

and a new duplicate warrant granted February 3, 1875. Pocahontas Lodge of Seneca Falls is another prosperous society, whose record will be given in town history.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows was introduced to this country from Manchester, England, and the first regular lodge opened in 1819 at Baltimore. The order is numerous, and their efforts for the relief of members, the aid of widows and orphans, the education of the latter, and the burial of the dead, exemplify the beneficent character of the society. The first lodge of this order in Seneca County was organized at Seneca Falls, in the year 1845, and known as Hyperion Lodge, No. 180, I. O. O. F. Its first officers were George B. Daniels, Abel Downs, John Shoemaker, William Langworthy, William Clark, Horace C. Silsby, and David B. Lum. The lodge remained in existence for about thirteen years. In the year 1850, Marion Lodge was organized at Waterloo, and, continuing a number of years, disbanded. There are now two subordinate lodges in the County: the Powhatan, No. 310, of Seneca Falls, and the Willard, No. 311, of Ovid. Powhatan Lodge was instituted on March 7, 1872, by C. A. Runyan, D. D. G. M. of Ontario District, with seven charter members. Its first officers were T. G. Crosby, N. G., C. F. Brady, M. F. O'Conner, R. C. Sickles, and L. W. Lull. Its present membership is fifty-six. The lodge paid, in 1875, for relief of members, nearly \$300. The Willard Lodge was instituted March 20, 1872, with five charter members. Its first officers were J. Turk, Sr., N. G., William Coe, L. Conklin, and G. W. Wilkins. Its present number of members is sixty. Seneca County was made a district of Odd Fellows in 1873. T. G. Crosby was appointed as the first D. D. G. M., and Loren Conklin is the present incumbent. Seneca Falls Encampment, No. 72, I. O. O. F., was instituted August 29, 1872, by William Baumgrass, D. D. G. M. of Onondaga and Cayuga District. Its first officials were I. L. Wicks, J. W. Lull, M. F. O'Conner, W. H. Warrington, C. C. Gilman, and B. S. Nichols. The present membership is thirty. Iona Rebecca Degree Lodge, No. 48, I. O. O. F., was formed at Seneca Falls on January 13, 1874, by T. G. Crosby. It had thirty-two charter members, now increased to fifty, and is the only lodge of its class in the County. Its first officials were C. F. Brady, N. G., Mrs. W. B. Rubert, V. G., Mrs. R. F. Butts, R. S., Mrs. C. G. William, F. S., and Mrs. T. G. Crosby, Treasurer. The Encampment of Seneca Falls is the only one in the County.

The order of Knights of Pythias has recently been established in the County; it is mainly composed of young men under the age of thirty, and is in a prosperous condition. Charles T. Silsby is the D. D. G. C. of this District, consisting of Seneca, Ontario, and Cayuga Counties.

The spread of intemperance, and the evils which followed in its train, led to the formation of a State Temperance Society on April 2, 1829. The efforts to restrict and abolish the traffic in liquors have been constant, extended, and attended with some degree of success. Societies known as the Washingtonians, having their rise among reformed inebriates, spread over the State between 1841 and 1845, and Seneca's citizens had organizations whose flame died out within a brief period. The secret orders of "Rechabites" and "Sons of Temperance" arose in New York about 1842. Many lodges were formed, and the orders sway considerable influence against intemperance in the community. Besides these, there is the order of Good Templars, whose efforts are in the same direction. A Tent of Rechabites was organized at Seneca Falls, January 30, 1873, with eight charter members. It was reorganized August 13, 1874, and, receiving a new charter, was known as Seneca Falls Tent, No. 37, and numbered eighty members. Its present number is sixty members. Meetings are held weekly on Sunday afternoons. There are five tents of the order in the County, viz., Seneca Falls Tent, No. 37; organized January 30, 1873; members, sixty. Seneca Chief Tent, No. 42, Waterloo; organized January, 1874; members, fifty; S. S. Jamieson, C. R. Prospect Tent, No. 59, Canoga; organized January 20, 1876; members, thirty-two; J. Darrows, C. R. Fayette Tent, No. 62, Fayette; organized February 1, 1876; members, fifteen; John Ernsberger, C. R. Security Tent, No. 63, Fayette; organized February 3, 1876; members, forty; M. Benninghoff, C. R.

At Seneca Falls, a higher branch of the order exists as the Pioneer Camp, No. 1, of the Encampment of Rechabites. It was revived as an order since the late war, and this society was organized in August, 1874, with W. H. Golder as commander. Ladies have been active in societies of this class, and, at Waterloo, a band of boys has been enrolled to advance the cause of abstinence from spirituous liquors.

The formation of medical societies was authorized by act of April 4, 1806. Many county societies were formed under this act, and its result has been of much benefit in exchange of views, and advanced ground in modes of treatment of diseases and injuries. A medical society has existed in Seneca County almost from the period of its formation. A notice is given in the press of that time, that a meeting of the County Medical Society would be held on June 5, 1838, at the house of G. Bachman, in the town of Fayette. An election was there

held, resulting in Dr. C. C. Coan being chosen President; J. L. Eastman, Vice-President; D. Covert, Secretary; M. B. Bellows, Treasurer, and Enos Palmer, Librarian. Interesting matter concerning the early physicians and their organizations is anticipated for other portions of this work.

The teachers' institutes and editorial conventions are educative agencies, advancing the rank and influence of school and press, and fitly represented by respective professions in the County.

Three Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic have been formed in the County. These "posts" consist of soldiers and sailors of the late war, who were honorably discharged from the United States service. The oldest of these is located at Seneca Falls, and is known as Cross Post, No. 78, the name being applied in honor of a family named Cross, from which a father and four sons enlisted in the service of the Government. The post was organized in 1869. The present commander is J. M. Guion; the membership is one hundred and twenty. A second post was organized at Waterloo, and designated as Tyler J. Snyder Post, No. 72; J. W. Brown, of Junius, Commander. A third post was organized in Ovid village, October 3, 1874, as Charles P. Little Post, No. 40. The maximum of membership is fifty-six; the present enrollment is twenty-one. These "posts" become conspicuous upon the annual recurrence of Decoration Day, when they meet and march to the cemetery, where each year finds one or more of their band "mustered out." Not many years ere these later defenders of national unity shall have passed away, and national and local cemeteries hold of them all that is mortal. The soldiery do well to unite for mutual support, and to do honor to the memories of the heroic dead.

Historical societies have been formed at Waterloo and Seneca Falls. In the former place have been gathered many relics of the olden time, in a room set apart for that purpose, and old and influential citizens have taken part in its organization. The society is forming on a good basis, and promises to do much in historical research. The society at Seneca Falls has little material. Messrs. Lum, Failing, Smith, and others have prepared articles which have been published. There is ability and knowledge of facts among the members to obtain much that is valuable, but whether the work will be done is uncertain. The habit of procrastination has already buried a valuable record in obscurity, and the paucity of material, where was once in abundance, should warn the aged to revive and transmit their recollections before it is too late. A full and exhaustive series of printed questions, extensively circulated, is suggested.

## CHAPTER XXV.

### THE PRESS AND ITS PUBLISHERS IN SENECA COUNTY.

THE history of printing is a chronicle of the progress of modern civilization; the world fails to realize the wonders and power of the art. Most especially is this true of the American press. Nearly every hamlet has its newspaper, wherein every change is noted, every worthy enterprise encouraged, every event set forth. The principal historical remains are embodied in the files of old papers, and there is equal difficulty to collect authentic documents respecting American social life of to-day and French or English history in the Middle Ages. Were our country to be overrun by barbarians, the industry of other lands would be the recourse of the historian. A paper of 1812 and prior has intelligence a month old at reception concerning events occurring far away, while matters of the local settlement are neglected till most have perished, and the strong man has grown old and feeble-minded. To estimate our present literature by the number and variety of publications would give us high rank. Many papers, looking only to selfish ends, seem to forget that their province is a general diffusion of useful knowledge. The press of Seneca County has attempted to hold a neutral ground, and, with few exceptions, drifted rapidly into the maelstrom of political controversy. National warfare has been made subservient to party. Numerous short-lived efforts attest the failures of enthusiastic attempted journalists. Reform measures requiring an organ have given a press an origin, and Bascom is recalled as a positive and useful editor of the *Memorial*. Mrs. Amelia Bloomer is recognized as a leader of her sex in the conduct of the *Lily*. And the *Water Bucket* gave expression to the Washingtonians.

