. Helim Sutton .....	1854
Hon. Jonas Seeley .....	1826	Joseph F. Harris .....	1855-1857
Hon. Samuel Blaine .....	1827-1829	Hon. Peter J. VanVleet .....	1858-1860
Hon. John Sayre .....	1830-1832	Peter P. Post .....	1861-1862
Hon. Jonas Seeley .....	1833	Richard Steele .....	1863
Col. Matthew D. Coe .....	1834-1836	William D. Giddings .....	1864-1865
Edward Sayre .....	1837	George W. Jacacks .....	1866-1867
Maj. Cyrus J. Sutton .....	1838	James Blaine .....	1868-1872
Nathaniel N. Hayt .....	1839	E. Seeley Bartlett .....	1873-1874
Maj. Cyrus J. Sutton .....	1840	Aaron V. Brokaw .....	1875-1876

are Kendia, Willard, Romulus, and Hayt's Corners. The post-office at Kendia was established in 1862, with Amos Crane in charge, and its locality seems to have been a problem unsolvable to the various Postmasters, who sent its letters to and fro without rest, and out of the States into Canada; and one letter returned from its journeys, bearing the impress of indignation from baffled search in the inscription, "Where in h—l is Kendia?" Other Postmasters succeeding Crane were Bartlett Cooley, D. S. Benjamin, E. C. Gatloup, down to Henry Garrison, the present. In Kendia there is one store, two blacksmith-shops, a wheelwright-shop, a carpenter-shop, a school-house, and a steam grist-mill, owned by McWhorter Brothers. Kendia Grange, No. 64, was organized January 28, 1874, at the school-house; its meetings are held weekly at the Baptist church, southeast of the hamlet, and its membership has increased from thirty to ninety-seven. The business directory to-day gives us the names of active and enterprising men in the various localities of the town as tabled elsewhere in this volume.

#### HIGHWAYS.

Romulus roads in an early day were laid to points unknown by men forgotten, and herein they are brought to light as one of the potent agencies of the latest civilization. In February, 1776, a road was laid from Bennett's Ferry, on the Geneva road, Cayuga Lake, to the place of Dr. Coventry, on Seneca Lake, and in March following from Appletown, Seneca Lake, to David DePue's, beginning at the lake road on the line between Lots 79 and 86; it followed the line east fifty-seven chains, and from there a crooked line to the bridge east of DePue's. About the same time a road was run from Brown's Brook and Harbor at Cayuga Lake to Captain Hayes's Brook and Harbor on the same lake. On March 28 a road was surveyed from Lancaster to "Boardmansburg" through Lots 93 and 87, between 86 and 87 northward to the place of Peter Bainbridge, on the creek. In 1796 a road was run from the southeast corner of Lot 94 on the Ovid line northwest to the lake road through Lots 93 and 86, and about the same time one from Lancaster along and near the town line, passing David Wisner's, and running east to the house of B. Bryant, on the town line. In the fall of 1796 a road was laid from the DePue Bridge, on Lot 75, in a northeast course to Brown's Brook and Harbor. It passed a clearing made by Abraham, and followed an old road. On October 10, 1796, John Fleming and George Baley, Commissioners of Highways, surveyed a road from Bennett's Ferry to Mynderse's Mill, thence along the north side of the outlet to the house of Chapman at Scayes. Among early surveyors, whose services were then in demand, were Enoch Tuttle and James Clark. Much space upon the records is given to the inauguration of roads, and disputes occasionally arose. There was some trouble concerning a road from James McKnight's to Plymouth. McKnight finally appealed to the Judges of the Common Pleas Court in 1805, which appeal resulted in the following decision as found upon the books: "Where as James McKnight & Benjamin Dey, of the town of Romulus, have appealed to us Judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the County of Seneca respecting a road runing from the house of the sd McKnight's in Romulus, to Pleymouth, we are of opinion that the road confirmed by the Superintendents is the best and most eligibelst road, for bublick travle, and we hereby direct the same to be put on record as the Bublick road from the sd McKnight to Plemouth." Cornelius Humphrey and Grove Smith were the Judges, and their clerk was evidently fresh upon the grounds of English composition. The road on the south line of the reservation was laid in 1805. In 1806, a road was surveyed between Romulus and Washington. It ran by Seneca Lake, east, till intersection with the road through Lot 47. Romulus was to work from the lake to northwest corner of Lot 45, and Washington the remainder. On December 17, 1806, the Reservation Road was laid by Joseph Wyckoff, Jonas Seeley, and Andrew Smith, Commissioners of Highways, and Jephtha Wade was its surveyor. This road began at what is now Romulus Centre, and continued as does the present road for a mile and a quarter, and then turned thirty-eight degrees east of north to the southwest corner of the reservation; thence it followed the reservation line north twenty degrees, east three hundred and fifty chains, to the Washington line.

#### EARLY RECORDS.

The early records of Romulus are interesting as the organization of government in a pure democracy, where all had interest and none were denied a hearing. From the record, which few have seen or will see, we make characteristic extracts, illustrative of simplicity, directness, and intelligence. "William Winter, at a town meeting opened and duly held on the first day of April, 1794, in the town of Romulus, County of Onondaga, and State of New York, is appointed and chosen as Town Clerk for the present year." The first officers were as follows: Benajah Boardman was Supervisor and Justice of the Peace; James Seeley, John Fleming, and James Ronalds, were Assessors; Peter Huff, David Wisner, and William Seeley, Jr., Commissioners; Henry Leek, James Ronalds, Overseers of

the Poor; John Williams and Peter Ronalds, Constables, and the last-named person, Collector; Jacob Striker, James McKnight, Anthony Swarthout, Sr., David DePue, Elijah Kinne, Jr., Overseers of Roads; John Fleming and John Swarthout, Fence Viewers, and John Fleming and Jacob Striker, Pound Keepers. Following the above, in the Town-book—which is of coarse unruled paper—are the various "ear-marks" of the farmer's stock, giving date on which said mark was recorded. B. Covert's stock was marked by "a crop off the left ear and a nick in the under side of the right ear," and B. Swarthout "a half cross off the upper side of the left ear, and a half-penny in the lower and another in the upper part of the right ear." Thus it was that every man knew his own and his neighbors' stock by certain "crops," "slits," "nicks," "half-pennies," and other devices marked upon the ear, and an estray was advertised in the "Estray Book" of the town and returned to the owner.

#### EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES.

Emancipation began in New York in the last century, as is verified by the following article:

"Know all men by these presents, that I, William Seeley, formerly of the town of New Cornwall, County of Orange, State of New York, but now of the town of Romulus, County of Onondaga, and State aforesaid, have, and by these presents do, set free my negro slave named Charles Patterson, to all intents and purposes, as if he had never been a slave, agreeable to the direction of the act concerning slaves, passed February 22, 1788. In witness whereto, I have set my hand and seal, November 17, 1794.

[L. S.]

WILLIAM SEELEY."

This act and those of a like character prove that the desire of gain from unrequited labor was the corner-stone of a system which disappeared slowly southward as its unprofitable character in competition with free labor was made apparent.

In 1795, the town-meeting was held at the house of James McKnight, on April 7. B. Boardman was re-elected Supervisor. George Baley was elected Town Clerk, and many of the former officers continued. Of new officials, there were William Brewster, Assessor; Dr. Coventry, Overseer of Poor; William Shattuck, Commissioner of Highways; Lewis Abrams, Constable; and John Sayres, Alla McMath, and Ezekiel Hays, Road Overseers.

In 1797, a bounty of three pounds was offered for each wolf-scalp taken within town bounds, but no record shows that the treasury suffered any depletion from this source. April 2, 1799, it was voted that the town shall be divided, and George Baley, Benjamin Dey, and Benajah Boardman were appointed to determine where the line should run. John Sayre was Supervisor from 1804 to 1808, inclusive. Jonas Seeley succeeding, held till 1815, and then came W. W. Falwell.

#### SCHOOLS.

In 1817, notice was to be given in the *Ovid Seneca Patriot*, or by four posted bills, that the Gospel Lot was to be sold at auction, and the resulting profits used for the furtherance of schools. In June, 1804, the town residents held a meeting and resolved to raise no tax for building a court-house. The location of the building was objectionable to them, and they, as freemen, exercised their right to remonstrate, and meantime withhold their aid. The cause of education has been promoted from the first as a means of self-sustenance. The old pioneers believed that education made better citizens and enhanced the ability of its possessor, and, from 1798 to the present, the interest has been held paramount. On June 10, 1799, there was a school-house standing one mile northeast of Lancaster. From that pioneer structure there has been a gradual evolution and progress, till Romulus contains nine school districts, each district a frame school-house, each school-house a licensed teacher. These nine schools have offered education to six hundred and seventy-one school-children, and four hundred and eighty-three have made them available. A private school obtained the patronage of but seventeen pupils. Eighteen teachers were required, sixteen licensed by a local officer, two by the State Superintendent; of each sex an equal number. The value of school-houses and their sites is \$5300, and the assessed valuation of property in the town is \$863,656.

#### CHURCH HISTORY.

There is but one church within the limits of the town, whose history closes our record. The ROMULUS BAPTIST CHURCH is the oldest in the Seneca Association. It was constituted in 1795, with a membership of seven persons. In the early enrollment we find the names of Rev. Peter Bainbridge; Deacons, Elijah Abbott, John Greene, John Finton, and Samuel Blaine; Brethren Wm. W. Folwell, Barnard Swarthout, and Mahlon Bainbridge, and Sisters Mrs. John Sayre, Mrs. Swarthout, Mrs. Blaine, Mrs. Bainbridge, and Mrs. Denton. A church site was donated by W. W. Folwell. The first building for worship was constructed in

1808, and rebuilt in 1849. A lot for a parsonage was donated by Mrs. Joseph Hunt, and upon it a residence was erected in 1856. The church and site are valued at eight thousand dollars, and the parsonage at three thousand dollars. The pastors have been recalled as follows: Revs. David Wisner, John Caton, John Cooper, J. C. Holt, W. W. Brown, E. P. Otis, C. G. Carpenter, D. Wright, O. Young, I. Fargo, J. S. Webber, P. Irving, M. W. Holmes, D. D. Owen, George T. McNair, and Louis J. Gross, at present in charge. John Caton served with Washington in the Revolution, and on the visit of La Fayette to Waterloo, the general singled out the old veteran in the crowd assembled to give him welcome, and exclaimed, "Come here, John Caton; I have not seen you for forty years." The soldiers met as those long parted, and many an eye grew moist at the heart-touching scene. Among the licentiates were Rev. John Griffith, D. D., of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Rev. B. S. McLafferty, of Oakland, Cal.; Rev. S. M. Bainbridge, of Elmira, N. Y.; Rev. S. V. Marsh, of Eatontown, N. J., and Thomas Marsh. The society is free from debt, and has seen a membership of two hundred and twelve. A Sabbath-school has one hundred attendants and a library of one hundred and fifty volumes.

