

Prisoner's counsel, Messrs. Hulbert, Mott, Stryker, and Knox. Seventeen witnesses were examined, and the case finally submitted to the following-named jurors: John Norris, Aury Marsh, Abial Cook, John White, Tyler Smith, Israel B. Haines, Benjamin Cuddeback, Robert Livingston, Garvin Stevenson, Peter Whitmer, George Bachman, and Jacob Sell. The gallows was erected on the "Island," and when the doomed man met his fate a body of troops surrounded the scaffold; boats upon the water and buildings far around were crowded by curious spectators, whose memories will never efface the scene. Conforming to a belief that such exhibitions demoralize, the criminals of modern days perish ignominiously in the seclusion of the jail-yard, in presence of officials only, and time will be when the details will not be in print.

Towns are subdivisions of counties, and *territorial*. A city or village is specially incorporated, restricted to a small area, and vested with certain immunities and privileges, and *civil*. This distinction explains the use of town for township. An area is, civilly, a town; the tract comprised, a township. When Seneca was organized, in 1804, it was comprised within the limits of four towns, Ovid, Romulus, Fayette, and Junius. Since 1830, the number has been ten, derived as follows: Ovid and Romulus were formed March 5, 1794. Washington was formed from Romulus in March, 1800, and the name changed to Fayette on April 6, 1808. Junius was taken from Washington, February 12, 1803. Walcott, now in Wayne County, was formed from Junius, in 1807, and Galen (Wayne County) from the same town, in 1812. Hector (Schuyler County) was taken off Ovid in 1802, and Covert, April 7, 1817. Lodi was taken from Covert, January 27, 1826; Tyre, Seneca Falls, and Waterloo from Junius March 26, 1829, and Varick from Romulus, in 1830. A striking dissimilarity between the United States and other countries is the absence of beggars from the streets and highways. Ample provision is made in each county for the support of its unfortunate, infirm, and indigent. No reference is made to that horde of wandering men, known as "tramps," who infest the whole land, and live by importunity upon the benefactions of the generous. Overseers of the Poor were chosen in 1794, at the first town meeting held in the County, and a liberal allowance furnished. But it was not till March 17, 1830, that the superintendents of the County poor bought for \$2720 one hundred and one acres of land for a poor farm. This land included the place then recently occupied by widow Silvers. On the premises were a two-story house, twenty-six by forty-two feet, a framed barn forty by fifty feet, an orchard of apple- and peach-trees, and two stone-quarries. Zephaniah Lewis, of Seneca Falls, was appointed the first keeper. The farm, in 1866, contained one hundred and twenty-six and a half acres; it is located on the town line, between Seneca Falls and Fayette, four miles southeast of Waterloo. The buildings are ample, and the management creditable to all concerned. On December 1, 1866, there were 63 inmates: males 34, females 29. Of these, 14 were foreigners, 11 lunatics, and 4 idiots. Of those relieved during the year 1866, 959 were foreigners, 24 lunatics, and 19 idiots. From a total of 1663 persons relieved or supported, 704 were natives of the United States, and 719 of Ireland. 450 trace the cause of pauperism to intemperance, and 350 were left indigent and destitute. On November 1, 1875, it was reported by Robt. L. Stevenson, William Parrish, and Peter S. Van Lew, Superintendents of the Poor, as follows: Paupers in Poor-House last report, 45; received during year, 207. Total 252. Died, 7; discharged, 207; remaining, 38. Of these, 3 are idiots, 2 lunatics, the rest common paupers. Born in the United States, 28; foreign-born, 10. In the Orphan Asylum, at Syracuse, 9 children are chargeable to Seneca County. There are in the Willard Asylum for the Insane, at Ovid, 30 insane paupers; of these, 9 are chargeable to the County. The sum of \$4500 was asked for supplies for the present year (1876), and the expenses of the year past was \$5740.66. The product of the farm, for 1875, was nearly 2500 bushels of produce, 35 tons hay, and 450 pounds butter. The farm is well supplied with stock and tools, and has a value of about \$25,000.

## CHAPTER XII.

TOWN-MEETINGS—CELEBRATIONS—EARLY MANUFACTURES—SCHOOLS FOR SINGING AND DANCING—VISITORS, JOSEPH SMITH, LA FAYETTE, LORENZO DOW, AND ANDREW JOHNSON—RAISING MILLS AND CHURCHES—BURNING A WHALE.

TOWN-MEETINGS, in the early day, in their pure democracy and perfect freedom, were the unconscious agencies which fostered that love of liberty and the power of local self-rule which made the government by the people of themselves a pos-

sibility. Elections were honestly conducted. Men voted for what they regarded as the best man. Tickets lay upon the table, and every one took his choice. Elections were held on three successive days, and each day at a different point in the town. If a man in Junius did not get to the polls at Hooper's, to-day, to-morrow, he could go to Nate Matthews's; failing to go there, he still had a chance at Jacob Stahl's, by Cayuga Bridge. When Junius was formed, in 1802, a meeting was held, and Lewis Birdsall was chosen Supervisor, and Gideon Bowditch, Town Clerk. Other officers, later distinguished in County history, were three Assessors, Asa Moore, Hugh W. Dobbin, and Elisha Pratt; three Commissioners of Highways, Jesse Southwick, Jabez Disbrow, and Nathaniel J. Potter; two Constables, Jacob Chamberlain and Severus Swift; and a Pound-Master, Samuel Lay. Early acts of these authorities were given to making roads, building fences, controlling stock, and a war unceasing upon wolves and Canada thistles. That education was not an essential to business in those days is illustrated by the following chronological enactments: 1804. Voted, a bounty of five dollars per head on wolves. 1806. Voted, that *hogs* under thirty pounds *shuld* not *runn* without *yoaks* on the highway. 1807. Voted, that all fences shall be five feet high, and two feet from the ground. 1809. Voted, that no man *shuld* let *Can-nerda* thistles go to seed on his farm, under the penalty of five dollars. 1810. Voted, that any person keeping more than one dog, shall pay a tax of fifty cents a year. The will of the people was law in all save the thistles. The urgency was denoted by increasing the penalty of negligence, in 1818, to twenty-five dollars. The contest was waged in vain, and the thistle, like the white race, came to stay.

The farms of Seneca were allotted, the gift of the State, to her veteran soldiery. Remembering their struggles in arms, and settled upon lands whose deeds recalled appreciation of services, it was from the old Revolutionary fathers that the Anniversary of American Independence received its most hearty honors. A week before the 4th of July, 1817, verbal notice was given at Ovid, and a committee of arrangements chosen to duly celebrate the day. By ten o'clock in the morning a large concourse of people had assembled in the village. At half-past eleven a procession was formed in front of the hotel, under the direction of Captain John Reynolds, marshal of the day, and marched to the grove east of the court-house, attended by military music. The ceremonies began by an able prayer, by Rev. Stephen Porter. The Declaration was read by Rev. Moses Young, in good style. A. Gibbs, Esq., orator of the day, delivered an oration well adapted to the occasion. Another prayer by Rev. Mr. Young, then vocal music and refreshments were in order. Dinner was served on the court-house square. Patriotic toasts were read by the President, Silas Halsey, Esq. An elegant brass six-pounder cannon, a trophy acquired by the capitulation at Yorktown, responded in thunder-tones, under command of Captain Ira Clarke, and as night gathered its shades each went home, well satisfied. The toast, in those convivial times, was the main feature of any public meeting for honors or rejoicing. On the occasion of the visit to Waterloo of Governor De Witt Clinton, accompanied by Commodore Bainbridge, Lieutenant-Governor Philips, of Massachusetts, and the Russian Admiral, Tate, a public dinner was held at the house of James Irving. General I. Maltby and Colonel S. Birdsall presided at the table, and thirteen toasts were given and acknowledged. The last, Governor Clinton having retired, was couched in these words: "De Witt Clinton—The projector of the Great Western Canal, the faithful guardian of the people's rights, the un-deviating patriot and incorruptible statesman." Six hearty cheers greeted this sentiment by the friend of the Canal Governor.

Preliminary to those immense industries which give a name and fame to Seneca, were the humble manufactures of her early mechanics. At the village of Scauyes, about 1796, Matthias Strayer, a wheelwright, manufactured large spinning-wheels for wool and tow, and small mills for flax. Two years prior to this, Martin Kendig, Jr., in the same place, had set up a shop for making tinware, sheet-iron stove-pipes, and the moulding of pewter spoons, less serviceable than silver, but an improvement upon horn and wood. In 1804, Paul Goltry, in a log house, the first in present Lodi, manufactured looms, fanning-mills, and other articles. He jealously guarded the secret of weaving "riddles" for his mills, and his workshop was forbidden to his own family. The mills had no castings, and would be a curiosity now. One Cooper was a maker of spinning-wheels in the same locality, and did a thriving business. The founder of a colony has use for most, save silversmiths and gentlemen, of trades and professions. The cultivation of the voice was regarded as needful, and the associations of the singing-school were pleasant. One of the early teachers of vocal culture was Daniel Clark, of Ovid. During the year 1808, he got up six schools, and held them at most accessible points: one at the log house of James Cover, and another at Smith's tavern, near Lodi. The books in use were Smith & Little's collection. The terms were fifty cents per scholar for thirteen nights. The close of terms was marked by a good "sing" at the court-house, where an audience could be accommodated. Nor was

the art of dancing neglected or destitute of advocates. An early number of the *Waterloo Gazette* gives notice of a dancing-school held by one Robinson at the house of Thayer. The rude mills of Bear and Halsey were speedily supplanted by others larger, more durable, and efficient. Mr. Bear, at Scauyes, employed the Yosts to prepare an ample frame. Post, girth, sill, and plate were worked and ready to be framed, when it was found the physical strength of the community was insufficient to raise the new building, and the proprietor was at a loss for help. Word was sent to Geneva, and the officiating minister gave notice to his congregation at the close of the Sunday exercises of the facts in the case, and suggested that all should lend their aid at once and raise the building. The proposition was favorably received; boats were manned, the mill-frame put up, and the settlers quietly returned home, well satisfied with their having assisted a neighbor in a laudable enterprise, upon a day assigned to rest. The mill at Scauyes froze in winter, and, thawing in summer, when possible kept steadily at work. Too small to store the gathering grists, these were duly labeled, placed upon stumps about the mill, and attended to in due time. If the settlers waited for their grinding, the shop of Mrs. Phœbe Smith offered refreshments of cake and beer, unless providentially a lunch was brought along.

Deacon Isaac Rosa, wife, and seven children came in 1817 to Waterloo. Old, he was yet active and enterprising. Having superintended the building of the mills, he was employed to run them. The door in the front of the mill was in two parts. The pigs, attracted by feed, would crowd into the front door, which the deacon would close; then opening a back door, some fifteen feet above the water, he ran them out, and they shot, much surprised, into the water below. Deacon Rosa was employed to put up the frame of the old Presbyterian meeting-house. Messrs. Fairchild, Bacon, and Maltby went to see the frame, and found the plates on and supports placed in the basement for the heavy beams. The roof-timbers were being hauled up with a ginpole and tackle by a score of men, and the studs beneath bent with the pressure. Suddenly, with a crash, the whole frame fell, and seven or eight men lay under and among the ruins. Lorin Wills, a young, recently-married mechanic, was crushed and bruised, and soon died. Deacon Rosa was badly hurt and rendered a cripple for life. Mr. King, a carpenter from an adjoining county, was so injured that amputation of a leg was necessary. Orrin R. Farnsworth got off with a fractured skull, was trepanned, and lived several years. William H. Stewart was severely hurt, but finally recovered, badly crippled. Adon Cobleigh fell uninjured, and Captain Jehiel Parsons caught on the plate and escaped a fall. This misfortune was the event of the time, and can never be forgotten by witnesses. In the summer of 1821, the people of the county seat and vicinity were duly notified that on a certain day a whale, twenty-two feet long, would be on exhibition at the Eagle Tavern. The time arrived and so did the whale. An old resident, who could not be mistaken, describes the object as "a well-preserved real whale, braced internally with wooden ribs, thoroughly dried, and shaped up so as to show the size and form as near as could be of the real fish." It was seen during the day by various parties. Some took the wagon into the street to dump the whale into the canal to see if it could swim, but it was hauled back and locked in the barn. About three A.M., a bright light shone out and aroused the citizens, who hastened out and found the whale on fire and nearly consumed in the middle of the street, just north of the Eagle barn. The hostler, a Frenchman, ran to the showman's room and called out, "Mr. Parsons! Mr. Parsons! Your codfish be all on fire!" Mr. Parsons arrived in time to cut off a tail-piece, about four feet in length.

About the year 1820, Seneca Falls and Fayette were visited by an odd-looking boy, clad in tow frock and trowsers, and barefooted. He hailed from Palmyra, Wayne County, and made a living by seeking hidden springs. This boy was Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism. On September 23, 1823, an angel appeared to Smith at Manchester, Ontario County, and told him that in the hill "Cumorah" lay buried golden plates on which was engraved the history of the mound-builders, full and complete. The plates were duly unearthed and the translation commenced. Three men believed the new doctrine, Martin Harris, a well-to-do farmer, David Whitmore, and Oliver Cowdry, whose pen gave the prophet great assistance. Harris mortgaged his farm for money to print the "Book of Mormon," went to Ohio, lost all, and came back a poorer and wiser man. Mrs. Harris consigned a hundred or more pages of manuscript to the fire, delayed the work, and, finding her husband infatuated, left him. Converts embracing the new faith, the first Mormon conference was held June 1, 1830, in the town of Fayette, Seneca County. W. W. Phelps published an anti-Masonic paper in Canandaigua, and Brigham Young is reported to have been a teacher and a religious exhorter in the same place.

Few but are familiar with the heroism of the young Marquis La Fayette. Enjoying wealth, rank, and influence, he nevertheless left all these, and, coming to America, found in Washington a bosom friend. Intrusted with a command, he lavished his fortune upon their equipment, and aided us through the Revolution

to its successful termination. Years passed. America developed grandly. Broad domains were peopled and cities by scores sprang into being. La Fayette was invited, in 1825, to visit this people, and when the old man came the enthusiasm was unbounded. His progress from point to point was a continuous ovation; bonfires blazed from the hill-tops, cannon thundered his coming, and deputations from one town escorted him to the next. From Geneva he came to Waterloo and Seneca Falls, and went thence to Auburn. Old soldiers flocked to meet him, and were received with the greatest kindness. Many persons on horseback and in carriages escorted him from Geneva, and when he had taken his position on the chamber stairs in the hall of the Waterloo Hotel, now Bunton's yeast factory, the multitude of men and women thronged in to shake his hand. Fatigued he certainly was, and this penance to a foolish custom marred the pleasure of an otherwise triumphal and happy tour of the country. The festivity of the occasion was interrupted by an accident and loss of life. An old swivel gun, which had been many voyages to Africa on the brig Pegasus, a Newport slaver, was being used to fire the salute. Not content with an ordinary load, a double charge of powder was put in and a mass of flax rammed in upon it, the charge being still further compressed by driving upon the rammer with an axe. The party were afraid to touch it off. Captain J. P. Parsons chanced to pass along, and, ignorant of the dangerous loading, took the burning match and touched it off. A tremendous report followed; the gun burst. A fragment struck and instantly killed the Captain, but of the throng around no one was hurt. Parsons left a mother and three sisters and a brother who depended on him for support, and when La Fayette learned of the accident he sent them a thousand dollars.