These papers ceased with the discontinuance of the agitation of the questions which called them into being. Those journals which supply popular demand, denounce wrong, applaud worthy projects, and give a prompt epitome of the world's daily history, are a power for good and remunerative to their proprietors. The changes in execution and delivery seem magical. The small, coarse paper,

the hand-press, and the post-rider delivery of the *Patriot* of 1816 are contrasted with the handsome sheets of the *Courier*, *Reveille*, *Observer*, and *Independent* of 1876,—the former two turning out *Couriers* and *Reveilles* from cylinder presses moved by water-power, each number replete with items from the far East, and delivered to subscribers abroad upon the Lightning White Train. Note here the westward progress of the art from its inception. In 1725 William Bradford began to publish the *New York Gazette*,—the first paper published in the colony of New York, the fifth in the American provinces. John Peter Zenger, the pioneer champion of "the right to canvass public measures and the acts of public men," began the next paper in 1733, under the title of the *New York Weekly Journal*. Zenger boldly and severely criticised the administration of Governor Crosby and his council, was incarcerated for months, and refused a vindication upon trial. He was defended by Andrew Hamilton, an able barrister from Philadelphia, upheld by the populace, and acquitted by the jury. The later enunciation of the Constitutional edict of a "Free Press for a Free People" has proved a safeguard to liberty and a check upon public dishonesty. But twelve papers were commenced in New York prior to the close of the Revolution; now they are numbered by hundreds. The first settlers in Seneca County had little time for reading papers, and they had very few to read. At Geneva was published in 1797 the *Ontario Gazette and Genesee Advertiser*, by Lucius Carey; in 1800 the *Impartial American, or Seneca Museum*, by Ebenezer Eaton; and in 1806 *The Expositor*, later, *Geneva Gazette*, by James Bogart. Other of those primal presses were located at various points, but the difficulties of distribution made their circulation local. The pioneer printer of Seneca County was George Lewis, who, in the year 1815, started in the village of Ovid a small sheet entitled the *Seneca Patriot*. The office of publication was located on Seneca Street, in the upper story of a building on whose site the engine-house now stands. No copies of this first paper of Seneca are known to be in existence, and there are few living that can tell what kind of man was its publisher or his after-career. At the close of a single volume, Mr. Lewis changed the name of his paper to *The Ovid Gazette*, and when Elisha Williams secured the removal of the County seat to Waterloo, Lewis removed hither with his press in May, 1817, and continued the issue of his paper as *The Waterloo Gazette*, which thus became known also as the first paper published in that village. A partial file of these papers is preserved in the rooms of the Historical Society at Waterloo. The oldest copy is Vol. I., No. 6. It is printed upon coarse paper, and is simply plain in execution. Its terms were: Delivered, \$2.00 a year; at office, \$1.75; club rates, \$1.50, and deductions made to post-riders. Herein John Goodwin informs the public that he has added another boat to his ferry, which will enable him to keep one on each side of the Lake Seneca. William Thompson, Esq., gives an order of sale at vendue of a part of the real estate of Thomas W. Roosevelt, of Junius. Lewis Birdsall, then sheriff, offers for sale his tavern-stand near the turnpike gate in Junius. John Watkins gives notice for debtors to settle under penalty of a positive prosecution, and a lover of beer enters his protest against adulterating his favorite beverage with Indian cockle. Postmasters Jesse Clark, of Waterloo, and Abijah Mann, Jr., of Seneca Falls, advertise lists of letters, and President James Monroe is announced as upon a visit in Connecticut to the gun-factory of Eli Whitney, Esq.

Lewis soon disposed of the *Gazette* to Hiram Leavenworth, by whom its publication was continued until in 1818, when John McLean, Jr., who had been appointed Judge of this County by the Governor and Council, associated with Mr. Leavenworth in editing and publishing the sheet. In 1821 McLean retired, and the former proprietor continued once more the publication as its sole owner. Leavenworth kept his small sheet well filled with decided expressions of political views of the old Federal stamp under the first alias—Clintonian. The office was situated in a small building just west of the old Eagle Tavern. A front room was occupied as the law-office of Elisha D. Whittlesey. The back room, in size about fourteen by eighteen feet, was press-room, type-room, and editor's sanctum. Party spirit ran high, and one night the press was rifled of its bed-plate, and, with a form of type, thrown into the river. The issues were delayed for a few weeks, but that was a small matter at that date.

In 1822, the *Waterloo Republican*, under the management of B. B. Drake, made its entry upon public life, and the *Gazette* was discontinued. In June, 1823, the *Seneca Farmer* was started in Waterloo, under the control of William Child, in a building opposite the court-house. From 1826 to 1829, the editor chronicles many events of a local character, gives the public the latest developments upon and against Masonry, and announces a celebration of July 4, 1829, at which an "oration was delivered by Ansel Bascom, Esq." The doors of hospitality were thrown open to the old Revolutionary soldiers, for the most important service ever rendered to a free people, and every desirable refreshment through the day bestowed without money and without price." The *Seneca Farmer* was published in Waterloo till August 10, 1831, and then its place of

publication was changed by Childs to Seneca Falls. Proposals were issued by O. B. Clark, in the summer of 1829, for publishing a paper at Seneca Falls, under the name of the *Seneca Falls Truth*, to be Anti-Masonic in sentiment, and Anti-Jacksonian in politics. Mr. Clark found ready support in that village, which was just emerging upon a prosperous career, and, in the fall of 1829, issued the first number of the *Seneca Falls Journal*, the pioneer publication of the village. Two years' experience as an editor was sufficient for Mr. Clark, who sold out his paper, and was later heard from as a resident of Cold Water, Michigan, and a legislator in the capacity of State Senator. Wilson N. Brown, of Aurelius, Cayuga County, came to Seneca Falls in 1820; by him the "journal" was purchased of Clark, and published for a year. In 1832, Mr. Brown entered into partnership with Mr. Childs, and their respective publications were merged in one, and published under the title of *The Seneca Farmer and Seneca Falls Advertiser*. Mr. Childs soon bought out the interest of his associate, and continued the paper till 1835. Joseph K. Brown then began to publish a paper called the *Seneca Falls Register*. Two years went by, and its career terminated.

The *Waterloo Observer* has passed the semi-centennial of its existence; it has been well edited, and has exerted a leading influence. From a sheet of twenty small columns, it has expanded to a paper of sixty-four. It first made its appearance in 1824, published and edited by Charles Sentell, and has been regularly issued, without a continued change of name, under different proprietors and editors, until the present time. It has adhered to the same principles advocated in its very first number, and, through all changes in ownership, has never swerved from the advocacy of Democratic principles. After a number of years' experience in the conduct of the *Observer*, Mr. Sentell transferred it to Smith & Co. Subsequently the paper reverted to Mr. Sentell, who leased it to Pew & Marsh for one year. Then it was sold to M. C. Hough, who published it one year, when Hough sold to Sentell & Pew, who published it down to 1853. Mr. Pew was succeeded by Mr. Vreeland. The partnership of Sentell & Vreeland was of brief duration, and Charles Sentell again became sole publisher, and so continued until 1866, when Edward W. Sentell, his son, assumed its charge. O. C. Cooper was taken into partnership, and the *Observer* was carried on in an able manner as an exponent of politics and a medium of news. N. Hyatt finally assumed the responsibility of conducting the paper, and remained at its head till its purchase by William H. Burton, in 1872, when Messrs. Wm. H., Wm. A., and John A. Burton became proprietors, and William H. and John A. Burton editors. Wm. H. Burton is the present proprietor, and Mr. James Joyes its editor, the office being located in rooms of the Yeast Factory buildings. In 1846, when telegraphic communication was established with Waterloo Village, the *Observer* published a daily, but it was short-lived. Various ephemeral publications have been absorbed from time to time, and the paper is now in good repute, with a large circulation, and bids fair for many years to come.

The *Seneca Republican* was started at Ovid, in 1827. James Bogart, already mentioned as a pioneer newspaper publisher in Geneva, was the proprietor, and Michael Hayes the superintendent and editor. The press was entitled the *Ovid Gazette*, and was changed to the name *Seneca Republican* upon Mr. Hayes becoming owner of the paper, which change transpired within a brief time after its publication began. Though removed from the immediate line of the canal, the *Republican* was known as a Clintonian advocate. In 1830, it was changed to the *Ovid Gazette and Seneca County Register*, and published for a brief period under the charge of John Duffy.

