

white man's law. The old Indian, while conversing with some Indians friendly to the whites, was cautiously approached, captured, pinioned, etc., and taken to Smith's, where his eye fell upon Phadoc and blazed with baffled fury; but he looked with deep regret upon the death of Mr. Crane. The prisoner was confined in a room—built in one of the abutments of Cayuga Bridge—for a time, and then sent to a jail at Canandaigua. In 1804, a circuit court and court of "oyer and terminer" was held at Aurora by Judge Daniel D. Tompkins, at which John, the Indian, was tried, convicted, and sentenced to be hung. He asked that he might be shot, but the request could not be granted. As he stood on the platform, with a pipe and some leaf-tobacco at his belt, he told the officials that with these he wished to smoke a pipe of peace with Crane in the land of spirits. The effect of the execution was to drive back into the forests the greater portion of the Indians, and cast a wholesome dread on those remaining.

There was a term employed in reference to the Military Lots which, once well understood, has now but little meaning and deserves an explanation. The Military Lot called for tracts one mile square, and a reservation was made by the State of the right to retain one hundred acres from the southeast corner of each lot, and donate instead a like amount of Ohio land. This lot so reserved was entitled "The State's Hundred." Did the purchaser of a lot desire to keep the entire tract, he had only to give due notice to that effect, and pay eight dollars for the survey. Should default of payment occur, the State withheld fifty acres of the mile square, which reserve was called the "Survey of Fifty Acres."

We have already remarked with regard to county and town officers that salaries were nominal and persons desirous of the honors few; yet it is seen to occur that the same persons, being once installed in the confidence of the citizens, hold the places of trust for many terms. Hence it is not surprising to find that on the organization of Cayuga, in 1799, some of our Onondaga officials again come to notice as the former's first county incumbents. Here we see Seth Phelps occupying the bench, William Stuart serving as District Attorney, Benjamin Ledyard acting in the capacity of County Clerk, with Joseph Annin for Sheriff, and Glen Cuyler for Surrogate. With no court-house and a log building authorized to be used as a jail,—a public building but little in the line of architectural display now become so common and indulged in so extravagantly,—Cayuga village, on March 25, 1800, can boast of early public proceedings. County history is intimately allied to early settlement, and brief narratives of hardships endured turn our minds backward to a period of privation whose rough edges are rounded by time and made to appear as very desirable to the children of the third generation.

While in many instances a settler took up land, cleared it up, built a house, made fences, and settled down to an annual routine of summer care of crops and winter's chopping and choring, and, when grown old and feeble, still lived upon it, there were others who stopped but briefly, and, abandoning their improvements, pushed on to find a better: these migrations united relatives and friends as neighbors.

Samuel Clark and his son Samuel, from Massachusetts, were settlers in 1802 in Genesee County. Samuel Hall, from Seneca County, and John Young came a little later. Mrs. Young gives in "Turner's Pioneer History" this account of pioneer life as it was:

"My husband having the year before been out and purchased his land upon the Holland Purchase, in the fall of 1804 we started from our home in Virginia, on horseback, for our new location. We came through Maryland, crossing the Susquehanna at Milton, thence by way of Tioga Point and the then usual route. In crossing the Allegheny Mountains night came upon us, the horses became frightened by wild beasts, and refused to proceed. We wrapped ourselves in our cloaks and horse-blankets and attempted to get some rest, but had a disturbed night of it. Panthers came near us often, giving terrific screams. The frightened horses snorted and stamped upon the rocks. Taking an early start in the morning we soon came to a settler's house, and were informed that we had stopped in a common resort of the panther. Mr. Young built a shanty which was about ten feet square, flat-roofed, covered with split ash shingles; the floor was made of the halves of split basswood, and no chimney. A blanket answered the purpose of a door for a while, until my husband got time to make a door of split plank. We needed no window; the light came in where the smoke went out. For chairs we had benches made by splitting logs and setting the sections upon legs. A bedstead was made by boring holes in the sides of the shanty, inserting pieces of timber which rested upon two upright posts in front, a side piece completing the structure; peeled basswood bark answering in place of a cord. We, of course, had brought no bed with us on horseback, so one had to be procured. We bought a cotton bag, stuffed it with cat-tail, and found it far better than no bed."

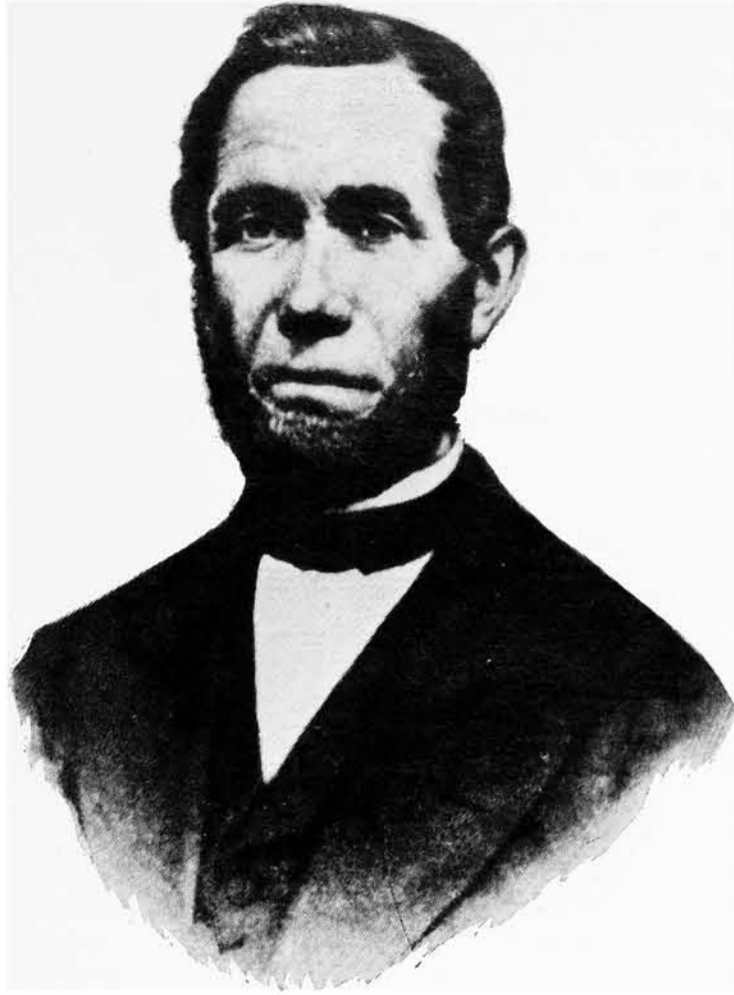
The fever and ague attacked most new-comers with more or less severity. With the means at hand a settler did well to clear four to six acres, and there was little leisure for those who were able to work. It was no uncommon thing for sickness and confinement to be endured unaided, not alone by a physician, but by any

attendance outside the family. During the spring of 1797, while Cortland and Seneca formed part of Onondaga, there came to Cortland from Ulster a man named John E. Roe. He took board with John M. Frank and went to work upon his lot. Upon a satisfactory site the trees were cleared away, logs prepared, and by neighborly aid put in place to form the walls of a house. Puncheons were split out and used to lay a floor, bark was peeled to use for roofing and a man engaged to put it in place. Of the wild grass bordering a swamp he cut and cured a portion for future need and returned home. During the interval at the old home this rude beginning was constantly in mind, every preparation was made for moving, and finally a start was made in winter, when discomfort seemed certain to attend their journey. Roe and his wife set out in a sleigh, bringing with them a young cow. They came forward without incident until they reached a stream opposite the dwelling of Joseph Chaplin. The water ran high, and a canoe, the usual means of ferriage, had been carried away. Chaplin bethought himself of the hog-trough: this was secured, launched, Mrs. Roe placed therein, and safely taken across. Standing upon the bank she watched anxiously the crossing of the team and cow. Urged in, the horses swam across with the sleigh, followed by the cow. The current was strong and the result was doubtful, but the opposite shore was finally reached in safety. Night came, and the horses being secured to the sleigh for want of any shelter, lunched upon the flag chair-bottoms. Over a trackless country, in snow two feet in depth, from morning till night they labored on from the river to their new home. No lights shone out a welcome, no warm fire and ready meal to comfort and restore them, no one to take and feed the team, no bed to rest their tired limbs, but a roofless house and snow piled up within. It was discouraging but not hopeless. The snow was cleared from the floor, a fire was kindled against the logs, blankets were drawn across the beams for a covering, the horses were secured in one corner, a bundle of marsh hay obtained and placed before them, a frugal meal prepared and eaten; and then they lay down to rest, their journey ended, and while much hard work was before them a lifetime was given to do it.

From C. Fairchilds, a resident of Waterloo, and who at the advanced age of eighty-one looks back with vivid memory upon the changes in Seneca since the commencement of the century, we learn that it was generally understood on the Atlantic coast that this region was excellent both for agriculture and for business. There were those who had been out and returned, who, in answer to inquiry, gave glowing details of a western paradise. Among other extravagances it was said, "New-comers need not trouble themselves to bring feather beds, for the wild fowl were so abundant that feathers could easily be procured." The wild fowl were in flocks, and Fairchilds at a single shot obtained ten ducks while hunting on the Seneca, but those who brought along their bedding experienced no regret therefor. The charter for the Great Western Turnpike had been granted, and the entertainment of travelers and the raising of supplies were thought to open a way to competence, and, as a result, every man's cabin was an inn, and the settler was glad to see guests.

Influenced by various reports, Joseph Childs, father of Caleb, came out in 1801 from Somerset, New Jersey, riding on horseback; visited Geneva, then a kind of metropolis for the great Genesee country, as all western New York was termed, returned east, and set out on his return westward accompanied by the family, consisting of his wife Phoebe and five children. The household goods were conveyed in two wagons equipped with bows and covered with canvas; each wagon was drawn by a yoke of oxen. Fairchilds drove one yoke, and one Joseph Saunders, a hired hand, the other. They took their slow way to the Delaware, where, on a post by the bank, was suspended a tin horn: Fairchilds blew a blast and called the ferryman. With both wagons on the scow the transfer was made to the opposite bank.

On through the beech-woods of Penn, and rolling the wheels through the deep mire, the emigrants proceeded, and, reaching, crossed the Susquehanna. The children, looking from the wagon over the scow upon the water, saw the oxen begin to back and to carry them towards the edge, and were badly frightened. No such catastrophe occurred, and day by day the journey went on. Whenever possible, stops were made at inns or cabins, and finally the upper end of Seneca Lake was reached, and they arrived at Ovid. Here was an old man known as Captain Kinney, a large land-owner. He kept a tavern in a small, red-painted building, which stood solitary and alone. Ferried across the outlet by a man named Widener, and moving through the woods, they reached Geneva, a place which then commanded the trade of northern Seneca. Judge John Nicholas and Robert S. Rose came from Virginia in 1803. They were owners of some sixty or seventy slaves, who, being freed by Legislative act in 1827, formed a little community by themselves, and were known as the Colored Settlement. Rose bought a tract of sixteen hundred acres of land in Seneca, and placed in charge a man named Rumsey. This estate is now separated into several fine farms. Mr. Rose built a fine house for the times, engaged extensively in wool-



Erastus Partridge

THE early life of Erastus Partridge, connected with later successful effort, is replete with encouragement for emulative young men; and a brief sketch, while a fitting tribute to his memory, serves also as an exemplar for those who would know how a poor boy may become the successful banker and skillful financier.

Mr. Partridge was born near Norwich, Connecticut, on the 9th day of May, 1798. As in most instances of self-made men, pressed for means in early life, he won his way steadily to position, influence, and competence by industry and perseverance. In 1821 he came to this section of the State, settled at Cayuga, then a promising locality, where he engaged in the mercantile trade. Here was laid the foundation for successful and prosperous business, and here were the scenes and incidents to which in later years he frequently and fondly referred. During the year 1824 he established a branch store in Seneca Falls, and soon thereafter entered upon a large and lucrative trade; but it was not till 1837 that interests at Cayuga were transferred and a permanent removal made to Seneca County. From this time forward business increased, and his store became known as an established institution of the village. Keeping pace with town growth, his aid and encouragement were given to every worthy enterprise. He identified himself with various manufactures, and liberally advertising, made known to public favor his business interests. Kindly counseling and advising those who recognized his good judgment and ample qualifications and sought to profit by them, erratic conclusions were seldom made. Opinion or person was never obtruded, and he ever maintained both his dignity and deliberate judgment. He was ready to perceive, accurate to estimate character, prudent in opinion, and unswervable in principle. Remarkably successful in mercantile business, Mr. Partridge commenced private banking in 1848, and in the month of January, 1854, established the Bank of Seneca Falls, with a capital of fifty thousand dollars; himself president; his son, Leroy C. Partridge, cashier. This was the first bank organized at Seneca Falls, and was regarded by its business interests with no little pride and pleasure. The business of the bank increasing to an extent requiring all his time, Mr. Partridge disposed of his mercantile business, in the spring of 1856, to W. B. Lathrop, and devoted his entire attention to the banking interest. The bank, originally located in old Mechanics' Hall, was removed in April, 1858, into the new and commodious structure erected for banking purposes on Fall Street, and known as the "Bank Block." The bank, known as "individual," made contributory to the best interests

of the community, possessed its confidence and good will. Foreseeing and prudent, the great financial revulsion of 1857, which caused suspension of all but three or four banks of the State, found the Bank of Seneca Falls promptly meeting all its obligations, and paying in gold its notes presented for redemption. Known and continued as an individual bank until the inauguration of the national banking system, it was early changed by Mr. Partridge to "The First National Bank of Seneca Falls." Associated with Mr. Partridge in the transaction of bank business have been his two sons, L. C. and D. E. Partridge, by whom the later affairs of the institution have been conducted.