#### RETROSPECT.

Briefly the roll has been called, and a few aged survivors have answered for themselves and their departed comrades, and we have attempted to perpetuate their names and the localities where, with no thought of heroism, those New Jersey and Pennsylvania pioneers, scattered in the unbroken forest of Seneca, felled the trees with lusty axe-strokes, built their cabins, cleared up lands, set out orchards, laid out roads, and, with a lasting remembrance of their need of Divine guidance to bear their hardships and intelligent successors to maintain self-government, turned aside from their labors on the farm to build them churches and school-houses, that the moral should be quickened and the intellectual developed.

#### THE RECORD OF ROMULUS IN THE WAR.

We give here a list of the soldiers in the Rebellion, with date of enlistment, number of regiment, letter of company, and other items of interest connected with them:

Theodore J. Sutton, private, September 3, 1864, in Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-second; was mustered out July 15, 1865.

Arton F. Sutton, September 3, 1864, in Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-second Regiment. Was in war till July 15, 1865.

Alton VanHorn, private, September 3, 1864, Company E, One Hundred and Thirty-second; served till July 15, 1865.

Chas. W. Rising, September 3, 1864, Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-second Regiment; mustered July 15, 1865.

John H. Johnson, private, September 3, 1864, in Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-second.

James Johnson, farmer, enlisted as private September 3, 1864, in Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-second; died of fever at Bachelor's Creek, North Carolina, December 25, 1864.

Addison VanWagner, September 3, 1864, Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-second.

Ernest A. Fenton, September 3, 1864, in Company E, One Hundred and Thirty-second.

George W. Cooley, September 2, 1864, Company L, Fifteenth Regiment; out June 13, 1865.

David Murphy, September 2, 1864.

John Hamilton, September 5, 1864.

E. Raymond, private, September 2.

Abram Hart, September 5, 1864.

Alex. Watrus, September 5, 1864; in Fifteenth Engineers.

Samuel L. Sackett, September 2, 1864.

Timothy Smith, September 5, 1864, in Company L, Fiftieth Regiment.

Daniel C. Dean, September 2, 1864.

Theodore Marsh, September 2, 1864, in Company D, One Hundred and Forty-eighth Regiment.

John W. Paine, private, September 3, 1864.

John Faxon, September 2, 1864.

Barney Murphy, September 2, 1864.

Emanuel Bateman, private, September 3, 1864.

Nathan W. Yoder, September 4, 1864, Company L, Fifteenth Engineers; mustered January 14, 1865.

Charles M. Geurin, September 2, 1864.

Matthew Dewire, March 31, 1864.

Terrance Keenan, private, January 1, 1864, Seventy-fifth Regiment.

Patrick Flynn, March 21, 1864, One Hundred and Eleventh.

William T. Smith, March 21, 1864.

John McNanie, March 21, 1864.

Peter McGinnis, single, private, enlisted January 17, 1864, in One Hundred and Sixty-fourth Regiment; died at Salisbury prison.

Winfield S. Coshen, December 23, 1863, Company E, One Hundred and Forty-eighth; died at Yorktown.

Benjamin S. Coryell, December 23, 1863, Company A, Thirty-third Infantry; out June 12, 1865.

William H. McGee, January 4, 1863.

James Beck, December 24, 1863; killed at Petersburg.

John Hanlon, February 11, 1864, One Hundred and Sixty-fourth Regiment.

George C. Sayer, December 28, 1863, Company K, Fiftieth Engineers; mustered January 13, 1865.

A. L. Furman, December 28, 1863, Company I, One Hundred and Forty-eighth Infantry; out October 27, 1865.

Jacob M. Hodge, December 28, 1863, Company E, One Hundred and Forty-eighth Infantry.

John B. Parker, December 28, 1863, Company H, One Hundred and Forty-eighth Infantry.

George Blain, December 28, 1863, Company E, One Hundred and Forty-eighth Infantry; mustered out October 27, 1865.

Charles J. Stone, Corporal, December 28, 1863, Company E, One Hundred and Forty-eighth Infantry.

John W. Swarhout, December 28, 1863, Company E, One Hundred and Forty-eighth.

Andrew Demond, resided in Ovid, December 28, 1863.

David Mann, Varick, January 28, 1864, Third Artillery.

William Wheeler, January 25, 1864, One Hundred and Forty-eighth Infantry.

Patrick Roke, February 7, 1864, One Hundred and Sixty-fourth.

John Cary, February 23, 1864, Company C, One Hundred and Forty-eighth.

William U. Kingsley, February 22, 1864, One Hundred and Sixty-fourth Infantry.

Philip McGuire, January 25, 1864, Third Artillery.

Warren J. Emmons, Fiftieth Engineers, January 25, 1864.

Andrew McDermott, December 18, 1863, Company E, One Hundred and Forty-eighth; mustered out May 29, 1865.

Charles Bishop, December 18, 1863, Company G, One Hundred and Forty-eighth; out October 27, 1865.

Patrick Rice, December 18, 1863, Company G, One Hundred and Forty-eighth.

David Gleason, private, enlisted December 18, 1864, in Company G, One Hundred and Forty-eighth; died at home.

Hennetta Hugh, December 18, 1864, Company E, One Hundred and Forty-eighth.

Charles Boyle, February 19, 1864, One Hundred and Eleventh Infantry.

John R. Smith, December 21, 1863, Sixteenth Artillery.

Gamaliel W. Cary, private, enlisted December 26, 1863; died at Fortress Monroe.

Warren Vreeland, December 26, 1864.

George L. Nelton, February 13, 1864, One Hundred and Sixty-fourth Infantry.

Dennis Roan, December 28, 1863, One Hundred and Forty-eighth; lost one hand at Cold Harbor.

William H. Griffith, August 25, 1862, Company G, Fiftieth Engineers.

Benjamin S. Coryell, December 1, 1863, Company K, Fiftieth Engineers.

Marcelas DePue, August 22, 1862, Company G, Fiftieth.

Isaac Conley, November 7, 1861, Company A, Thirty-third.

Arthur Murphy, August 27, 1862, Company E, One Hundred and Forty-eighth.

Daniel C. Dermiston, Company G, Fiftieth, August 28, 1862; mustered June 13, 1865.

Bartlett Cooley, August 28, 1862, Company G, Fiftieth.

John Farr, September 16, 1861, Company F, Seventy-fifth; mustered June 26, 1865.

James Covert, September 16, 1865, Company F, Seventy-fifth.

Charles P. VanDuyne, Sergeant, October 7, 1861, Fifteenth Infantry; mustered October 7, 1864.

Charles W. Dey, July 29, 1862, Company C, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Infantry.

Mahlon Bainbridge, Second Lieutenant, August 30, 1862, Fiftieth Engineers; mustered June 13, 1865.

Bruster Sayre, August 28, 1862, Company G, Fiftieth Engineers.

James Brooks, private, enlisted August 28, 1862, in Company G, Fiftieth Regiment, and died at City Point.

Joseph Darrow, Fiftieth, Company G.

John Sterns, August, 1862, Company G, Fiftieth Engineers; died in hospital.

Abram Wolverton, August 28, 1862, Company G, Fiftieth; died in hospital.

John Wolverton, Eighty-sixth.

William Wolverton, July 29, 1862, Company C, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Infantry.

Charles Bodine, Corporal, enlisted August, 1862, in Company E, One Hundred and Forty-eighth; died at Point of Rocks, Virginia.

Lyman Brock, Daniel Brock, Isaac Gillett, Fiftieth.

John Anderson, August, 1862, Fiftieth.

Edward Anderson, August, 1862, Company E, One Hundred and Forty-eighth.

Edward Doremus, August, 1862, Fiftieth Engineers.

Henry Garrison, August, 1862, Fiftieth.

James Garrison, August, 1862, Fiftieth.

Stephen Sebring, August, 1862, Fiftieth.

Thomas Sebring, August, 1862, Fiftieth.

Edgar McQuig, August, 1862, Company C, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth.

Cornelius L. Bailey, August, 1862, Company C, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth; killed at Gettysburg.

Andrew Pritchard, August, 1862, Company C, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth.

James M. Bishop, enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and Forty-eighth, December, 1863; died at Yorktown, Virginia.

Melvin Miller, August, 1862, Fiftieth.

John Roan, August 1862, Company C, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth; died in hospital, Baltimore.

James Bishop, December, 1863, Company E, One Hundred and Forty-eighth.

Jacob Bishop, August, 1862, Company E, One Hundred and Forty-eighth.

Philip Emmons, August, 1862, Fiftieth.

Francis Parker, July 23, 1862, Company C, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth.

Henry Parker, August 22, 1862, Company H, One Hundred and Forty-eighth; killed at Port Walthal, Virginia, in May, 1864.

Charles Van Wagner, October 15, 1862, Company F, Seventy-fifth.

John Crane, August, 1862, G, Fiftieth.

Daniel Crane, August 25, 1862, G, Fiftieth.

John Casterlin, enlisted August, 1862; Corporal Company D, One Hundred and Forty-eighth; lost an arm at Cold Harbor.

Samuel Markle, Cornelius Brokaw, Irvin Smith, April, 1861, Company I, Thirty-eighth.

Monroe Smith, October 15, 1862, Company F, Seventy-fifth.

Robert Gibson, August, 1862, Company E, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth.

D. Simpson, Company E, One Hundred and Forty-eighth Regiment, January, 1864.

Seymour VanSickle, August, 1862, Company E, One Hundred and Forty-eighth.

Mahlon Markle, August, 1862, Company E, One Hundred and Forty-eighth.

Erastus Benjamin, August, 1862, Fiftieth.

George W. Leffler, Fiftieth Regiment.

Franklin Haynes, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Regiment.

John Earnsberger, Company G, Fiftieth.

Clermont King, August 19, 1862, Company E, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth.

Harrison Raymond, One Hundred and Sixtieth.

Charles Brown, September 18, 1861, Company F, Seventy-fifth.

Clarence Lindsley, August, 1862, Company E, One Hundred and Forty-eighth.

James E. Willson, One Hundred and Forty-eighth.

John R. Brown, August 19, 1862, One Hundred and Forty-eighth.

Charles W. Smith, private, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth.

Robert McDuffee, of the Forty-fourth, died prisoner in Richmond.

Hiram H. Huff, Company E, One Hundred and Forty-eighth, enlisted August, 1862; died in hospital at Philadelphia October, 1864.

Joseph H. Brewer, August 28, 1862, Company E, One Hundred and Forty-eighth, Corporal.