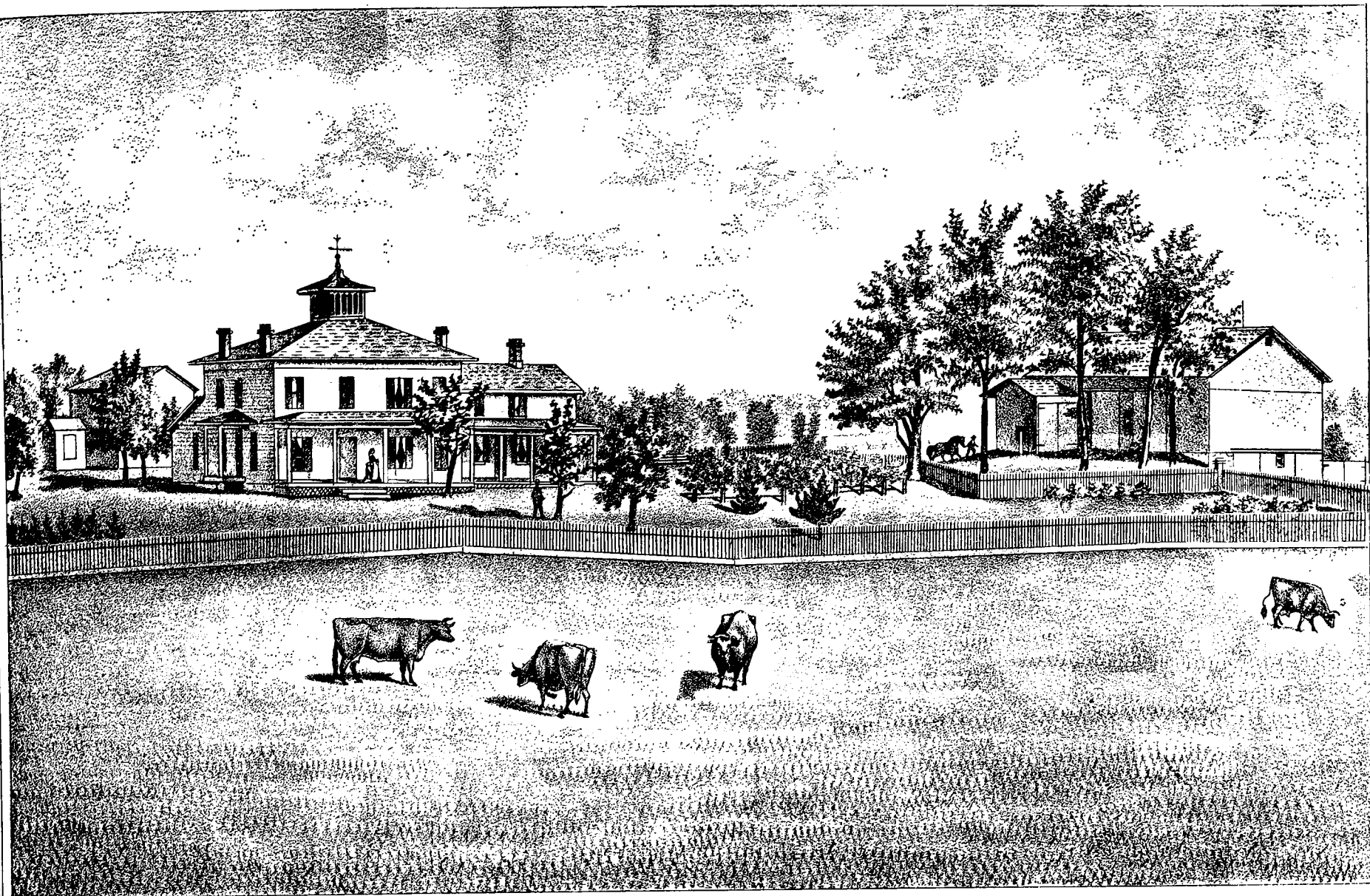
The *Western Times* was a Waterloo publication, by Ebenezer P. Mason, in 1830.

The *Wreath and Ladies' Literary Repository* was issued by Edwin Wheeler, in 1831, from the *Observer* office. It saw but few numbers, and added yet another to the list of unappreciated efforts.

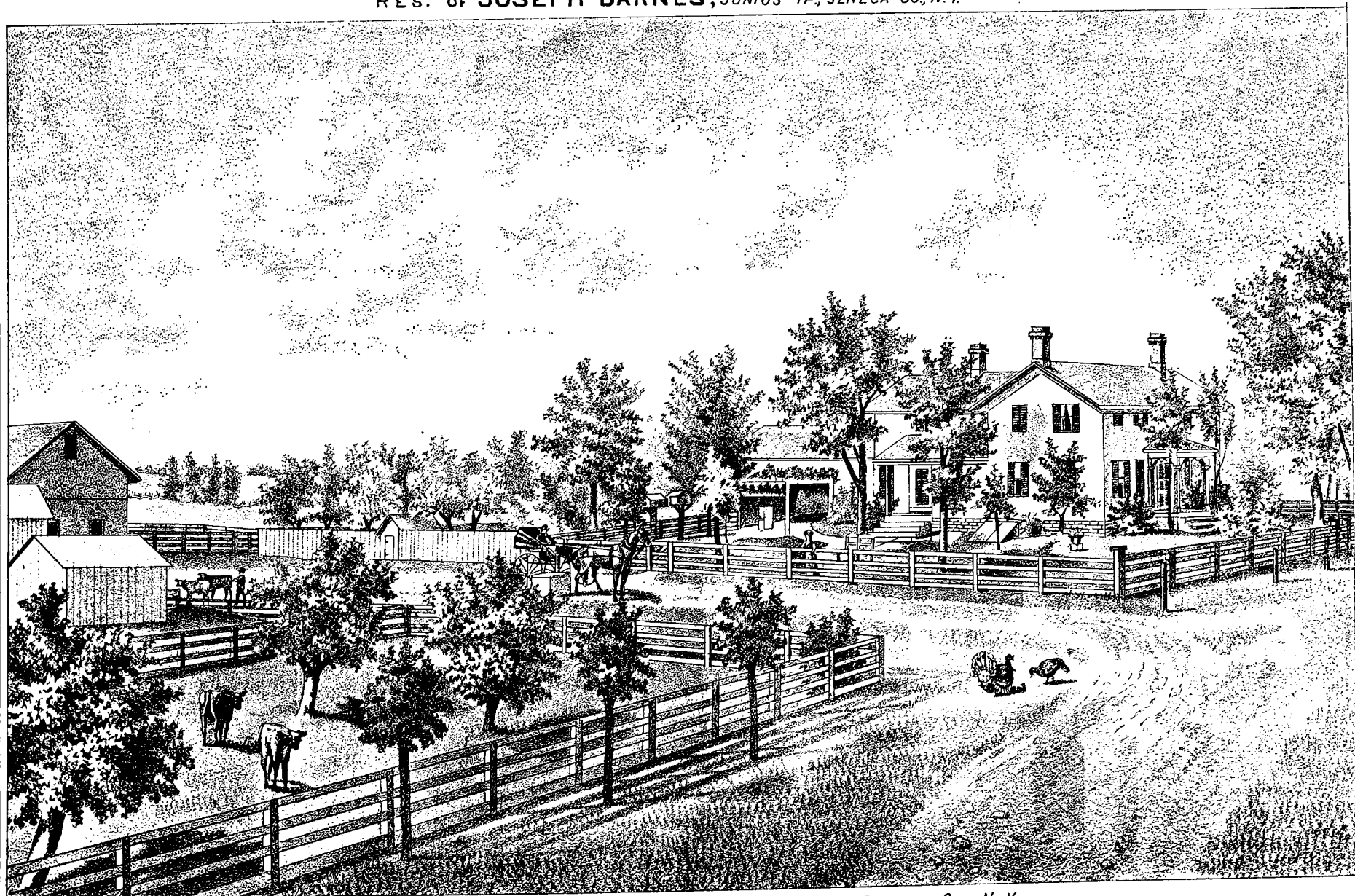
The *Ovid Emporium* was a publication, in 1832, by Bishop Orenshier.

The *Seneca County Courier* was established in 1836, by Isaac Fuller & Co.; O. H. Platt, then a leading lawyer, became its first editor. Platt was succeeded by Dexter C. Bloomer, then a young man of great promise. Bloomer removed from Seneca Falls to Mt. Vernon, Ohio, thence to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he at present resides. During the first ten years of its existence, the *Courier* had various publishers, among whom were Mills & Bloomer, Flavius J. Mills, and Mr. Bloomer, of whom we have spoken. Then came the firm of Davis & Mills, F. J. Mills and John L. Davis. The paper then passed to N. J. Milliken; then he took in a partner, and the publishers were known as Milliken & Mumford. The latter disposed of his interest to the old publisher, Isaac Fuller, and the *Courier* was published by Fuller & Milliken. In 1848, Milliken withdrew, and established the *Free Soil Union*, and Isaac Fuller continued to edit and publish the *Courier*. In 1849, Mr. Fuller gave up the publication to Messrs. Foster & Judd, and became the landlord of the "Seneca House," then standing on the corner of Ovid and Bayard Streets, and the principal public house of the village.