The death of Erastus Partridge occurred January 20, 1873, at the advanced age of seventy-four years. Impressed by sense of loss, business houses were closed and all classes of citizens united in expressions of sadness and regret at his decease. As a merchant and as a banker, the dealings of Mr. Partridge were characterized by business exactness; advantage was never taken of necessity, and he was lenient in the extreme to his debtors. To the influence of Mr. Partridge upon the mechanical industries of Seneca Falls is due much of their stability and ultimate extension. His domestic virtues, his personal excellencies of character endeared him to his relatives. He was a kind husband, an exemplary and considerate father. He had, on August 6, 1820, married, at Homer, Miss Sarah Bruffee, daughter of William and Anna Bruffee, and for more than half a century they had journeyed through life in company. To his widow and children he left the priceless heritage of a stainless name and the memory of an exemplary life. In his social relations, his disposition and bearing towards neighbor and friend were frank and courteous, while all recognized in him a citizen who combined in one character modesty, kindness, sincerity, and integrity. Of kindly impulse, the comfort of others was second only to his efforts for their business advancement. Unostentatiously and quietly he gave of his abundance to the relief of the needy. Happy in the timely aid of worthy and judicious investments, his influence is yet manifest upon men now prosperous, who attribute their success to his timely advice and assistance. Invaluable to the community, Mr. Partridge lived to see his adopted home pass the doubtful era of its existence, and firmly established as a successful business community, and it is in strict justice that wherever the early history of Seneca County shall be known, the name of Erastus Partridge shall be coupled with it.



Le Roy C. Partridge

LE ROY C. PARTRIDGE, son of Erastus Partridge, was born at Cayuga, July 16, 1832. When about five years of age his parents removed to Seneca Falls. Associates of his school days recollect a high-minded lad, ardent in scholastic research, a student of mechanics, and a lover of geologic investigation.

Growing to manhood, influence, and usefulness, his cheerful and social disposition rendered his companionship attractive, genial, and pleasant, and surrounded him with an extended circle of warmly-attached friends.

Employed in the Bank of Seneca Falls when twenty-one years of age, he became its cashier at the age of twenty-two. Later, he was vice-president of the institution, and upon the death of his father became its president. For several years he conducted an independent banking house at Ovid,—a great convenience to the people of the south jury district. This institution, known as the Banking House of Le Roy C. Partridge, under the direction and impetus of its founder, has proved a sound and thriving business, and is still continued, under the control of Mrs. Ellen Partridge. Mr. Partridge was also secretary and treasurer of the Seneca Falls Savings Bank.

While seeking no political preferment, he shrank from no public duty, and when elected by large majorities to the positions of President of the village and Supervisor of the town, he discharged the functions of the office with zeal and honor.

Le Roy C. Partridge was married in 1861 to Miss Ellen Deppen, daughter of William Deppen, then a resident of Seneca Falls.

During the year 1874, failing health warned him to lay aside the onerous burdens borne for years, and seek in change of climate relaxation and recovery; but this was not to be, and in January, 1875, he returned to home and friends—to die. Medical skill and the promptings of affection were of no avail, and cheerfully, as in health, he bore with suffering, and passed away on the morning of February 6, 1875. The funeral took place at Trinity Church, in the afternoon of February 11, to which not only the friends at Seneca Falls, but many from neighboring villages proceeded. During the time of the funeral, at which the Rev. Dr. Guion officiated, all places of business were closed, and the bells of the village were tolled. Casket and church were adorned with floral offerings, and every mark of respect and sincere sympathy shown by the entire community. His remains were taken to Restvale Cemetery for burial, and those who had so long and pleasantly known him in life now revert to the asso-

ciations of the past, and study his character in public and private influences. So well, so favorably known, and so intimately connected with the varied and material interests of the village, his loss fell little short of a public misfortune.

In business and social relations his generosity was unstinted, and his personal intercourse with all won many sincere, devoted friends. In sterling mental qualities, and in the kindly virtues of the heart, he won a place in the affections of kindred and friends beyond the limit of expression. Eminently possessed of qualities and virtues of life, his friends were real, intimate, and numerous. Scorning to do or countenance dishonorable actions, his sense of honor was proverbial, and his business relations were characterized by a scrupulous observance of the true spirit and very letter of every agreement. Careful and sensitive of honor and integrity, the slightest shadow of reflection upon them was unendurable. Sympathizing with want and distress, instances are numerous where munificent gifts for religious and benevolent objects illustrate philanthropy; and happily situated to relieve necessity, most generously did he avail himself of his opportunities. Generous without being lavish, familiar without loss of dignity, he constantly maintained a natural ease and self-assertion which challenged regard, while good-nature, quiet humor, and courteous deportment marked him a favorite in social or business circle.

Closely identified with matters of finance, the honorable position reached by the First National Bank of Seneca Falls is greatly the result of his faithful and sagacious efforts. Realizing that the prosperity of business and manufacturing interests is the basis of successful banking, Mr. Partridge, wisely discriminating between the deserving and the unworthy, gave generous encouragement to these classes through periods of financial depression, and thereby contributed to the welfare and prosperity of the community at large. The domestic virtues, personal excellence of character, frankness and liberality of Le Roy C. Partridge were known and admired by all. Courteous and dignified, inflexibly exact, and scrupulously honest, he was honored for his worth. Himself beneficent, kind, and sympathetic, like qualities were awakened towards him in the minds of relative, friend, and citizen. Many besides his estimable family shared with them in grief at his death, and the name of Le Roy C. Partridge is deeply engraved and fondly remembered by those who knew him as a promising youth, a successful man, a kind husband, a valued citizen.

growing, and improved the breed of sheep. He was a prominent citizen, and served as representative in Congress. He died in 1845, in Waterloo. His wife, a most exemplary person, followed him some few years later. In default of roads, the lakes were used when practicable. Williamson had a sloop upon Seneca Lake and used it in bringing in lumber. Settlers used skiffs large enough to convey a family. In one of these Fairchilds took frequent trips down the outlet to visit a sister, who, with her husband and family, resided on the south bank of the river, a short distance below Gorham Bridge. At other times this was the route to Bear's Mill. The boats were left above the rapids to avoid the labor and danger of running them. Workmen were busy digging a race for a water-power at a lower level, where a saw-mill was erected and put in motion. A cluster of buildings gathered about the little old mill with its one run of stone bore the name of Scauyes, and formed the unpromising nucleus of the present fine town of South Waterloo. In connection with this locality comes up the subject of the Cayuga Reserve and the disputed question of a chief's nativity. In 1785, the Oneidas sold a large tract of land to the State. In 1788, the Onondagas sold all their territory, save a limited area about their chief villages, and retained the rights of hunting, fishing, and salt-making, heretofore enjoyed. The Cayugas sold their lands in 1789, with the exception of a narrow reservation, including both shores of the Cayuga Lake and also a reservation on the Seneca outlet for an eel-fishery, and a convenient spot on the south side for curing their fish. They also retained the right of hunting over all the lands sold. An agreement was made with the Cayugas, by which the tribe received an annuity of five hundred dollars. The point reserved for the eel-fishery was what is now the town of Waterloo, including both sides of the river, and this assertion finds strength in the designation of lands in the early deeds and titles as forming a part of "*The Cayuga Reservation at Scauyes.*" It was said by Red Jacket, in a speech in Waterloo, that the Cayugas sold the ground of the reserve to the Senecas for a tanned wolf-skin. If the chief spoke knowingly his tribe made an excellent bargain, for of eels a barrel of them had been taken during a single night in a weir set in the middle of the river, with wings to each shore. The early residents were accustomed to skin and salt them down by the barrel, and when dried and smoked they were equal to the best mackerel. Besides eels, the waters of the outlet were full of the finest fish, among which were Oswego bass, black bass, salmon, and trout. One of the latter was speared by an old settler, and its weight proved to be eighteen pounds. With deer and other game, bears and wolves, the location was an Indian's Eden; but the settlers came ever thicker, and the Indians, selling this their last foothold, retreated to the forest and disappeared; even the tribe who lived here involved in doubt, and the question giving rise to some discussion. At what was called the island, near an old apple-tree, the birth-place of Red Jacket has been pointed out. Whether he there saw the light or elsewhere, he belongs not to us. Migratory in habit and unreliable in legend, he was a Seneca, an orator of no mean pretension, and a native of the little lake region. About 1794, the lands upon the outlet were sold by the State; some of them passed into the hands of soldiers, who mainly sold to others; some were purchased by various parties. It was held at the common rates of government lands. Lot No. 98, on which Waterloo is mainly located, was patented by the State to John McKinstry, of Columbia County, for military services; and, at nearly the same time, one hundred acres on the north side of the river, embracing the water-power on which has grown up a part of Seneca Falls, was sold by the State for twenty dollars and sixty cents per acre, this price being the result of a representation of the great value of the water-power as believed in by the Surveyer-General. The purchase was made in 1794 by a party consisting of Robert Troup, Nicholas Gouverneur, Stephen N. Bayard, and Elkanah Watson. Colonel Mynderse, in 1795, bought a one-fifth interest in the purchase and water-power, and was made the business agent. During the same year the company known as the "Bayard Company" began the erection of what were known as the "Upper Red Mills," under the direction of Colonel Mynderse. The mills were finished and completed during 1796. In 1798, the company bought lot No. 6, on the reservation. This lot included about half the water-power on the south side of the river, and contained two hundred and fifty acres. They built the Red Mills, in 1807, on the lower rapids on lot No. 6, and, in 1809, obtained possession by purchase of lot No. 9, containing six hundred and fifty acres. Their title came from the notorious Aaron Burr through Leicester Phelps. This acquisition secured to them the remainder of the south side water-power, so that when, in 1816, four hundred acres of lot No. 86 had been purchased from the heirs of Thomas Grant, the Bayard Company owned the entire water-power, and one thousand four hundred and fifty acres of land. From 1795 until 1825, a period of thirty years, a monopoly of territory was maintained, and Seneca Falls was bound fast while other points less favored by nature strode ahead. Repeated but fruitless efforts were made to obtain a foothold, and, in 1816, ten thousand dollars was refused for ten acres of land and water-power to run a woolen and cotton mill. In 1825 the company was compelled, by failures among

its members, to divide and dispose of the property. In 1817 a circular was issued advertising the sale of the entire rights of the company, and, as this document shows up the advantages of the County as then understood, it is perpetuated in these pages, as follows:

"TO MEN OF ENTERPRISE AND CAPITAL.

"An occasion is now offered for the profitable employment of both. The subscribers offer for sale their establishment at and near the Seneca Falls, in the County of Seneca and State of New York, commonly known by the appellation of the Red Mills. To those who know the country lying between the Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, and the particular advantages connected with this property, no recommendation is necessary, and those advantages need only to be investigated to be duly and highly appreciated. *The whole establishment will be sold together or may be divided in four several classes, viz.:* the first to contain about eleven hundred and sixty acres, in one connected parcel, on which are erected two grist-mills, each with two runs of stone, with every necessary machinery for manufacturing flour of the very best quality, and ample storage for thirty thousand bushels of wheat; a saw-mill, fulling-mill, clothier's work, drying-house, and three carding-machines, all in the best order; a large dwelling-house with proper outhouses; two very convenient dwelling-houses for the millers, a cooper-shop and implements, a new storehouse for mercantile purposes, and another for storage of flour and merchandise. Of this tract a due proportion is under cultivation, and the residue is well timbered. The land is of the best quality, well cleared and fenced, with good barns and other buildings calculated for the use of farmers.