The celebrated preacher, Lorenzo Dow, preached in Seneca County on several occasions, more notably at a camp-meeting held on the west bank of Cayuga Lake, in October, 1821. A temporary log shelter had been erected to provide against storms; in this rude temple he addressed a large audience, drawn together by the fame of his strange manners and quaint expressions. In appearance, he was small of stature, dark complexion, long hair, and poorly dressed. In the pulpit, he was apt in expression, shrill in voice, and earnest in manner. Familiar with Scripture, blunt in their application, he won favor with the old settlers by his knowledge of their needs and evident sympathy with them. His text on this occasion was the well-known verse, "It is appointed unto man once to die, and after that the judgment."

The tour of Andrew Johnson, in his "swing around the circle," brought him through Seneca Falls and Waterloo. He was accompanied by Generals Grant and Sherman, and Secretary Seward, and spoke briefly to the crowds assembled. Various celebrities have, at times, visited the towns of Seneca; among these was Prince de Joinville, who, in 1843, came near closing his career in a Seneca swamp, owing to the act of a gamfn in turning the "old turnaround" switch, east of Seneca Falls village, and sending the engine, "Old Columbus," and all her train, off the track.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### MILITIA MUSTERS—WAR OF 1812—AN INCIDENT OF THAT PERIOD.

THE militia of New York consisted of every able-bodied male inhabitant between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, with exception favoring those religiously opposed to war. The report of the Adjutant-General, for 1809, gave a total enrollment of infantry, artillery, and cavalry, of 102,068. In 1811, there were deposits of military stores, among other places, at Onondaga, Canandaigua, and Batavia. Cannon were at these magazines ranging in calibre from thirty-two down to two pounders. Heavy ordnance, intended for the Niagara frontier, was brought from Albany on Durham boats by the "Seneca Lock Navigation Company," and landed at West Cayuga, now called Bridgeport; from there they were transported on stout, heavy sleds, built for that purpose. Taught by the recent war with England, the militia system was regarded as a timely precaution to guard against Indian depredation and foreign invasion. Territory was districted according to population; in sparsely populated regions, large tracts were drawn upon to form the companies. Privates supplied their own arms, and officers their own uniforms and side-arms. At a later date independent companies were equipped at their own expense. Four trainings were held during the year: the County trainings were two in number, held respectively on the first Monday of June and September; the battalion, or half regimental, and general, or regimental, trainings were held by appointments made by the field officers. Notice of musters was given, through lack of press and mail facilities, by personal visits of

non-commissioned officers to each militiaman. If absent, a written notice was placed upon the door of the house. A failure to attend resulted in a court-martial and fine. The first general training in Seneca County was held at Ovid, in 1802. Soon after, a regiment was organized for the north end of the County, at old Scayes, and, out of compliment, Wilhelmus Mynderse was chosen by the troops for Colonel, and duly commissioned by the Governor. Lambert Van Alstyn was Major and Hugh W. Dobbin Adjutant. Mynderse cared but little for martial exercises, and left the work of drilling to Van Alstyn and Dobbin, men who had seen service, and were destined to win honors in the threatened war. Colonel Van Alstyn kept boarding-house in the first tavern erected at Seneca Falls, and later known as the "Old Market." His charges were considered excessive, being never less than \$1.25 per week, and once reaching \$2.63. General Dobbin lived about four and a half miles west from Waterloo, and, at home and in the field, was a soldier by nature.

About 1811, an artillery company was formed, with headquarters at Seneca Falls. Captain Samuel Jacks, tavern-keeper, in the old building on Fall Street, Seneca Falls, was commander. A single gun, an iron nine-pounder, was drawn from the State. Captain Jacks led his company against the British and Indians during the war. The last survivor of his company was Hiram Woodworth, of Tyre. Anticipating a collision of arms, the Governor, early in the spring of 1812, called upon the militia regiments to furnish a company each for service upon the Niagara frontier. Promptly responding, Seneca sent out a company, under command of Captain Terry, from Ovid. These men were in barracks at Black Rock when news of the declaration of war by the United States arrived. Hostilities were immediately opened by an exchange of shots with the British artillerymen across the river. The regular army was augmented by forces of militia raised by drafts. The drafts were made for a period of three months. All the militia were called out in this way, and some were called upon a second, and even a third time. A few fled the draft. Substitutes were obtained at the maximum of thirty dollars for the three months. A private soldier's pay was five dollars per month, but was increased to eight dollars. The first engagement in which Seneca soldiers took a part was the struggle at Queenstown. The Americans were led by General Van Rensselaer, of Albany; the British by General Brock. The Americans crossed the river at daybreak of October 13, 1812, and were successful in the early part of the day, but the British being strongly reinforced from the garrison at Fort George, and the American militia being affected by the number of wounded brought over and averse to leaving their own territory, the comparatively small force of Americans engaged, after a gallant fight, was compelled to surrender as prisoners of war. Of men in the battle from Seneca, was a rifle company raised in Fayette, commanded by Captain David Ireland, and a few volunteers from the militia. All fought bravely until the inevitable surrender took place. Full one-third of the men whom Ireland led into action were killed or wounded.

The year 1813 closed with disaster to the United States forces on the Niagara frontier. The British assumed the offensive, and waged relentless and cruel warfare. On December 19, Colonel Murrey, with an armed force, surprised and captured Fort Niagara, commanded by Captain Leonard. Most of the garrison were bayoneted, and little quarter shown elsewhere. General McClure called on the militia of the western counties of New York to turn out *en masse*, to defend Buffalo and Black Rock. A panic spread throughout the country. The British were reported to be crossing the river. Thousands of militia, from Seneca and neighboring counties, took arms and began their march to Buffalo. On the evening of December 29, a British division crossed the river near Black Rock, and, on the morning of the thirtieth, was followed by a second division; the entire force under command of General Rial. A small force of regulars and a body of militia had been assembled by General Hall, who had arrived from Buffalo, and with these he attempted to make a stand. The militia soon gave way—were pursued, overtaken, and many of them tomahawked by the British Indians. The enemy moved on to Buffalo, which was given up to plunder and set on fire. It is recorded that a woman named Lovejoy, refusing to leave her house, was tomahawked, and her body consumed in the ashes of the dwelling. An express arriving at Canandaigua gave notice of the retirement of the enemy, and the militia, which had reached that place, returned to their homes and disbanded.

On June 25, 1814, a command known as "Colonel Dobbin's Regiment" was organized at Batavia, and proceeded to the frontier. Among the officers were Colonel Hugh W. Dobbin, Majors Lee and Madison, and Adjutant Lodowick Dobbin. Two companies went from Seneca; one from Ovid, commanded by Captain Hathaway; the other from Junius, officered by Captain William Hooper and Lieutenant Thomas W. Roosevelt, the latter of whom had seen two years' service. This regiment enlisted for six months, and were called New York Volunteers; they marched from Batavia to Black Rock, where they were joined by

a regiment of Pennsylvania volunteers and a body of Seneca warriors, and placed under command of General P. B. Porter. The battle of Chippewa was fought shortly after their arrival, and, all unused to the terrors of musketry fire, they did little service. Scott's brigade crossed Niagara River on July 3, and captured Fort Erie; they then advanced upon the British, who were encamped behind the Chippewa, a deep, still stream which runs at right angles to the Niagara; Ripley's brigade made the passage of the Niagara about midnight of the fourth, and Porter's on the morning of the fifth. The two armies lay about three-fourths of a mile apart. At 4 P.M., General Porter, circling to the left, approached the Chippewa; Dobbin's regiment was in line on the extreme left; the enemy, recognizing the force as militia, boldly left their trenches, crossed the stream, and expecting an easy victory, moved forward, and the lines of battle soon became warmly engaged. The clouds of dust and heavy firing indicated the state of affairs, and Scott's veterans were ordered straight forward. Unused to battle, Porter's command gave way, and, notwithstanding strenuous efforts, could not be brought forward again during the action. The enemy, elated by success, received the attack by Scott with coolness, and the combat became furious. Major Jessup was sent, with the Twenty-fifth regulars, to turn the enemy's right wing; he was pressed hard, both upon front and flank, but gave the order, "Support arms and advance;" his men obeyed in the midst of a deadly fire, and, gaining a secure and favorable position, opened a telling return fire, and compelled the British to fall back. Townsen, of the artillery, silenced the enemy's most effective battery, blew up an ordnance wagon, and opened with heavy discharges of canister upon the British infantry advancing to the charge. The enemy gave way, and were driven over the Chippewa into their works, with heavy loss. The battle of Bridgewater, or the Cataract, soon followed. A number of days passed, and the British, falling back, manoeuvred their force to deceive in regard to their ultimate designs, and meanwhile gathered vessels, and began to land troops at Lewiston, thereby threatening the capture and destruction of the baggage and supplies of the Americans at Schlosser. To prevent this, General Scott, with a part of the army, was sent to menace the forces at Queenstown. About sundown, of July 25, Scott encountered and hotly engaged the entire British army. Then was illustrated the old adage, that "he who fights and runs away may live to fight another day," for Porter's volunteers advanced to Scott's support with ardor, took ground on the extreme left, and in good order and with intrepidity held their position and repelled a determined charge by the enemy. Stimulated by the voices and example of Colonel Dobbin, Major Wood, of the Pennsylvania volunteers, and other officers, these raw but courageous troops precipitated themselves upon the British line, and made all the prisoners taken at this point of the action. Captain Hooper was killed during the engagement, which lasted far into the night, and a romantic association is given to the battle fought by moonlight—the roar of the cannon answered by the solemn sound of Niagara's falling masses.

Among various words of commendation by officers, were those of General Jacob Brown, in his official report to the Secretary of War. He says, "The militia volunteers of New York and Pennsylvania stood undismayed amidst the hottest fire, and repulsed the veterans opposed to them." Again, at Erie, the volunteers from Seneca acquitted themselves most nobly, and once more won official approval. Here fell Lieutenant Roosevelt, in action, in the woods back of Fort Erie, on September 4, 1814. The regiment returned home, and was mustered out of service at Batavia, on November 8, 1814. Of eighteen men, from what is now Tyre, in Hooper's company, six were killed, four died from disease and wounds, and but four returned unhurt. The present sole survivor of Captain Hooper's company is Jason Smith, a veteran of over eighty years, a life-resident of the town of Tyre, to which he gave the name on its formation. His discharge, printed upon plain paper, is headed "Honor to the Brave;" it certifies that his duty was faithfully and honorably discharged, and is signed by H. W. Dobbin, colonel commanding.

We have said that the volunteers returned in honor, but there were those who, in the regular service, contested foot by foot each battle-ground.

"They braved proud Britain's marshaled host,  
Her glittering pomp and pride,  
Nor feared to quench youth's patriot flame  
In life's red gushing tide."

Among these was a young man from his quiet home on the banks of the Cayuga, who entered the service under Scott. The battle of Queenstown Heights is familiar. A band of regulars, in open row-boats, set out to cross the swift river. Scott, tall and slim, stood upright in one of these. He checked confusion by the steadying order, "Be deliberate, be deliberate!" They were met on the hostile shore by a deadly fire; a ball crashed into the brain of the helmsman of a boat, scattering clotted fragments upon his comrades. The hand which held the tiller relaxed its grasp, and the boat swung round in the current. The Seneca soldier saw the peril, and instantly took the helmsman's place.

Landing without further loss, the boats returned with the dead and wounded. The sight of these struck terror to the reserved militia, and, despite entreaty by Van Rensselaer and others, they would not enter the boats. The regulars were overpowered, scattered, and some attempted to swim the river—a target for Indian riflemen. Our hero exhausted his ammunition, found himself alone, and stood upon the steep bank of the Niagara. Hastening along to find a descent to the river, with unloaded gun in hand, he stumbled upon a projecting root just as a spear whizzed swiftly by and over the precipice; a moment later, and, with fiendish yell, a stalwart Indian, springing forward, hurled a tomahawk. The weapon sped too high, cut through the bearskin cap, and, slightly wounding, stunned the regular. The savage caught the gun and tried to wrench it from its owner, who, though smaller than his enemy, was tough and sinewy, and held fast with tenacious grasp. Again and again the powerful savage, almost lifting the soldier from his feet, strove to obtain the coveted weapon. During the struggle the savage unconsciously neared the edge of the bank, which here was high and steep. A quick push, a loosened hold of the gun, and over the precipice went the assailant, with a malediction upon his lips. The gun was dropped, a footing sought, and an effort made to hold on to the bushes growing from the side. The soldier dashed his hand against the head of the man, and pushed him off; the act displaced a handkerchief, bound turban-like about his head, and showed the forehead of a white man. Down fell the savage white, till, striking full upon an upright cedar, its branch impaled him, and he died there an agonizing and lingering death. Again hurrying onward, he fell into the hands of a party of British soldiers, and was imprisoned at Queenstown. More than once came cannon-shot, fired by a son on the American side, close to the father, and one ball struck near his head. A war with the Indian allies, and premiums for scalps, with avarice and passion to kindle zeal, with close encounter to call for strength, was cruel and terrible, and while we bear a kind remembrance to our later heroes, we must not forget the deeds of valor and the keen anxiety of the soldiers of 1812 in the field, and their wives and mothers in the log cabins at home, and give to each the meed of heroism.

#### CHAPTER XIV.

GEOGRAPHICAL—TOWNS—VILLAGES—SURFACE—SOIL—PRODUCTS—WATER—COURSES—WATER-POWER—LAKES—NATURAL HISTORY—TREES—ANIMALS—REPTILES—FISH.