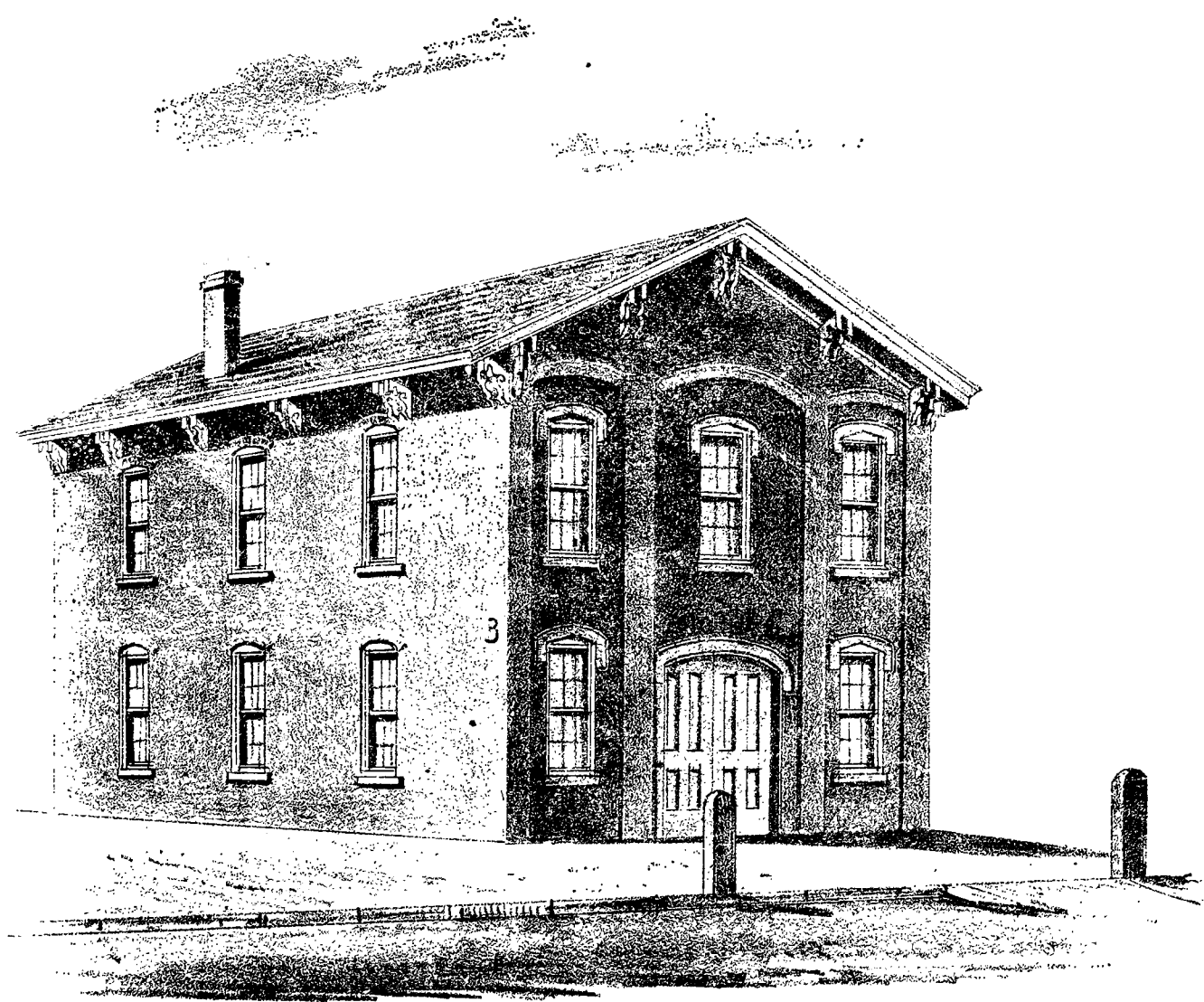




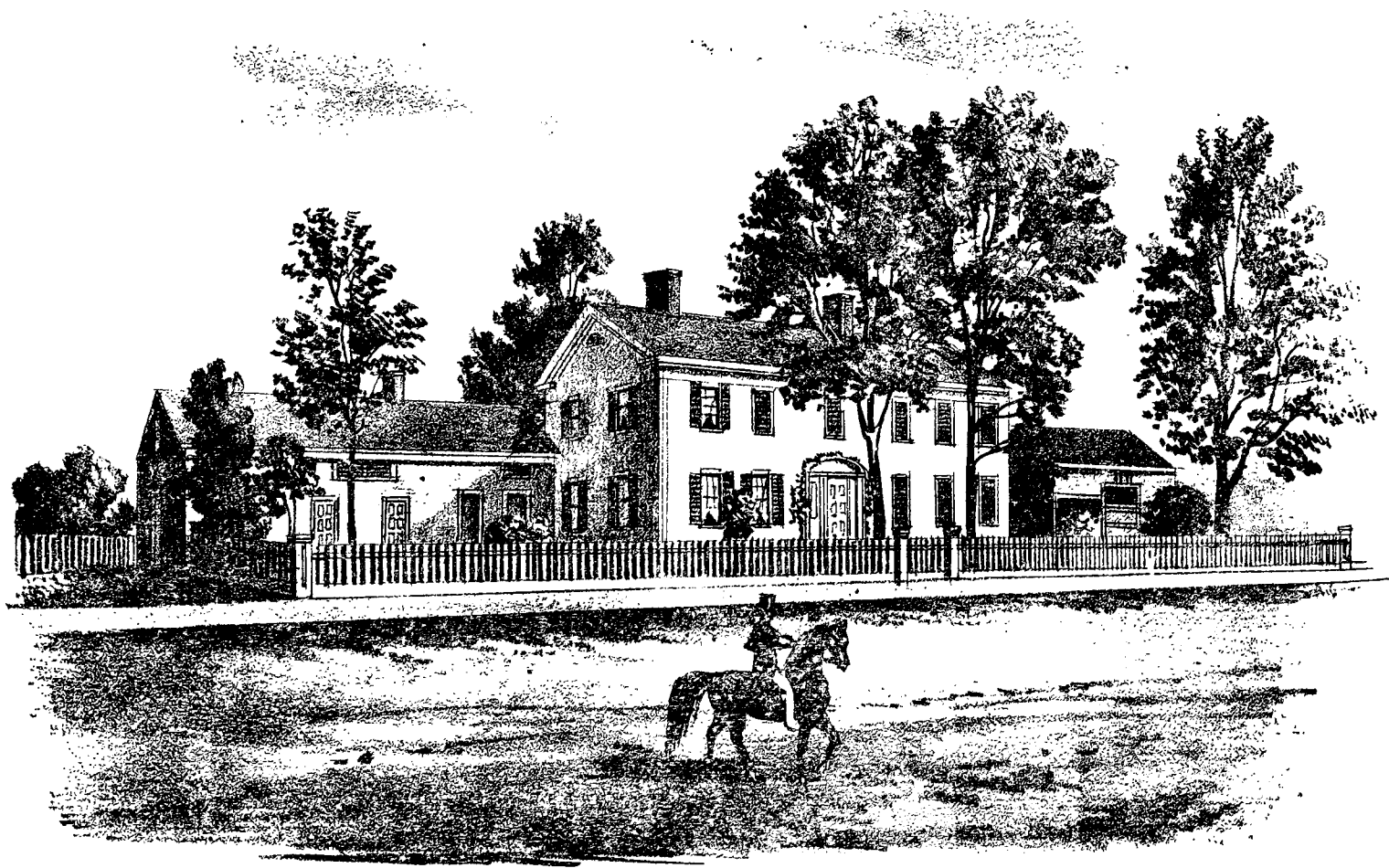
RES. OF JOSEPH BARNES, JUNIUS TP., SENECA CO., N. Y.



RES. OF BARNEY SNYDER, JUNIUS TP., SENECA CO., N. Y.



Engine House of Torrent Co. No. 3.  
Waterloo



Residence of the late Judge Watkins.  
South Waterloo.



Foster gave way to Fuller, who returned to the newspaper business in 1850, and united with Judd, under the firm name of Fuller & Judd. In 1851, Fuller once more assumed sole proprietorship, and, as editor and owner, conducted the *Courier* on up to 1865. For four years previous to this last date, Sylvester Pew was connected with him in the job printing department. In 1865, the entire establishment was purchased by Pew & Holton, S. Pew and S. Holton, with Mr. Holton as editor. The office was totally destroyed by fire in 1867, but the loss was quickly repaired by the purchase of new material. In 1871, Mr. Pew became the sole proprietor, employing A. S. Baker as editor. In 1875, the establishment was purchased by Horace W. Knight, and the paper is now published by Knight & Baker. The *Courier* has always been a pronounced political journal, first, as the organ of the Whig party, and subsequently of the Republicans, and has always maintained its position as a paper of commanding influence and ability.

The *Ovid Bee* was started at Ovid, in 1838, by David Fairchild, as a neutral paper. Mr. Fairchild was from Otsego County, this State; he had been publishing, at Trumansburg, a paper termed the *Trumansburg Advocate*, and, moving to Ovid early in 1838, issued the first number of the *Ovid Bee*, on February 21 of that year. In an inaugural poetical address, which appeared in the first number, it is stated that

"The *Bee* will mingle in no party strife  
For banks, nor anti-banks, nor local broils,  
But lead a social, peaceful, busy life—  
Unpledged to sects, unbribed by promised spoils."