Of the following named we are unable to find any record, except regiment to which they belonged:

Augustus Patterson, Fiftieth; H. C. Dennis, Forty-fourth; Hix Campbell, Forty-fourth; John L. Frantz, One Hundred and Forty-eighth; Elonzo Williams, Fiftieth; Frank Mathews, One Hundred and Forty-eighth; Anson Corell, One Hundred and Forty-eighth; A. G. Folwell, Fiftieth; James Hubble; Seventy-fifth; R. Lansing, Robert Gipson, Spencer J. Colvin, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth; Lyman Covert, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth; George W. Con, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth; Anthony Covert, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth; Edwin Elis, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth; William Kinch, Seventy-fifth; Gilbert Raymond, Seventy-fifth; George Raymond, Seventy-fifth; M. Hartigon, Seventy-fifth; John Sturgiss.

## PERSONAL SKETCHES.

### ISRAEL BROWN.

Whether in the serried ranks of war or deployed at wide intervals to self-imposed pioneer duty in the forests of the Genesee country, the settlers upon the Atlantic coast and their descendants present a record at once simple and grand. There were no journeys which they dared not undertake, there was no solitude they hesitated to enter, and there was no obstacle which their resolute and persistent industry did not surmount. While we see the tide of settlers moving out from Berkshire, Massachusetts, Lyme, Connecticut, and other eastern localities, not a few removed from New Jersey to establish a home in the forests of Western New York. One among the many—independent in choice, but swayed by the impulse originating migration—was the subject of this sketch, Israel Brown. Consider the difficulties of the route to be pursued; and, when arrived at his journey's end, what awaited him? A forest-land and months of labor. He must run the gauntlet of the fever, the Indian, the failure of crop, and suffer a deprivation of accustomed privileges. In 1804, fifteen years after the first eager settlers had made their way within the western wilderness, Mr. Brown set out to join them. He began his journey upon a sail-boat, which conveyed him to Albany, then followed up the Mohawk River to Utica, and on from thence till we find him the owner of

one hundred acres of Lot No. 66. A cabin is erected, and constant labor maintained; the patch opened in the wood expands to a fine field, and prosperity rewards his industry. He purchases one hundred and thirty acres adjoining, and becomes the proprietor of a fine farm of two hundred and thirty acres, and the father of a family of nine children. Years go on, and the frontier has removed far away to the prairies of Illinois and the pines of Michigan and Wisconsin. The Indian is on the reservation. The opulent come west for relaxation and rest. A railroad brings them. It is the pioneer road—the Albany and Rochester. Produce commands a home market, and the farmer is requited for his toil. Mr. Brown grows old, and finally he looks his last on the farm whereon—like thousands—he had labored and enjoyed, and retires to the old home, from which his remains are borne with sorrowful and regretful feelings to the quiet of the grave. One after another his children are called to follow him, until five of the nine have departed. A son, Aaron Brown, and three daughters are present survivors.

Monuments may arise to the memory of a Custer slain in combat with the warlike Sioux, and the press may herald the courage of his fallen comrades; but in the development of material wealth, the example of unostentatious diligence and manly effort, outlined in the life and labors of the settler, there is pleasure and profit, justice and equity, in this notice of the life of Israel Brown.

## V A R I C K.

ROMULUS was organized on March 5, 1794. Varick was formed from Romulus February 6, 1830. The initial town-meeting was held at the house of Benjamin Lemon, on April 6 following. A second meeting was held on April 5, 1831, at Jacob Bowman's house, and the proper officers elected then and there. These meetings are deserving of further notice, since therein was practiced pure democracy, and in them was the germ of State and National government. Here all were on the same basis, with equal franchises. Here was open speech, regardless of fear or favor. Taxes were debated and levied, officers chosen, roads laid out, and bridging voted. The government of Varick is merged in that of Romulus until distinct formation, and illustrates the ready application of needs to local, well-enforced regulations. Its territory lies south of Fayette, and extends near the centre of the County from lake to lake. The slope of land is slightly northward, and ridges are of such gradual ascent that no impediment to nearly complete cultivation is offered. Streams are small and of little importance. Near the centre of the town exists a large swamp, or bog, denominated "Cranberry Marsh," whereon much of that valuable fruit was produced and annually gathered to a recent date. The influence of this basin of vegetable debris is deleterious to health, and its drainage is a subject of importance to the residents of the locality.

### EARLY SETTLERS.

Early settlement and settlers naturally engross attention, and while the numbered lots attest the disposition of Government to reward her defenders, the question rises by whom were these lots drawn. More than an average life's duration has passed away since settlement was made upon the slopes of Varick, yet, from the memories of Stephen Monroe and S. V. R. Dey, the record has been gained for preservation.

Lot No. 43 was drawn by Edmond Kelly, of the Second New York Regiment. It was purchased from him by Benjamin Dey, who, in 1818, sold two hundred acres from the northwest corner to Powlers VanGieson, of New Jersey. On his death, about 1840, the property fell to heirs, whose descendants are now scattered. To Garrett VanSickle and P. Spence tracts were sold by Dey, who likewise disposed of fifty acres, south of the above, to Albert Lutkins, of New Jersey, in the year 1818. His heirs sold to George Conover, who in turn sold to John McFarland. Dey willed the balance to his heirs, who from time to time disposed of their lands to various parties. Numbered southward, we find Lot 44, which was drawn by William Jackson, of the Second New York Regiment. Jackson sold to M. Dixon, who sold the entire lot to B. Dey for an overcoat and twenty-five dollars. The property passed by will to the heirs of Dey,—the east half to Jane and Mary Jacobus, who sold to Peter Bush and Henry Fegles, who in turn sold to James VanRiper and H. Reed,—present occupant. The west half was willed to Julia Post and to the descendants of David Dey, who were bought out, and the property passed to Samuel Sheridan and S. S. Conover. East of the two lots given lies No. 45, the early property of the well-known Elkanah Watson, who made a prospecting tour through this region in 1791, and later invested with others in the water-powers at Seneca Falls. John Gambee, a blacksmith by trade, came out from Pennsylvania, about 1810, and bought of Watson two hundred acres, from the east end of the lot, and for a time carried on his trade in a small shop in the intervals of clearing and tilling his land. At his death, Joseph, his son, succeeded to the estate, and at his demise the land passed to Marcus Gambee, the present occupant. David Dey bought of Watson one hundred and seventy-five acres, which lay on the southwest corner of the lot, and upon it placed his son Tunis, whose daughter, the wife of John Mann, is a present part owner of her grandfather's purchase. In 1810, the date of settlement of this locality, John Berry, of New Jersey, came on with a family and erected a house on the southeast corner. J. Y. Manning, about 1845, bought him out, and it is now owned by Thomas S. Wilcox, a later purchaser from Manning. The first settler on this lot was named Michael Shetterly, who owned one hundred acres. Shetterly was a Pennsylvania German, and migrated to Seneca County, with his family, in 1808. After a time he sold to Isaac Gambee, and went to Ohio in 1848. In 1830 a school-house was erected upon the southwest corner. A frame school building is

at present located upon that spot. Lot No. 46, traversed diagonally by the Geneva and Ithaca Railroad, first knew a white occupant in 1807, when a man named Huckster held one hundred acres. Garret Henion moved upon a fifty-acre farm, and thereon passed his life. In 1840, Dr. VanTyne bought fifty acres, and later sold to the present owner, H. King. Two hundred acres were purchased in 1813, by Gideon Gambee, of Pennsylvania. He bought the southwest part of the lot from John Gambee, the owner of the lot. John Hilkert came, in 1820, from Pennsylvania, and secured a home upon one hundred and fifty acres in the northeast corner. This farm was bought and is owned by Solomon Acker. In the west central portion Betsey Gambee had one hundred acres; at her decease Marcus Gambee became purchaser and owner. Abner Prior, a commissioned officer of the Revolution, drew Lot 47. Mr. Frame is recollected as having been the first settler upon the tract; he was located in the north part, where there is now a school building, upon some fifty acres. A horse speculator, by name Abel Woodworth, became the owner, in 1809, of one hundred acres in the northern part, the property subsequently of William Gambee. A deaf old man, known as Henry Beers, and who served as Assessor in 1800, had a farm, now owned by W. B. Hopkins. Beers sold out and removed to Michigan. Daniel Gambee, like his brother John, was a blacksmith by trade, and blended work in his shop with the tillage of his sixty-acre farm in the northeast corner of the lot. In 1814 the plow was a crude affair, and frequently called for the smith's skill to sharpen the share, and Gambee's forge was kept in play upon wet days in shoeing horses and making repairs of the tools in use in that elder day.