"On this tract are also beds of plaster of Paris, of excellent quality, supposed to be inexhaustible, and adjoining to the boatable waters of the Seneca outlet, by which the tract is almost equally divided. In addition to the mill sites already occupied eight more of equal utility may be improved, the supply of water and the elevation of the falls being always adequate thereto. The country which supplies these mills with wheat is acknowledged to afford a supply in quantity and excellence superior to any other part of the State, and the established reputation of the flour made at these mills is the best test of their value and advantages. The flour manufactured here is transported to New York with only fourteen miles land carriage, from Schenectady to Albany; to Lake Ontario, with no other portage than that at Oswego Falls, of one mile; or to Great Sodus Bay, with a portage of ten miles, and thence to Montreal. Wheat is transported to the mills from the shores of Cayuga and Seneca Lakes by water and by land. The premises are situated between the Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, on the outlet of the Seneca, which empties into the Cayuga within two miles from the Cayuga bridge and eleven miles from Geneva. Turnpikes and other roads concentrate here at the village of Seneca Falls, which stands on a part of these lands and is progressing. Locks and canals are erected here, from which great and increasing advantages may be anticipated. No situation in the interior of the State can offer superior inducements to a company or to individuals disposed to establish hydraulic works or other manufactories, it being in the heart of a rich and fertile country, and the supply of water is inexhaustible. If more land should be required it can be furnished by the subscriber, particularly a tract supposed to contain iron ore, situate within four miles from the falls.

(Signed)

"W. MYNDERSE & Co."

The Bayard Company having dissolved, the prosperity of Seneca Falls began and continues. In other localities such companies have amassed wealth, and enriched a multitude besides; but when the partners met at Seneca Falls, in 1825, and each had drawn by lot his several share of proceeds, as divided by their Commissioners Bogart and Larzelere, they found that during the thirty years' association each share had advanced \$43,281, and the dividend was but \$8000, there being a share loss of \$35,281, and a company loss of \$176,405. Eager in the early day as now to amass riches, fortune was fickle, and while some schemers failed others unconsciously grew rich. Old residents, from different stand-points, tell the story of the early day, and the following, from the pen of Caleb Fairchilds, bears on the primitive condition of Waterloo:

"Elisha Williams and Reuben Swift were the proprietors of the village of Waterloo, and, having mapped and staked off a plat, themselves and families and several friends with their families settled down and commenced improvements in an unbroken forest save the turnpike, the tavern, and toll-gates near either end of the street. About this time the improvement of boat navigation was begun by the Seneca Lock Company. A canal was opened having a width of forty feet, and a depth of three to four, with locks, the remains of which may be seen near the woolen factory. This ditch, with a fall of fifteen to eighteen feet, made a good water-power, on which was built the large mills of Reuben Swift & Co. A large hotel stood nearly opposite the mills, and was later known as the American House. It was burned years ago. The large stone house of Charles Swift,

afterwards used as a meeting-house, was built, besides a few shops and dwellings. Digging the canal and making the locks gave an impetus to business and collected a population of several hundred energetic mechanics and business men. Main Street, from the court-house to the mills, comprised the village. Williams Street was opened from Virginia to Inslee Street, with a few cross streets, but no business house. A thick forest, within a few rods, skirted the whole north line, and the winding canal was the south boundary. The cluster of buildings named formed a business point at the east end of the street, the old Eagle Tavern, the bank house just finished by Martin Kendig, Esq., as a dwelling, a store-house, lately moved to make way for the Academy of Music, with some smaller shops and dwellings, made the centre, while about equal progress was made at the west end, where the court-house, a store, and several shops were in process of construction. There were, therefore, three distinct, distant, and somewhat rival localities, so far separated that no two could be seen from the same point, and tending to detract from the activity of smaller and more compact towns. In the year 1818 there were ten or twelve public houses in the vicinity and place, and all did a lively business. The Erie Canal was surveyed and started just north of the village through the forest about the line of North Street. There was a good prospect of its being worked through, but unfortunately it was carried some twelve miles north and its advantages lost. From 1816 to 1822 Main Street, about a mile in length, contained the whole town. There were some few good buildings, and along the street were many temporary board shanties. The street was graded only as the turnpike laborers had rounded up about a rod in the centre, with a deep ditch on each side. Three gulches were crossed by log or plank crossways, barely wide enough for one team at a time to pass in safety. Near the Yost House was a sand hill where big teams had to splice or hitch two teams to one wagon to drag up a gully extended between the Eagle Tavern and the old mansion, where, to run off the narrow crossing, would take a team over head; and a second gully, near Fatzinger's brick storehouse, where the small culvert in a wet time was gorged with water, and a pond formed across the road only to be crossed by ferry. Sidewalks were made of single slabs, and gulches crossed by foot-bridges. Two or three churches were organized early, and meetings were held in the old academy, the court-house, and in private dwellings. Lawyers were numerous and eminent in their profession. Land titles, disputed claims, boundaries, and mortgage sales gave work to all. Well-read and skillful physicians there were; but new-comers from older settled tracts had to undergo acclimation, and were subject to ague and bilious attacks, which, in time, passed off and left the settler free to labor and improve his state. Merchandising and shopkeeping was extensively engaged in, and each store, not limited as now to a specialty, was crowded with articles for sale, from dry-goods, hardware, crockery, and groceries to a good assortment of liquors and wines, freely offered to friend and customer. Improvements were carried forward with energy; illustrative of which is the fact that the Central Buildings, a block of nine, were put up all at once and finished in ninety days, and an opposite block of four in the same time.

CHAPTER VII.

A NEW COUNTRY—KINDS OF TREES, GAME, HOUSES, AND FURNITURE—CLIMATE AND DRESS—CHARACTER OF SETTLER—MANNERS AND CUSTOMS, AND CONTRAST WITH THE PRESENT DAY.

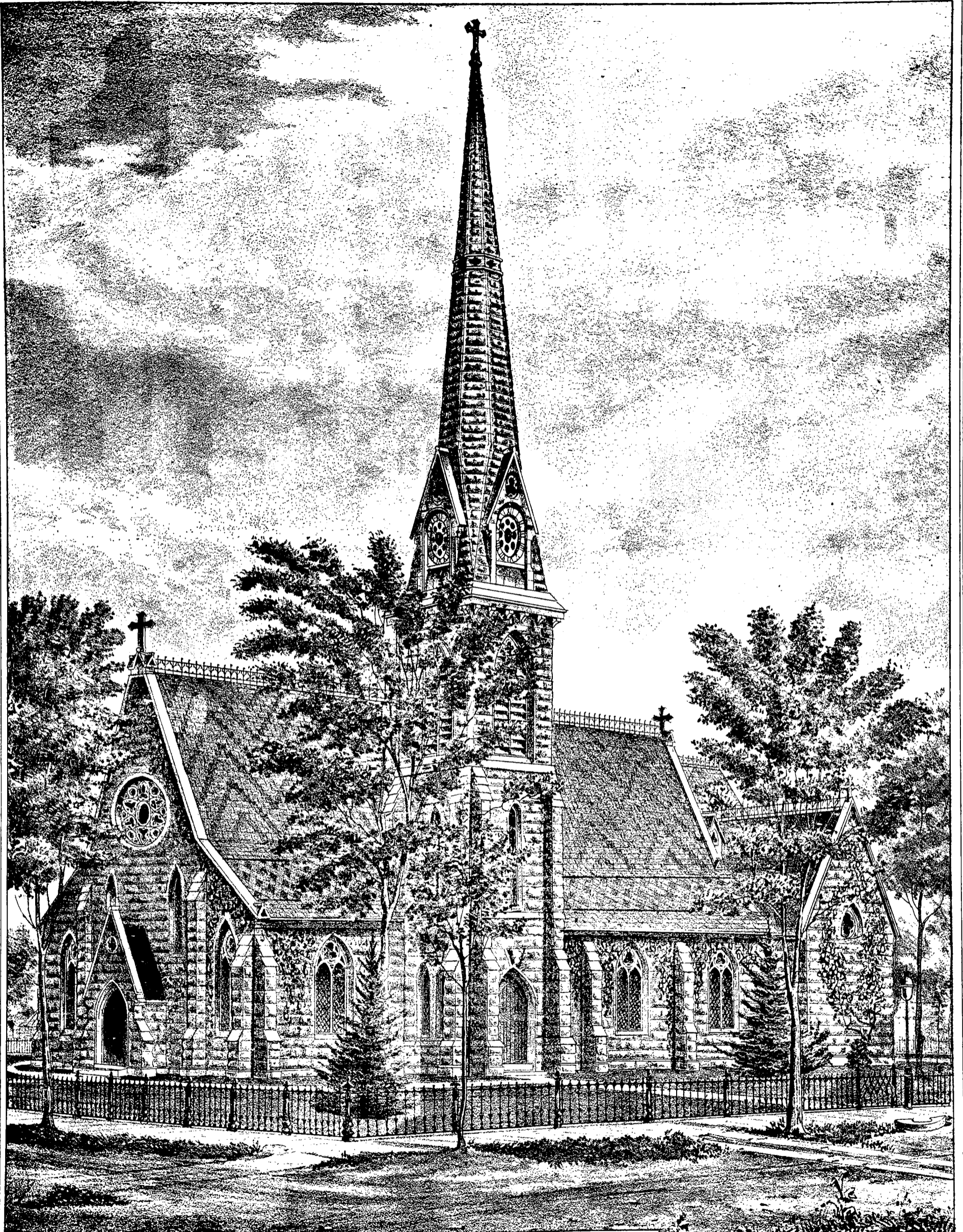
PRIOR to the close of the War of 1812, and particularly before the War for Independence, the colonists clung to the coast, or ventured out into the forests with caution; but the raid of Sullivan and the victories of Wayne and Harrison crushed the savage power, and men went boldly and alone far out into the woods and independently chose and improved such spots as met their fancy. In Seneca there was a dense and almost unbroken forest; beneath was a tangled mass of briar and brush. In Tyre and Varick are extended areas of swamp, rich in elements of production, useless, from their location, until drained. Upon the ridge between the lakes houses were raised, commanding views obtained, and clearings made down the slopes. The oak, whiteoak, beech, maple, basswood, white-ash, hickory, and other kinds of timber existed in profusion, and trees were regarded as an incubus to tillage rather than as a valuable adjunct of a farm. The woods are leveled now, and their screens of trees but veil the fields beyond. In early times Seneca gave fine opportunity to enjoy the pleasures of the chase; these were the never-failing hunting-grounds of the Iroquois. These lands gave patriotic pride to them, and when compelled to yield them to the dominant race they lost their sense of ownership with a pain at heart. Often and often had they thought what the poet has put in verse: "This is my own, my native land;"

and when the spirit of the Seneca had departed and the rapacious borderer envied him the ownership of a few acres, Red Jacket thus vividly and feelingly commiserates the condition of his tribe: "We stand, a small island in the bosom of the great waters,—we are encircled, we are encompassed. The Evil Spirit rides upon the blast, and the waters are disturbed. They rise, they press upon us, and the waves once settled over us we disappear forever. Who then lives to mourn us? None. What marks our extinction? Nothing. We are mingled with the common elements."

Submitting to the inevitable, they yielded to the frontiersmen, but partially exercised their rights to hunting, and then abandoned their forests forever. The settler often found the deer feeding with his cattle, and venison contributed largely to the comforts of the table. It was customary among the hunters when a deer was killed to flay and dress the body and hang it in a tree, and then continue the pursuit of others until they had obtained as much as all the party could carry to their homes. Rights of ownership were scrupulously regarded, and no resentment was more fierce than that which arose from controversy as to rights; the carcass on the tree was as safe from theft as are notes and bonds within a time-set safe with combination lock attached to-day. The wolf ranged the woods, and woe to the flock found unprotected! Their mangled, half-eaten bodies would meet the eye of the settler in search of them. It is related of a farmer that one night, aroused by a battering at his door, he rose and opened it, and in came a bleating wether, as though he said, "Thy flock were quietly resting in umbrageous woods, when fierce and hungry wolves set on and tore them; and I alone escaped to tell thee." For in the morning the entire flock, save the sagacious wether, was found destroyed. It is not known that man has been attacked by them. The animal is by nature cowardly, and becomes formidable only when assembled in packs and urged on by hunger. That the settlers found their presence damaging and much desired their extermination is shown by an order given by the town officials of Junius, in 1804, that a bounty of five dollars be paid for the scalp of every wolf slain in the County.