The paper was published under the firm name of David Fairchild & Son. The father soon sold to his son Corydon, and in November, 1838, began at Hammondsport, Yates County, the publication of another paper. Corydon Fairchild continued the publication of the *Ovid Bee* until February, 1872,—a period of thirty-six years,—as its editor and proprietor. Finding the need of rest, Mr. Fairchild sold the paper to Oliver C. Cooper, and went to California, where he is at present. Mr. Cooper changed the name to *Ovid Independent*, and hoisted the motto, "Independent in everything—neutral in nothing." Cooper associated with him, as a publisher, Nelson Hyatt, and the paper was conducted by Hyatt & Cooper until the great fire of October 12, 1874, burned out the entire establishment. Mr. Hyatt then retired, and the junior member of the firm, Oliver C. Cooper, re-established the paper, and still carries it on, with reputation and profit.

The *Seneca Falls Democrat* was established in October, 1839, by an "association of gentlemen." Josiah T. Miller, then a minor, became the editor; Stephen S. Viele, Ebenezer Ingalls, and John L. Bigelow, were the Committee to carry on the business. Dennison Card was the foreman, and Fred Morley, since appointed United States Minister to China, Sylvester Pew, and Nicholas Suydam were among the employees. Within a few months, the "association" leased the office to Mortimer J. Smith and S. Pew, who then constituted the firm of Smith and Pew. At the expiration of six months Mr. Miller purchased Smith's interest, and the firm became S. Pew & Co., which continued about a year. The office then passed into the hands of F. J. Mills, under lease, who continued it until 1850, when Mr. Pew, who meanwhile had become one of the proprietors of the *Observer*, bought the office, and sold the material to Mr. Mills. This party then removed West, to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and established there a new paper. During the time Mr. Miller was connected with the *Democrat*, there was issued during a few months of the year 1844 a Democratic campaign sheet, under the title of "The Polk-Wright," Miller being editor.

The *Seneca Democrat*, a semi-weekly, was published for a short time from the *Democrat* office.

The *Memorial*, a legal reform journal, was commenced at Seneca Falls in 1838, by Ansel Bascom. It vigorously advocated reform in the codification of laws, and urged important amendments to the State Constitution. It was printed at the *Democrat* office, and published monthly, until the calling of the Constitutional Convention in 1846, of which body Mr. Bascom was chosen a member. The *Memorial* is regarded as having been the main agent in bringing about that legal reform in the code of legal procedure that has superseded the old common law system of pleading and practice, not alone in New York, but in other States and in Great Britain.

The *Lily*, a monthly sheet, was originated in 1851 by Mrs. Amelia Bloomer, as a temperance, dress reform, and woman's rights advocate. It was printed at the office of the *Courier*. It obtained a considerable circulation throughout the United States, and received contributions from Mrs. Stanton, Mrs. Gage, Miss Anthony, and others, who have since become widely known. In 1854, the *Lily* was removed to Mount Vernon, Ohio, and soon after discontinued. This sheet gave the name "Bloomer" to a costume introduced by Mrs. Stanton, as a dress for ladies. The dress was sharply criticised by papers, local and general; and the *Lily* as earnestly advocated the reform, and so fastened upon the dress the name of the lady editor.

The *Water Bucket* was published at Seneca Falls, in the interest of temperance, during the flood tide of the Washingtonian movement, by a society organized in the village.

The *Free Soil Union* was established by N. J. Milliken in 1848, immediately after disposing of his interest in the *Courier*, and published as a Free Soil paper. At the same time the *Waterloo Observer* was inclining towards Free Soilism; and in 1849 Sentell & Pew, of the latter paper, purchased the good will and subscription list of the *Union*, and Mr. Milliken removed to Canandaigua, where he established the *Times*.

The *Seneca Falls Reveille* was started January 7, 1855, as the *American Reveille*, by Gilbert Wilcoxon, George A. Sherman, and A. S. Baker, as the firm of Wilcoxon, Sherman, & Baker. The paper was issued in the interests of the American or "Know Nothing" party. Mr. Wilcoxon was the first editor, and, in 1856, purchased the entire establishment and issued a paper as editor and proprietor until 1859, when it passed into the hands of Holly & Stowell. Gilbert Wilcoxon is now County Judge. George A. Sherman and Arthur S. Baker entered the United States service, where the former died; the latter was on the staff of General Martindale, in the service, was connected with the *Saratoga Post*, and in 1874 became editor of the *Courier*. Holly and Stowell published the *Reveille* until January 7, 1860, when Holly sold out to Stowell, who had been the editor meanwhile, and who now became both proprietor and editor. Alanson P. Holly had been foreman in the works of Downs & Company, and on severing his connection with the *Reveille* removed to Lockport, thence to Barry County, Michigan. Henry Stowell had been a machinist in the employ of the Silsby Manufacturing Company, and, entering the business of journalist at Seneca Falls in 1859, has continued therein till date. In June, 1860, Mark W. Heath purchased a half-interest in the paper, but re-sold within the year. Mr. Stowell changed the name of his paper in 1860 to its present title, the *Seneca Falls Reveille*, and brought it out as a Douglas Democratic sheet, with the laudable motto, "Our country, her institutions, and her interests." The paper is regarded as the exponent of Democratic ideas, and the leading journal of the party in Seneca. The office employs seven hands, of whom George McConnelly is foreman. It contains four presses, power paper-cutter, and Globe and Liberty job presses. The Cottrell & Babcock cylinder press is a model of mechanism, and by it excellent work is executed.

The *Seneca County Sentinel* was commenced at Ovid, January 19, 1860, by A. S. Williams, under Republican colors. Mr. Williams sold to T. R. Lounsbury, a native of Ovid, and present Professor of English Literature in Yale College. During the same year, 1860, the paper was bought by S. M. Thompson, and by him conducted till 1861, when it passed into the control of D. G. Caywood. Sale was made to Riley and Baldwin; the latter disposed of his interest to his partner, John Riley, who removed the office of publication to Farmer Village. Here it was owned by Oscar M. Wilson, and published by the firm of O. M. Wilson & Son. It was removed to Trumansburg, where it is now published as the *Tompkins County Sentinel*.

The *Seneca Sachem*, a monthly historical and local journal, was published at Seneca Falls for a few months, commencing January 1, 1863. It was conducted by Francis M. Baker.

The *Seneca Evening Journal* was commenced in February, 1867, at Farmer Village; it was published as a monthly by J. Bergen. As observed, the history of journalism in Seneca County has been little less than a struggle for existence, often ending in failure. The first "power newspaper press," an Adams, was placed in the *Waterloo Observer* office about the year 1849, but being too cumbersome was soon removed, and a small Gordon job press put in. Mr. Fuller introduced a Lawyer job press in 1857, and in the year following a power newspaper press was put in by Fuller & Pew. In 1872 S. Pew purchased for the *Courier* two first-class cylinder presses, and placed the office upon a good basis. For years, newspaper men were paid for advertising and subscriptions in "trade," "orders," and farm produce, and received but little money. In 1865 the cash system was introduced in paying office expenses, and the workings of that plan have been mutually advantageous.

Job printing long enjoyed little patronage, and this was secured mainly by the *Observer* office, at Waterloo. With the growth of the County and the large manufacturing, however, this business is greatly augmented, and where twelve years ago there was but one power press in the County, there are now some sixteen. The jobbing establishments of Seneca's press are complete in appointment and unsurpassed in ability of execution. The character of the publishers stands well, and few counties can boast of more energetic workers.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

ACADEMIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS—THE PIONEER, OVID ACADEMY—"SENECA COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE"—THE SENECA FALLS ACADEMY—WATERLOO ACADEMY—PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE COUNTY.

THE community which most fosters education gives greatest security to person and property; knowledge is sought for its usefulness, and those most proficient in learning are best calculated for the performance of every duty. Seneca County, from its organization till the present, has always evinced a deep interest in the instruction of her youth. As in Iceland to-day, schools were anciently unknown, and the parent taught the child as the sons of the prophets and the wise men of old were versed by arduous study in the letter of the law. Oral instruction was common to Greek and Roman. As practiced by the Catholic of the present, the schools were supervised and controlled by the clergy. Experience is a worthy educator. It teaches that sectarianism dwarfs energy and opposes the greatest good to the greatest number, and clears no open field for competition. Comparison of results between the countries upholding a free-school system with all others strikingly illustrated its advantages. The formation of schools almost with the building of the first forest homes in this County shows that the pioneers did not intend to fall behind any other place in securing the benefits resulting from instruction in schools. The establishment of academies has given opportunity to choose between free and private instruction, yet the two clash, and the latter uniformly gives way. We have spoken of the desire to establish in Seneca an agricultural college, and the history of the enterprise. It remains to us to treat of the academies and public schools. While we are nominally equal, there is of necessity an aristocracy of society. The few who pass through the high-school course shows that most are satisfied with a common instruction.