### FIRST FRAME HOUSE.

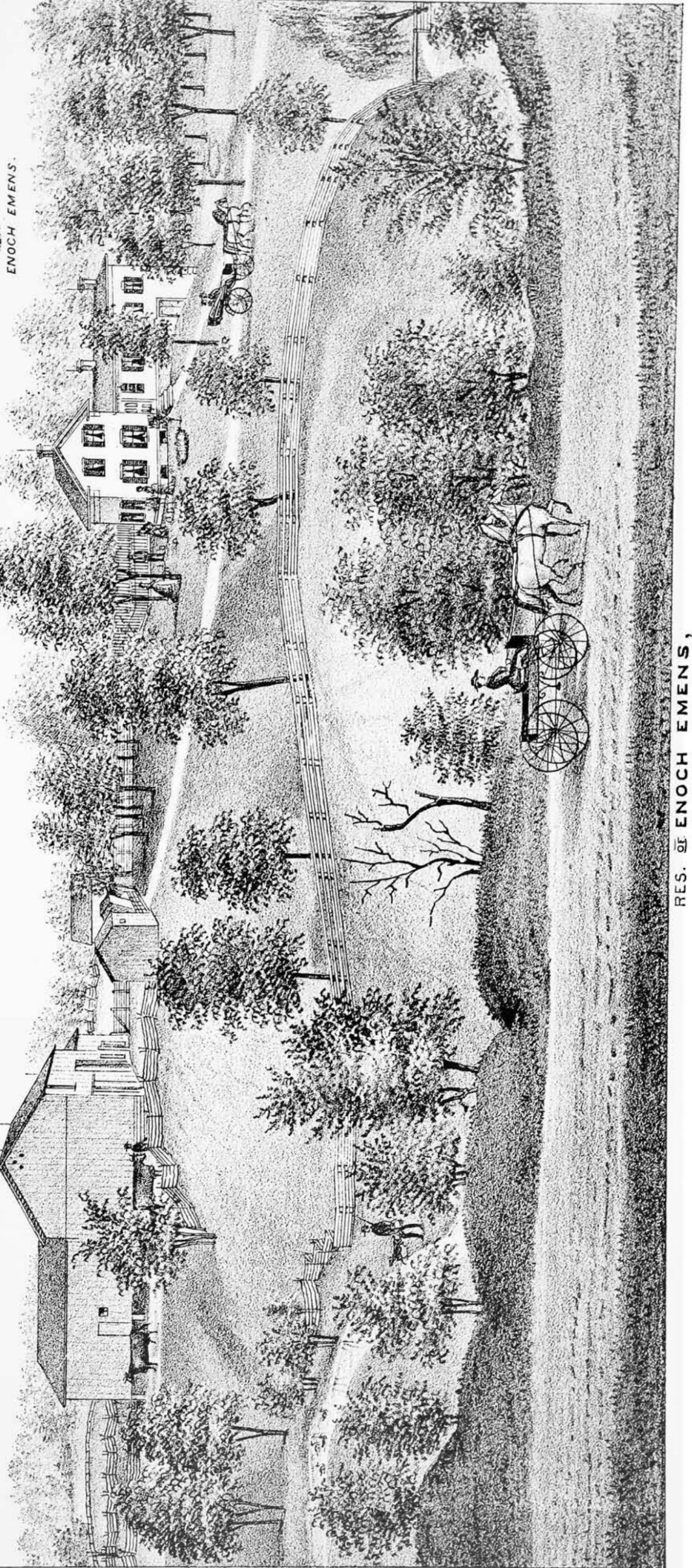
Upon Lot No. 48 there were settlers prior to the close of the last century. In the southeast was John Hood, who was elected overseer of roads in 1799; in the northeast was one Smith, likewise a road overseer in 1802; and in the northwest was William Hood, an overseer of highways in 1800. It is with a feeling of regret for them that we learn of the dispossession of the Hoods through defect in titles, whereby they lost all their improvements. In vain had they felled the trees of the forest and erected their log houses. For others had they directed labor in making roads practicable, and others reaped the results of their, may we venture to hope, requited labors. The farm, partially improved by William Hood, was bought by Zebedee Williams, and by him rented. Lot No. 49, bordering west upon Seneca Lake, was drawn by a Revolutionary officer named Mordecai Hale. Benjamin Dey, of New Jersey, a surveyor by profession, was the original occupant of this lot, of which he was known to be the entire possessor. In 1794 he erected a frame house,—the first in the town; this was two years after his settlement upon the lot. In 1796 he erected a saw-mill on Reeder's Creek, and added a grist-mill in 1800. It may be said of Mr. Dey that he was the surveyor of the original town of Romulus, and was the heaviest land-owner in the County; this arising from payments in land for his services. Dey died about 1824, and willed the lot to his son, Alexander H. Dey, who is now a prominent Detroit banker. Dr. Reeder purchased of A. H. Dey, and is a present practicing physician of the town. Lot No. 50 is designated as the Gospel Lot. Under an act of 1782, a four-hundred-acre lot, designated by the County Supervisors, was to be reserved in each Military Tract for the support of the gospel, and the land in question was the selection for Romulus. Mr. Benjamin Dey was one of the trustees in charge of the property. Jacob Basum, from Pennsylvania, in 1796 moved in and purchased one hundred and seventy-three acres from the northwest part, and, in a home cut by his own hands from the forest, passed his days in quiet; his heirs sold to Charles Thompson. David Dey willed to Gerald, his son, who sold to Albert Jaques and John Harris; the part belonging to the latter is at present held by McIntosh. William Baldrige, of Pennsylvania, bought one hundred and eighty acres in 1812, and moved on with his family. In time, he sold to Alla McMath, Jr., who in turn sold to David Dey, who willed to Peter L. Dey the farm now owned by John Reigle. John Mead arrived in this region in 1815, and became the owner of one hundred acres, upon which he died. The farm passed from James McKnight to Harvey Baldrige. Joseph Marcy was a



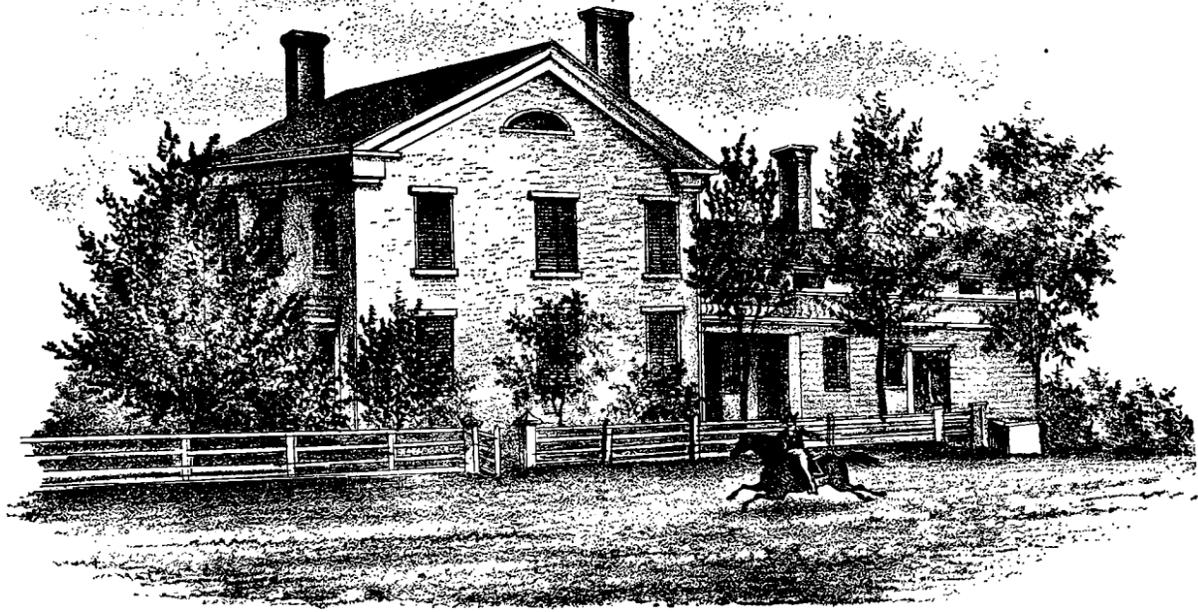
ENOCH EMENS.



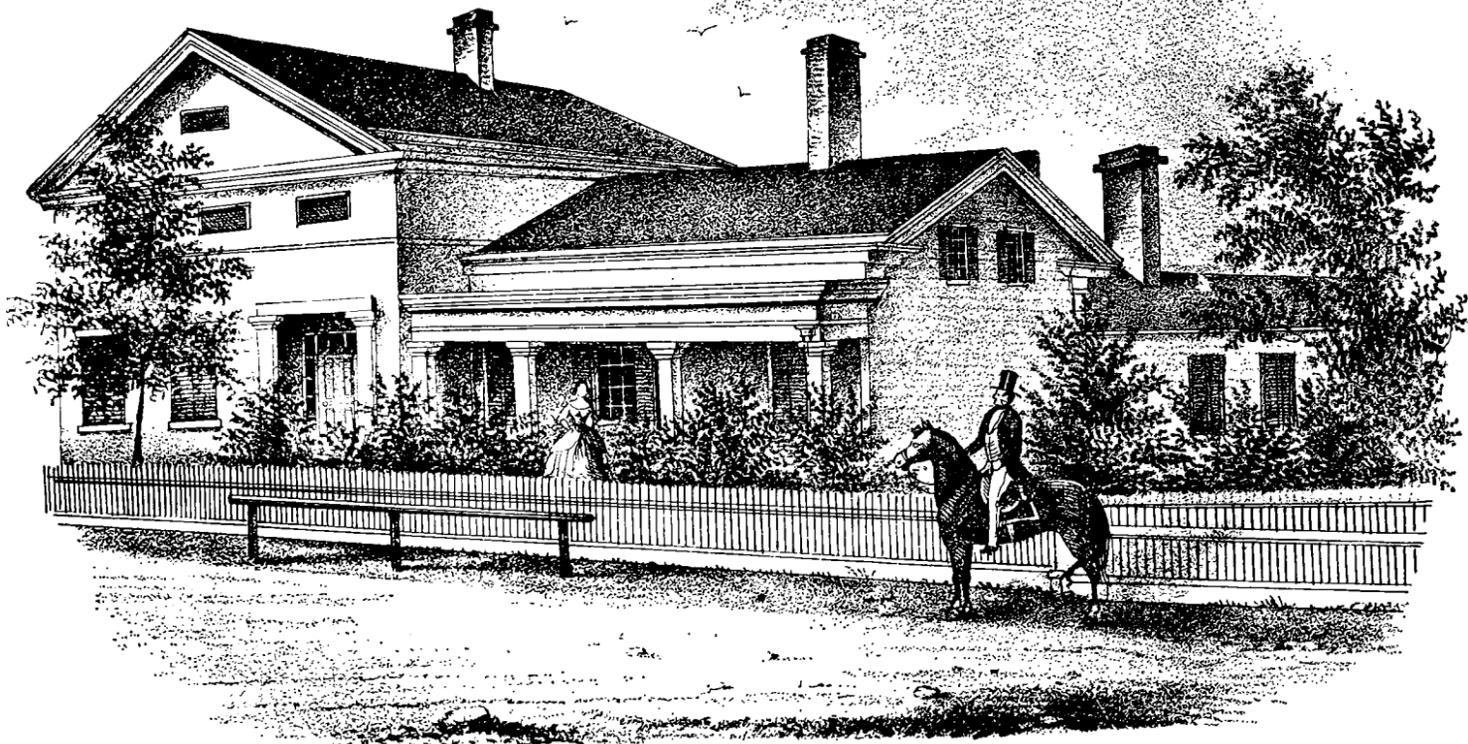
MRS. ENOCH EMENS.



RES. OF ENOCH EMENS,  
VARICK, SENECA CO., N. Y.



Residence of John J. Covert.  
*Ovid, N. Y.*



Residence of Abraham Van Doren, Fair-View, Ovid

renter upon the one hundred and fifty acres of D. Dey, in the northeast part of the lot. It was purchased by Lodowick Bush, who in process of time sold to J. B. Gambee. Lot No. 51 was drawn by Captain James Gregg, of the First New York Infantry. B. Dey became owner of all but the State's Hundred, which was settled by Robert Wilson, an Irish Revolutionary soldier, who lived upon it from 1806 till his death, in 1820. John Crane became owner, and it is now held by D. McGrane. John P. Dey by will succeeded to the one hundred acres in the southwest corner. At his demise his son had possession, and sold to Peter Van Riper, who transferred to J. Hathaway. John Jacobus, drawer of Lot No. 52, sold to I. Hathaway, of New Jersey, fifty acres off the northwest corner, in 1803. Benjamin Lemmon, of Maryland, bought this piece and one hundred and fifty acres additional, and, settling upon it, became known as a leading settler, and was intrusted with local offices. His house was converted to a tavern-stand in 1814, and here were held meetings, and his place became known to people of that day as a favorite resort. J. V. Manning bought the Lemmon farm, and sold one hundred acres to D. Dildine, a present owner. In the year 1814 a blacksmith from Pennsylvania, by name William Gambee, purchased two hundred acres from the northeast corner, and not to forget his calling, and to serve himself and neighbors, put up a shop and followed his trade at intervals. Dying, the land went to heirs, and is now the home of a daughter, Mrs. Sullivan. It was not until 1820 that Jesse Abbott, of New Jersey, became owner of one hundred acres from the southeast corner, sold to and owned by J. M. Sample. Contemporary with Abbott came Tunis VanBrunt, who secured land in the southwest portion, and sold to Thomas Sample, the present owner.