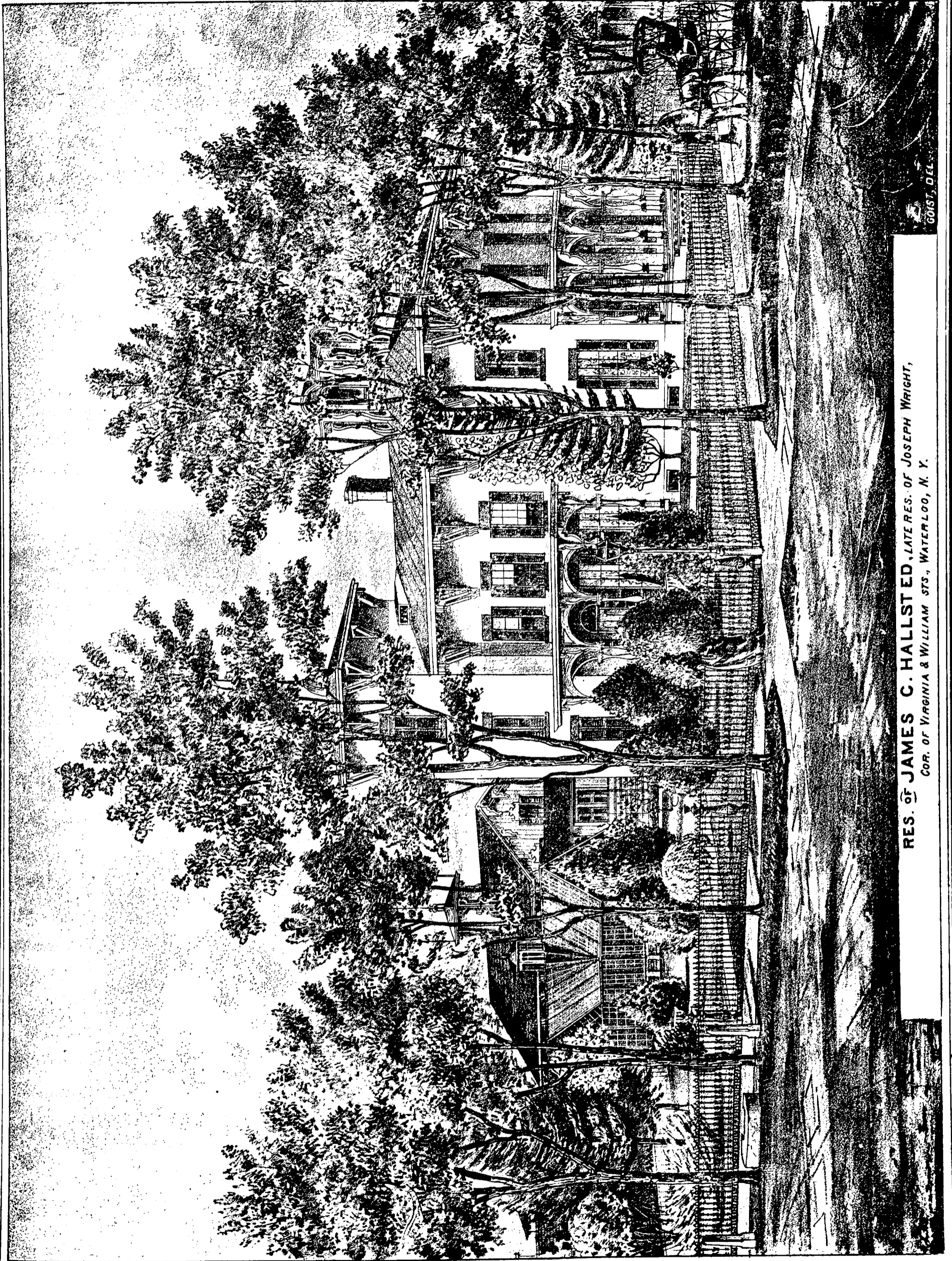
SENECA COUNTY is bounded by Wayne on the north, Cayuga and a small part of Tompkins on the east, Tompkins and Schuyler on the south, and by Yates and Ontario on the west. The area is four hundred and twenty square miles, and its location is in the central part of New York, one hundred and fifty-six miles west of Albany. It is inclosed on the east and west by Lakes Seneca and Cayuga. At present there are ten civil towns, Junius, Tyre, Waterloo, Seneca Falls, Fayette, Varick, Romulus, Ovid, Lodi, and Covert. Within their area are contained thirteen villages, three of which are incorporated. Ovid has priority from age; it was the former capital of the County, from 1804 to 1816, and contained court-house, jail, and other public buildings. Here originated some of the oldest churches in the County; here were born and lived some of the County's most prominent men, in letters and in arms, and in Ovid was started the first newspaper. The place is rich in historic association. Near the village are the fair-grounds. The Ovid Academy, further noticed elsewhere, was located in Ovid, and this institution, advantageously situated, became a widely-known and flourishing educational agency.

Waterloo is Seneca's second capital, for a time reigning supreme; she later shares the honors with the village of Ovid. It is situated on Seneca River, and has the advantages of canal and railroad, with valuable water-power, well improved. It was incorporated April 9, 1824, and is the seat of important factories, flouring mills, yeast-factory, and other manufacturing enterprises. The place has a National Bank, fine churches, good business houses, large school building, and handsome residences, with tasty grounds. The river is crossed by substantial bridges: The Towsley House, a large hotel, with others, offer excellent accommodations to guests, and the place supports a newspaper, and with postal facilities, fire precautions, and other agencies for comfort and safety, is well supplied. The metropolis of the County is the village of Seneca Falls, the site of very valuable hydraulic privileges, and the consequent seat of extensive and growing industries. An Act to incorporate the village passed April 22, 1831, and a new charter was granted April 24, 1837. The place is of easy access by numerous

trains east and west. It has an excellent post-office, two banks proper, and a savings institution, large, new, and costly church edifices, stately business houses, and private residences, embellished in architecture and surroundings by taste and skill. It has been cramped in its endeavors to avail itself of local advantages, and has been liberal for worthy projects, be it railroads, men and money to put down rebellion, aid to erect churches, or donations for the victims of the fire-fiend in other cities.

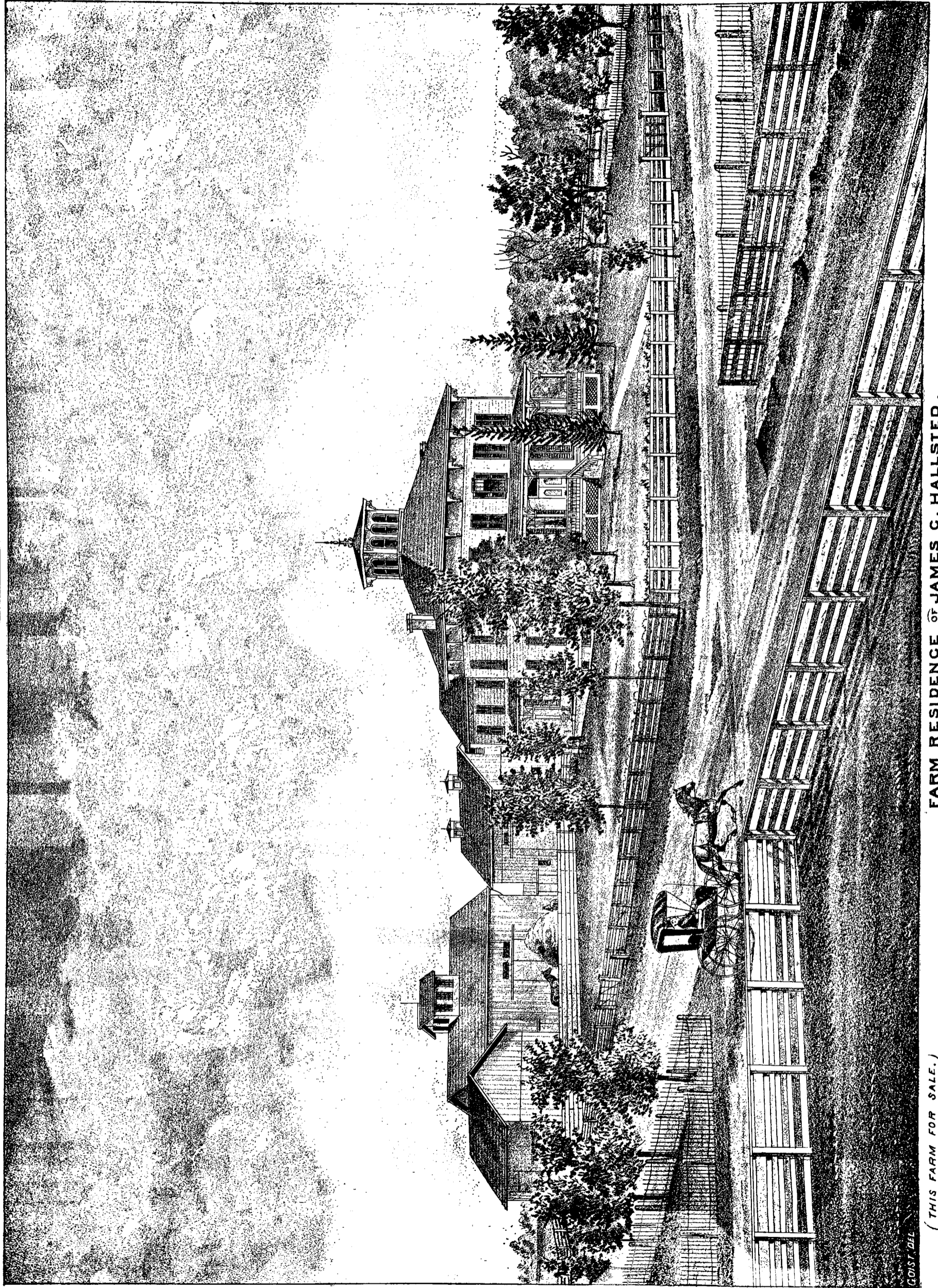
Among the lesser villages are Canoga, on Cayuga Lake; Farmer Village and Covert, in the south; West, Fayette, or Bearytown, in Fayette, on the line of Varick; Junius, a hamlet in the northeast; Lodi, a village south of Ovid; Romulus, a hamlet in the town of the same name, centrally located; Sheldrake Point, a steamboat landing in Ovid, on the Cayuga; Townsendville, near the south boundary of Seneca; and Tyre City in the north. Most of these places are convenient resorts for mails, grists, and lumber conveniences and church privileges. Upon the farm originally intended for the "State Agricultural College" is located the Willard Asylum for the Insane; the institution is on the east bank of Seneca Lake, in the town of Ovid, and is convenient of access both by steamboat and railroad. As a charitable institution, it is a work of humanity, and annually grows in importance. The surface is generally level. A high ridge upon the south slopes gradually downward toward the north. It is broken in places by steep declivities. Again, its slope tends downward to the level of the lakes, while southward it ends abruptly in bold, high bluffs upon the water-shores. The summit of the ridge is elevated seven hundred to eight hundred feet above Seneca Lake, and eleven hundred to twelve hundred and fifty above tide level. Lake bluffs sink from one hundred to one hundred and fifty feet at the head of Seneca to twenty feet at its foot. Upon Cayuga a bluff descends northward from two hundred feet to Romulus; thence northward one meets a low and shelving shore. Between the central summits of the ridge and those of the bluffs the surface has a smooth declivity, varied by natural terraces. From Ovid north the surface falls abruptly about two hundred feet, and thence sinks slowly as it stretches to the borders of Seneca River. North of Seneca and west of Cayuga outlets the lands are level, with portions marshy and subject to overflow. Alluvial ridges filled with gravel, in altitude some thirty to fifty feet, extending north and south, fill up the northwest parts of Junius; these slope smoothly southward, but are abrupt at other points. The lands of Seneca abound in contrasts. Not elsewhere in the State, in its romantic scenes, is found a spot more wild and beautiful than Lodi Falls in southwest Seneca. The waters pour along upon their shaly bed until, at Lodi Mills, they leap a precipice down one hundred and sixty feet to the basin below. The steep and rocky glen, the startling depth of fall, the native verdure, and the tangled foliage awaken awe and create emotions of mingled wonder and surprise. Again, in Tyre and Varick are large areas of waste and inundated lands. Six thousand acres lie useless in northeastern Tyre, and the eye looks along and over a tract of rich deposit, treacherous to the foot and useless to the cultivator, till co-operative drainage shall make it tillable and change the dismal scenery. In Varick eight hundred acres form the "Cranberry Swamp," a shallow, slate-rock basin, filled with vegetable debris, the source of miasma and cause of local sickness. Should one desire to view a distant landscape, of several points most eligible, he may stand on Seminary Hill, in Ovid. He may see in line of vision from below the bounds of Seneca, along the lake, fifteen miles northward to Geneva. Westward, seven miles, is seen the village of Dresden; southwest, eight miles, is Eddytown; ten miles northward is Benton Centre; and far beyond Penn Yan may be seen the mist-enshrouded hills of Jerusalem. Eastward is spread out Cayuga Lake, and on beyond Aurora, Levanna, Union Springs, and others,—in all a magnificent and extensive prospect. The elements of soil are known to intelligent farmers, who have had the earth upon their fields analyzed, and have learned a system of rotation of crops. The gradual crumbling of the shale of Wayne, swept down and ground to sand and clay, has made a layer in northern Seneca, which largely constitutes its soil. This great deposit of material emerging from the waters was acted on by heat and cold and atmosphere, and slowly rendered fit for vegetable life. A theorized current has heaped light sand and gravel in Junius, Tyre, and Waterloo, deposited clay and mould in southern towns, and sand along the lakes. Magnesia is abundant, but lime deficient, in the north of Seneca. Thick deposits of marl are numerous, and will fill the want of lime. The soil is mainly good, and well fitted for raising grain. The lowlands are constantly enriched by matter from the rocks above. A sandy tract at the foot of Seneca, once thought worthless, has been made productive at comparatively light expense, and in time the marshes of Tyre and Varick will be the richest farms of Seneca.

The natural products of Seneca County in the years preceding and subsequent to 1800 were not those known to the present occupants. The almost unbroken forest stretched northward between the lakes and away unlimited to the shores of Lake Ontario. Here could be seen oak-trunks with fifty feet of rail-cuts to the



RES. OF JAMES C. HALLSTED, LATE RES. OF JOSEPH WRIGHT,  
COR. OF VIRGINIA & WILLIAM STS., WATERLOO, N. Y.

GOIST, DEL.



FARM RESIDENCE OF JAMES C. HALLSTED,  
WATERLOO, N. Y.

(THIS FARM FOR SALE.)