The bear, too, true to his instincts, was ever ready to help himself to a share of the settler's corn and swine; and often the squealing of a hog called out the farmer with musket, club, and even armed with stones, to drive away the assailant. The bear in making an attack seized the hog by the back of the neck, and, holding his victim fast, gnawed away until his prey was dead. A man named Alexander is reported to have gained the mastery of an enormous bear by pounding his nose with a club; and such was his delight in troubling these shaggy natives of the forest, that he would steal their cubs and carry them about with him for the entertainment of children. It was wont to happen that when most needed the old family musket was not available. It was loaned to a neighbor, or the firelock was just then in a disabled condition. In an emergency, however, our fathers had a way of their own to discharge a gun that would not go off in the ordinary way, as a single incident will show. A bear, accompanied with four cubs, was detected laying waste with lawless aggression a corn-field on or near the farm of John T. Demarest, and on close pursuit was obliged to ascend a large tree in the neighborhood. The best available gun had either a disabled lock or was destitute of any; but while one man holding the barrel leveled it at bruin, another, with a coal of fire, touched it off. This light artillery practice was continued until three of the cubs were secured against further aggression. It is related by Mr. Gridley that, on one occasion, while the wife of John Knox and two companions were returning home from Geneva on horseback, a huge bear emerging from the woods appeared in front of them, and halted in the centre of the path. The ladies, as was quite natural, drew up abruptly. It was a mutual surprise, and each party, while reconnoitering the other, reflected upon the possibility of effecting a retreat. Soon, however, like the bachelor under the gaze of beauty, bruin's heart failed him, and he hastened to hide his discomfiture in the recesses of the forest.

The first consideration of the early settler was a shelter for himself and family; and furniture was often the work of his own hands. The farm-house was built somewhat in this wise: its walls were of logs, notched, and the openings between chinked and plastered with mud; its chimney of rudely-piled stones; its floors of split logs, with flat side up; its apartments formed by blankets suspended from the ceiling; its doors hung on wooden hinges, and its windows formed of white paper to let in light, and well saturated with grease in order to shed rain. Cephas Shekell, of Waterloo, advertises in the *Waterloo Gazette* of July 16, 1817, that "having made an arrangement with the proprietors of the Ontario Glass Factory, he will always have on hand an extensive supply of that article of various sizes, to be disposed of by wholesale and retail, at the factory prices, free of transportation." Hence we may infer that about this date glass was introduced for windows. Nor was the village residence a stately mansion. The shop or office, the parlour, the kitchen, and the sleeping-room were often one and inseparable, and this, too, without carpet, and without papered or even plastered walls. In 1803, a resident



ST PAUL'S PARISH CHURCH,
WATERLOO, N. Y.

COLE



THE BAPTIST CHURCH, OVID VILLAGE.

of Seneca, living on a farm a mile west of Scauys, thus describes his father's dwelling at that date: "We had," says he, "a two-story house, that is to say two stories on the ground; first, the kitchen, built of round logs about ten inches in diameter, properly notched together at the corners, and well chinked and plastered up with clay mortar, with front and back door; bass-wood logs, split in two, flat side up, made a very substantial floor; the fire-place reached nearly across one end; a stone wall from the foundation was carried up about six feet, two sticks of the proper crook rested one on either end of the wall and against a beam overhead, forming the jambs, and upon these rested the chimney, made of sticks and clay mortar, very wide at the bottom and tapering to the top, serving the purpose of both chimney and smoke-house; the hearth was of flat stones about twelve feet by six. When a fire was to be built in winter, a horse was hitched to a log six or eight feet long, two or three feet in diameter, and snaked into the house, the horse passing through and out at the back door, and the log rolled on the fire-place; this was called the back-log: next came a somewhat smaller log, which was placed on top and called the back-stick; then came two round sticks from six to eight inches diameter and three feet long, the greenest and least combustible that could be found; these were placed endwise against the back-log and served in place of the more modern andirons; upon them was laid the fore-stick, and between this and the back-log dry limbs were piled in and a few pine knots, and the fire applied, and, when fairly started, an indefinite quantity of dry limbs from the fallen trees around. The fire thus built, which was usually done about four o'clock in the afternoon, would last a whole day with little attention, keeping the family and visitors, clad in good warm homespun, comfortably warm. The second story was somewhat aristocratic in finish and furniture. It stood some ten or twelve feet east of the first, and was constructed of hewed logs, without fire-place, and supplied with a Philadelphia ten-plate oven stove that would admit wood four feet long and maintain a heat of over eighty degrees in extreme cold weather."

In the year 1815 a house owned by Cornelius I. Smith stood in Waterloo on a corner lot now the property of Edward Fatzinger; it was moved in 1817 to the corner of William and Back, now Swift Street, and is the building known as the Grove Hotel. This edifice was two stories high, with a lean-to on the north used as a kitchen, dining-room, sitting-room, parlor, and bar-room. The west side of the house was a hall, having a floor one board in width. The house was sided to a point just above the lower story; the floor was of loose boards. Oliver Gustin occupied the room adjoining the addition, and Charles Swift lived in the front room. Partition walls were made by hanging up blankets and coverlids, and cooking was done either at Smith's fire in his parlor, or by one in the open air, the house having but a single chimney; washing was done at the river bank. To reach the upper story, a ladder was made by nailing board strips across the studding of the wall. The floor of the chamber was sufficiently wide for a bed in each corner. These beds were made upon the floor, and reached by a narrow board extending from the ladder to the bed. The furniture was an after consideration. At the fire-place were hooks and trammel, the bake-pan and the kettle; at the side of the room and about it stood a plain deal table and flag-bottomed chairs, and the easy high-backed rocker. Upon the shelf were spoons of pewter, blue-edged plates, cups and saucers, black earthen tea-pot; in one corner stood the tall Dutch clock, in another the old-fashioned high-post and corded bedstead, covered with quilts, a curiosity of patch-work and laborious sewing each of them; then the ubiquitous spinning-wheel, and not unfrequently a loom.

The climate of Seneca has shown extremes, but the vicinity of the lakes, owing to the equalizing influence of water upon the adjacent lands, tends to produce uniformity. In Fayette, located in latitude 42° 50' and at an elevation of four hundred and sixty feet, the mean temperature has been noted as 48.38. The highest temperature of the atmosphere for five continuous years was 90°, and the lowest 2°,—a result exhibiting a freedom from those extremes which try the constitution in other localities, and tend to protract existence. There are many aged persons now residents of the County, who may attribute their preservation to this healthful mean temperature, and whose longevity thus practically attests the salubrity of the climate. There is at present living near Magee's Corners, in the town of Tyre, a venerable man named Aaron Easton, who, born at Morristown, New Jersey, on February 6, 1775, and moving hither many years ago, has reached the age of full *one hundred and one* years. What but the excellent climate and invigorating life of the farmer have protracted his life beyond the common lot? The clothing worn in early days was generally the same in all seasons, and shocks to the system elsewhere, owing to unprepared-for extremes, were here unknown. The farmers of the olden time generally clothed themselves in garments made in their own families, both as a matter of necessity and economy. The matrons and maidens of long ago found pleasant music in the buzz of the spinning-wheel and in the double shake of the loom. The long web unfurled like a carpet, bleached in the sun under their care and supervision, and, with no foreign aid save that of carding and fulling mills, the wool of their own sheep was manufactured into

clothing called home-made, and worn common. Sabbath and holidays were occasions when "boughten clothes" were used, although it was not infrequent that Sabbath-day suits made by mother, wife, or daughter, were worn with laudable pride. British goods were worn in large towns, and discreet matrons hazarded the remark, with reference to the gay attire of the city belles, that "They had better wear more clothes for comfort, and less for mere ornament." There was fashion in those days, but it was less exacting than now, and the same style had a more permanent existence. The calico dress made by the hands of the wearer, and often a common and generally improved pattern, served both for parlor at home and the party abroad; since it remained new two or three years, a lady seldom excused herself from a social gathering with the plea of "nothing to wear." There are old ladies living in Seneca who wrought three or four weeks at the spinning-wheel to obtain means to purchase a pair of shoes, which lasted as many years. The girls used to go out to spin at six shillings per week, or do house-work for a dollar. There was little factitious distinction, and many warm and generous friendships. The love of liberty and the maintenance of lofty sentiments are cherished by industry, and no dignity of character is more precious than that derived from conscious worth. Young and old had their amusements, partaken of with hearty zest. There were huskings and quiltings, wood-choppings and apple-parings, and the knitting societies for the benefit of the poor, and each was a joyous gathering. There was profit in the work, and the life and zest of social enjoyment. Visits deserved the name: several went together; cards and calls were unknown, and if the visited chanced to be absent, it served as a reason to call again. The sleigh-ride was full of life and freshness, and the woods rang with the merry laugh and the chorused song. The lumber sleigh was deep and roomy, the horses fleet of foot, the bells of respectable circumference, and their music kept time to the stroke of nimble hoof. Horseback riding, for business and pleasure, was common to both sexes, since horses could pass where trees and stumps forbade the use of wheeled vehicles. It seems that there was music, too, as, for example, a lady found herself in the following dilemma when urging her way on horseback from "The Kingdom" to the village of Scauys. On setting out, her husband had furnished her a stick for a switch, to use in quickening the movements of her steed, since being timid a speedy journey was desirable. The stroke of the rod was answered by an echo; the louder the echo, the greater the alarm of the rider. Alarm merged into terror, quicker and heavier fell the blows, and the forest seemed to resound with dreadful noise of wild beast and savage men in hot pursuit. Assisted from the saddle at the house of a relative, the lady expressed belief that she had not breathed since leaving home.

Now all is changed in party, work, in dress, and modes of travel. There is more form and less enjoyment. The spinning-wheel and loom are in the garret, displaced by melodeon, cabinet-organ, or piano. No need of thimble or sewing-bird where rattles the sewing-machine. Store clothes monopolize the market, and the former journey of a month is accomplished in a day.

CHAPTER VIII.

CLEARING LANDS—PRODUCTS—RESORTS—TAVERN-KEEPING—TRADE—A SETTLER'S RECOLLECTIONS.

MEMORIES throw a mellowed radiance over the deeds of the past as the tale of Washington at Trenton enlivens the gloomy close of 1775. To-day, aside from speedy transit and neighbors near, the work of clearing is continued, and nearly every State has territory in its natural condition. The work of clearing lands was *plain, hard labor*; and they who survive at this late day, when asked for early history, can only tell what we have outlined in this and previous chapters, varied only by differing dates and names and place of settlement.

Just prior to 1804, the people, recovering from the prostration of the Revolution, with few exceptions were poor. The Continental currency was worthless, there was a lack of confidence in any paper money, and, with little specie, payments were made by offsets of goods and labor. Pioneers came on and bought a piece of land, for which they paid a part and trusted to time and crops to meet the balance. When these failed the lots were sold by default and foreclosure. Volume I., No. 6, of the *Waterloo Gazette* of 1817, has six of its sixteen columns occupied by mortgage sales, defaults, and notices of insolvency, and Martin Van Buren, Attorney-General at the time, had advertised the sale of many mortgaged lots in the Cayuga Reservation. There is a talk of hardships borne, but when a settler, perhaps with sickness in his family and obliged to work outside and cook within, had toiled early and late to clear some ground of heavy timber and then had lost his land and labor, that was in truth a pitiable case.

Go back a period of seventy years and see, in the spring of 1806, David Griffin at work on land inclosed by Cotton, Eber Barons on the farm of Nicholas Thompson, and Albert Wyckoff on the meadow of the Trask farm, and from the first pages of Mynderse's methodical book of contracts read the following: "October 7, 1805. Agreed with David Griffin to clear a piece of land inclosed by W. Cotton, in the following manner and on the following conditions, viz.: To clear off all the timber and brush of every description,—to grub it, to plow it three times, the first plowing to be in the spring, to harrow it four times, to inclose the whole in good fences of oak or ash rails, at least eight rails high and locked, and to furnish what rails shall be necessary to do the same, and to have the work completed by October 20, 1806. I am to pay him ninety-five dollars for ten acres, to furnish a hand to work at grubbing one week, to furnish the necessary teams, drags, plows, and grubbing-hoes, said Griffin to be at the expense of boarding himself and hands." Then, travel from day to day through the woods, and every now and then approach a clearing where sprouting, logging, and burning heaps of brush is going on, and there before you is the settler's history,—his work at clearing.