In the settlement of Varick lots, it is noticeable that those who were skilled in other than farm work, with the growth of settlement and the needs of the people, speedily became a necessity in their old avocation, and, until villages had begun to centre in them the trades, these pioneer mechanics were found scattered throughout the County. Another of this class was William Blaine, who acquired and located in 1804, upon a seventy-five-acre piece of ground situated upon the central portion of Lot 53. Here he erected a shop, and this spot, where in 1807 stood that rude affair, has later left no trace in its successive transfer through the hands of Enos S. Vail, Porter Hathaway, and other later owners. A southwest one-hundred-acre lot was the home of Ephraim Wilcox, whose trade was that of wagon-making, and who was useful in building barns and in making other improvements. Of this settler's family of four boys and one girl, but one, a son, is living, a resident of Pennsylvania. I. W. Smith bought out Wilcox, and the farm remains with the Smith family. One who came to Varick very early and located upon the northeast part of the lot, was known as Colonel Samuel Blaine, he being entitled to that appellation as commander of a regiment of militia. His life was mostly that of a public man, being a Justice of the Peace and a member of the Legislature. John Hagerman took up one hundred acres where J. Reed is living, and William Ketchum settled on twenty-five acres now the property of Charles Reed. Ketchum was a versatile genius, and when untoward weather prevented out-door employment, he could be found engaged in manufacturing the cabin furniture of that day, comprised in chairs, tables, and cupboards. Later, Mr. Ketchum abandoned the turning-lathe and chisel, and became a preacher of the gospel, as a Baptist, in Steuben County. A large portion of the cranberry marsh lies upon the western part of No. 54. A settler named John VanDyne came westward in 1812, and found a lodgment upon one hundred acres in the eastern portion; for nearly a score of years he dwelt upon this segment of the marsh, and then yielded to Charles Thompson, who bought him out in 1831. One hundred and fifty acres in the northeast part was the early possession of John McCoy, who sold to Samuel Lerch, who is remembered as a tavern-keeper, and the owner of a race-track one mile in circuit. This locality was a famous resort for the sporting fraternity, and on gala days the tavern-keeper was in the acme of his glory.

Returning, in our research for the pioneer settlers of lots and subsequent ownership, to the shores of Seneca Lake, we find that No. 55 had been purchased by E. Watson, who in 1797 sold one hundred and forty-four acres from the northwest corner to Jacob Loudon, from Pennsylvania. On his demise, Judge Gordan, of Rhode Island, became owner and resident, who sold to William Curtis, and transfers were frequent, through the hands of one Drake, a collier, from New Hampshire, George Olliman, Jonathan Pontius, Mr. Skinner, and C. Sayre, the present incumbents of the place. Forty-four acres from the southwest part of the lot were purchased by John Schuyler, a Methodist preacher, who sold his home to Alexander Steele, from whom it descended, through Denton Gurney, A. B. Palmer, and Jabez Fountain, to Messrs. Webber and Arnot. Upon the northeast corner of the lot lived George Markle, from Pennsylvania, in quiet ownership of a quarter-lot. In those days the hum of the spinning-wheel was heard in nearly every log cabin, and Mr. Markle's home was the seat of a pioneer manufacture of these useful but wellnigh obsolete articles of housewifery. In 1830, Mr. Markle sold fifty acres from the east end of his farm to Ashur Lyon, and the remainder to Jacob

Hathaway. Seventy acres from the southeast corner were purchased by John Baldrige, but upon this no buildings have been erected.

The inevitable tendency to reduce areas of individual ownership are here fully illustrated, since in no instance has a lot descended entire to the present owner, but, in general, from four to six families are found dwelling upon the original purchase or donation lot owned by an individual. This continued division of lands is regarded as the source of general prosperity, as small farms are subjected to better tillage, and the ownership of landed rights is widely extended, serving as a bar to revolution and as a consequent national safeguard. The proof of this proposition is seen in the great number of farmers who filled the ranks of volunteers during the civil war. No. 56 was drawn by John P. Boyer, a soldier of the First New York Regiment. In 1804, the Beaches, Gabriel, Elias, and Jabez, arriving from Pennsylvania, bought and moved upon the south half-lot. The first two were men of family, and brought their wives and children with them to new homes, but Jabez was a bachelor and so remained. In time the land passed to Jacob Lyon and Lewis Beach, and later has known various owners. The north half was purchased in 1804 by George Markle, of Pennsylvania, who moved upon it with his family and died while its owner; Jacob Hathaway, the second owner, likewise died there, and Cyrus Baldrige, a third owner, was killed by the running away of a team attached to a reaper, and the land is now held by his heirs. A lot embracing two hundred acres was purchased in 1808 by Daniel Sayre, from Orange County, New York. Sayre is remembered as a prominent citizen, and the incumbent of various town offices. Sayre sold to David Dey, and he to Thomas Mann, who dying, his heirs sold, and one hundred acres were bought and are now owned by Frank Lynn. During 1808, Samuel Ludlum, accompanied by his family, moved upon one hundred acres in the south part of the lot, but hearing from parties who went on to the present State of Michigan of good homes and better prospects there, he sold out to Samuel Doty and emigrated thither. Timothy Ludlum moved in 1806, upon one hundred acres lying in the southeast corner, and began the work of clearing. He was succeeded later by the present owner, H. C. Lisk, who, moving upon it, erected a frame building, which is still standing. Lieutenant John Stake drew Lot No. 57. He was an officer in the cavalry branch of the service, and, as has been noticed in general, disposed of his right to a fine tract without seeing or caring to see it. Gary V. Sackett, of Seneca Falls, was the second and more nearly local owner. Timothy Ludlum, a young, wiry man, purchased the south half, conditioned to pay for it in installments, and hoped to raise the means by cutting and selling the timber. His efforts proved futile, and after much hard labor, by which a considerable clearing was effected, he saw the land transferred to Joseph Hunt. Finally, Mr. Hunt died and the land fell to his children, who are present owners. The northwest two hundred acres were purchased by Tunis Van Brunt, of Brooklyn. VanBrunt engaged in the laborious work of the pioneer, cleared up a portion of his farm, and then, years later, sold one hundred acres to John McKnight, a present occupant. Jesse Abbott settled the northeast one hundred acres, which now constitute the home of J. M. Sample.

Lot No. 58 was drawn by Captain Henry VanDeburg, of the Second Regiment. In the year 1805, Jacob Doremus, from the Jerseys, came out to the wilds of Seneca, and fixed his habitation in the southeast one hundred acres. His trade was that of a shoemaker, and with the simple tools of his craft he manufactured rough shoes for his fellow-settlers from material furnished by them. Eleven years elapsed, and he parted with twenty acres to accommodate Isaac D. Hart, and in 1831 disposed of the remainder to William A. Coe. Upon the east side of the lot lived, in 1809, a carpenter, named Joseph Darrow, whose service proved acceptable in the erection of the old church. A son, at the age of seventy-one, is a resident upon Lot No. 51 of this town. A third one-hundred-acre purchase was made by John VanCourt, of Delaware. The land lay in the northeast part of the lot, and was occupied in 1812 by two sons of VanCourt, who had made the purchase for their benefit. This is the land now comprising the farms of J. Renner and J. Smith. Prior to the arrival of the brothers VanCourt, and as early as the year 1807, John Ayers entered upon the southwest quarter, and was a hard worker, and made a considerable clearing upon his wild land. Slavery was still in force in the State of New York, and the journals of pioneers and their published recollections incidentally note the occasional presence of persons of color held to service, but there was no bar to the freedman's becoming the owner of lands. As in the last war, where they were enrolled by regiments and did good service in trench or line of battle, and left the ranks free men, so in the days of the Revolution colored men fought nobly, and, battling for provincial freedom, gained their own, with its benefactions. Two of those freedmen of the Revolution, by name James Ray and Benjamin Widgeon, came out from New Jersey, and, becoming the owners of fifty acres each from the northwest part of the lot, essayed the rôle of pioneers. A fifty-acre piece lying in the northwest corner was early held by James Lyon, by whom it was transferred by sale to Jesse Abbott;

thence it passed to Jacob Bristol and others, and is the present farm of J. White.

Lot No. 59 lies south of and near to the "marsh," and embraces a greater part of the north half of School District No. 11. The Revolution Road traverses the eastern side in a west-of-south direction. Upon this road, and in the northeast part of the lot, Lewis Sharp, of Connecticut, had obtained a hundred acres. Many years have rolled away since Sharp came into the County of Seneca, and of two, who were children then, one, a resident of Romulus, survives, at the ripe age of fourscore years. Ira Giddings bought of Sharp and sold to G. McCary, who in time sold to Henry VanRiper, who left it to his children. Giddings, of whom we have just spoken, took up one hundred acres on the road referred to, and sold to John VanDyne, who likewise sold to Joseph Yerkes, in 1822. John Gambee, a succeeding owner, died in possession, and later, S. A. VanRiper, its present owner, bought it. N. Ayers, of New Jersey, bought forty-nine acres of Jephtha Wade, and came out to the lake country as early as 1809. He is known to have followed pioneer precedent, and erected his log cabin on his farm. By trade a cooper, he had a shop put up on Lot No. 59, where he could have been found at work during the years succeeding to 1823. The site is the present home of A. P. Miller.