COIST DEL

limbs; sugar maples, rich with the juices of spring's rising sap; the cucumber, with its highly-colored fruit; the birch, belted with the fibre which gave the name to the Indian canoe; the sassafras, whose root made healthful drink; the elm, with slippery inner bark; the butternut, freighted with oval nuts; the buttonwood, whose product, from its shape, had given its name; the basswood, used for puncheoned floor; the hickory, whose bark gave light for evening labor; and besides all these, the whitewood, ash, black walnut, dogwood, and a sprinkling of chestnut, cherry, and wild mulberry. Upon the crags along the lake banks grew the large red cedar, while pine and hemlock could be seen upon the banks of streams debouching in the lakes. Apple-trees were grown by Indians in their clearings, and wild plums of different varieties, and some of delicious flavor, were common in the swales, especially on the oak land. Fruit soon became plenty, excepting apples and pears, peaches being especially abundant. The earliest bearing apple-trees were owned by Silas Halsey and Turtellus Goff. The judge's orchard was north of the road, and some forty rods east of Paul Golbrie's, now Lodi Village, and Goff owned an Indian orchard at Goff's Point, now Lodi Landing. The fruit was indifferent, and grafted trees were unknown. Cider was brought, in winter, from the valley of the Mohawk, and purchased by the tavern-keeper at eight dollars per barrel. Potatoes were often dug as needed during the winter, as there was little frost, and the crop finished in the spring. The sap of the sugar-maple gave sugar, molasses, and vinegar. Pickles were made by placing cucumbers fresh from the vines in a composition of one gallon of whisky, four gallons of water, and a little salt. They were soon fit for use. Crab-apples and wild plums were used for preserves. Molasses was made from pumpkins, and pumpkins, cut up and cooked in the molasses, for preserves. Pared pumpkin, stewed, was known as "pumpkin butter." Old Indian corn-fields have been discovered overgrown with timber. Hills were still visible, from the custom of making a hill large enough for three clusters of stalks, and keeping up the hill for years. In later years fruit culture attracts general attention. Nearly every farmer has a growing orchard, and the huge trunks of many an apple-grove attest the value vested in that fruit. The peach is foreign to this clime, and to enjoy the luxury of this delicacy care must be taken to plant some trees each year. The pear thrives with ordinary attention. Charles Seekell, of Tyre, has a young and promising orchard, which in time will prove very valuable. The grape and smaller fruits are grown successfully. There are various nurseries in the County, some of large size. Ebert Taylor started a growth of young trees of various kinds at Waterloo; the business has now passed into the control of William H. Burton, who has over one hundred acres set out in young fruit-trees, and employs skilled labor in their culture.

While Seneca's formation forms no rivers, the lands are not deficient in water-courses. The chief stream is known as the Seneca Outlet; its waters give power to various manufactures at Waterloo; again, at Seneca Falls, they put in motion much machinery; thence they flow on and mingle with the northern current of Cayuga Lake, a mile and a half above its foot, augment the volume of the Oswego, and find rest in Lake Ontario. The Outlet is fourteen miles long. Prior to improvement its course was marked by several rapids, the chief of which gave the name to the village which sprang up about it. The fall was about forty-five feet, and was of service in running grist- and saw-mills at an early date. Kendig, or Big Creek, drains the western portions of Fayette, Varick, and Romulus. It flows parallel to Seneca Lake, and discharges into Seneca River at the farm of J. Ringer. Near the eastern part of Fayette, in the southwest part of District No. 9, is a spring known as the Canoga; its basin is fifteen feet across, and the pure water rising there has a rapid current to Cayuga Lake, furnishing thereby good power for grist- and saw-mills. Here, at Canoga, is the spot, marked by a tree, interesting as one of the claimed birthplaces of the chieftain Red Jacket; to this spot he is said to have come, when old, to look again upon the place of his origin. Mill Creek, rising in Schuyler County, flows north and west into Seneca Lake at Lodi Landing; the name is indicative of the advantages derived from its waters. Black Brook rises in northern Waterloo, flows eastwardly, bearing south, till at the outskirts of the village of Seneca it veers northward and becomes tributary to Canandaigua Outlet, which flows through the Montezuma marsh across the northeastern limits of Tyre. The eye of the observer is at once attracted and surprise occasioned by the heavy and swift current of Seneca River. An estimate of the discharge per minute of water from Crooked Lake, which is two hundred and seventy-one feet higher than Seneca Lake, compared with a like discharge from the latter, shows that a volume of water equal to eighty-eight thousand two hundred and forty-one gallons per minute is contributed by springs beneath the surface, together with various tributaries. That these subaquean springs exist is proven by the rising of columns of water from the bottom, causing an ebullition and paralyzing by their frigidity the limbs of bathers passing through them. An even temperature obtains in the vicinity of the lake from the waters escaping from seams in the dipping shale, rendering their surface cool in summer and warm in winter, as they acquire the temperature of the rocks through which they percolate.

The springs of Seneca furnish a topic of interest. The Canoga spring alluded to is noticeable for the escape from its orifice of large quantities of pure nitrogen, which rises rapidly in bubbles to the surface. Sulphuretted springs are common. On Lot 6, Seneca Falls, and Lot 54, Lodi, are examples. Chalybeate springs—oxide of iron changed to sulphate and dissolved in water—also exist, instances of which are the one on Lot 69, in Covert, and Lot 21, Tyre. A spring at Dublin, in the town of Junius, has the property of curdling milk. Some springs deposit lime, and an example near Ovid shows the deposit profusely. The Lodi spring gives off a gas generated in the marshes; it is of carburetted hydrogen, and burns with a light, pale flame. On Lot 58, in Lodi, is a bituminous spring; the bitumen being more generally known as Seneca oil, and found in enormous quantities in northwestern Pennsylvania, giving rise after a process of distillation to the petroleum or kerosene of commerce.

From spring and stream the transition is easy to lakes, from which Seneca derives great advantages. On the west of Seneca County is Seneca Lake, thirty-nine miles long and four miles wide at its broadest point. Its greatest depth is six hundred and thirty feet below the surface, and its mean temperature about fifty-four degrees. Upon the east side of Seneca is Cayuga Lake, less in volume and lower in temperature than its twin upon the west. Cayuga is thirty-eight and a half miles long from north to south; its deepest water is near Myer's Point, where it reaches a depth of three hundred and ninety-six feet; being shallow, it has occasionally frozen in winter and closed navigation.

The scenery along these lakes is renowned for its panoramic beauty. Rock-ribbed shores, jutting points, deep ravines, with falling streams, and a wealth of wild, romantic glens, give pleasure to the lover of nature and the tourist in their varied consonance with placid or impassioned mood. During the summer season the scene is enlivened by the presence of sloop and schooner sailing from point to point, or along these lakes, while steam navigation companies do a handsome business in passengers and freight. Among familiar names on Seneca Lake are the Onondaga, the Magee, Ontario, Schuyler, and Elmira,—boats fitted for comfort, pleasure, and facility of travel.

An interesting article concerns the lake-fisheries of 1834, and the changes since. In that earlier day, lake trout and white-fish were caught some distance down the lake, and pickerel and perch were rarely seen. Now the former are nearly extinct, and the latter swarm in the waters. During the months of November and December, trout spawn in shallow water, and the young fish fall easy prey to the perch and pickerel which seek them there. The white-fish can be seen some distance, and the perch have been observed to follow in their wake devouring the spawn. As low down as the Cayuga canal-lock, white-fish were plenty in 1850, but have disappeared. The black bass have been thinned out by the fresh-water shark. Where once a circuit trolled of several miles has been rewarded by a dozen bass, weighing from three to five pounds, now the same distance may be trolled and none secured. Oswego bass live and breed in shallow water, protected by the weeds and grasses which germinate in these marshy portions. They are abundant, and caught easily with hook and line. The pike, once common, is seldom met. Spear in hand, the boys of that elder day secured many a one of these fine fish. The muscalonge resembles the pickerel, frequents the rivers, and attains a weight of from five to twenty pounds. In the spring of 1874, 73,000 salmon-trout were put into Cayuga Lake from the propagating beds of Caledonia, 4000 brook-trout in Newfield Creek, and some 12,000 in the inlet. Something over 400,000 fish have been put in the lake and its headwaters through the enterprise of the Ithaca Game Club, and, as a result, the water is well stocked with these excellent species. All in all, lakes, falls, and springs, contribute to make Seneca County one of the most attractive portions of Central New York.

## CHAPTER XV.

AGRICULTURE—TRADE—ROUTES FOR MARKETS—GRAINS—AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—STATISTICS—AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE—PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

THE tillage of the earth is ancient and honorable. It is the basis upon which rests the superstructure of trade and commerce. It is the one source of human support. About the year 1790, Seneca County received the first scattered seed from the hand of the white man. Deprived of access to store and shop, the settler drew from the soil and forest a supply for every want. Step by step needs have been met, till the intelligent farmer, in dwellings, fences, fields, machinery, stock, and crops, stands forth, in truth, an independent and progressive man. The tendency of land tenure is a reduction of area. A military lot of six

hundred acres, purchased by a pioneer, is divided among his children. As a result, the greater number of farms contain but one hundred acres, down to twenty-five and less, while but two or three farms reach the size of six to nine hundred acres. Experience demonstrates that small farms produce better yield, from the greater care in cultivation. We have recounted the privations and expedients of the olden-time farmer, the rude machinery, the hard labor, and the scanty fare; but soon, aside from home consumption, came an export of surplus wheat and corn. Mynderse and Swift created a home market. Colonel Mynderse began paying cash for wheat in 1804, and a few years later "cash for wheat and other produce" became a common sign in every village. The first market was Elmira, and, by land or water, the transportation was difficult, and farmers received low prices. The prices of various products in 1801 were as follows: Wheat, 75 cents, corn, 37½ cents, and rye, 50 cents per bushel; hay, \$6 to \$12 per ton; butter and cheese, 11 to 16 cents per pound; salt pork, \$8 to \$10 per hundredweight; whisky, 50 to 75 cents per gallon; salt, \$1 per bushel of 56 pounds, or \$5 per barrel; sheep, \$2 to \$4 per head; cattle, for driving, \$3 to \$4 per hundred; milch cows, \$16 to \$25 per head; horses, \$100 to \$125 per span; working oxen, from \$50 to \$80 per yoke; laborers' wages, \$10 to \$15 per month, including board; a suit of home-made clothes brought \$4 to \$5; and shoes, \$1.75 to \$2.50 per pair. In 1804, produce was taken to Albany in sleighs in winter, and boats in summer. Enormous wagons, with wide tires, and drawn by several teams, conveyed away the surplus of the farms. The farmers of to-day live ignorant of pioneer experiences; the axe, the maul and wedges, the sickle, scythe, and hoe, are relics of a past system. The stumps are gone from the clearings, the log house has crumbled or been torn down, the old well-sweeps have finally all disappeared, and in the rooms of the historical societies only are seen former utensils, while in the old and prosperous agricultural fair are seen the numerous labor-saving machinery of the present day. The staple grain produced in Seneca has constantly been wheat. Fully one-fourth of all plowed land is devoted to the production of this important cereal. In the year 1840, the yield was about 350,500 bushels, and its average up to date is about half a million bushels. The average product per acre has increased from ten bushels, in 1840, to twenty. Unusual seasons, an absence of or too great abundance of rain, backward weather, and the ravages of insects, have tended to reduce both quality and quantity. In several instances forty bushels have been produced upon one acre. Wheat raised in Seneca has given sixty to sixty-two pounds to the bushel. Among the varieties were the Hutchinson, Soles, Mediterranean, White Flint, and, more recently, the Clawson wheat, which has the following history: In 1866, Garret B. Clawson, while crossing a recently harvested field of several varieties of wheat grown together, observed among the stubble some uncommonly fine-appearing heads. Saving and sowing them, he grew two varieties. One of these was the Clawson, having red chaff, being beardless, free from rust, hardy, early to mature, and heavy to yield. In a fair test, side by side, of Diehl wheat and the Clawson, the advantage was evidently with the latter.

Indian corn is to the manor born. We have spoken of the surprise among Sullivan's soldiers at the fields in cultivation upon their famous expedition. The yield in 1840 was about 175,000 bushels. A growing demand stimulated production in 1847, and resulted in a yield of 409,480 bushels. The crop of 1850 was estimated at 277,000 bushels, and there were harvested in 1864 497,753 bushels. These figures indicate a growing attention to this crop. Among varieties of oats, the black oat is the most reliable. The progress of production gives an increase of 213,826 bushels, in 1840, to 337,821 in 1864. The barley crop shows little change, the annual yield being about 125,000 bushels. Rye is raised to a limited extent, and a light yield discourages its production. Buckwheat is used as a fertilizer. Flax, once extensively raised for the supply of clothing-material, was seen to be exhausting to the land, and but 556 acres were sown in 1864. Potatoes, once limited to actual needs, are now raised in large quantities. The crop of 1849 gave 80,000 bushels, while that of 1864 is reported at 126,522 bushels. The sowing of spring wheat has attracted attention, and a beginning has been made, which will be increased as the winter crop fails, and success attends the raising of the former. The thoughtful farmer selects for seed from the cleanest and best, acts upon the principle of like producing like, and rotates his crop. The experience of Seneca farmers has confirmed the theories of the scientific, and their association has tended to disseminate to all individual discoveries. Early crude farming permitted a growth of weeds, which were injurious to crops, and depreciated their value. The early efforts by town legislation to eradicate the thistle were impotent until united effort was secured. Old-time enemies of the agriculturist were what was denominated pigeon-weed, thistle, chess, cockle, wild mustard, daisy, may-weed, dock, and bind-weed; besides, there are mullein, burdock, and sorrel. Neglect is shown by a speedy appearance of one or more of these pernicious weeds upon the farm.

The Germanic origin of many Seneca farmers is shown by the construction of

commodious barns and sheds. The barn is placed upon a side-hill affording a warm resort for cattle, and rendering the work of feeding easy. While there are some wire fences, the majority are of board and rail. The board fence is of the best, but requires renewal, which in many cases is neglected. The old bars are replaced by gates which are convenient and sightsome. The need of under-drainage was long experienced, and John Johnson, of Fayette, in 1835, imported drain tiles from Scotland. Under his superintendence tile were manufactured at Scauyes in 1839, and his farm soon attested the advantages of their use. The first cost was twenty-eight cents a rod, and prevented general introduction. A machine for making drain tiles and pipes was imported from England, and placed in the hands of B. F. Whartenby, of Waterloo, in 1848. The price of tile was reduced, drains were laid at a cost of three shillings per rod, and the system was adopted with full remuneration in products of lands in consequence. Mr. Johnson has laid a number of miles of drain upon his farm, and enjoys the reputation of being considered the leading agriculturist in Seneca County.