Chopping was done by system. The uniform rate was five dollars per acre. Three trees were to be left standing on each acre; "roll-bodies"—the bodies of large trees, against which log heaps were to be made—were to be provided to the number of five. The choicest oak and white-wood were cut in logging lengths of about sixteen feet and burned on the ground. Should a settler, falling sick, get behindhand, a day was set when neighbors came, with axes and yokes of oxen, to help him up. Ox-teams were everywhere employed. It was common for a farmer who had no yoke of cattle of his own, to go and help his neighbors get the log-heaps in place for burning, and, when ready, they would come and give him a log-rolling. Often the settler, having spent the day at a logging-bee, has passed the night in kindling up and keeping his log-heaps burning. It was customary to chop a piece in winter to plant in corn; then, when dry in spring, fire would be set and the brush burned where it lay. If the fire swept the field the ground was in good condition for a crop. The matted roots of vegetation and decaying leaves contributed by their ashes to fertilize the ground. In those spring days the woods were often dark with smoke, and lurid fires by night gave to the scene a weird aspect. Here a dead and hollow tree blazed like a furnace from the top, and on the clearing could be seen a freshly-kindled heap in lively flame, and others smouldering in red coals with scorching heat. If the season, far advanced, did not admit full clearing, the various crops of corn, pumpkins, turnips, and potatoes were planted irregularly amidst the blackened logs. There was no hoeing needed, but it was necessary to go through and pull up or cut down the fire-weed, which, from a questionable germ, sprang up numerous and rank on new-cleared lands. It was soon exterminated with a few successive crops. By some, wheat and rye were sown after corn, but in general a special piece was cleared, sowed, and harrowed in. Husbandry was in a crude state, and hoes and drags were the implements for putting in the crop. The drag was made by the settler himself. Two round or hewed sticks were joined at one end and braced apart by a cross-piece forming an "A." Seven heavy teeth were put in, four on one side and three on the other. There were many instances of harrows with wooden teeth. Fields were tilled three years before plowing, to allow time for the roots to decay. Clumsy plows were used, with wooden mold-board, home-made, and plow-shared from the east.

The lands of Seneca have ever been most productive of wheat, but the absence of transportation in an early day made prices low. Williamson, of Geneva, in 1792, cut a road by way of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, to Baltimore, and wheat which brought a dollar at Bath was only sixty cents at Geneva, owing to lack of good roads. In 1816 a bushel of wheat was worth in the towns of Seneca but two shillings and sixpence per bushel, and a pound of tobacco brought the same price. Many farmers raised their own tobacco, since merchants would exchange goods for wheat, but tobacco was cash. Corn and oats, known as coarse grains, were consumed at home, or sold to tavern-keepers for the stage-horses and for teams engaged in drawing goods from Albany to Buffalo and points between. Wheat, flour, and potash were transported east. Beef and pork were worth from two to two and a half dollars per hundred pounds. Ashes was the only article that at one period (1816) would bring a fair price, and with it tea and spices were purchased.

James B. Darrow says, "In 1818, we (father and family) went to Phelps, Ontario County, on a visit to an uncle, and were told by him that one day a large eight-horse wagon from Albany was in Geneva, and the proprietor was endeavoring to contract with a merchant for a load of wheat at three shillings a bushel, but the latter could not make out a full load. Darrow told the teamster to go with him home four miles distant and he would load him up for two shillings and sixpence per bushel. The offer was accepted, provided Darrow would keep purchaser and his teams over night without charge. The wagon was loaded with

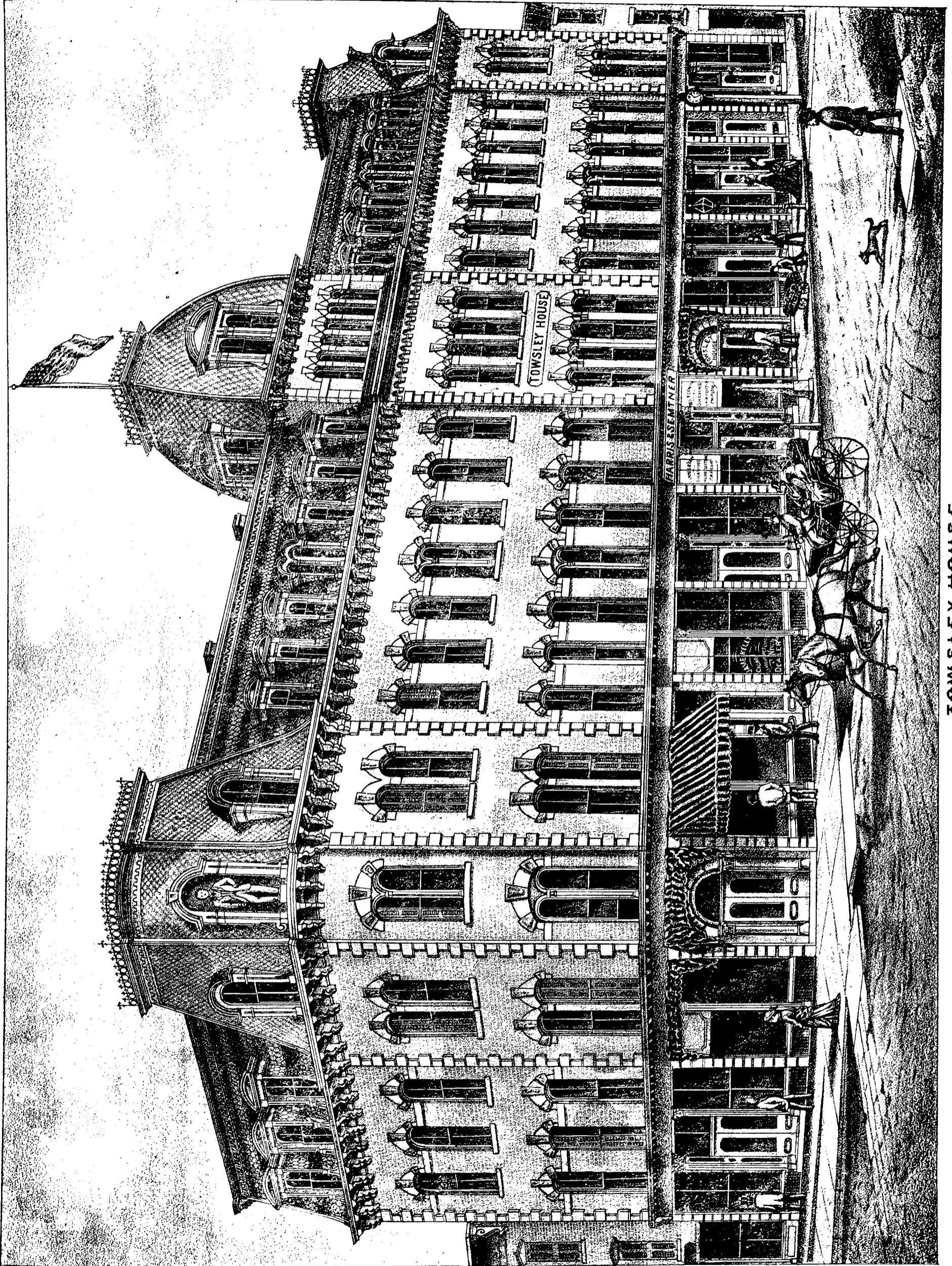
two hundred bushels and took its departure." Potatoes, corn-bread, pork, and maple-sugar were food. It is said that in one corner of many a fire-place was a porridge-pot and a dye-pot in the other. Mush and milk, when milk could be had, were quite a luxury. Large quantities of whisky were distilled from rye. Nearly every farmer had a portion of his grain worked into whisky by the small log-built distilleries that abounded along the banks of Seneca River. Old residents affirm that without the stimulus of ardent spirits the toil and privation would have been unendurable, while others ever regarded its influence as highly pernicious.

In 1810 the population of Seneca, then embracing a much greater area than at present, was sixteen thousand six hundred and nine, and in this County there were twenty-six distilleries, whose product for that year was fifty-one thousand two hundred and twenty gallons, the average price per gallon being eighty cents, and the total value forty thousand nine hundred and seventy-six dollars. The distillery is cotemporary with the grist-mill, and both were often found combined. Martin Kendig, Jr., came to Scauyes in 1794, and carried on distilling in a building a little northeast of the log mill earlier described, and made the real copper-distilled rye whisky. Samuel Bear had a small affair which was kept constantly running; and two brothers, Ezra and Stephen Baldwin, ran a still at the upper end of what was known as the Island. On the commencement of business at the old Red Mill in Seneca, distilling went with it. These stills consisted of two small copper stills, and the "mash" was stirred by hand. In those days drinking was general, and every job of raising, log-rolling, running the rapids, muster and training, and celebration of any kind, was a sober affair without liquor.

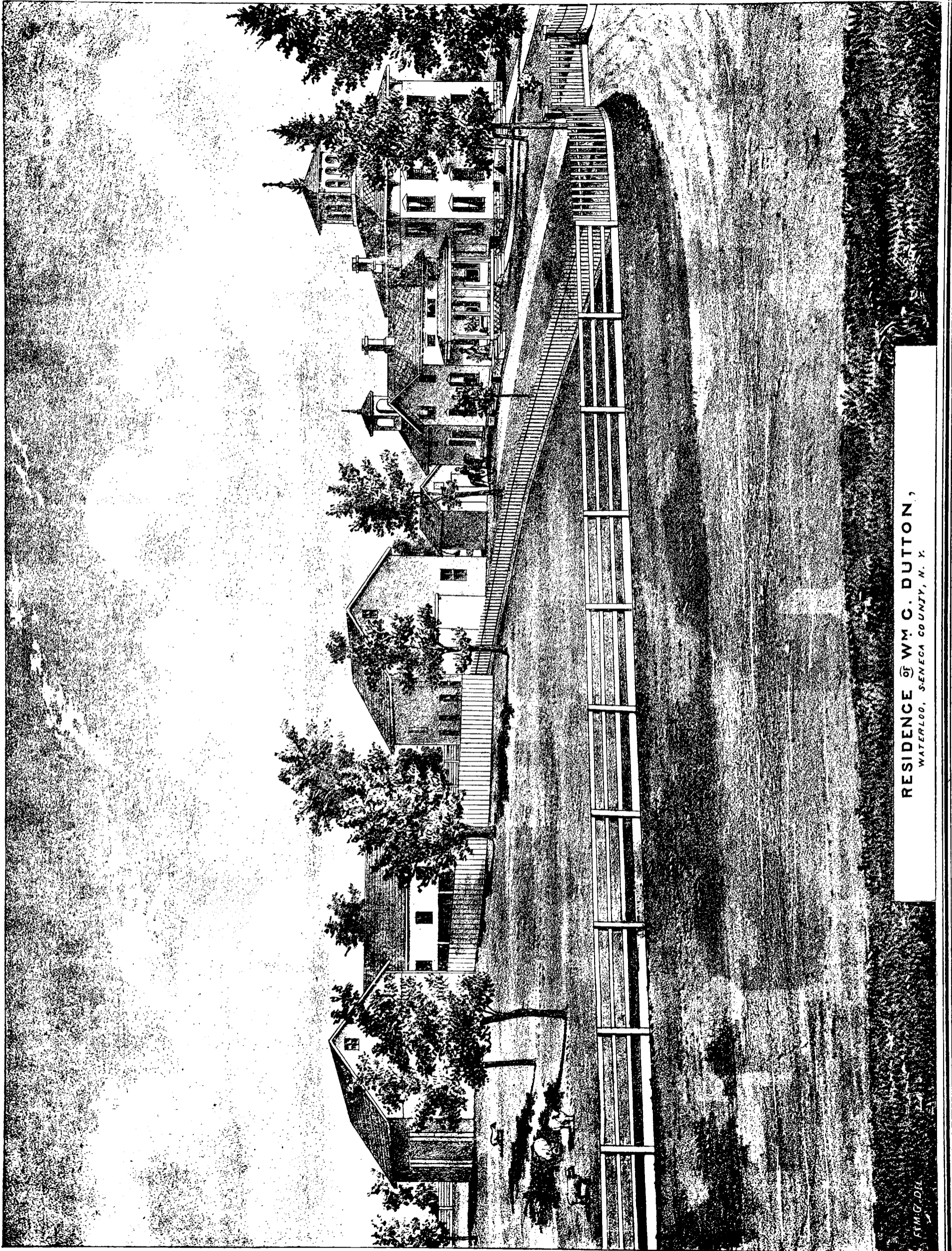
On the occasion of raising the first store in Waterloo, a builder, standing on the ridge-pole of the new frame in honor of Elisha Williams, of Hudson, declared the building "The Flower of New Hudson," and went through the ceremony of sending a bottle of whisky to the ground. "Uncle Larre," the pilot of the rapids, while attempting their ascent, would toil with his hardy crew for hours, gaining foot by foot, when suddenly the craft would cease to advance, reel off right or left, and speed down to the foot of the rapids. Then Van Cleef's order rang out, "Ashore with the painter, and make fast;" followed by "Stand by to splice the main brace,"—that is, "Take a drink of whisky all around." This having been done with hearty good will, the boat pushed off and renewed the attempt.