Jephtha Wade, a New Jersey surveyor, was an early occupant of this region, and in 1805 settled upon the southeast quarter, upon which he erected a double log house, an aristocratic procedure in those times indulged in by men of means and prominence. The rattlesnake was at home in this locality, and doubtless regarded the family of Wade as obtrusive, more especially as a relentless warfare was carried on against them by which their numbers were rapidly reduced. Instances of danger incurred are many, but few, if any, received harm from the reptile's fang. Mr. Wade moved south into Romulus, where he died in 1812, leaving a family of four sons and a like number of daughters, most of whom have migrated to Michigan; one son, Jephtha Wade, is a prominent business man in Cleveland, Ohio. Benona Ward married the widow, and occupied the place for some years; it was finally divided and sold. A tract of sixty acres in the northeast, now owned by Mrs. Dockstater, has known a number of proprietors. Isaac Crane was its owner about 1835. Crane bought from Isaac Allen, and he from its first settler, Joseph Brown. Nothing more suggestively indicates the transient and formative character of Western settlement than the occupation and speedy abandonment of lands. Descendants of families dwell in the Old World upon lands hereditary with them for centuries, and a hovel is the home of some whose ancestors dwelt in castles now in ruins; but in the West, locating and removing at option, following the same isothermal lines westward still, the children of the pioneers of Seneca, and often the pioneers themselves, selling out, have become pioneers in the development of other States, and, schooled by former experience, secured the manifold advantage which inhere to those first on the ground. The settlers of Varick were in search of homes, and changes are few, considering the lapse of time from first occupation. Lot No. 60 was drawn by Sergeant James Parker, of the First New York Regiment. A sixth part of the lot on the east side became the property of Andrew McKnight, an immigrant to Seneca, in the year 1798, from Pennsylvania. Engaged in the war of 1812 as a soldier, it fell to his fortune to be taken prisoner by the Indians, with whom he made an involuntary residence for a period of seven years; at the expiration of which he was released and returned to his old place, where he died in 1853 at the advanced age of ninety years. A. R. Karr and L. Hodge bought and held the land which is now owned by J. V. R. Clark and J. Gurney. Some time in 1800, David Dey, of New Jersey, purchased four hundred and eighty-eight acres, which included the greater part of the lot. A tanner by trade, he dropped the business in his new possession, and entered vigorously upon the work of clearing up and bringing under cultivation his large farm. Four years elapsed, and the want of a neighbor and an opportunity to make an advantageous sale induced Dey to sell one hundred and two acres from the southwest part of his farm to Garrett Jacobus, who died in 1810. The land fell to his son Isaac, who passed it to Jotham Wilcox, on whose decease it became the heritage of his son Richard S. Wilcox, present owner. At the same time that Dey sold to Jacobus he also disposed of fifty acres to James Barr, a Pennsylvanian. Barr was, by trade, a house-carpenter, and his services were frequently requisite in the construction of the primitive log cabins in his neighborhood. Along in 1836, Dey sold a piece of ground from the southeast side to Francis Gurney, whose nephew, Jacob Gurney, inherited and holds the farm. Mr. Dey, at the age of eighty-eight years, passed away in 1852, having willed the balance of his land to his children, of whom S. V. R. Dey is the only survivor in this locality. Solomon Dey owns and resides upon a sixty-eight-acre farm, near the homestead, which is the present property of Mrs. Richard V. Dey. The widow lives in the old, time-worn dwelling, erected in 1802, and standing upon the bluff, with front looking out upon the lake. Additions have been made to the structure, and it yet affords its in-

mates a comfortable residence. In 1820, Dey erected a blacksmith-shop upon his lot, and employed Charles Beaver by the year to operate it.

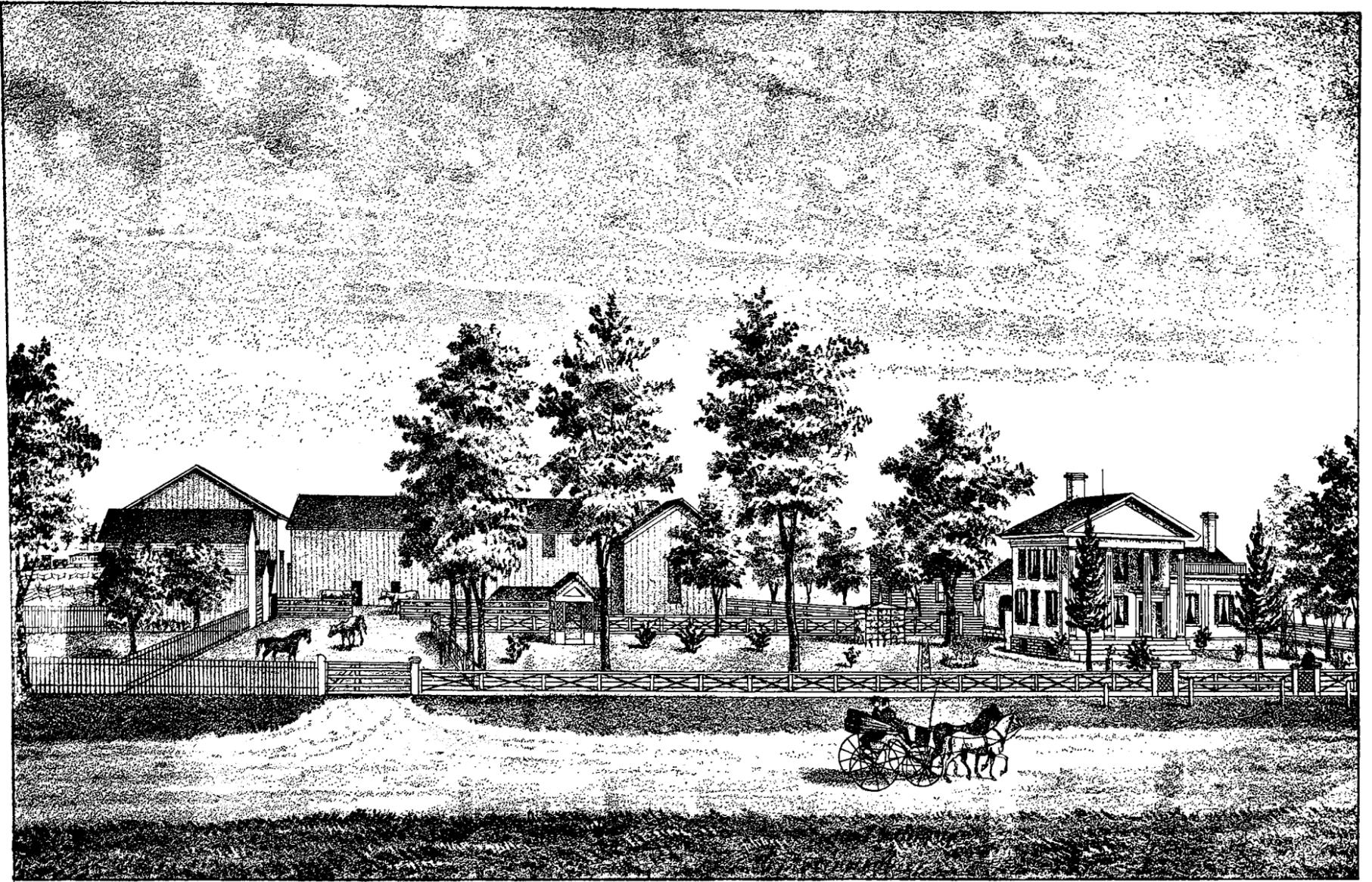
Lot No. 61 was drawn by Christopher Queen, of the First New York Regiment. A settler from Pennsylvania, named William Busenbark, purchased the southeast quarter in 1803, and, moving upon it, raised a family. His death occurred some forty years ago, and his heirs sold to William Everett, present resident. During the same year in which Busenbark settled, one Bachman bought one hundred acres near the centre of the lot, and the two families came on together. Cornelius VanHorn bought of Bachman, and the plat is now owned by J. F. Dart and J. Updike. The northwest corner, comprising one hundred acres, was settled by Jacob Hathaway, who emigrated from Dover, New Jersey. J. B. Karr purchased of Hathaway, and occupies the farm, where he now resides, at the age of seventy-two. One-sixth of the lot, east side, was owned and occupied in 1810 by John Pickle and wife, from the Jersey peninsula. Pickle sold to Johnson Updike, present owner. In 1818 the southwest quarter was occupied by John Baldrige, of Pennsylvania, who married Miss Agnes Barr and lived in a house he built upon his land until his death, when the property passed to the heirs, who have recently sold it. A member of the First New York Regiment, named Ephraim Blanchard, was the original owner from Government of Lot No. 62. The northwest sixth was early occupied by a New Jersey weaver, named Samuel Ludlum. A reference to the census of 1810 shows that