The use of poor implements and the high price of labor left small profit for the farmer, but the invention of various machines has enabled him to dispense with so much of hired labor, or use it to better advantage. Contrast the old "Bull plow" (one of which is in the possession of Jason Smith, of Tyre) with the Seneca County plow of Newcomb & Richardson, of Waterloo; the A harrow of the pioneer with Ode's patent cultivator; the hand sickles or the swinging cradle with the numerous excellent reapers; the flail with the thresher; the hoe with the cultivator, and carry forward the contrast at will, and see what encouragement the farmer has to-day to exercise with pride and pleasure his vocation. Improvement of stock has been a laudable desire of Seneca farmers, and to the efforts of an association of Junius agriculturists is owing the excellence of cattle, further promoted by subsequent purchases. The first Durham bull was purchased in October, 1834, at the State Fair, by the united means of Joel W. Bacon and Richard P. Hunt, of Waterloo, Franklin Rogers, Israel Fiske, Stephen Shear, O. Southwick, and others of Junius. In 1834, the association bought the heifer Strawberry, sprung from imported Durham stock. G. V. Sackett and Mr. Clark purchased the bull Copson, dam by Strawberry; and in 1838, the bull Forager, from the stock of Thomas Widdell, was bought and introduced by Messrs. Bacon, Sackett, and Hunt. The exhibition of fine stock at the annual fairs shows creditably for these breeders, and the large products of the dairy prove the wisdom of their action. Of horse breeders in Seneca, Ira H. Coleman, of Lake View stock farm, at Sheldrake, in the town of Ovid, takes the lead. He began in 1863 the improvement of horses, and had, in 1871, some fifty colts and horses of thoroughbred and trotting blood, and half a dozen beautiful stallions, namely, Seneca Chief, Cayuga Star, American Star, Bashaw-Abdallah, Abdallah-Bashaw, and Mambrino Hambletonian. Earlier breeders were the Ingersols, John and Charles W., and N. Waheman, of Covert, who obtained a fine horse, known as "Texas Jim," in 1838. The raising of sheep began with the century. Dr. Rose, in 1803, introduced the system by the establishment of a small flock of Southdowns upon his extensive farm in Fayette. The flock was improved in 1813-14 by a purchase of merinos, and again, in 1820, he secured a number of Saxon bucks from Connecticut, paying for them fifty dollars each. The result was fine wool and light fleeces. A flock of one thousand seven hundred and fifty was kept, and the wool-clip in 1830 sold at 87½ cents to \$1.00 per pound. All varieties of sheep have been brought to Seneca, but the merino has long had the preference. The price of wool being low discouraged sheep-husbandry, and from seventy-two thousand head in 1845, the number decreased, in 1850, to thirty-five thousand. The War of the Rebellion gave an unwonted stimulus, in price and quantity, and in 1865 there were fifty-seven thousand eight hundred and forty head owned in the County. The breeding of swine is not extensively engaged in. The first instance on record of improvement in this useful animal in Seneca County is of the importation from England, by Joel W. Bacon, of Waterloo, in 1834, of a full-blood Berkshire. Dr. Henry Reeder, about 1841, brought several of this breed into the town of Varick, and in 1847, a pair of Chinese pigs were imported from Canton for the Oaklands farm. The number of swine in Seneca County in 1845 was twenty-two thousand; in 1850, eleven thousand five hundred; and in 1865, thirteen thousand six hundred and sixty-three, the number slaughtered in 1864 having been twenty-four thousand two hundred and ten. As might be inferred, the dairy interest assumes considerable importance. The yield of butter, in 1850, was 521,974 lbs., and in 1864, 690,428 lbs. Not the least of Seneca's agricultural sources of wealth is its poultry and eggs. The statistics of 1848 show 44,500 hens and 356,000 eggs; those of 1865 give the value of the former \$27,466.75, and of the latter sold in 1864, \$16,752.97. It is with regret that we are obliged to refer to a past, since the census report of 1876, complete in material, is not in a condition to be made available. The relation of wages to labor is a matter of importance; parsimony in employment results in indifferent crops, while an excess consumes the profits



of the farmer. The most serviceable laborer is he who is employed by the year. The rates of wages for labor, in 1850, were half a dollar a day, \$12.00 per month, and \$96 to \$120 by the year. Female labor was from fifty cents to one dollar per week, board and lodging found by the farmer. The wages for 1875 were, for a common hand, \$1.50 per day; haying, \$2.00; \$20.00 to \$30.00 per month were paid for ordinary labor and for harvesting respectively. Housework received \$2.50 per week. The report of crops in 1874 gives wheat as but one-third of a yield, apples a poor crop, other products ordinary. Associations of persons engaged in like pursuits are well known to be valuable for the opportunity of disseminating information and stimulating exertion, and from a very early date agricultural fairs were annually held in the County. In 1838 an annual fair was held at Ovid, of which Alvah Gregory was Secretary. A fair and cattle show was held at Lodi, Augustus Woodworth being President, and the highest premium three dollars. A horse fair was held at Waterloo on September 2, 1857, at which the time in a trotting trial was two minutes and fifty seconds.

It was not till June 19, 1841, that a permanent agricultural society was formed in Seneca, whose meetings and fair up to the present have grown in importance and value under capable and prominent leadership. The Seneca County Agricultural Society was organized at the date aforesaid, to promote the interests of agriculture and household manufacture, under the Act for the Encouragement of Agriculture, passed May 5, 1841. Meetings were to be held alternately at the court-house in Ovid, and Waterloo; the first being held in the court-house in Ovid. At the organization at Bearytown, the first officers were G. V. Sackett, of Seneca Falls, President; A. V. Dunlap, Ovid, Recording Secretary; Samuel Williams, Waterloo, Corresponding Secretary; and John D. Coe, Romulus, Treasurer. The first fair held at Ovid, on October 21 and 22, 1841, resulted financially with cash on hand. Statistics were read by the President, G. V. Sackett, and an address delivered by A. B. Dunlap. At this fair Jeremiah Thompson, with a Wisconsin plow, won the first premium in the plowing match, the Committee of Award being the following well-known pioneers: Andrew Dunlap, William Sackett, Jonas Seeley, Joseph Stull, Elijah Kinne, Nicholas Gulick, John Sayre, Caspar Yost, and David Harris. Of premiums awarded, best butter and cheese was given to Andrew Dunlap; best crop of wheat to Peter Covert; best half-acre of potatoes, John V. Groves; best specimens of cocoons, Mrs. C. Joy; and best cloth, Helen Sutton; the premiums being of two and three dollars, and of honorary value. The fairs have been held at Ovid, Seneca Falls, Waterloo, and Farmerville. Under the "Act to facilitate the forming of Agricultural Societies" passed April 13, 1855, the society was reorganized in February, 1856. Among its Presidents occur the names of G. V. Sackett, John Delafield, John Johnson, and Orin Southwick. The last session, being the thirty-seventh, held at Waterloo, closed October 7, 1875. Judge John D. Coe, Treasurer for thirty years, reports the receipts the heaviest taken since the organization. Lyman F. Crowell, President; Chas. H. Sayre, Vice-President; A. D. Baker, General Superintendent; and J. R. Wheeler, Secretary. In the plowing match, E. Anderson, of Varick, obtained the first premium of ten dollars, and Matthew Simpson, of Varick, for the best sample of butter, four dollars. Leading agriculturists, among whom was Delafield, became impressed with the advantages likely to result from a school of agriculture, and the subject being agitated, a farm was purchased by the State on the west border of the town of Ovid. The farm contained six hundred and eighty-six acres, five hundred cultivated; it was in dimensions two and one-half miles east and west, by five-eighths wide, situated on an inclined plane, and having a rise of five hundred and fifty feet. Plans of a building were presented, and Hewes was appointed architect. Work began on September 8, 1857. The foundation of the outside walls were constructed of stone weighing four to five tons each, nine to twelve feet wide, and three and one-half deep, laid in hydraulic cement. The completed building was to be three hundred and twenty feet long, fifty-two feet wide, and four stories above the basement; the wings were to be two hundred and six feet long, and same width and height of main building; the centre projection to be seventy-nine feet long by sixty-four wide. An octagonal cupola, in diameter thirty-six feet, and rising fifty feet from the apex of the roof. The rooms to seat thirteen hundred persons; ten lecture-rooms, two hundred and twenty chambers for students, two students in each. The entire cost was estimated at one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars. The corner-stone was laid on Thursday, March 2, 1858, with impressive ceremonies. An extract from the address then delivered contained the following beautiful contrast:

"Almost on the very spot, where fifty or more years before, the famous Indian queen, Catharine Montour, had erected her wigwam and received the attentions of savage attendants in the midst of a reign of rudeness and barbarism, now in the lapse of time a noble institution is upbuilt—a triumph of modern civilization."

School was opened under the control of General Patrick, who left for the army

during vacation, and Cornell having proposed a new basis for an agricultural college, to be founded at Ithaca, the buildings and farm, beautifully, conveniently, and healthfully located, were set apart for a home for the chronic pauper insane, and the Cornell University entered upon its encouraging career.

The farming community throughout the country, oppressed by exactions in transportation and purchases, sought relief by the organization of a society, known as "Grangers." The movement grew in popularity and spread like wild-fire; hundreds of granges were formed, and their membership was among the hundreds of thousands. Granges were organized in Seneca County early in 1874. The order is known as Patrons of Husbandry, and includes only those persons whose nearest and best interests are connected with agriculture. The first grange was instituted by George Sprague, Esq., Secretary of New York State Grange, at Dublin, in the town of Junius, on January 8, 1874, and was known as No. 34. W. W. Van De Mark was elected Master, and Henry Bishop Overseer. The East Fayette Lodge, No. 40, was instituted on January 9, 1874, and others rapidly followed, until there are now twelve lodges in the County, with a membership of about one thousand. In 1875, a County Council was organized, with E. S. Bartlett, Master, and E. J. Schoonmaker Secretary. The following exhibits numbers, locality, and present officers:

No. 34, Junius; Master, W. W. Van De Mark. No. 40, East Fayette; Master, S. W. E. Viele. No. 44, Seneca; Master, Wm. G. Wayne. No. 64, Kendaia; Master, John F. Falladay. No. 88, Tyre; Master, Wm. A. Stevenson. No. 116, Rose Hill; Master, U. D. Bellows. No. 139, Magee's Corner; Master, Emery Story. No. 155, Ovid; Master, Theodore Dowers. No. 160, Farmer's Village; Master, W. W. Boorum. No. 213, Lodi; Master, Walter I. Traphagan. No. 249, West Fayette; Master, Wm. Eshernour. No. 250, Mount Pleasant; Master, John Monroe.

The paramount importance of husbandry is generally admitted, and the farmers of Seneca, in the various branches of their profession, as outlined above, are shown to have kept pace with the progressive spirit of the age.

## CHAPTER XVI.

GEOLOGY—ONONDAGA SALT GROUP—GYPSUM GROUP—MARCELLUS SHALE—SENECA LIMESTONE—HAMILTON GROUP—TULLY LIMESTONE—GENESEE SLATE AND DRIFT DEPOSITS.

THERE is no subject connected with the history of Seneca County so little understood, and yet so full of interest, as that which treats of its rock formations. To him who, observing the formation of rocks, seeks to know further, are offered the facts contained in this chapter, which are based upon the survey by Dr. Thomas Antisell made for and contained in the Agricultural Survey of the County of Seneca, by John Delafield, for the New York State Agricultural Society, in 1850. Above primary or granite rock, rests clay slate, and above this is a siliceous and argillaceous rock, formed by deposit from salt water, and bearing the name of Silurian. This rock, underlying the northern surface of Seneca, is known as the Onondaga Salt Group,—Seneca limestone and varieties of shale. The rocks being formed, volcanic action ceased; the seas retired, and sandstone was raised above the water level. This rock is known as the old red sandstone, and lies in the extreme southern part of the County. Above the sandstone, and of more recent origin, are found in order, limestone with coal beds, magnesia, limestone, new red sandstone, serpentine, and chalk, with the green-sand of New Jersey. It is thought that an inland sea submerged the surface of western New York, and observations tend to prove the theory. The Ontario Lake Ridge shows seven distinct shores upon its side, from the crest to the present shore. Like shores exist at the head of Seneca Lake. A vast current, sweeping south-eastward, deepened the valley northward in Seneca, and the lakes on either side were southern outlets, by way of the Susquehanna, to the ocean. At a level of nine hundred and eighty feet the flow from Cayuga stopped; ninety feet farther subsidence and the drainage from Seneca ceased to the south, and the present flow began.

The lowest and oldest secondary rock in the County is called the Onondaga Salt Group. Upon it, and partaking of its slope southward, are a series of beds, classified as blue and green shale, next above, green and ash-colored marls, and upon this bed, gray marls and shales, with beds of gypsum. No lines divide these beds, but the order is readily perceived. This group extends as a belt across the County, and occupies the lands north of the outlet. Its existence is not

externally perceived, save by the various springs. It is exposed by digging for wells, at a varying depth of fifteen to fifty feet. The upper beds of the bank may be seen under the falls of the outlet, at the village of Seneca Falls. Upper beds of gypsum are less valuable than those deeper, yet pure plaster can readily be procured from the higher deposits. The entire soil between the river and Cayuga Bridge is underlaid with gypsum, and eastward the railroad cut exposed the plaster covered with some twenty-five feet of clay. The limestone lying upon the group at Seneca Falls is dense with cavities filled with crystallized incrustations of carbonate of lime. Above the limestone is a bed of stone which changes from blue to gray on exposure; it is known as silico-argillaceous limestone, and from it has been made water-cement. A mill at Seneca Falls is built of this stone, taken from the vicinity. Over the Seneca limestone is a blue fossiliferous slate, termed Marcellus shale. Its characteristics are black and blue-black slate, fragile and laminated. Crushing under slight pressure, it decomposes to tenacious clay. It extends from the Cayuga to the Seneca, where it is widest, and includes the northern and middle portions of Fayette. The slate can easily be examined, as it is seen upon the roads, in the turned furrow, and the débris of wells. Its ridges are the estimated result of expansion of sandstone and the contraction of slate under the influence of heat. The Marcellus shale is a thin layer, reaching its greatest depth of sixty feet on the Seneca Lake shore, and thinning to the north and east. The Seneca limestone lies over the gypsum group, and marks its southern margin. It is a stone of fine grain, a deep blue, and, from the presence of alumina, varies downward from a gray to an ashy shade. In its strata are masses of hornstone, increasing to the west of the County and thinning the limestone. By the dissolution of the calcareous matter the jagged hornstone is brought to view, and stones from this bed are scattered over the surface southward. The shale above the limestone varies from four to eight feet, while the limestone itself, in half a dozen strata of nine to eighteen inches thickness, does not exceed thirty feet depth. It is not seen to be the gathered remains of molluscs, corals, and shelled animals, but a deposit of mud upon a limestone basis rapidly and deeply made. The upper beds are fissured, and fit for the kiln; a fourth, fifth, and sixth bed beneath the surface yield large blocks of stone. The third and thickest bed has a depth of four feet. The Seneca limestone constitutes a durable and beautiful building material, and its production constitutes an important industry of the County.