The academy was earlier what the high-school aims to be at present, the completion of an ordinary course or the preparatory school of the college and university. King's College was incorporated in New York City in 1754 by patent, and in 1775 was the sole educational institution of the kind in the colony. Its name was changed in 1784 to Columbia College, which was to become the centre of a system whose branches were to be found in every county. A Board of Regents was established, consisting of leading State officers, two persons in each county, and one from each religious denomination. The scheme was unwieldy, and was superseded by Act of April 13, 1787, which constituted the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and nineteen others the Regents of the University. In 1842 the Secretary of State, and in 1854 the Superintendent of Public Instruction, were made *ex-officio* members of the board. None receive pay, and they hold office for life.

An annual apportionment of income from the literature fund was made to academies in amount proportioned to the number of classical students. The fund originated in the reserve for educational purposes of certain land tracts, and was largely augmented by the proceeds of four lotteries, granted April 3, 1801, by which funds were to be raised for both academies and common schools. In 1816 some \$10,000 were added to the fund, and in 1819 arrears of quit-rents amounting to over \$53,000 were equally divided between the two school systems. In 1827 \$150,000 was appropriated by the Legislature to the fund, and April 17, 1838, \$28,000 was annually to be set apart from the United States Deposit Fund, to be distributed among academies. The fund was managed by the Regents till January 25, 1825, when it was transferred to the Comptroller for investment. In 1858 the principal amounted to \$269,952.12, aside from the United States Deposit Fund. By Act passed April 12, 1853, general rules were required to be established by the Regents, governing academies and other educational institutions, whereby they obtained general powers of a corporation. Capital stock of an academy could not exceed \$50,000, and charters were made perpetual.

There have been three academical institutions established in this County, at Ovid, Seneca Falls, and Waterloo. The large brick building, finely situated and commanding a magnificent prospect from the height at the village of Ovid, is well known as "the old academy," whence have gone out some of our ablest citizens. In the days of its full prosperity wellnigh three hundred youth were congregated here, full two-thirds of whom were engaged in classical study under the direction of eight or more accomplished instructors. Thousands of dollars were expended in its maintenance, but other thousands were derived as revenues. The property was valued at over \$15,000, and contained an apparatus and a library of five hundred volumes. Its origin and career have shown varied fortunes; at times ranking high, again falling off in reputation and numbers, and finally passing to the control of the free-school trustees. A well-educated teacher, who had been engaged in his profession at Kidd's Ferry, came to Ovid in 1824, and was induced to open a school for the study of the classics in the room of the old court-house. The success attending this pioneer effort of William Irving

caused a meeting of interested persons, who formed a board of trustees and took steps towards the incorporation of an academy and the erection of a school building. The academy was incorporated in 1826, and the erection of a proper edifice came forward. In time a structure one hundred and two feet long, forty wide, and four stories high, was completed. The desire to early reap the advantages of the enterprise caused the opening of a school in a room on the south-east part of the house late in the year 1826, and during the construction of the work. Mr. Irving served with ability until 1830-31, when he resigned, and was succeeded by Zenas Clapp, a principal known as "scholarly and severe." William Eastman, the next principal, was succeeded in 1837 by William Gookins, who had been for three or four years previously the principal of Yates's County Academy at Penn Yan. A notice in the *Ovid Bee* announces the institution as prosperous, and enrolling one hundred and fourteen students. Successive principals were Rev. Mr. White, a Presbyterian; Mr. Hyde, and Theodore Bishop, a native of Lodi, a graduate of Union College, and an Episcopal clergyman officiating at Buffalo. Next succeeded Francis Hendricks, at present a Presbyterian divine; George Franklin, ex-County Judge, and a prominent man, who has reputably served as Deputy Secretary of State; Clement C. Leach, and the Rev. Mr. Frazer, who was principal in 1851. Amos Brown, LL.D., took charge of the institution in the fall of 1852, and continued until 1857, when he went to Havana and founded the People's College. His death occurred August 16, 1874. The faculty in 1854 were Rev. Amos Brown, President; Edwin Pense, Professor of Latin and Greek; George B. Vose, Professor of Mathematics; and W. H. Brewer, Teacher of Agriculture, Chemistry, and Philosophy. The total attendance for the year was three hundred and fifty-six. In 1855 the name of the academy was changed to "Seneca Collegiate Institute," and a second building was erected for a chapel and for boarding accommodations. Mr. Brown was followed for the years 1857-58 by two students in partnership, Prof. W. H. Brewer, now a Yale professor, and John W. Chickering, of Portland, Maine. Next came Rev. Mr. Livingston for a year, then Prof. Henry R. Lovell, of Whitehall, who began in September, 1859, and is now prosecuting attorney in Flint, Michigan, and finally John N. Donelson, a plain but scholarly man. The financial department became embarrassed; the citizens subscribed funds and paid off the debt, and donated the establishment to the Methodists, who, on assuming charge, gave to it the name "East Geneva Conference Seminary." At the meeting of the board held February 25, 1864, Rev. C. S. Coats was President, James Ferguson, Secretary, and Silas M. Kinne, Treasurer. Under charge of I. Brown and Isaac Gibbord associated, the school assumed high rank and prosperity. Professor Brown, later, became one of the faculty in Syracuse University. The Rev. Mr. Gibbord was a Methodist minister. Henry Sanford was employed in 1865, and remained till 1867; the Rev. Mr. Eastar was a final teacher, and the institution was closed. In 1872, the property, which had become involved, was sold on mortgage, bid in by the holders of the same, and turned over on its payment to the Board of Education, being known as Union Free School District, No. 1, Building. The first principal made a brief stay; the next was named Crawford. Professor William Hyde took charge in 1874, and has the present supervision. He is well liked, and has an army reputation as a chaplain. The present school board are Thaddeus BoDine, Rev. H. W. Torrence, E. C. Howell, and E. W. Bryan.

## THE SENECA FALLS ACADEMY.

The *Seneca Falls Academy* originated in 1832. In that year, on May 12, a subscription was started to raise funds wherewith to erect an academy at the village from which it had its name. A lot was donated for a site by Colonel Mynderse. A subscribed list of forty-eight names appears as holders of shares, each of which was \$25. One hundred shares were issued. Colonel Mynderse took twenty; Richard E. Gay, eight; W. H. King, Anthony Dey, and G. V. Sackett four each. The first trustees were Messrs. Gay, King, Dey, Matthias B. Bellows, and Asher Tyler. The earliest meeting of stockholders of which there is a record was held at the tavern of D. Watkins, in the village of Seneca Falls, on July 12, 1833. Jonathan Metcalf was chosen Chairman, and C. L. Hoskins, Secretary. The Trustees we have named reported that they had received from Wilhelmus Mynderse a deed for the Academy lots, had contracted with Messrs. Wade and Lindsley for the building of the Academy for \$1665.32; that the work had been done to the extent of the contract and satisfaction of the Trustees, excepting the cupola; that \$1666.20 had been expended, and that of uncollected subscriptions there remained \$508.80. The report was accepted. The Trustees were then authorized to appropriate at their discretion, from subscriptions to be paid, sums sufficient to complete the structure and improve the premises therewith connected. It was resolved to apply to the Regents of the University of New York for incorporation, as the "Seneca Falls Academy." The petition contains, as Trustees, the names of W. Mynderse, A. Dey, Asher Tyler, S. D. Mumford, Chas. L. Hoskins, Richard E. Gay, M. B. Bellows, J. Metcalf,

Chas. W. Dey, Ebenezer Hoskins, Gary V. Sackett, Isaac Smith, Wm. H. King, Abraham Payne, and D. W. Foreman. Asher Tyler and C. L. Hoskins drafted and presented the petition, which was refused on the ground of insufficient endowment.

Canton M. Crittenden, the first Principal, began to teach in 1833, the Academy being unfinished at the time, and continued teaching until April, 1844. His assistant was Miss Lucretia Wilson. The incorporation of the Academy was effected in 1837 by special legislation, by which it was provided that said Academy should participate in the distribution of the Literature fund, upon satisfactory showing that it had complied with the requirements authorizing the incorporation. Upon the death of Colonel Mynderse, which occurred in 1837, a bequest of \$2000 was made to the Academy by him. A report by the Academy to the Regents of the University, made in 1839, shows the corporation then possessed of property to the amount of over \$5000; and the Academy was placed upon the list of those which were entitled to participate in the Literature fund. On the 21st of December, 1838, the number of students in attendance was fifty-nine. The Academy, in 1841, received from the Auburn and Rochester Railroad \$1500 as damages to their property in laying out the road. The institution continued to flourish, and its property to augment in value, and was in 1859 estimated at nearly \$9000. As remarked in the history of the schools of Seneca Falls, the union of districts in the inauguration of free schools was followed by the renting of the Academy in 1867 to school trustees, on condition of maintaining a classical department, and that arrangement is still in force.