#### HOME MANUFACTURE

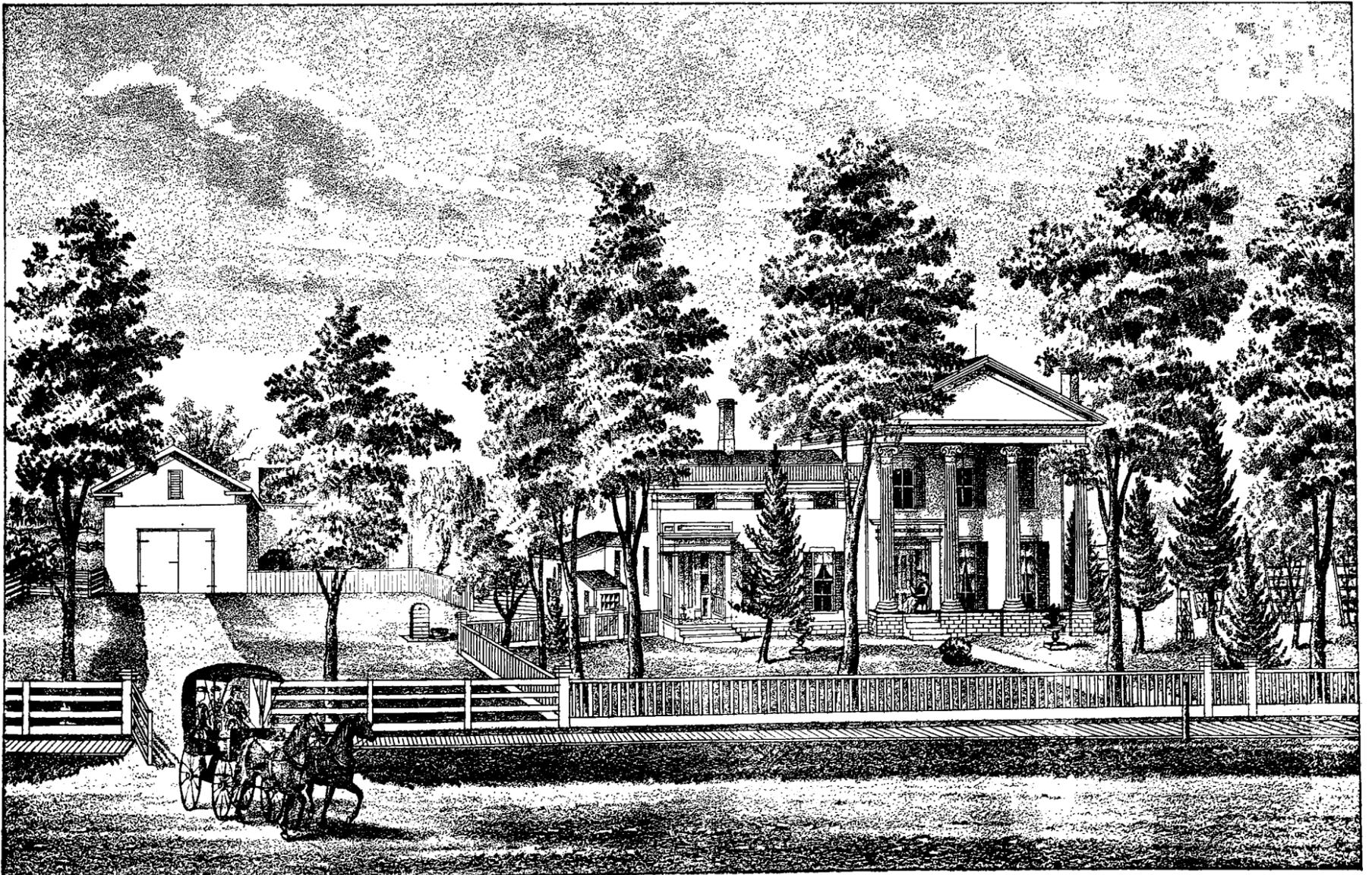
was then quite active, and during the war Mr. Ludlum made cloth upon his loom, which was cut into coats and suits by wife, mother, or sister, and also by the daughter, in the families of the neighborhood, and the settlers and the young men wore these "home-made" garments with comfort and laudable pride. Ludlum had a family of five children, one of whom recently died in Michigan at the age of seventy. The farm was divided between the children on the death of the father in 1824. Stephen Ludlum became the owner in 1827, and later the land is owned by R. M. Steele, who acquired title by purchase in 1872. John Stone, a shoemaker, became owner of sixty acres on the south end of the lot; this he disposed of to J. H. Ogden, who transferred to John G. King, the present owner. A fifty-acre piece in the southwest corner was owned by Joseph Hunt, who built thereon a habitation, in which his son Peter lived for a time. Finally sale was made to Isaac VanTyle, by whom the land was conveyed to G. I. List, the present occupant. Aaron Ely entered upon a sixty-two-acre farm in 1822; a house was put up and clearing begun, but within a year the place was sold to Steele Allen. The latter disposed of this property in 1836 to J. H. Ogden, and removed to Michigan, where, at the age of eighty, he is still living, a healthy, hearty old man. The southeast one hundred acres was owned by Captain Marion, and the "Vader Lot" was settled in 1822. Lot No. 63, on the north border of the town of Romulus, was originally near the centre of that town, and owing to this favoring circumstance was an early occupied and eligible site for a village now located partially in Varick and the remainder in Romulus. The southeast corner of the lot was occupied at a very early date by Henry DePue, whose father was a pioneer in Romulus. The elder DePue opened a tavern-stand and pursued the calling of a landlord during the immigration period, when land-hunters were traversing the woods intent on the acquisition of land,—choice, if possible, but landed estate at any cost. He, in common with others, found the business sufficiently lucrative to continue in it for some time. On this lot, in 1803, Anna DePue was born. This was one of the earliest births which occurred in this part of Varick. On the southeast corner of DePue's farm the pioneers of the locality built a house of logs for school purposes in the year 1806. Among the old-time teachers was Sylvester Tilletston, whose record comes down to us connected with the eulogy of those who knew him. A schoolmaster by profession, he was well qualified to instruct, and his services were long obtained with profit by the adjacent schools. A second instructor was Ira Parker, a painstaking and well-liked man, whose remains rest in the Romulus cemetery, his death having transpired in 1812. A Scotchman named McCullough was a third of the ancient pedagogues, whose like we moderns seldom see, and whose ability is held in low esteem by many from the severity of their discipline, but whose instruction was practical and whose penmanship was excellent. The death of H. DePue occurred in 1813. Of seven children left by him, four are living; one, Mrs. S. Monroe, in Varick, upon a farm a half-mile north of her birthplace, is seventy years of age. DePue's heirs sold, in 1835, to Luther Vail, whose son is the present owner.

#### A PIONEER PREACHER.

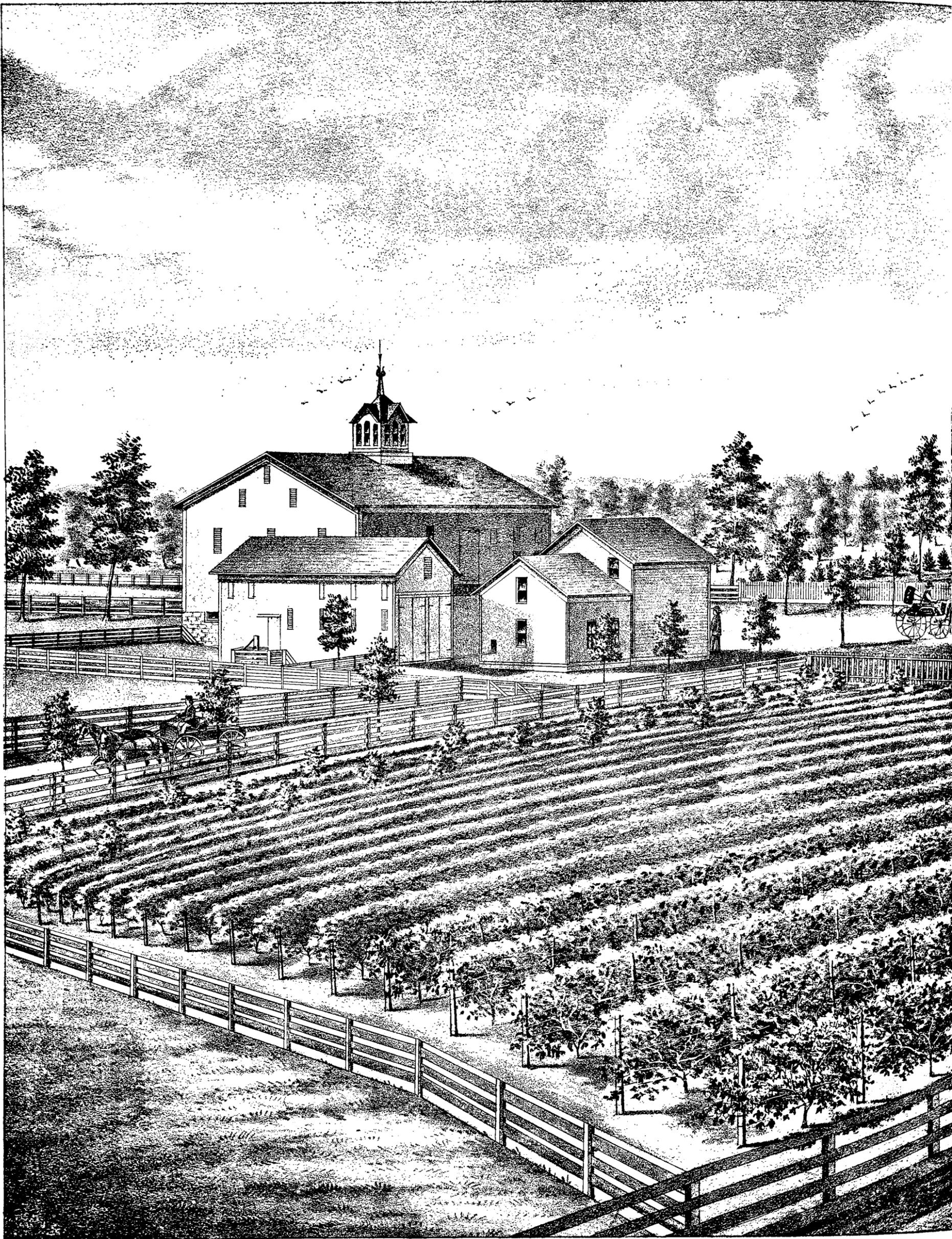
Charles Mosher, with one hundred and twenty-five acres of a farm, taken from the south side of the lot, combined the life of a settler with that of a Presbyterian minister in the long-ago days of 1805. Doubtless the man who earnestly expounded the meaning of the sacred writ, and advised his hearers to flee from the



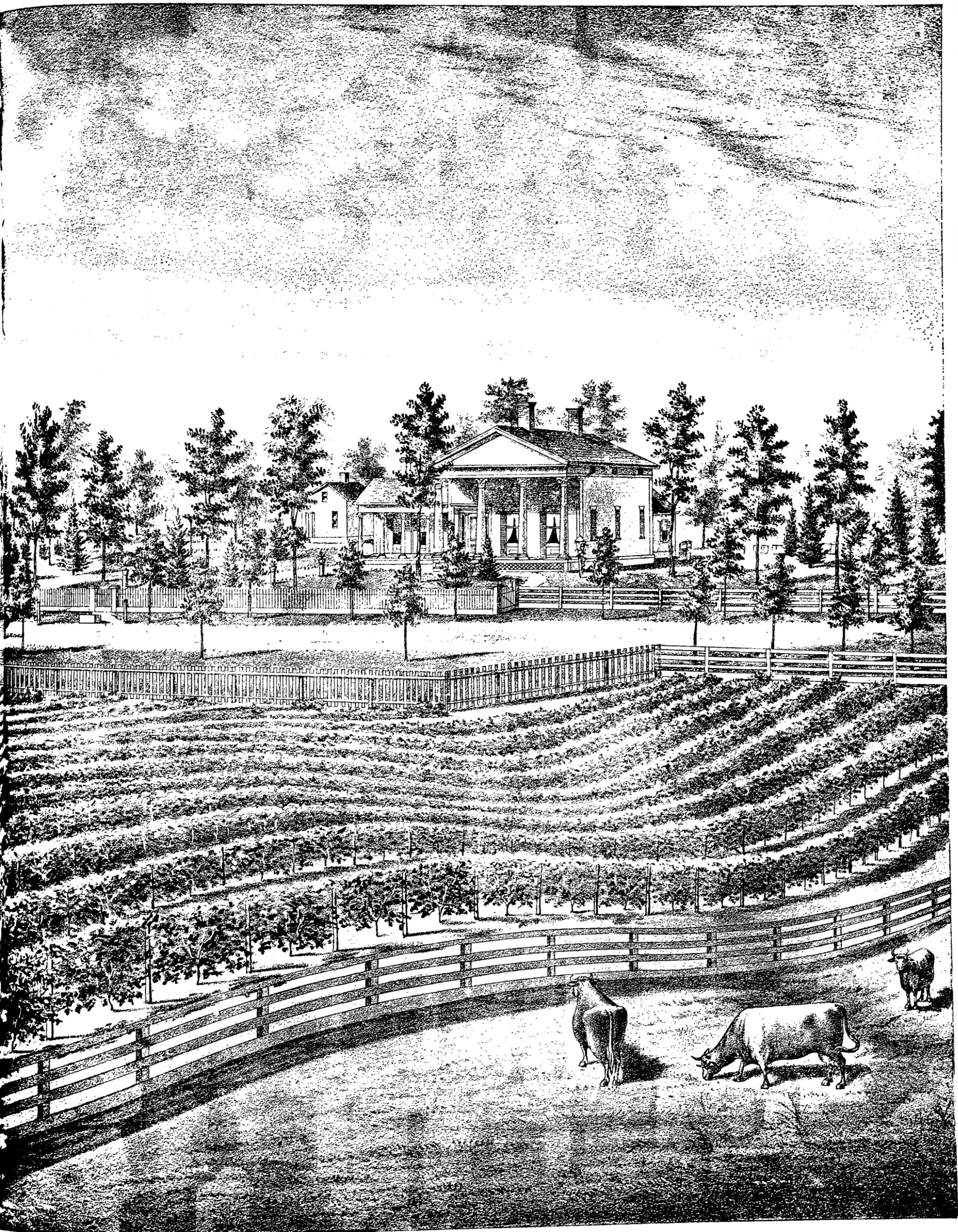
RES. OF GEN. A. D. AYRES, VARICK, N. Y.