Under the caption of the Hamilton group are included the rock-beds lying under the middle of the County, from the boundary of Romulus, and portions of Ovid, northward. Its name originates from the place of its development, in the County of Madison. It is arranged in six series, five of shale, one of limestone. The group lies between the Marcellus shale and the Tully limestone. Its beds are of immense thickness, reaching a depth of six hundred feet. The ravines on the lake shores expose the strata, more especially on the Seneca eastern shore. Of the six beds, the first, a "dark, slaty, fossiliferous shale," underlies the town of Varick and the southern part of Fayette. It is argillaceous, and contains the shells of testaceous animals. In places in Fayette, it is covered to a depth of thirty feet by drift clay and alluvium. The second stratum is fissile and calcareous when touched by limestone, but higher up receives a manganese mineral which gives it a dark olive tint. On exposure, it crumbles into soil. On Lot 71, Romulus, it is exposed, and shows a depth of one hundred and fifty feet. The "Moscow shale" is the highest stratum of the group, thick, dark blue, seamed, and near the Tully limestone fossiliferous. It is easily decomposed, and contains iron pyrites. Its greatest breadth is nine miles, and the thickness of the beds, including the Marcellus shale, is one thousand feet.

Above the Moscow shales lies the Tully limestone, so called from Tully, in Onondaga. It is the last bed formed by deposit of sediment, and the most southern in the State. Compact and fine-grained, it is, at times, argillaceous, at others, calcareous, and has an average depth of eleven feet and an extreme of thirteen feet. It is traceable in Romulus, on the east edge of Lot 89, whence, dipping, it reappears in Ovid, on Lots 5 and 6, where it is over twenty rods wide, and is lost at Sheldrake point of Cayuga Lake. On Lot 42, it appears, crosses a ravine, curves south, and is lost under the Genesee slate. On the ravine below the falls of Lodi, it is fifteen feet above the water, and rises gradually to a height of sixty feet. Its course may be followed, alternately sinking and rising, through Lodi, Ovid, and Romulus. The action of water in the ravines has cut through and exposed its layers, which are strikingly uniform in character. Of five courses of stone, the lowest, and thickest, averages nearly five feet, with vertical distant joints, facilitating the quarrying and removal of large stones. Being compact, it resists the friction of the current, and, the underlying slate giving way, a ledge projects farther and farther over the chasm, till the leverage is too great, and a mass is broken off into the ravine, where its presence is beneficial as a break-water against further destruction of the banks. The lime of Tully limestone, obtained from the lowest bed, is pure, and the blocks being easily reached, and

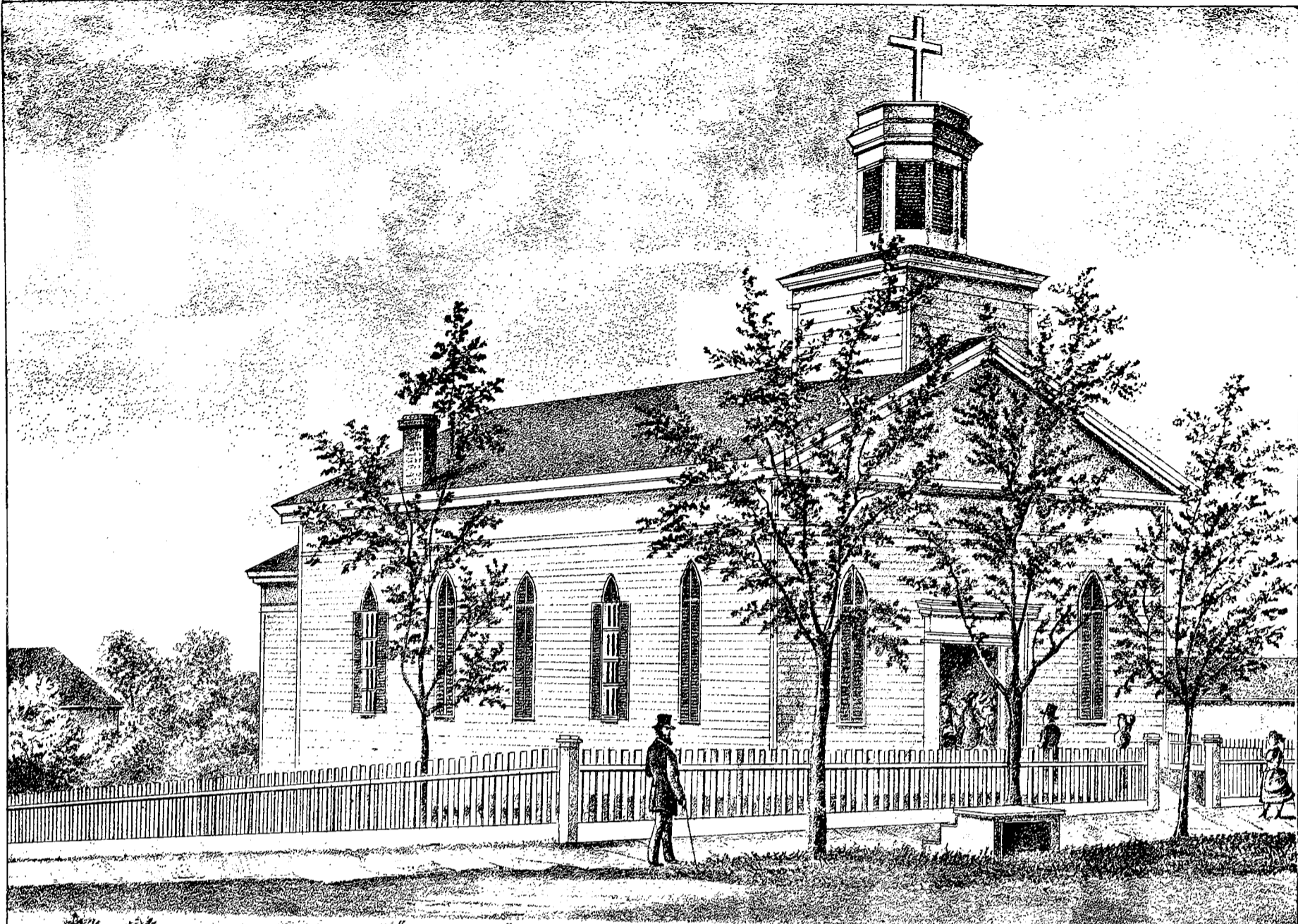
firm, offer a field for enterprise and profit. A great part of Southern Seneca is covered by Genesee slate, which underlies an area of sixty-five square miles. Influenced by the weather, it splits into pieces, but stands the action of fire for long periods unaltered. Its depth extends from one hundred to two hundred feet. It reaches the latter extreme at the Lodi falls, where good views of its appearance can be had. The bed is argillaceous, with beds of black slate and shale. Between the beds are layers of sandstone. The joints are a dozen or more feet apart, vertical, and run an east-west course and a north-by-east direction, and allow of the removal of large sheets of flagstone. Various quarries are opened, of which the one on Lot No. 86, in the town of Covert, is most extensive, and from which the best flagstones have been taken. Huge stones have been quarried here and transported to the different leading cities. A four-foot stratum of clay and a two-foot stratum of shale cover the beds. Only three to four feet deep, the lateral extent is practically unlimited, and sheets are raised twelve feet square and half a foot in thickness.

The attention of many has been arrested by the presence of foreign boulders upon the surface of the lands, or imbedded in their clay, and conjecture has been busy to derive their origin. It is attributed to the action of water, and is one of two classes of material so conveyed; the second kind being beds of clay, sand, or gravel. The boulders are most numerous in the northern towns, and are rare in those southern. The upward slope of the land southward explains the reason, as there must needs be a strong current to bear those heavy masses forward. These boulders are all fragments of granite or primary rock, formed by the fusion of mica, quartz, and feldspar. The granitic masses in Junius are white, while smaller stones are flesh-colored. In Tyre, large boulders are found together with smaller of greenstone porphyry. They are confined principally to these two northern towns. Granite is found abundant in Ovid and Romulus, and much less so in Lodi and Covert, and in small masses. In southern Fayette, limestone is seen as a drift-rock, and is traced far south of the bounds of the County. There is no apparent line of deposit for these boulders, and hence they are not regarded as the result of glacial action. The ridges of finer material are formed by like aqueous action. These ridges are abundant in Junius, and lie in a south-southeast course. In Tyre, they are found in the northwest and middle regions. Following downward, with little variation, in Seneca Falls and Waterloo, we find the hills flattened in Fayette, and only traceable in Varick and Romulus in even layer and fine material. It is noticed that the sand is more heavily deposited on the shores of the lakes in the southern towns than over the central lots. The depth of the drift deposit varies from one or two to fifty feet, being deepest at the north. The deposits in the north are derived from localities farther north; those in the south, from that immediate region. A summary shows that the rock formations of the County furnish cement, building- and flag-stone, and good lime, and contain the elements of a soil's renewal and a source of highly valuable industry.

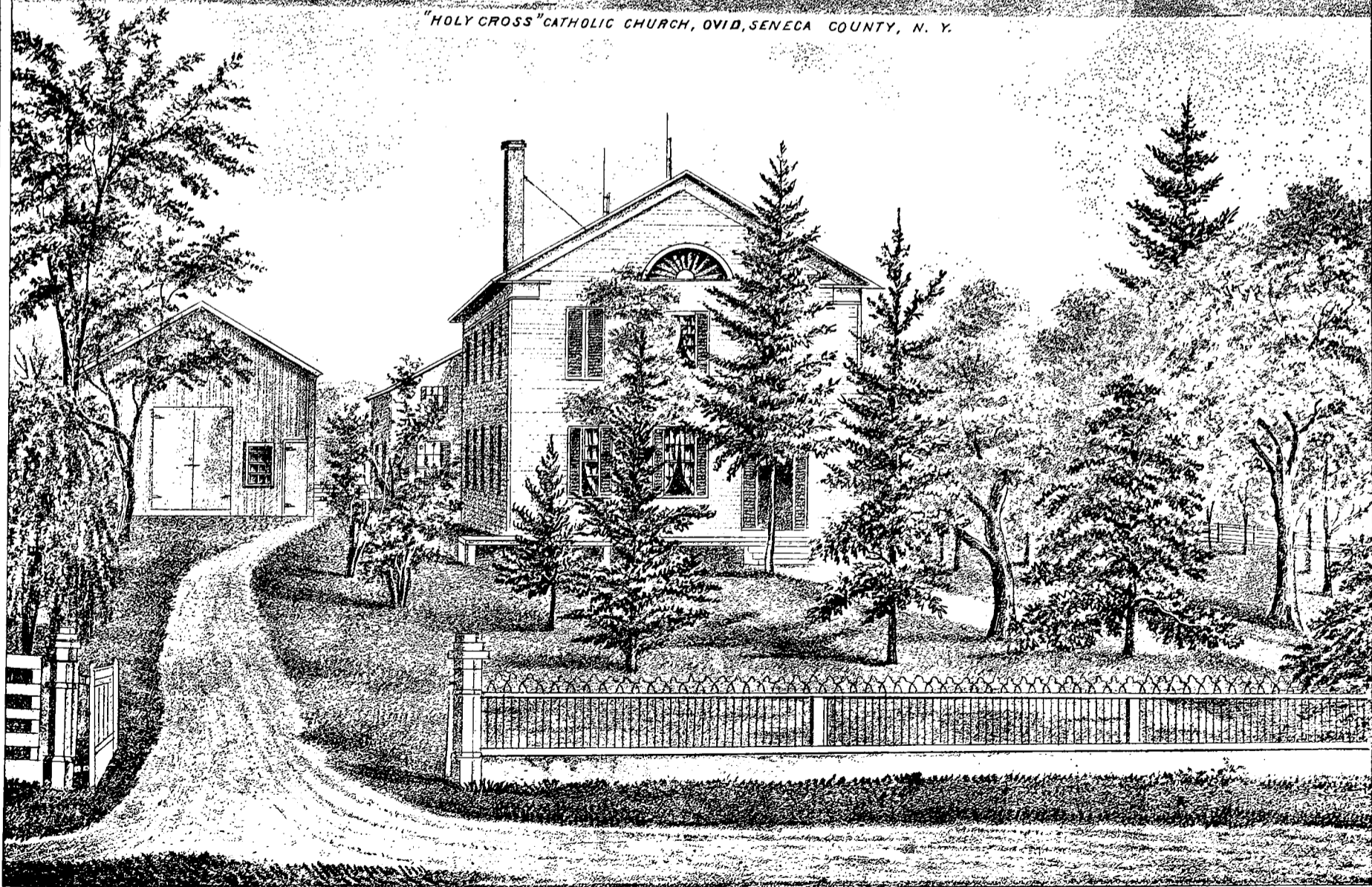
## CHAPTER XVII.

### POLITICAL LEGISLATION—PARTIES—POPULATION—POPULAR VOTE AND CIVIL LIST.

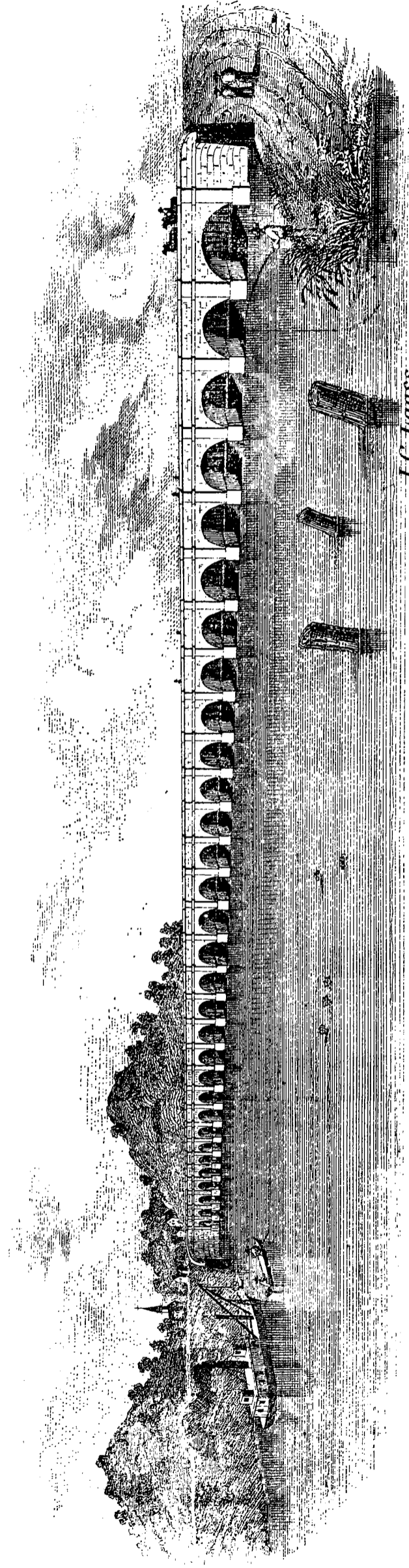
THE history of civil government is a record of a long, bitter, and finally successful struggle between the people and immediate and remote representatives of kingly power. It teaches a gradual transfer of authority from sovereign rule to the hands of the populace, and its whole course is marked by local and general advantages. Excess in an opposite direction has been checked by conservatism, and given rise to political parties, whose contests have been violent but subservient to the public good. Civil government was established by the Dutch in 1621, and in 1629, New York, then called New Netherlands, received its first Governor, in the person of Wouter Van Twiller. From 1664—the date of the surrender of the province to the English—up to 1683, James, Duke of York, was sole ruler. He appointed Governors and Councils, whose enactments were acknowledged as laws. The first legislative assembly was organized in 1691, and originated a code of rules in consonance with enlarged powers. The province was divided into nine counties, and the House consisted of seventeen delegates. An act of Assembly for a National Church, passed in 1693, was received with discontent, and taught the necessity of perfect religious freedom, but entirely disconnected with affairs of State. A second Assembly convened in 1708. Encroachments upon popular rights, by the royal Governors, paved the way for their speedy downfall, on the breaking out of the Revolution. On April 20, 1777, was formed and



"HOLY CROSS" CATHOLIC CHURCH, OVID, SENECA COUNTY, N. Y.