The following is a roll of Principals employed from date of incorporation till transfer for free school purposes: Canton M. Crittenden, 1833 to 1844; Rutger Van Brunt, one year; M. L. Bellows, a term; Orin Root, 1845 to 1849; Charles A. Avery, 1849 to 1853. Mr. Avery died in December of 1853, and was succeeded by Myron H. Beach, who continued until April, 1856. S. G. Williams was in charge till July, 1857; Rev. John M. Guion, 1857 to 1860; Charles D. Vail, 1860 to 1864. Then came G. M. Janes in 1864, and C. A. Wetmore, 1865 and 1866. Assistant teachers were: Mary T. Chamberlin, 1839 to 1843; Charlotte C. Butterick, three years; Frances M. Woodworth, one year; Ann L. Frazer, one year; Frances L. Hoskins, 1848 to 1853; S. W. Salisbury, in 1850; Fanny M. Pollard, 1850 to 1854; Nelson N. Avery, 1851, and Simon Holton, 1851 to 1853; in 1854, Chas. S. Bundy and G. C. Walker, Caroline M. Bullard, Hannah C. Esterly, one year; C. Linderman, 1854; Annette T. Hoskins and Emma Frost, 1855; W. Sanderson, F. P. Hoskins, and Rebecca J. Williams, 1856; same year D. C. Smalley, H. M. Hoskins, and Frances Gay; Anne Frost, one year. Others were J. M. Guion, Jr., Sophia B. Gay, and Addie S. Pollard.

Without discord or clash of interests, the early scholastic education, fitted for the times, and yet upheld by many in the preparatory departments of our colleges, has quietly merged itself in the free schools, while yet reserving the right to reassert itself, should the apathy or neglect of the present munificent system permit its interests to suffer.

The history of the Waterloo Academy, as such, is brief, as was its existence, yet it was the healthy stock upon which was grafted the prosperous Union School. About the year 1840, subscriptions were circulated for the purpose of erecting an academy. The effort, though costing no little labor and patience, resulted in the sum of six thousand dollars. The building erected at the time was regarded not only convenient for the purposes of the school intended, but as a model of Tuscan architecture, and was the subject of much admiration. In form it was a parallelogram, ninety feet long and forty-six feet wide, and from the basement to the top of the balustrade, thirty-six feet. The rotunda rose above the roof fifteen feet, making the height total fifty-one feet. The total expenditure for building, grounds, and furniture, was not less than nine thousand dollars. The Board of Trustees, as constituted by the charter, comprised the following names: Joel W. Bacon, Richard P. Hunt, Samuel H. Gridley, Daniel S. Kendig, Asa N. Draper, Edmund Gay, P. T. Mumford, William V. G. Mercer, Thomas Fatzinger, Caleb Fairchild, Peter R. Wirts, Gardner Welles, Aaron D. Lane, and Samuel Clark. Joel W. Bacon was President, D. S. Kendig, Secretary, and P. T. Mumford, Treasurer. The school was opened in May, 1842, under the instruction of Joseph E. Larned as Principal, Teacher of Languages and of Elocution; William Crocker, Assistant and Teacher of Mathematics and English Literature; Sophia G. Larned, Preceptress of Female Department, and Margaret Bohr, Teacher of French and Ornamental Branches. The Principal being called to act as Tutor in Yale College, left at the close of the second quarter, and was succeeded by Edward Cooper. The Board of Instruction, as shown by a catalogue of April, 1843, was thus composed: Edward Cooper, Principal; Charles G. Brundige, Mathematics; William Crocker, Natural Sciences and English Branches; H. F. De La Place, French and Italian. Miss Larned, Preceptress; Catherine C. Wyckoff, English Branches; Julia Pinkney, Primary Department, and Catharine Morrison, Music. Mr. Cooper remained two years. The school had grown rapidly, and was evidently enjoying

the confidence of the people. There was an attendance of more than one hundred and thirty-six males and one hundred and forty-two females, making a total of two hundred and seventy-eight. Among the members of the institution at this term were, Richard Kendig, L. E. Swift, William H. Burton, Edward H. Birdsall, Charles P. Crosby, now of New York, and Edward Welles, now Bishop of Wisconsin. In August, 1847, the Academy ceased to exist. Caused by necessity through indebtedness on the one hand, and the acquiescence in a new mode of instruction on the other, it passed to be known as the "Union School."

The public schools of the County are the colleges to a vast majority of her youth. The State, realizing that her safety depends upon the intelligence of the masses, as farmers, mechanics, and legislators, as voters, citizens, and soldiers, has made full and free provision for the establishment of public schools within her borders. In 1789, an act was passed by the Legislature requiring the Surveyor-General to set apart two lots in each township, of the public land, thereafter to be surveyed, for gospel and school purposes. In 1793, the Regents recommended the establishment of a general system of common schools. Governor Clinton, as had previous Governors, urged the same. In 1800, a bill making appropriation to the support of common schools, passing the Assembly, was defeated in the Senate. In 1806, provision was made for a permanent school fund, and in 1812, an Act passed for its distribution. Originally, the electors were permitted to decide, at their annual town meeting, whether they would accept their share of the money appropriated, and levy an equal amount on their taxable property. It is related that the sum of \$80.29 was apportioned to Junius, in 1813, and a special meeting of the town's electors was held, to determine what to do with the money, and the following resolutions were adopted: First, that the town do not accept the money allowed by the State for the support of common schools, being \$80.29. Second, that the town is willing to receive its proportion of the school-fund, to apply it for the education of *poor children*.

We have seen the pioneers erecting their schools contemporary with settlement, and solely on their private account. In 1812, the office of School Commissioner was created, and in the record of early town meetings we find a record of provision made for School Commissioners and Inspectors, and it is apparent that Seneca County kept pace with the progress of school development. In 1838, the district library system was established by law, and the office of County Superintendent was incorporated with the statutes concerning schools. The need of a school for the education of teachers was seen, and steps to supply were taken, which resulted in the passing of an act and the opening of such school at Albany, December 18, 1844. Under the supervision and inspection of County Superintendents, the schools made evident progress; but the appointment of incumbents on partisan grounds, regardless of qualifications, rendered the office unpopular, and caused its abolishment November 13, 1847, and a temporary retrogression ensued. The establishment of free schools dates from March 26, 1849. The crude legislation in vogue made the taxation unequal, and resulted in remonstrances from every quarter, and April, 1851, the Free School Act was repealed, and the old rate system came back. Its stay in New York was transient. Conditional free schools were allowed by Act of 1853, and the principle recognized. The office of School Commissioner was created April 12, 1856, and Town Superintendency at the same time abolished,—a change which is regretted by a portion of the people as removing the authority too far from the people. In April, 1858, annual meetings were directed to be held on the second Tuesday in October, and the school year to begin October 1. The people are willing to promote merit, and hence the private school and academy were yielded to the common school. A trial has been made, and one portion of the population has decided adversely, and are deliberately engaged in a re-establishment, so far as they are concerned, of a former system. The crucial test is being applied, and it is desirable that all sects and classes shall find their way in common through our free schools, however divergent may be their ultimate career in life; and a people whose valor and patriotism has been so fully shown in the arena of warfare will be slow to yield the evident advantages of our common-school education, established on the basis of freedom and equality.

The teacher, as the physician, saw the advantages likely to result from association, and for years held voluntary assemblages. The first Teachers' Institute in the State was held at Ithaca, Tompkins County, April 4, 1843, and on November 13, 1847, the Institute was legally established, and provision made by appropriation for its support. The press of the County has, from time to time, contained brief record, not of interest here, of institutes at various points, instructors present, character of exercises, and number in attendance. These institutes are held annually, and are of two weeks' duration. The one for 1876 begins June 12, at Ovid, E. V. De Groff, Principal; Miss Minnie Sherwood, Assistant. Examinations of teachers are written out in reply to questions prepared by the County Commissioner, who has himself been a teacher. The branches upon