The favorite resorts of the convivially inclined were the taverns, some of which obtained a local celebrity. Among these were heard the names of Whisky Hill, The Kingdom, the Globe at Seneca, and the Eagle of Waterloo. While some public houses were well worthy the name, there were scores whose chief aim was the sale of liquor by those who were averse to honest industry as applied to hard labor. With the completion, later, of the Erie Canal, the taverns found their occupation gone as the great heavy wagons disappeared from the turnpike road. The toll-gates were taken away, the keepers discharged, and the western emigrants went bag and baggage by canal. The old road seemed deserted, the signs of "Cakes and Beer sold here" were taken down, the house became a dwelling where some remained, while others sold and elsewhere resumed their calling. "The Kingdom" was a small place midway between Scauyes and Mynderse's Mills. There lived Pontius, Hooper, Lewis Birdsall, and John Knox,—men of celebrity in their day, and there occurred various incidents of which but few remain to us. A single well-known instance will suffice. H. F. Gustin, and several other boys of that day, had taken their fish-poles and gone down the river one Sunday to fish. The day was hot, the fish were shy. Reaching "The Kingdom," the thirsty boys went to Mr. Hooper's for a drink of water. Setting their poles against the house, the boys went in, and Mr. Hooper, at the bar in his shirt sleeves, waiting on his customers, gave the water asked for. Just then several young men who had been out hunting came in, set their guns against the bar, and called for "drinks." Meanwhile Charley Stuart, a preacher of those days, was exhorting to an audience of from fifteen to twenty-five persons, seated about the bar-room. While expatiating upon the ill effects of breaking the Sabbath, and advising more exemplary behavior on that day, he startled his hearers and administered a rebuke that will live while every one who was present survives. With heavy stroke of clinched fist he struck the desk, and thus expressed himself: "Brethren, ye'll tak yure fishing tackle an' go down tha stream for fish upon the Sabbath,—ye'll not find the Lord there. Ye tak yer guns upon yer shoulder an' gang to the woods a hunting,—ye'll nae find the Lord there. Ye'll go to auld Tom McCurdy's cock-fighting on Sabbath, and ye'll nae find the Lord THERE. But just come up to auld Stuart's church, and there ye'll find the Lord upon the spot."

Stuart became chaplain to a regiment which went out in 1812, and made himself conspicuous at the battle of Queenstown, where, after using all his powers of persuasion to induce the soldiers to cross the river, he went over himself and was soon engaged in the hottest of the fight.



THIS HOTEL IS FIRST CLASS, IS SITUATED NEAR THE RAIL ROAD, & FURNISHED WITH ALL THE MODERN IMPROVEMENTS.
FOWLESLEY HOUSE,
LAMBERT GOODMAN, PROPRIETOR.
WATERLOO, NEW YORK.



RESIDENCE OF WM C. DUTTON,
WATERLOO, SENECA COUNTY, N. Y.

W. C. DUTTON

Illustrative of the subjects treated in this chapter, we give an abbreviated sketch of an old settler's recollections. James B. Darrow was born one mile east from Aurora, Cayuga County. In June, 1809, the family, consisting of parents, two sisters, and himself, he led by his mother, left their home and walked to Aurora. There taking boat, the family crossed the Seneca and landed in this County at the habitation of John Sinclair, near the present residence of Aaron Christopher, in the town of Romulus. Thence proceeding west, along the highest ground, they followed winding footpaths to Romulusville, then a cluster of a few log houses. Darkness came on, and the little party stopping by the way at the house of James Monroe, father of Stephen and grandfather of John Monroe, a torch of hickory bark was procured to light the path; another mile, and "home" was before them, but incomplete. But half the roof was on, and the floor of split bass-wood logs was but partly laid; but these were soon put in place. The children gathered wild gooseberries, whortleberries, and, later in the season, cranberries. They strolled along the Cayuga shore, and gathered abundance of wild plums. The father had made maple-sugar and syrup in the spring, and stored the latter in rude vessels made of white-wood, and this forest sweet enhanced the enjoyment of many meals. Mr. Darrow, Sen., was a carpenter, and in the fall of 1808 had taken the contract with Captain Marvin to build the old Presbyterian church, which stood just west of Romulusville, upon a site now used for a cemetery. Darrow was a carpenter, his wife a weaver. The former, working at his trade, had bought one hundred acres, and hired the clearing done. In lieu of oil, or even tallow, hickory bark gathered during the day was burned at night. The children kept up the light, which usually burned dimly. The family suffered several summers with the fever and ague. The mother carded her wool with hand cards, and colored it with butternut bark. Summer clothing was made from the fibre of flax. Darrow moved in 1812 to Auburn, Cayuga County. While he followed his trade, the mother boarded army officers. Money called shinplasters was very plenty with them and the teamsters. The paper was issued by many parties, and, for lack of better, continued to pass. Army wagons, loaded with stores, with four to six span of horses and a leader attached, continually passed and repassed. The tires of the wagon-wheels, which were very high, were six to eight inches in width. The opprobrious term of "Blue-Light Federalist" was applied in those days to those who sought to escape the draft. Three years elapsed, and Darrow returned to Romulus. Old neighbors were there, and many new ones had moved in. The roads were straightened, new houses erected, and at Canoga Spring a clothiery and fulling works had been built by Archibald Packard. Church was attended in an ox-sled, with a bundle of rye for a seat, and an ox-chain on the stakes to lean upon. The family acquired a horse, and the parents went on horseback to church or visiting, the mother riding behind and holding fast to her husband. Rev. Charles Mosher was then the minister, soon succeeded by Moses Young, from Phelps. During the pastorate of Mr. Mosher, a Mr. Fuller was appointed to take charge of the boys, who were made to sit together, and at Sabbath-school recite portions of the "Old Assembly Catechism." Rev. Young permitted the boys to sit with their parents. Schools taught in log houses by Eastern teachers became common. Money became worthless, and three dollars were paid per bushel for wheat. Crops failed in 1816. Frosts occurring every month, destroyed corn—the staple crop. People could not get money, and they dare not run in debt. The person of a debtor could be taken and confined in jail according to a law repealed in 1821. The people were poor, and a "fellow-feeling made them wondrous kind." A bond of friendship was then in force, which in these later days has become extinct.

Darrow's father built a house; the owner could sell nothing to pay for the work. He confessed judgment, and turned out some cows for sale to pay the debt. The cattle were bid off to Darrow at eight dollars per head, and he felt poorer with than without the stock, for he had no use for them. Mr. Darrow was injured by the falling of a brace at a raising, and soon afterwards died. His widow endeavored to hold the farm and pay the debts. She owned two hogs, and fattened them; one was given to Dr. Marvin, on a claim, at thirteen shillings per hundred. Then the farm was rented. James was dressed in new clothing, and apprenticed to a wagon-maker. The first job was the wood-work of a lumber wagon, for which seventy-five pounds of maple-sugar and four gallons of molasses were to be paid. The second job was the making of a wagon, for which a three-year-old steer was given in payment; this a drover took off their hands for thirteen dollars.

CHAPTER IX.

EARLY PREACHERS AND CHURCHES—SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS—MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND CEMETERIES.

WHEREVER the smoke of the settler's cabin rose, there soon came the circuit rider, bound on his mission of good. Traversing swamp, trail, and forest path, he found cordial welcome everywhere. Arousing strong opposition, he had power in the truths of the gospel, expressed in plain speech, and illustrated from the boundless volume of nature. The first ministers who visited this region of country were Methodists. Upon mules or horses they went upon their extended circuit, preaching day and evening. The early circuit embraced a journey of four hundred miles. Private house and school-house were used wherever the people could be called together.

The first of these pioneers was James Smith, in 1793; then came Alward White; after him followed Joseph Whitby and John Lockby, in 1795; Hamilton Jefferson and Anning Owen, in 1796. Johnson Denham comes with Owen next year; then James Stokes and Richard Lyon in 1798, and Jonathan Bateman in 1799. Daniel Dunham and Benjamin Bidlack trod this sparsely settled region in 1800; David James and Joseph Williamson in 1801; Smith Weeks and John Billings in 1802; Griffin Sweet and Sharon Booth in 1803; and Roger, Benton, and Sylvester Hill in 1804. The memories of these men are unknown to few, if any, living. But what a life was theirs! A pair of saddlebags contained their wardrobe and their library. Often their sleep was in the woods; reckless of the wolf, they laid them down, and, rising, journeyed on to preach in school-house, barn, or wood. It was not till 1807 that other churches made their appearance by the organization of societies, although local preaching had occurred. Meanwhile, two by two changed each year. The following fulfilled their mission here from 1805 to 1809: Thomas Smith and Charles Giles, William Hill and William Smith, Benjamin Bidlack and Lawrence Riley, then Bidlack and Clement Hickman. All honor to these men! Though they have gone from us, their memories are preserved in the ennobling influences created and fostered by their honest teachings.

The first Methodist church was built at Taunton, now Townsendville, some time in 1809 or 1810, while Isaac Teller and Amos Jenks, or John Rhodes and Daniel Baines were on that circuit. The first Church formed in Seneca County was organized by the Baptists in 1805; a second in Tyre by Baptists, same year, by Elder Don Ralph. The exercises were conducted by Elder Thomas, at the house of Bassler King, a settler in Ovid, in 1793, from Dutchess County, New York. About this time a log house was built about three-quarters of a mile southwest of Lodi village, near Halsey's grist-mill. It was a rude affair, not used in winter, and taken down after some ten years' service. It was a Union Church, since Rev. Clark held service for the Presbyterians, and Rev. Wisner for the Baptists. In 1807 or 1808, the Baptists put up a small frame house, about a mile and a quarter west of Lodi. The house was inclosed, but never finished. The members living south caused a removal of the site, and the erection of a new house some four miles south of the old one. The old building has long since passed out of existence. It is probable that the first church in the County was a structure built at the Thomas's settlement, about three miles north of Trumansburg. Under the ministrations of Elder Thomas, a revival occurred in the winter of 1809-10. Twenty-two persons were baptized by the Elder, in Cayuga Lake, before leaving the water. The first frame church finished in the town of Ovid was constructed by the Dutch Reformed denomination. Four or five miles southeast of Ovid village was quite a settlement of New Jersey people, whose pastor came out with them. Their house was put up by John J. Covert, between the years 1807-8; Rev. Brokaw was the preacher, and Joshua Covert the chorister. In front of the pulpit was a small platform, about two steps high, upon which the chorister would stand. Before him was a shelf to hold his books. The pitch was given by the aid of a little box containing a slide; time was beat by the swing of his right arm, and the entire congregation joined in singing. At that time there were no arrangements for heating the churches, and each sat out the sermon as best he could, and the "in conclusion" were welcome words, especially to the younger portion of the congregation. Some old ladies carried with them to church what was called a "foot-stove," whose use is indicated by its name, and a sample of which is placed in the Historical Rooms at Waterloo. Winter's attendance upon divine service was a kind of penance, although not intended as such. A Presbyterian society was organized in Junius, August 10, 1807, by Rev. Jedediah Chapman. The assembly met in the large and commodious frame barn owned by Colonel Daniel Sayre, and was known as the "First Presbyterian Church of Junius." The barn stood north of the turnpike, on the hill, a short distance west of the old Cayuga bridge. David Lum, Peter Miller, Stephen Crane, and John Pierson were ordained ruling elders; David Lum and Peter Miller were ordained

deacons; and Peter Miller and his wife, Sophia, David Lum and Charity, his wife, Stephen Crane, John Pierson, John Church and wife, James Hunter and wife, Nicholas Squires and Thomas Armstrong and their wives, Thomas Neal, Mrs. Lambert Van Aelstynne, and Anna Smith, seventeen persons in all, were admitted to membership. Rev. Charles Stuart was installed pastor August 20, 1808, at this barn, and served till 1812. Occasional services were held by Rev. C. Mosier till 1814, when Rev. Shipley Wells regularly supplied the pulpit a year, after which, from time to time, various others succeeded till the building of a church at Seneca Falls. Town and city histories will continue the record of those given, and that of others of which these are but examples.