THE PASTORAL RESIDENCE,  
OVID, SENECA CO., N. Y.



*J. C. Lauss*

*The Richmond Aqueduct.*

adopted, by a convention of delegates, a State Constitution. A first session was attempted at Kingston, September 1, 1777, and dispersed by an approach of the British. A session was held in 1778, at Poughkeepsie, and annually continued thereafter. Features of the Constitution were obnoxious to the people, since it was framed after the provisions of arbitrary power, and changes were necessary as their inutility became apparent. A General Organization Act was passed by the Legislature on March 7, 1788, at which date the whole State was divided into fourteen counties, and these again subdivided into towns. New divisions were made in 1801, making thirty counties and two hundred and eighty-six towns. The Legislature passed an Act, in 1820, recommending a convention of the people to frame a new Constitution. A vote was had in April, 1821, which resulted in a majority of 73,445 for the Convention, which assembled in Albany, August 28, concluded its labors, and adjourned November 28, 1821. The new Constitution was adopted at an election held in February, 1822. The notable changes were relative to a council of revision and appointment and elective franchise. The Council of Revision, assuming to act as a third legislative body, contrary to the Constitution, was abolished by unanimous consent, by reason of the personal and partisan character of its appointments. The powers of both remaining Councils were modified and restricted. Elective franchise was extended, and many offices, till then vested in the Governor, were made elective. The State Legislature is composed of a Senate and Assembly. Silas Halsey, a Seneca pioneer of 1793, was elected Member of Assembly for Cayuga County, annually, from 1800 to 1804, and on the erection of Seneca, March 29, 1804, was appointed the first Clerk of that County, and a few days later was elected Member of the Ninth Congress, from the Seventeenth Congressional District of the State. In 1823, the State contained eight Senatorial Districts, the seventh of which was composed of Cayuga, Seneca, Onondaga, Ontario, Wayne, and Yates. State Senators from Seneca: from 1817 to 1820, John Knox; 1820 to 1826, Jesse Clark; term of office, two years. Jehiel H. Halsey served from 1832 to 1835 inclusive, and John Maynard from 1838 to 1841. Under the Constitution of 1846, Seneca, Tompkins, and Yates comprised the Twenty-fifth District, represented from Seneca, between 1850 and 1852, by Henry B. Stanton. Again, by Act of April 13, 1857, Seneca, Yates, and Ontario were made to comprise the Twenty-sixth Senatorial District, represented by Truman Boardman, of Seneca, from 1858 to 1860; Thomas Hillhouse, of Ontario, from 1860 to 1862; Charles J. Folger, for several terms; A. V. Harpending, from 1870 to 1872; and William Johnson, of Seneca, from 1872 to 1876. The present Senator is Stephen H. Hammond, of Ontario. Under the Act of June 29, 1822, Yates, Ontario, Seneca, and Wayne comprised the Twenty-sixth Congressional District, and the Representatives from Seneca County have been Robert S. Rose, of Fayette, from 1823 to 1827; John Maynard, 1827 to 1829; Jehiel H. Halsey, 1829 to 1831. Then Rose again in 1830 and 1831, followed by Samuel Clark and Samuel Birdsall, of Waterloo, John Maynard, of Seneca Falls, John De Mott, of Lodi, William A. Sackett, Jacob P. Chamberlain, Theodore Pomeroy (several terms), of Seneca Falls, John E. Seely; and the district is now represented by Clinton D. McDougal, of Cayuga.

As a convenient reference in connection with the political record of the County, we supply the lists of Members of Assembly and County officers from the organization of the County to the present time. Districts are apportioned once every ten years, after taking the State census, and it will be seen that from 1815 to 1819 Seneca was entitled to three members, and from 1819 to 1837 to two members. Beginning in 1805, each incumbent or set of incumbents held one year; the dates of service of single members are readily perceived, without being noted here.

*Members of Assembly.*—John Sayre, Cornelius Humphrey, two terms; John Sayre, James McCall, Oliver C. Comstock, Robert S. Rose, O. C. Comstock, James McCall, two terms, and David Woodcock. These names bring us to 1816. For 1816, Nichol Halsey, Jacob L. Larzelere, and William Thompson; for 1817, J. L. Larzelere, William Thompson, and Myndert M. Dox; for 1818, W. Thompson and John Sutton; for 1819, W. Thompson and Ananias Wells; for 1820, Thomas Armstrong and Robert S. Rose; for 1821, R. S. Rose and W. Thompson; for 1822, James Dickson and John Maynard; for 1823, Jonas Seely and A. Wells; for 1824, J. Seely and Erastus Woodworth; for 1825, James DeWitt and Daniel Rhoad; for 1826, Benjamin Hendricks and David Scott; for 1827, D. Rhoad and D. Scott; for 1828, Andrew Glover and E. Woodworth; 1829, Daniel W. Bostwick, Septimus Evans, and D. Scott; for 1830, Samuel Blain and Septimus Evans; for 1831, John Sayre and Benjamin Woodruff; for 1832, Reuben D. Dodge and E. Woodworth; for 1833, R. D. Dodge and John De Mott; for 1834, Peter Bockhoven and John D. Coe; for 1835, Caleb Barnum and J. D. Coe; for 1836, Henry Simpson and John G. Tubbs. In 1837, and annually thereafter, one Assemblyman came to the office: John F. Bigelow, Nathan Wakeman, Gardner Wells, Orange W. Wilkison, Daniel Holman, William

C. Kelley, Matthew West, Helim Sutton, Robert L. Stevenson, Alanson Woodworth, Ansel Bascom, John Kennedy, Jacob G. Markell, Alfred Bolter, Orrin Southwick, Robert R. Steele, Sterling G. Hadley, David D. Scott, Daniel S. Kendig, James B. Thomas, Benson Owen, Augustus Woodworth, Jacob P. Chamberlain, John C. Hall, William Johnson, Peter J. Van Vleet, James McLean, W. T. Johnson, George B. Daniels, Lewis Post, Samuel R. Welles, David D. Lefler, Josiah T. Miller, Robert B. Steele, Sanford R. Ten Eyck, Peter Lott, William W. Van De Mark, William C. Hazleton, William Hogan, and Lewis Post, of Lodi, in 1876.

The Board of Supervisors of a county meets annually at the county seat to canvass the votes of county and State officers. It has power to appoint road commissioners, plank road inspectors, and fix salaries of judges and school commissioner (above \$800 allowed by law), to fix day for town meetings, which must be the same through the county, repair buildings, audit accounts, levy taxes, alter existing or erect from them new towns, and change locations of the county seat, besides other powers and duties tending to the destruction of obnoxious animals and the preservation of fish and game.

*Of County Offices and Officers.*—Under the first Constitution the State election of officers was limited to Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Senator, Assemblyman, Town Clerk, Assessor, Supervisor, Constable, Collector, and others. Judges of the Court of Common Pleas were appointed from 1777 to 1822 by a Council of appointment at Albany, and from 1822 to 1846 by the Governor and Senate. Term of office, five years. Prior to 1846 four judges, one of whom was designated as First Judge, were appointed in each county. Under the first and second Constitutions there were no Circuit Judges resident of Seneca County. John Maynard, elected in 1847, and Addison T. Knox, in 1859, both died in office. County courts are held by the County Judge, assisted by two Justices of the Peace, annually elected for that purpose. The courts have jurisdiction in cases of trespass, personal injury, replevin suits, foreclosure of mortgages, sale of real estate of minors, partition of lands, and charge of the insane and drunkards. The following is a list of Seneca County Judges: In 1804 Cornelius Humphrey was appointed, and after him were Benjamin Pelton, in 1809; Oliver C. Comstock, 1812; John Knox, 1815; John McLean, Jr., 1818; Luther F. Stevens, 1823, and Jesse Clark, in 1833. The office became elective in 1846, and James K. Richardson was elected in 1847, John E. Seely in 1851, Sterling G. Hadley in 1855, George Franklin in 1859, Josiah T. Miller in 1863, Franklin again in 1867, and Gilbert Wilcoxon in 1871. Prior to 1847 a Surrogate was appointed, and the following persons served: In 1804, Jared Sanford; in 1811, John Sayre; in 1813, J. Sanford; in 1815, William Thompson; in 1819, Luther F. Stevens; in 1821, W. Thompson; in 1827, Samuel Birdsall; in 1837, J. H. Halsey, and in 1843, John Morgan. The office, in 1847, became elective, and in counties having a population of less than forty thousand, merged with the duties of the County Judge. Courts are held by Justices of the Peace, whose jurisdiction, in civil cases, cannot exceed \$200 value. Fines to the amount of \$50 may be imposed, and six months' imprisonment in the county jail inflicted. The District Attorney is the official prosecutor in County criminal cases, and has charge of all suits made in the interest of the County. The officer was appointed by the General Sessions prior to 1846; since then elected for a term of four years. The County Clerks are the custodians of the County records, clerks of Courts of Record, and, since 1846, perform the duties of Clerk in the Supreme Court for the County. Elective, and serve a term of three years. The Sheriff is a peace officer, charged with the execution of court orders; has charge of jail and prisoners; gives bonds for faithful service; is ineligible to the office for three years following the expiration of his term. Under the Constitution of 1777, Sheriffs were annually appointed by the Governor and Council, and limited to four years. They have been elected since 1822; term, three years. The County elects four Coroners, one each year. Their duty is to attend, when notified, at a place where a dead body is found, summon a jury, examine witnesses, and make a written report to County Clerk. The County Treasurer receives tax, pays orders issued by Supervisors, and accounts to State Comptroller for moneys due the State treasury. The office is elective, and the term is three years. A vacancy is filled by appointment of Supervisors until January following the next general election. Superintendents of the Poor take charge of poor-houses and of the poor. Formerly each town supported its own poor, and when a pauper strayed away, he was sent town by town back to his proper residence. On November 27, 1824, County poor-houses were established, and located on farms which were to be worked by the paupers as far as practicable. The office of County Superintendent of Common Schools was created in 1843 and abolished in 1847, and a School Commissioner, one for each Assembly District, elected in place. The officer examines and licenses teachers, visits schools, apportions public funds, and reports to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Cities and villages have special laws, and are more or less exempt from the jurisdiction of the Commis-

sioner. Plank-road inspectors are appointed in counties having plank-roads, and are intended to protect the public from paying toll upon roads not properly kept in repair.

A reference to old files of newspapers reveals the fact that a degree of moderation prevails at present compared with the severity and excitement of early-day political campaigns. Upon the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, the question of what powers should be delegated to the federal government created a division of sentiment, and parties were formed bearing the names of Republican and Federal. The former desired to restrict, and the latter to enlarge, national prerogatives. Among leading men of the Federal party, from the organization of the County till the close of the war of 1812, were Colonel Mynderse, Garey V. Sackett, Luther F. Stevens, William Bruce, Pontius Hooper, Lewis Birdsall, and Silas Halsey. Of the Republicans were Jonathan Metcalf, Jedediah Sayre, Israel W. Squier, Henry Moses,—a former Sheriff, and still living, at the age of over ninety years,—Jacob L. Larzelere, and Alpheus A. Baldwin. The project of constructing the Erie Canal, begun in 1817 and completed in 1825, created a division of sentiment as to the feasibility of the work. A party who saw in the canal a great work of internal improvement, heartily supported the measures for building, and were termed Clintonians. Another party, who looked upon the undertaking as chimerical, strongly opposed the "tax for the big ditch," and took the name "Bucktails." The press and politicians were decided in expression, and party spirit ran high and furnished a school of instruction for ambitious citizens.

A diversion was created in the summer of 1826 by the "Morgan Excitement." In brief, one William Morgan, of Batavia, began a work exposing the secrets of Freemasonry, to be published by David C. Miller. Various efforts were made to suppress the manuscript, and finally Morgan was abducted, driven towards Rochester, and disappeared. Belief in a strong oath-bound society containing citizens of high civil rank, and exercising the powers of life and death, created apprehension, and caused the organization of an Anti-Masonic party throughout the State. The press of Seneca was active, the feeling was strong, members of the order seceded, and the society temporarily disappeared. Later, came the questions of tariff and currency. At a Whig meeting, held on March 4, 1838, at Ovid, Daniel Scott was President, A. B. Dunlap and Peter Himrod, Secretaries. The meeting complained of the evils of currency, and the danger of new doctrines and scheming politicians. A resolution was couched in this language: "Government currency is the currency of slaves, and to usurp the prerogative of the people by snatching away this part of their sovereignty—the true basis of mutual confidence—is a leading step to despotism. The Sub-treasury bill is fraught with ruin to the country, and the tragic death of a member of Congress is a subject of alarm:" reference being made to the death of Jonathan Cilley, of Maine, in a duel with Colonel Webb, of the *New York Courier and Enquirer*. The Whig party was derived from the Anti-Masonic party, and numbered, among its leaders in Seneca, the well-known names of Garey V. Sackett, John Maynard, Ansel Bascom, Benson Owen, William Knox, J. K. Richardson, Orrin Southwick, John E. Seely, John B. Bliss, and Nestor Woodworth. This latest-named gentleman joined what was called the Free-Soil party, and was Chairman in the first convention of the party held in the County. The Masonic resolved itself into the Democratic party, and knew such members as George B. Daniels, Samuel Birdsall, William Clark, S. G. Hadley, Charles Sentell, John De Mott, J. H. Halsey, Robert R. Steele, and Halsey Sanford. On the election of Lincoln, Hadley joined, and has since continued with, the Republican party. The Native American party, about 1855, found advocates in the persons of Gilbert Wilcoxon and John B. Murray; the former a leading Democrat, and the latter Republican, at this time. J. K. Richardson took part in the recent Liberal movement headed by Horace Greeley, of the *New York Tribune*.