RES. OF HON. R. R. STEELE, ROMULUS, N. Y.



RES. AND FARM OF J. & J. LAUTENSCHLAGER,



VARICK, SENECA COUNTY, NEW YORK.



REV. DIEDRICH WILLERS.

wrath to come, from the pulpit of his neat church, could have been seen engaged in week-day labor amidst the logs scattered over his clearing. Rev. Mosher sold to the well-known Waterloo merchant, R. Swift, who in turn disposed of the land to Peter Wyckoff, whose son, Squire Wyckoff, aged seventy years, is a resident upon the old place. Michael VanCourt, who had made an early settlement upon the east part of the lot, made a sale, in 1810, of forty acres to Abigail Munson. Four years later VanCourt died, and his farm, bought by John Buys, was sold by him in 1828 to Stephen Monroe, who has continued to reside upon it till the present, and is in his seventy-third year. In casting lots for ownership with M. VanCourt, Rev. Clark, a Presbyterian divine, obtained seventy-three and one-quarter acres from the northeast corner of the lot. These parties, Clark and Van Court, had bought together of H. Howland. The northwest corner was bought by Zebulon Ayers, of New Jersey, in 1814. Ayers sold one hundred acres to Wilcox, fifty acres to Elijah Karr, and fifty acres to Gay and King. There was an ashery at an early date upon the Wyckoff farm; it was run by Dr. Marvin, of Connecticut, who lived in the town of Romulus, where now stands a school-house. Silas Allen, in 1812, was an owner and occupant of a fifty-acre farm on this lot. The settlement of Lot 69 was begun in 1797 by William Stottle, a weaver, who located upon the northeast one hundred acres. Bowman, his father-in-law, was the first man buried in the Romulus grave-yard. The body was carried a mile and a half through the woods, to find its sepulture in a spot where later his dust has much of kindred company. The death of Stottle took place in 1836. The farm was held for a time by the family, and has passed into the ownership of Edward Barton and A. P. Miller. The southwest corner of the lot was an early possession of a Mrs. Earle, who sold to William McCarty in 1833. A part of the village of Romulusville was laid off from this farm. A second fifty acres was taken by Jacob Vreeland, of New York. Vreeland was a carman in the city; moved out to Seneca with his family at an early day; sold out in 1831, and emigrated to Michigan. A hundred acres were held by Silas Allen, a settler as early as 1806, and the proprietor of an ashery, one of the few sources of revenue, and whose potash had a good export demand. John Buys, from Lot 77 of the "Reservation," purchased fifty acres from the northwest corner of the lot, and moved upon it in 1804. Here he lived till 1813, when he erected a log tavern stand which became known far and wide, and is still recalled as

#### "BUYS'S TAVERN."

For a quarter-century the old innkeeper lived upon this place, and at his death, in 1838, the property passed to Ayers Brothers, and it is in present possession of W. S. Sharp. It is related as characteristic of the times, that on the occasion of the marriage at Buys's tavern in 1830, by the Rev. Morris Barton, of William Merrill to the landlord's niece, that Buys requested a second prayer from the minister, the families on both sides being, as he said, "very wicked." The request was acceded to, and as the bridegroom had paid the usual fee, Buys advanced a like amount for the second prayer.

#### THE CAYUGA RESERVATION,

or that portion lying in Varick, is situated on the east side of the town, and contains twenty-six lots of the "Reservation," the south line of the town being that of the lots. Though the lands were fertile and the location beautiful, the settlement was of later date than in other parts of the town, for even the brave, hardy, and oftentimes reckless pioneer did not care to trespass upon the reserved rights of the red man, for whose prowess was entertained a wholesome respect. The early settlers chose rather to fell the heavy forest along the banks of Seneca Lake, and there build them homes where none had excuse to molest or make them trouble. The first settlers are of the past, and scanty material can be gathered of its earliest pioneers. On the northeast part of Lot 77 lives John A. Christopher, at the good old age of eighty-one, and from him we have gleaned much of the information herein contained. In 1800, John Buys settled on No. 77, and afterwards moved to No. 69, where he kept tavern, as stated in the history of that lot. Barney and Elias Christopher, as well as nearly all the settlers in this part of the County, came from New Jersey. They arrived in this neighborhood in 1806, and settled on what is now as handsome a farm as there is on the lake.

At a later day, 1810, Nathan Christopher became its owner, and at his death his son, J. A. Christopher, took charge of it, and is at present its owner. Located on the southwest corner of this lot are the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Oak Hill Cemetery, and the greater part of McDuffeetown. This hamlet received its appellation from families of that name who resided in the neighborhood,—mostly on Lot No. 79. James McDuffee had one hundred acres on the east part, where he raised a family, none of whom are now residents of the town. Robert and Joseph McDuffee settled, in 1808, where the church now stands, and the music of their drums and fifes was nightly heard echoing and re-echoing in the romantic ravines near by, and reaching far out on the bosom of Cayuga Lake, breaking the

even-tide stillness, not else disturbed save by the lightsome stroke of the red man's oar as his boat glided out for the Cayuga shore. Samuel and Isaac Phillips were residents of this neighborhood as early as 1803, and Thurston King supplied the settlement with shoes of his own manufacture, and although he monopolized the trade of half a town he was not kept busy. Samuel Gordon settled on Lot 80 in 1801, and his name appears as one of the town officers in 1803. Henry Davis, from New Jersey, once owned the place now occupied by Leander Covert on the northeast corner. Daniel Herbert also lived in the vicinity, and was one of those men, found in most neighborhoods, ready at all times to practice a joke, with sufficiency of wit to make it interesting. Upon one occasion, when employed by Mr. Davis to assist in throwing a dead hog into the lake, the latter requested Mr. Herbert to "waltz him off handsomely" with a few appropriate words. His surprise and indignation can only be imagined when Herbert, lifting his hat in reverence to the dead, pronounced the following couplet,—

"Oh! cruel death, thy sad disaster;  
Why take the hog and leave its master?"

On Lot 81 resided Daniel Christopher in the year 1800. Himself, Enoch Terhune, and others were in a boat, during the year 1818, upon the lake, and were almost ashore when he was struck by a swing of the boom, knocked off into the water and drowned. John Bryant moved upon the east part of Lot 81 in the year 1801, and is recorded as being an Overseer of Highways in 1805. Farther down the lake, on Lot 73, lived Samuel Phillips, as stated above, in 1803. He constructed a frame house which has but recently burned down. It was occupied by Thomas Burroughs after Phillips. During 1800, Samuel Volkingburg lived on Lot 72, near the lake, where he had a farm of about two hundred acres. In 1806 his name is on the record of town officers. John L. Deal bought one hundred acres off the lot, while Volkingburg's son Richard, now about seventy-four years of age, occupies the west end. On the east part of No. 69, fronting the lake, was John Williams, a pettifogger, auctioneer, etc., who was elected Constable in 1794. His son, John Williams, was the first white child born on the Reservation, and probably in Varick. He is now eighty years of age, a hale and hearty resident of Fayette. The old farm is yet owned by the Williams family.

James Bennett was on No. 68 at an early period, and is recollected as one of the early town officers, being elected Overseer of Highways in 1799, while a short distance north, on No. 64, David Harris had moved in and settled in 1800, where J. R. Schuyler now resides. A store was kept in 1801 by Harris, at the place indicated as his improvement. In 1805 there came one Robert White, and located on the same tract. A half-mile west of McDuffeetown resided John Blaine, from Pennsylvania. Mr. Blaine is now an aged resident of Seneca Falls. Near the lake, on the lot in question, dwelt the pioneer, Joseph Burroughs. On No. 82, a tailor, from New Jersey, David Edwards by name, had acquired one hundred acres, whereon, in 1820, he built and kept a tavern. Abram Arnold, also from New Jersey, had about fifty acres on the northwest part, where he died, and Dennis VanDuyne, some time about 1830, became its possessor. Colby Lane, a gentleman from away down East, bought one hundred and fifty acres on No. 78, upon which he erected and conducted a small ashery, having abandoned one previously built on the farm now owned by W. H. Gambee. He obtained some celebrity as a narrator of extravagant stories, among which was the exploit of having mowed "seven acres and forty-four rods" (the exact number of rods indicating accuracy) "within the compass of a day, and then attended a ball and danced all night." His remains lie unmarked by any head-stone, and over him each summer brings a growth of rank vegetation, while the memory of his existence here is perpetuated in the tales of an idle hour. On the southeast corner of Lot 74, Henry Gardner, from New Jersey, resided upon two hundred acres of a farm, in 1805. One night, while engaged in husking corn, his quick ear detected the stealthy approach of some wild beast; being unarmed, he hastened within his house, which was not distant. On going back, afterwards, he found the tracks of a panther in the snow, which showed that it had passed directly over his fodder-pile. His death, which took place in 1813, resulted from the kick of a horse. His farm is now owned by W. H. Gambee and W. H. Reeder. John Gambee, from Pennsylvania, purchased four hundred acres east of the road, on Lots 66 and 70, and erected a frame saw-mill upon the north end of the former. This mill, together with others later built and lower down, was washed away by one of those sudden freshets which converted a quiet brook to a raging, resistless torrent. George Fridley erected a clover-mill on the same site, and did an extensive business in milling clover-seed until its purchase by Jesse Abbott, by whom it was changed to a saw-mill. The land owned by Mr. Gambee was bestowed upon his children at his death, and has since gone into other hands.

On No. 62 settled Andrew Hood, on the south end of the lot, and after various ownership the estate has become the property of N. Robinson, who has lived upon it many years. East of Hood, George Alexander resided on a forty-acre