It has been asserted that education is hereditary. The educated seek to confer the advantages of the schools upon their children. If this be true, then the pioneers of Seneca County were not an illiterate people. No sooner had a few settlers got their cabins raised and fixed so that they could live in them than a school was talked of. There was no law regulating schools, no school districts, no law requiring qualified teachers, and no grammar and geography taught in those schools. The school-books of the day were "Webster's Speller," the New Testament; the "American Preceptor," the "English Reader," "Dillworth and Pike," and the "Federal Educator." Few advanced far in arithmetic, and those who studied Murray, later, were thought "full high advanced." In any locality, whenever sufficient families were near enough to form a school, all would turn out with axes, handspikes, and oxen, and chop and draw logs to a chosen site, and put up a school-house. While some put up logs, split clap-boards for the roof, and drew stone for the fire-place, others prepared sticks and mud for the chimney, and if any of the settlers owned a wagon it was his lot to go to the saw-mill for a load of boards and slabs. The floor being laid, next came the writing-tables and seats. Holes were bored in the logs and sticks driven in, boards laid on for the former, and holes bored in the slabs and legs put in for the latter. The house built, a teacher was wanted. It was customary for the person desiring to keep school to visit the different families within reach of the school-building and canvass for scholars. If sufficient were secured to insure him ten dollars to twelve dollars per month, a school was opened. The customary rate was one dollar and fifty cents per scholar for thirteen weeks. Simple rudiments did not seem to require high-priced schoolmasters. Summer schools were rare. Of early schools, a few are noticed here. During the year 1795, the first school in Ovid was taught by Benjamin Munger. The first school taught within the bounds of Seneca County was presided over by Hon. Lewis Cass, later United States Senator from Michigan. At this school, John B. Karr, of Varick, was a pupil. Mr. Karr, now seventy-three years of age, and born near Ludlow school-house, has distinct recollections of the early instructions of Cass as a schoolmaster. On June 16, 1801, a log school-house was constructed upon the bank of the mill-race, near the later residence of Mrs. Day, at Seneca Falls. This house combined the twin agencies of culture of the mind and heart, and on December 10, 1803, was temporarily occupied by a man named Muller, together with his family, pending the building of a tavern of which he was the intended landlord. The first teacher in this school was Alexander Wilson; Nancy Osman taught the first school in that part of Junius now called Tyre. The school-house was built in 1804, and was much used for worship. John Burton, later a lawyer at Waterloo, taught a school in what was euphoniouly named the Cranetown Academy, a log school-house in Tyre. The academy fell a prey to the devouring element in 1812, and improved houses replaced the loss. Isaac Gorham, son of the pioneer Jabez Gorham, was first to sway the ferule in the kingdom of letters in the village of Waterloo. The school of earliest date in that locality occupied a shanty vacated by a squatter, standing near what is now William Street, in the vicinity of the residence of the late Peter Smith. Later, Mr. Gorham was found teaching in a log building on or near the lot occupied by the residence of Dr. Gardine Welles, and previously used as a blacksmith's shop. H. F. Gustin and D. L. Kendig were pupils under Gorham's administration.

A second teacher in Waterloo of that day was named Morrison, whose school was opened in a rude building which occupied the site of the present Gerart Factory. On the south side of the river, a little west of the cemetery lot, stood a building wherein H. Baker taught, and a choice of instructors was thereby offered and taken. Preparations for school, especially in autumn, were scarcely less exciting than the discipline succeeding. The shoemaker and the tailor went from house to house to complete the outfit. Whatever the weather, no pupil suffered in health by want of ventilation in the school-room, nor was complaint made that the wood was too long for the stove. Samuel Bear, a pupil in a school taught by Master McCrate, gives the following programme of exercises: Calling school, by voice, or raps with ferule upon a window-sash. Alphabet class, arranged in semicircle about the chair, naming letters indicated by the blade-point of a penknife. Writing: this exercise called on McCrate to set copies, write sample lines, and mend goose-quill pens. Arithmetic: tables and

rules recited, and hard examples worked by the master. Reading: each read a paragraph or sentence, and the class dismissed. Spelling: studied, and class called. A miss-spell sent the unlucky wight to the foot. The best speller rewarded by a merit. Roll-call: each replying "present" when named, proceeding to the door, turning, and bowing or dropping a "curehey," as the pupil chanced to be master or miss, bade the teacher "good-afternoon." The methods of teaching and discipline tended not less to physical than to mental development. There were no gymnasiums in those days, yet while Webster and Murray administered to the *inner* man, the tingling birch and smarting ferule took good care of the *outer*. Moreover, the construction of the furniture gave the body exercise despite intention, for, as Dr. Gridley expresses it,—

"The seats in use were slabs, with legs, in number, four,
And so these quadrupeds sustained some ten or more.
The desks were slabs at angle, cut and carved and maimed,
And not by birch or ferule could jack-knives be restrained.

"The smaller urchins sat upon the humble seat,
With naught to rest the back, too high to rest their feet;
Turning, twisting, pinching, busy in keeping still,
Grinding! Grinding!! Grinding!!! in Isaac Gorham's mill."

No inconsiderable portion of early history is that which speaks of marriages, births, deaths, and funeral rites. The arrival of a new family, by boat or Pennsylvania wagon, occasioned eager inquiry by young men as to whether any Marys or Betseys were of the number. The demand was in excess of the supply. The same maiden had sometimes several suitors, which involved the delicate matter of rejection as well as choice. Sometimes the girls were betrothed before leaving home, and a knowledge of this fact caused disappointment. Whole families of daughters were rapidly disposed of. Probably the first marriages in Seneca took place in the southern part of the County. Three couples, in 1793, walking together to Seneca Lake, crossed over in a boat, and on the other shore found Justice Parker, who performed the ceremony of marriage. These persons were Joseph Wilson and Anna Wyckoff, A. A. Covert and Catharine Covert, and Enoch Stewart and Jane Covert. Abraham A. Covert, the last survivor of this triple marriage, lately passed away, at the good old age of ninety-eight years. An early marriage at Scauyes was that of Job Smith to Miriam Gorham, in the year 1799. In 1809, John Knox wedded Mrs. Lucinda Winans, formerly Miss Keeler; then John Watkins took to wife her sister May, and later, Caleb Loring made sure of her sister Betsey. Old citizens remember how Samuel Birdsall wedded Ann Eliza Kendig; Job White, Margaret Stebbins; Richard Bailey, Harriet Swift; and Theophilus Church, Temperance Den. Do they not recall that Content Standish was content to *keep company* with Horace Shekel; that Joshua Merrill *went to see* Sophia Custiss; that David J. Baker *paid attention* to Sarah Fairchild; and that everybody said that Caleb Fairchild was *going to have* Aurelia Maltby? Weddings were free from formality and stiffness. Simplicity and hilarity were the rules. On the occasion of the marriage of Job White, at the residence of Mrs. Quartus Knight, provision was made, not alone for invited guests, but for the neighbors in general. Most marriages were solemnized according to law by the Esquire. The parson did not object, since, while the former got most weddings, the latter got most fees. Squire Martin Kendig had joined a seeming happy couple at one time, and the next day the groom appeared and wished "to dissolve the bands," which the Justice declared unconstitutional, and therefore impossible.

Among the early white natives of Seneca County, were the following: Mrs. Jane Goodwin, daughter of L. Van Cleef, born November 29, 1790, and the first born at Seneca Falls. A son to James McKnight was born in 1791, at Bearytown, now Fayette Post-office, in Varick. A daughter to George Faussett, in Lodi, claimed the first white child born in this County. David Dunlap, son of Andrew, was born on February 2, 1793, upon lot No. 8, in the northwest part of the town of Ovid. First birth in Tyre, in 1794, was of Daniel, son of Ezekiel Crane; and that of John S. Bear, in 1797, was the first at Scauyes. Decay treads closely upon growth, and death came first in Seneca to George Dunlap, brother to Andrew, on September 24, 1791. In 1793, died the wife of Job Smith, followed, in 1802, by the decease of Mrs. Submit Southwick. On August 26, 1803, J. Disbrow died at Seneca Falls, while at Tyre the now dilapidated cemetery there was commenced by the interment therein of Sarah Traver, mother of Nicholas Traver. Two Revolutionary soldiers, John Gregory and James Hull, who had lived on Lot 97, in a rude house by the Outlet, near the residence of Alonzo Towsley, were the first persons buried on the north side at Waterloo, in ground now occupied by the residence of Isaac Thorne.

The burial customs of seventy years ago differed much from those of the present day. When a death occurred, neighbors would call in, take the measure of the body, and get a plain coffin at a cost of rarely more than five dollars. A neighbor possessed of a team would bring the coffin to the house, and carry the body

to the grave. The charges of the sexton were two dollars, and grave-stones were cheap. William Sutton early followed the trade of stone-engraving. The stones were dark cobble-stone, and were taken from the west side of Seneca Lake. Hundreds of these monuments may be seen in the cemeteries to-day. The headstones and coffins of the rich were of the same material as were those of the poor, differing only in the size of the stone. Marble tombstones were introduced when the Erie Canal was finished, about the year 1824.

We close by an extract from the record of a town-meeting held at Ovid, April 1, 1800, referring to Lot No. 30, known as the "gospel and school lot," and as the burial place of Joshua Covert, in 1799. "Voted that the land appropriated to this town by Silas Halsey for a burying-ground is a burying for the town. Also a certain piece of ground on Lot No. 3, containing one acre, granted by John Seeley. Also voted that there be a burying-ground on Lot No. 24. Also voted that there shall be a sexton for each burying-ground. Jacob Striker, for No. 30; Enoch Manning, No. 45; Stephen Miller, No. 98; and William Brown for No. 3. Also voted that each sexton, for every grave he shall dig, shall have one dollar." In the cemetery, on Lot No. 30, originally containing an acre, now much more from additions, are buried most of the early settlers, and more soldiers of the Revolution than any other in the County. Here lie the remains of Van Doren, Bodine, Stall, Ballard, the Huffs, and Brokaw, a few named of the many.

CHAPTER X.

THE BOYS OF 1800—THE PANTHER, BEAR, AND DEER—THE CASUALTIES OF CAYUGA LAKE.

To the boys of 1800 books were scarce, and newspapers among the gifts of the future. Whoever was the owner of a book loaned it to his neighbor; it was carefully read and promptly returned. A book was valuable, and a nice sense of honor forbade the return of a borrowed volume in worse condition than when loaned. Long miles the boys went for a book, then, prone upon the floor before the fire, they gathered the contents, oblivious of time or presence. One pamphlet, which found its way into many a cabin, was entitled "The Confession of John Ryan." Sheriff Hutchison arrested Ryan at the card-table for debt. Ryan shot the sheriff dead and escaped. Traversing Seneca County, he reached and crossed Cayuga Lake in a stolen boat. Sinking the boat, he continued his flight. Finally returning, he was captured, tried, and executed. The wretched man attributed his crime to cards and whisky, and the influence of his confession was salutary.

The following is intended for the boys of 1876, and was originally penned by one who wrote from life. A boat-load of young men went to hunt deer upon Crusoe Island. The boat left them, to return in a week. Wolves, numerous and hungry, had driven off the deer. One of the youths went out alone in quest of game. A large black bear was seen upon a chestnut-tree, but disappeared before the hunter reached the spot. He shot and dressed a squirrel, and then set out for camp. It grew dark, and the silence was broken by the prolonged howl of a distant wolf. Here and there an echoing howl replied, and soon a pack had gathered where he had killed the squirrel, and then he knew they were following on his track. He reached and passed a spot where "Indian John" had battled with just such a pack all night. With clubbed rifle he had struck the nearest as their white fangs snapped at him. Morning had come, and the Indian, with torn arms, shattered gun, and dead wolves around him, had seen the pack leave with infinite relief; yet here the white boy was hurrying on and looking for a tree to climb, when the report of a signal gun from camp renewed his courage. The wolves came nearer, and at the discharge of his rifle stopped silent for a moment. Reloading, he hastened on, and again checked pursuit by firing; a third shot was delivered close to camp, the wolves upon his heels. Driven off, the pack continued howling around the fires until daybreak dispersed them in the woods.

Cayuga Lake was a famous resort of large black ducks, which gathered there to feed upon the lily-pods. At what is known as the Mud Lock, at the foot of the lake, John Story mounted a gun that would carry nearly a pound of shot upon the bow of his boat, and when a discharge of the piece was made into a large flock of these ducks as many as forty were killed at a time.

Squirrels were so numerous, and depredated so upon the crops, that the settlers formed in companies, headed by their best marksmen, and gave a day to hunting them. Two thousand squirrels were slain at a single hunt. After the sport, came supper and spirits at some log tavern, the bill being paid by the side

having least scalps. Black squirrels preceded, and gray followed, the advent of the white race. In the year 1805, or thereabouts, a boy of sixteen, living nearly two miles south of Cayuga, heard his dog barking in the woods about half a mile distant, and purposed to go and see what he had there. It was about nine o'clock and the night was very dark; the mother objected to his going, as her husband was away at the time. The boy gained his point and set off with gun and axe, accompanied by his younger brother, carrying a lighted torch of hickory-bark. The dog barked louder as the light drew near. Pushing their way through a thicket, they found there was something concealed in the thick leaves and branches of a large tree-top. While the younger boy held the torch, the elder, creeping under the top from the opposite side, groped his way up to some animal which turned towards him, and then to the dog, which had come closer. The glimmer of the light gave to it a white appearance, and the boys, concluding it was a stray sheep, called off the dog and went home. The father discredited the idea of a sheep, and next day saw signs of some animal and tracks of the dog, but no sheep. One day, some weeks later, father and son were seated upon a log, resting from their work of getting out timber, and eating their luncheon, part of which was roast venison, when their dog, growling, crouched at their feet. Set on, he bounded forward with a bark, and the back and tail of an animal were seen as it leaped away through the brush. The father, turning pale, exclaimed, "My God! what a painter!" The panther prowled about the house all night. The father being called away on a journey, the boy determined to try a shot at the wild beast during his absence. The gun was cleaned and loaded with two balls, and John Updike and brother invited to come over and help "top" turnips, and bring along their "bear" dog. Night came; the dog was left out-doors, a torch made ready to light, and turnip-topping began. Presently the large dog in the house began to growl, and the dog outside was heard loudly barking. The torch was lighted, the boy stole out, and some eight rods off saw the panther's glaring eyes fixed upon the house. Gun in hand at the corner of the house, the boy could presently see the dark form outlined by the torchlight held by John Updike, while by him his brother William held their dog. The gun was aimed between the panther's eyes, the trigger pulled, and the gun flashed. The torch fell, the dogs sprang out and seized the animal as he bounded upon his assailant. The Updike boys rushed into the house and closed the door. The panther's paw struck close to the youth as the dogs caught and held him. Successive blows laid out the wounded animals, and the fierce panther escaped to the woods and troubled them no more.