The stirring and radical changes since 1861, still in progress, are viewed with the same patriotic spirit from different stand-points, and find able champions whom it would seem invidious to designate by name. The County is fully recognized as Democratic, the strength of which party, compared with the Republican, is illustrated by the popular vote of 1875 for Secretary of State. In the general election held in Seneca on November 2, 1875, John Bigelow, Democrat, received 2883 votes; Frederick W. Seward, Republican, 2379 votes; and G. B. Dusenberre, Prohibition candidate, 63 votes, from a total of 5327 votes polled. The following table of Seneca's population, at indicated intervals, shows the progress of the County in that respect. In 1810, 16,609; 1820, 23,619; 1830, 21,031; 1840, 24,874. The population of towns for semi-decades from 1860 is shown as follows:

	1860.	1865.	1870.	1875.
Covert .....	2,410	2,261	2,238	2,097
Fayette.....	3,742	3,509	3,364	3,371
Junius.....	1,316	1,442	1,420	1,313
Lodi .....	2,067	1,892	1,826	1,896

	1860.	1865.	1870.	1875.
Ovid .....	2,538	2,382	2,403	2,397
Romulus .....	2,170	1,973	2,223	2,073
Seneca Falls.....	5,960	6,490	6,860	7,076
Tyre .....	1,437	1,348	1,280	1,218
Varick.....	1,904	1,833	1,741	1,731
Waterloo.....	4,594	4,523	4,469	4,102
Totals.....	28,138	27,653	27,823	27,274

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### TRACES—ROADS—TURNPIKES—BRIDGES—SENECA LOCK NAVIGATION AND ERIE CANALS, AND NAVIGATION.

EFFORTS made to render communication easy and expeditious have always characterized civilization, contributed to internal strength and development, and yet remain ancient and honorable evidence of former power and intelligence. The Roman ways were models of labor and permanence. The causeways around Mexico, when assaulted by Cortez in 1521, the broad roads among the Peruvians, the Chinese and Venetian canals, existed as substantial monuments of persevering enterprise, indefinite periods in construction, and masses of laborers, in the far-away past. In the New World its occupants, limited in number and widely scattered, possessing no wheeled vehicles, and devoid of commercial knowledge, found the trace or trail all sufficient for their purposes of communication, and the frail canoe of ample strength and size to bear them along or across the lakes of Seneca and Cayuga.

Between the villages of the Iroquois were well-beaten trails, which proved a constant intercourse. An ancient trail led from the source of the Delaware; another from the forks of the Susquehanna. A junction was made at Catharine's Town; thence, passing north and through "the Peach Orchard," it crossed a ravine at Breakneck Hollow, touching Mill Creek at Shallow Ford; thence to "Appletown," whence it coursed the western margin of Seneca Lake, across the outlet to Canadesaga, now Geneva. At different points along this Indian road side-paths led off to various corn-fields and orchards. Along this road came the New Jersey and Pennsylvania settlers, and in the construction of the existing road the windings of the old trail are mainly followed, the ravines dyked, the streams bridged. The survey of lots with lines running at right angles into areas of a mile square suggested the establishment of roads along the lot lines, and hence these exist in parallel lines, east and west, north and south. The nature of the soil renders these numerous routes of travel almost impracticable in spring, but at other times they are excellent. The laws relating to highways allow each owner a road to his land. The certified oath of twelve freeholders is necessary to open or close a road. New roads cannot be run through orchard or garden of above four years' growth and inclosures without consent of the owner. Mile-boards and guide-boards are required, and to deface them is criminal. The annual labor on highways must be equal to three times, in days, the number of taxable inhabitants. Owners along roads three or more rods wide may plant trees adjacent to their line, and recover damages for any injury to them. This regulation gives, wherever observed, a pleasant, avenue-like appearance to the roads, and its general adoption would greatly enhance the value of lands and beauty of scenery.

About 1800, the rage for speculation was directed to the construction of turnpikes, and ten years later the nominal stock in turnpike and toll-bridge charters was over \$8,000,000. As early spoken of, the turnpike from Albany westward to Buffalo opened a channel of emigration all along its route. Settlements were begun, and from either side turnpike and other roads branched off in every direction, and while investments in turnpike stock were of little value, the model of construction for the great network of roads was of much benefit. A turnpike now known as the "Old Turnpike," formerly as the "Ithaca and Geneva Turnpike," was constructed through Seneca County, connecting those two points, as early as 1815. The windings of this pike are accounted for on the ground that it followed the lines of heaviest local subscription. The various steps in the perfection and character of roads start with the survey. Brush was cut, fallen timber turned aside to make a roadway, and trees blazed. Later, trees were chopped down, stumps dug out, corduroy built over swampy tracts, and roads extended; then came the turnpike, the plank road, and finally the gravel road.

It was in 1850 that C. W. Seely and Jacob Chamberlain, authorized by Act of Legislature, laid a plank road extending through Seneca Falls to Jason Smith's,

northward, in Tyre, and from the Falls southward to Bearytown. Capital stock was issued in shares of fifty dollars, and much of it was taken by the farmers along the road. The plank was not durable; being laid upon oak stringers and composed of elm and soft maple, it soon began to break up, and the stock rapidly depreciated to less than forty per cent. of its face value. In the course of six or eight years the road became worthless, and then the portion north of Seneca Falls was graveled and the remainder repaired with broken stone. The toll-gates still stand, but no tolls have been taken since the fall of 1875. Hundreds of these corporations were organized between 1848 and 1852, and several thousand miles of plank roads built, but almost all have been abandoned and divided among the road districts as public highways. The famous long bridge over Cayuga Lake was of defective construction; the bents were separately framed, properly placed, and held in position by stringers which were notched on the caps, and those outside bolted down. Some of the bents began to settle and lean to the west, and in 1808 the whole mass gave way. The plank, railing, and stringers floated off down to the marsh at the foot of the lake. The bents were to be seen years after lying in order on the bottom.

The second bridge was commenced in the winter of 1813. Piles were driven from the east shore one-third of the way across, the pile-driver being worked on the ice. When the ice went out a scow was constructed and anchored at the work; on this scow the horse went round and round upon his weary circle, winding up the rope which drew up the hammer. The work was vigorously pressed; hands received a dollar and a half per day and paid the same sum for a week's board. Fever and ague being prevalent, a ration of half a pint of whisky daily was furnished to each man by the company.

A third bridge was built in 1833 on the north side of the old one, while it was still passable. A large amount of travel, foot, horseback, and wagon, centered at the Cayuga bridge to cross the lake. Daily, horse- and ox-teams were seen on the bridge. The wagons, covered with canvas, contained families bound for the West, while parties of from two to ten men on horseback, equipped with valise and saddle-bags, were on their way to find their homes in the Genesee country. The bridge was regarded then as the best paying stock in western New York. Receipts reached the sum of \$25,000 a year. The stock was chiefly owned by residents of New York City. Asa Sprague, known later as the Superintendent of the Syracuse and Rochester Railroad, was the toll-gatherer. The lower bridge across the outlet belonged to the same company owning the long bridge. W. Mynderse was Treasurer; John Hagerty, Secretary; and Josiah Crane, Collector on lower bridge. Other toll-gatherers were, James Bennett, Lucas Van Buskirk, father of Lucas Van Buskirk, Jr., and Marsh, who was the collector till the bridge was abandoned on account of railroad competition in travel, about 1842. The rates of toll were, carriage with four horses, 10s.; two horses, 8s.; two-horse wagon, 4s. 6d.; one horse, 3s. 6d.; man and horse, 2s.; and footman, 6d. Cattle paid 6d. per head, and droves of several hundred passed over at a time. Hogs were two to three cents per head. Tolls of from \$300 to \$500 were taken daily. Then, a sight of the bridge without a traveler upon it was a rarity. Few now live who recollect the building of the second bridge. One of these is Harvey Larzelere, son of Judge Jacob L. Larzelere, an old surveyor, and a legislator in 1816; Henry Moses, now aged ninety-three years, and living with his son in Fayette; Peter Brown, William Travis, James Bennett, Isaac Goodwin, and John and Amos Oliver were of the early residents.

The subject of improving inland navigation was discussed as early as 1725, but no result was reached until 1791, during March 24 of which year an Act was passed directing an exploration of the waters between Fort Stanwix and Wood Creek. Two companies were created by Act of March 3, 1792. One of these, the "Western Inland Navigation Company," was incorporated on March 30 following, for the purpose of opening the lock navigation from the navigable waters of the Hudson to Lakes Ontario and Seneca. A committee appointed reported the cost to Oneida Lake at about \$175,000. Work was begun at Little Falls in 1793. The first boats passed November 17, 1795. In 1796, boats reached Oneida Lake. In 1797, the work had cost \$400,000, and tolls were so high as to limit navigation. The company sold its rights west to Seneca Lake in 1808.

Prior to April 1, 1813, Elisha Williams constructed a hydraulic canal on his lands at Scayes to create a water-power from the waters of the outlet. Samuel Bear, in 1794, had constructed another long prior to canal undertakings. On the 6th of April, 1813, the Legislature incorporated the Seneca Lock Navigation Company, with power "to take and use land, whether under water or not, for navigation purposes during incorporation." This company constructed their canal along the bed of Mr. Williams's old race as a part of the work, compensating him therefor by the payment of \$2000, and a concession of rights to cut into the canal for hydraulic purposes, which rights he studiously reserved, and from time to time conveyed to others as a secondary privilege. The work was completed about 1816, and was in use about eleven years. The masonry was done upon

the locks by Benjamin Sayre. In 1825, April 20, the Legislature authorized the construction of the Cayuga and Seneca Canal. The Canal Commissioners were disqualified from proceeding in their duties until the State should have acquired by purchase the franchises and property of the Seneca Lock Navigation Company. In 1826, the company received from the State, \$34,095.83, and in 1827, \$19,776.05, and thereupon ceased to exist. The Cayuga and Seneca Canal connects the Erie Canal at Montezuma with Cayuga Lake at East Cayuga, and with Seneca Lake at Geneva. About half the canal is formed by slackwater navigation, the remainder is a channel parallel to the river; when enlarged it permitted the passage of large boats from the Erie Canal to the lakes Seneca and Cayuga. Work was begun in 1826, and ended in 1828. The cost was \$214,000. There were twelve locks between Geneva and Montezuma, by which a descent of seventy-four feet was effected.

When the State assumed control of the canal between Seneca Falls and Waterloo, in 1827, it gave the contract for reconstructing the locks between those villages to Andrew P. Tillman. The former material of stone was replaced with wood, and the seven locks demanded a large quantity of timber, whose supply cleared a tract of several hundred acres of its timber, near Seneca Lake. It is said the contractor lost heavily upon the job, and received, later, some appropriations as a reimbursement. The construction of the Erie Canal, which traverses the north-eastern part of Tyre, and has the connections southward just described, was the crowning work of the period, and gave an impetus to like projects elsewhere which tended to a general relief of commerce and an awakening of enterprise. The original idea of a canal from Erie to the Hudson is credited to Governor Morris, in 1800. He spoke of the plan, in 1803, to Simeon De Witt, who, in turn, stated the plan to James Geddes, a land surveyor of Onondaga County, who, after various movements, surveyed a route for a canal and gave a favorable report. In 1810, a committee, headed by De Witt Clinton, was appointed to explore a canal route through the State. On April 8, 1811, measures were taken with a view of entering upon the work, but the war came on and suspended action. A definite survey was provided for by an Act passed April 17, 1816. The canal was begun at Rome on July 4, 1817, and the first boat passed from Utica to Rome on October 22, 1819. The Canal Commissioners were Stephen Van Rensselaer, De Witt Clinton, Joseph Ellicott, Samuel Young, and Myron Holley. In March, 1819, Henry Seymour replaced Ellicott, and William C. Bouck was added to the number in 1821. Chief Engineers were James Geddes, of Onondaga County, and Benjamin Wright, of Rome, whose work, without precedent to them, and based on a knowledge gained alone from land surveying, was remarkable. The entire length of the canal, from Albany to Buffalo, is three hundred and fifty-two miles. The completion of this great work was celebrated by an extraordinary celebration. A company of State officials, the most prominent being Governor Clinton, set out at Buffalo, in two boats, the "Seneca Chief" and the "Young Lion of the West," to make the trip through to New York City. Thirty-two-pound cannon had been brought in scows and placed at intervals on the canal bank along the entire distance, and when Clinton, at 10 o'clock in the morning of October 26, 1825, entered the canal, the booming of those heavy pieces, fired in quick succession, proclaimed from one end of the State to the other the successful termination of the work. A little party of Seneca people went in a pleasure-boat to greet the excursion. Of these were William Larzelere, Wilson N. Brown, Hon. L. F. Stevens, D. B. Lum, Mr. St. John, John Isaacs, and two oarsmen, Price Center and Thomas Blaisdel. The thunder of the heavy gun at Montezuma announced the approach of the Governor; a committee met him at the wharf, and he went with them to Van Velzor's tavern, made a few remarks, and, re-embarking, passed on. Of that Seneca party, Mr. Lum is the sole survivor, being then twenty years of age and the youngest of the number. An old citizen of Rochester, in a diary of date May 10, 1834, says he "left Rochester on the boat Van Rensselaer, Captain Smith, of Hartford; passed *eighty-three* boats, and reached Albany at 2 P.M. of May 13." The bateaux and their three-handed crew of two oarsmen and a steersman were superseded by the large, unwieldy Durham boats, the first one of which, built in 1814, at Seneca Falls, for river navigation, was called the Adeline. The second, built in 1816, was named the Miller, and was used on the Erie Canal in 1821. The Durham boat was open and exposed to the weather, and had runways on each side upon which cleats were nailed. The boat was propelled by a crew of six men, three on a side, equipped with long poles shod with iron at the bottom. These men placed their poles, and, bracing their feet upon the cleats, urged the boat forward till they reached the stern; then, together, marched Indian file to the bow, adjusted their poles, and back as before. The first canal-boat built at Seneca Falls on the flat was the work of a Mr. Haskell, of Geneva. She was run in 1823 on the Washington line by Captain Jacob Hinds, afterwards a Canal Commissioner. Her name was the Merchant. Steamboat navigation began earliest upon Cayuga Lake. A steamboat called the Enterprise, built at Ludlowville by Oliver Phelps,