A farmer named Weyburn lived near Kidder's Ferry some time about 1800. Finding signs of a bear, he armed himself with pitchfork and hatchet, and with his son, a boy of ten or twelve, set out to find it. Presently the bear was seen in a ravine under a projecting cliff, and not far below was a basin or pool of water. Weyburn, pitchfork in hand, advanced to the charge from below. When six to eight feet distant, instead of a lunge with the fork-tines at the bear, the latter threw his paws about the farmer and sunk his teeth in his left arm. In the struggle bear and man rolled over and over towards the pool. Weyburn managed to thrust his right hand and arm partly down the bear's throat to strangle him, and together they rolled into the water. By a desperate effort the man forced the head of the bear under water, and, his son reaching him the hatchet, he sank it in the bear's skull and dispatched it. Weyburn dearly earned the four hundred pounds of bear-meat, as his arms were badly injured and his breast severely torn.

Adventures with the deer were numerous and exciting. One morning two brothers were sent into the "sugar-bush" for an iron pot which had been used in "sugaring off." The vessel secured, the boys were returning Indian-file, when suddenly from a thicket out dashed a herd of deer. A buck leaping a rotten log slipped, and, turning a somersault, fell upon his back with heels in air. One boy was for running in to cut his throat, but in a moment the deer was up and lunging forward, with lowered head and risen hair; the boys ran behind trees, hotly pursued. At once, the buck stopped; his tongue hung from a frothing mouth, his bloodshot eyes with malicious cunning watched a chance to rush upon the boy behind the tree. The latter caught a club and struck the deer upon the nose, and stunned him, so he fell, his neck between a sapling and the tree. A moment, and the boys had bent the sapling down upon his neck, and held him fast. The hoofs flew like drum-sticks in the air, but soon the jack-knife severed the jugular, and the exultant boys hastened home to tell their parents, "We have killed a deer." The Cayuga and Seneca were frequent resorts for deer when pursued by men or dogs. One day the baying of some hounds, each moment sounding louder, told a party which stood below the high bank on the west shore of Cayuga that game was heading towards them; presently a deer sprang from the bank above, upon the ice, out from the shore. The impetus carried him forward several rods, and then he rose to run. The ice gave way; the luckless deer, in trying to regain a footing, broke both forelegs, sank back exhausted, and drowned.

Among the reptiles of the early day, rattlesnakes were most conspicuous. They lived in dens among the rocks in winter, and in the spring days crawled out to bask amid the sunshine. Of their resorts were the rocks near Cayuga Lake, in Ovid, a den half a mile west of Canoga Spring, the present site of the *Courier* office at Seneca Falls, and the Restvale Cemetery. A Mrs. Conner, a widow, died from the result of a bite received near the "Old Red Mill," at Seneca Falls. The power of imagination is shown by the following in this connection: A pioneer was engaged in cutting some whortleberry bushes with a sharp bush-hook. As he struck among the brakes with hand low down, a huge rattlesnake sprang out and struck his arm above the elbow. The settler fell back, and, groaning with pain, called to his son near by that he was bitten by a snake. And so he seemed to be, with blood upon his shirt-sleeve. The boy, looking at the writhing serpent, saw that the head was severed from the body, and hung by a shred of skin, and that the bloody stump had struck the sleeve. The father seeing this forgot his pain, and charged his son with silence.

Among the many casualties upon Cayuga Lake, in early days, a few are noted. Dr. Jonas C. Baldwin, of Ovid, bought at Baileytown, on east side of Seneca, an old pirogue, and brought it round to Sheldrake Point for a ferry-boat. The ferry was discontinued, and the boat sold to Captain Robert White, who used it for transportation purposes. One morning, about nine, the boat ran out from Kidder's Ferry, and, about a mile away, was struck by a squall and upset. Spectators on the shore saw the boat's side rise on the swell, and a man clinging to the lee-board. A boat was manned, and White, the only occupant of the wreck, was rescued, and taken to the house of Joseph DeWitt, where he soon recovered. A son of Colonel Humphrey expected his father's arrival home across the lake, and, seeing a signal on the opposite shore, importuned DeWitt, the ferryman, to cross and bring the traveler, the colonel, over. A thunder-storm came up, the boat went like an arrow before the wind, the sail fell, and the falling rain hid the scene from sight. Those on shore were filled with liveliest apprehension, but the wind lulled, the rain ceased, and at sunset the colonel met his family, and all rejoiced so much the more,—their sorrow changed to joy. In 1808 or 1809, a man named Beldon fell overboard from a ferry-boat when opposite Levanna, and was drowned. In 1811, Richard Britten, of Sheldrake or Ovid, was drowned in a like manner. The legends and authentic incidents connected with the lakes of Seneca and Cayuga would fill a volume full of romance and narratives of adventure.

CHAPTER XI.

LINE OF ORGANIZATION—SENECA IN 1810—COUNTY SEATS—FIRST COUNTY OFFICIALS—EXECUTIONS—PRESENT BOUNDARIES AND TOWNS—POOR FARM.

WE have seen Tryon formed from Albany, in 1772; Tryon changed to Montgomery, and Herkimer taken therefrom, in 1791; Onondaga erected from Herkimer, in 1794; Cayuga from Onondaga, in 1799, and Seneca from Cayuga, on March 29, 1804. At this date, Seneca County was bounded, north, by Lake Ontario; east, by Cayuga County; south, by Tioga County, and west, by Steuben and Ontario Counties. Lying between Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, it extended to Lake Ontario, and was a strip of territory some sixty-three miles long by an average width of eleven miles; its area was seven hundred and forty-four miles, or somewhat less than half a million acres. The capital of the County was located at Ovid Village,—sometimes called Verona,—upon Lot No. 3, near the north line of the town of Ovid. Here, in 1806, a court-house was built, and a park laid out in front. The court-house is of brick, and of a substantial character. The civil officers appointed for the County, on April 2, 1804, in Albany, by a council, of which George Clinton, Esq., was President, and Hon. John Broome, Caleb Hyde, and Thomas Tredwell, Esqs., were members, are known to have been, Judges and Justices of the Peace, Cornelius Humphrey, Grover Smith, and John Sayre; Side Judges and Justices, Jonas Whiting, of Ulysses, James Van Horn, of Ovid; Asa Smith, of Romulus, and Benajah Boardman, of Washington. Justices of the Peace of Ovid, James Jackson, Stephen Woodworth, and John Townsend, Jr.; of Ulysses, Thomas Shepard; of Hector, Daniel Evarts; of Washington, John Hood; and of Junius, Lewis Birdsall and Jesse Southwick. Silas Halsey was appointed County Clerk; William Smith, Sheriff; Jared Sanford, Surrogate, and Charles Thompson, Coroner. Seneca County sent John Sayre to the Assembly, as her first member, in the year 1805, and Cornelius Humphrey for the years 1806 and 1807. In 1811, Seneca had nine post-offices, and Ithaca, the principal place, contained forty houses. The County contained

seven towns, of which Ovid was the most populous, the census of 1810 giving its enumeration at 4535 persons. In the County there were twenty-five grain- and forty-two saw-mills; and a salt establishment, in the town of Junius, reported a daily average yield of 150 bushels. Illustrative of manufactures at that date, we find a report of six hundred and one looms, producing 49,473 yards of woolen cloth, valued at 87½ cents per yard; 115,585 yards of linen cloth, worth 37½ cents per yard, and 5602 yards of mixed and cotton cloth, averaging 33½ cents per yard. There were seven mills and clotheries, which fulled and dressed 19,050 yards of cloth, priced at \$1.25 per yard; ten carding machines, which had carded 35,200 pounds of wool, at a cost of 50 cents per pound. Cotton cloth, to the amount of 2035 yards, was manufactured, whose price per yard was 32 cents. Of tanneries there were fifteen, which turned out nearly 4000 tanned hides, whose average prices were \$4.25 for sole, and \$1.75 for inferior grades.

Population increasing, Seneca contributed a portion of her area to the formation of Tompkins on April 17, 1817, and on April 11, 1820, gave up Wolcott and Galen towards the organization of Wayne County, and thus reduced her territory to 197,500 acres. In the year 1809, Elisha Williams, Esq., of Hudson, New York, bought of John McKinstey the six-hundred-acre lot on which that part of Waterloo north of Seneca Lake outlet stands. The price paid was \$2000. In 1816, he built, through his agent, Reuben Swift, the Waterloo Mills, two saw-mills and several houses, and originated an extensive business. The formation of Tompkins County, in 1817, made Waterloo about the centre of Seneca, and Mr. Williams successfully used his influence in removing the County courts from Ovid to Waterloo, which thus became the shire town. A spur was given to improvement; Swift, Daniel Moshier, Colonel Chamberlain, Quartus Knight, and others, immediately set about the erection of large, fine taverns, and the County began the erection of a new court-house and clerk's office upon the public square donated by Squire Williams. This movement proved a check to Ovid, and raised sectional feeling. When Wayne was formed, in 1823, Waterloo was near one end of the County; hence it was found desirable to divide the County into two half-shires, and hold the courts alternately at the court-houses of Ovid and Waterloo. Fayette and the towns north constitute the northern jury district, and Varick and those towns south of it the southern. The court-house at Waterloo was finished, and the first courts held, in 1818. At these courts, John McLean, Jr., officiated as Judge, and Lemuel W. Ruggles as District Attorney, these men being nominated to their position by Governor DeWitt Clinton, and confirmed therein by the Council of Appointment. The courts at that day were conspicuous affairs. Crowds of lawyers and clients came from far and near, and sessions continued from one to three weeks. In early days a path to the court-house ran diagonally across the square. This path was often filled with water, and bush and brake grew rank on either side in wild profusion, and hence gave origin to the soubriquet, "The Swamps of Waterloo." The legal talent of that day was splendid, and, with due respect to present members of the bar, has never been excelled. Among the prominent lawyers were John Maynard, William Thompson, Ansell Gibbs, and Alvah Gregory, of Ovid; Jesse Clark, Samuel Birdsall, and John Knox, of Waterloo; and Garry V. Sackett and Luther F. Stevens, of Seneca Falls.

Contemporary with the courts, and an essential to the enforcement of their decrees, was the press. An early newspaper, remembered by old settlers to have circulated in Seneca, was the *Geneva Gazette*, published by James Bagert, as *The Expositor*, from 1806 to 1809, and for many years later known as the *Geneva Gazette*. It was not until 1815 that the pioneer newspaper of Seneca County was published at Ovid, under the name of *The Seneca Patriot*. The proprietor changed the name, in 1816, to *The Ovid Gazette*, and following the removal of the county seat to Waterloo, in 1817, continued it there as the *Waterloo Gazette*. George Lewis, the editor and proprietor, from financial troubles, sold out to Hiram Leavenworth, in October, 1817. James McLean, Jr., for a brief time assisted Leavenworth, who then continued on alone for several years. Political feelings ran high, and offended parties, entering the printing-office by night, took the entire establishment, press, type, and all, and threw them into the Seneca River, so demonstrating the power behind the throne.

But two public executions have ever occurred within the present organization of Seneca, and these the punishment of murder. In 1810-12, a man named Andrews killed an assistant in a distillery, and was hung at Ovid. Years afterwards, the stumps of the gallows were pointed out, in a vacant lot, as some spectator recounted the details of the sickening scene. On May 28, 1828, one George Chapman expiated the crime of shedding blood, by being hung, at Waterloo. The killing was without palliation, and a negro was the unfortunate victim. The names of those engaged upon this, the last trial resulting in public execution in Seneca County, are as follows: Circuit Judge, Daniel Mosely; First Judge, Luther Stevens; Junior Judge, James Seely; Counsel for the people, Jesse Clark, District Attorney, assisted by Messrs. Thompson, Whiting, and Park;