which the test of scholarship are applied are Reading, Penmanship, Spelling, Defining, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geography and use of Globes, English Grammar, United States and General History, Civil Government, and Discipline. Maximum, 100; minimum, 75. Certificates are of three grades, and range from three months to three years. The present policy prevailing is the employment of cheap teachers, which, it is hoped, will give way to higher wages and ample qualifications. The School Commissioner receives a salary of \$800 from the State, and an additional \$200 is levied by the County. His duties are to examine and license teachers, visit schools, apportion public moneys, and report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The following is a list of School Commissioners from 1861 to 1876, each official holding for two years: Peter V. N. Bodine, of Lodi; Isaac Runyan, of Waterloo; Hammond, of Covert; William Hogan, of Fayette; H. V. L. Janes, of Lodi; and George N. Hurlbut, of Waterloo. The following statistics are given for the school year ending September 30, 1875. The County is divided into the south jury district capital, Ovid, and the north jury district capital, Waterloo. The division for educational purposes is into 106 districts. Ninety-seven of these have their school-houses in Seneca County, and nine in others. The number of licensed teachers employed at the same time, for twenty-eight weeks or more, was 136. The number of children between the ages of five and twenty-one, residing in the County, was 9198. Three private schools were taught, and attended by but 47 persons. The report of the time school was kept is given by adding each school's time to the rest, and Fayette's seventeen schools report whole time of schools at 566 weeks and 3 days. The average day's attendance, and entire attendance, is given in the same manner. There were 202 teachers licensed by the local officer, 10 by the State Superintendent, and 2 at the normal school. Of these, 82 were males and 132 females. Attendance by children in the County has been 6917; in other districts, 217. Total, 7134. There were 139 inspections. The District Libraries were established in 1838, and till 1851, with exceptions, \$55,000 were annually appropriated by the State to the various counties for the purchase of books. By Act of July 9, 1851, the law made discretionary what had been obligatory, in reference to levying a tax by the town Supervisors for library purposes. It would be useful in this connection, could it be known to what extent the books have been read, and the measure of their value as an educational appliance. The number of volumes in the district library is 6012, contained in 59 cases, and valued at \$3019. Of four grades of school buildings, log, frame, brick, and stone, the first has long since subserved its purpose, and passed into history; of stone, there are but 2; of brick, 32; and of frame, 69, giving a total of 103. The value of school-house sites is \$19,181; of school-house and site, \$178,630, and the assessed valuation of property taxable in the district, \$6,311,120. By way of contrast, we give the school statistics from the report of 1859: School-houses, 104; districts, 102; teachers, 117; children, between four and twenty-one, 10,164. Volumes in library, 16,347. State apportionment, \$9968.53. Receipts, \$24,109.69. Expenses, the same. A marked discrepancy exists in the reports of school-library volumes. As old structures give way to new, better seats are furnished. In early days the teachers were, many of them, old men, now they are upon the opposite extreme of youthfulness; the former taught for low wages, when all things were low; the latter to obtain places. Better teachers and wages are needed.

## CHAPTER XXVII.

### SENECA IN THE WAR OF THE REBELLION—STATISTICS—THE NINETEENTH NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS—THE FIFTEENTH ENGINEERS—THE THIRTY-THIRD NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS.

AMERICANS are proud of the Republic, and their valor on land and sea has attested their patriotic devotion. Conscious of their own loyalty, the yeomanry of New York looked calmly upon the secession of States and the cumulation of rebellious forces until, like a thunderbolt, fell the tidings of Fort Sumter bombarded and surrendered. Then the people forgot all but the peril of the land, and all over the North thousands rushed to arms.

All over Seneca County the noble fervor spread, and from Seneca Falls, Waterloo, and Ovid, companies of her choice young men went forth to battle, led on by men like Ashcroft, McGraw, Guion, Aikins, and BoDine. Month after month men left the field, the work-shop, and the desk, to fill the places of the fallen or unworthy, and to swell the forces of the National Army.

In 1861, two hundred and thirty-seven men had joined the ranks. In the dark hours of 1862, when Harper's Ferry fell and brought distress to many a home in Seneca, four hundred and sixty-seven enlisted; in 1863, one hundred and eighty-four went out; in 1864, three hundred and sixty-seven; and others in 1865. Seneca County had representatives in seventy regiments of infantry, thirteen artillery organizations, two batteries, thirteen cavalry regiments, the First Veteran Cavalry, the navy, and in regiments from other States. The principal representation was in the Fifteenth and Fiftieth New York Engineers; the Nineteenth, Thirty-third, Seventy-fifth, One Hundred and Eleventh, One Hundred and Twenty-sixth, and One Hundred and Forty-eighth Infantry; the First, Third, Ninth, and Sixteenth Artillery; the First and Eighth Cavalry; the Fifteenth United States Regulars, and the navy. The County furnished a total of one thousand three hundred and twenty-eight men. Six hundred and twenty-four of these were men of family. The oldest soldier enlisted was aged sixty-two years. Eight hundred and ninety-nine were natives of the State. In respect to employment, forty-nine were carpenters; seventeen clerks, copyists, and accountants; twelve coopers; two hundred and ninety-two farmers; two hundred and eleven laborers; thirty mechanics, and nineteen moulders; besides a fitting representation of other occupations. So far as can be learned, the deaths in military service of Seneca soldiers was *two hundred and seventy-six*, of whom one hundred and seventy-one were married. Two hundred and seventy of these were volunteers. Sixty-nine were killed in battle, thirty-one died of wounds received in battle, and one hundred and thirty-one died of sickness acquired in service. Thirty-two died in 1862, fifty-four in 1863, one hundred and thirty-nine in 1864, and but twenty-six in 1865.

Simultaneously, war-meetings were held all over Seneca County, and within an almost incredible space, company after company departed to its rendezvous. Patriotic spirit needed little urging, and every effort to recruit men met some success, so that a complete history of the battles wherein Seneca soldiers were engaged would embrace a history of the war in every field, and is therefore beyond our reach.

The *Nineteenth New York Volunteer Infantry*, self-styled the "Seward Regiment," was principally raised in Cayuga County. It desired to remain at Auburn to be organized, clothed, and equipped; but the law made Elmira the rendezvous, and the ardor of the citizen soldiery made each company eager to be first upon the ground. From peace to war was too great a transition to our people, and inefficiency, haste, and blunders long checked enthusiasm and paralyzed the efforts of the most willing.

Seneca Falls was the home of James E. Ashcroft, by profession a dentist, and the commander of a well-drilled Zouave company. Foreseeing war, Captain Ashcroft, as early as November, 1860, tendered the Governor the service of his company, but the offer was declined. On Sunday, April 14, 1861, a Confederate flag waved from the ramparts of Fort Sumter. On Monday, Abraham Lincoln called for seventy-five thousand men to suppress unlawful combination, and Ashcroft at once began to form a company for the field. By Thursday thirty-three had enlisted; a day or two more and the organization was full. It was composed of young men from eighteen to twenty-five years of age. Among them were two sons of Hon. H. B. Stanton. Mrs. Stanton expressed her regret that her two younger sons were not old enough to enlist also. Ashcroft's company departed from Seneca Falls amid the plaudits of thousands, and by 11 P.M. of April 27 reached Elmira,—the second company to arrive upon a rendezvous where later brigades were seen. Quarters were assigned at the Old Barrel Factory; soldiers' rations issued; straw and blankets, in place of feather beds and white sheets, for beds; and soldier life had begun. Meanwhile, Captain John H. Ammon had been raising a fine company at Auburn, some twenty men of whom were from Seneca Falls; this body of young men was mustered in on May 7, and on May 9 reached Elmira, and were quartered in Beecher's church. On May 14, regiment number Nineteen was formed, and an election of regimental officers ordered with the following result: Colonel, John S. Clark; Lieutenant-Colonel, Clarence A. Seward, Esq.; Major, James H. Ledlie. The men of the Nineteenth enlisted for two years. Captain W. L. Elliott, without authority for the act, mustered them into the service of the United States for *three months* only, and laid the foundation for subsequent serious troubles. In the enrollment of companies, the following order prevailed: Company A, Captain John T. Baker; Company B, Captain T. J. Kennedy; Company C, Captain J. E. Ashcroft; Company D, Captain Owen Gavigan; Company E, Captain Thomas H. Schenk; Company F, Captain Nelson T. Stephens; Company G, Captain Charles H. Stewart; Company H, Captain Solomon Giles; Company I, John H. Ammon; and Company K, Captain J. R. Angel. The first uniforms issued were a shabby gray, coarse of material, and extravagantly large, and the pride of the recruit in a handsome uniform found no stimulus here.

At ten A.M. of June 4 the regiment received their colors, next day their



muskets and equipments, and on June 6 set out for Washington. Rumors were passed along, excited men learned of turbulence in Baltimore, and three rounds of cartridges, each containing an ounce ball and three buckshot, were issued to each man. Their march through Baltimore, with fixed bayonets and capped muskets, cowed the city roughs and prevented attack. On again to Washington, and into camp. Wedge tents were used for shelter, each occupied by four men. Drill and camp routine, with visits from President and Secretary of State, and others distinguished, followed. The first death was of Joseph Winters, drummer boy in Company C, drowned while bathing, and buried with military honors. The Nineteenth had been assigned to the command of Major-General Sandford, who, on July 5, ordered four regiments, among which was the Nineteenth, to reinforce General Patterson near the Potomac at Williamsport. Fifteen wagons were allotted to the regiment to convey its baggage. Soldiers were loaded down with accoutrements and knapsacks, which galled the shoulders and blistered the feet. Later, there were few wagons, and each man bore a lighter load. Arrived at Williamsport, the river, wide and shallow, was forded, and Martinsburg was reached about midnight. The regiment now found itself one of thirty, in an army of twenty-three thousand men. In front, at Bunker Hill, was Joe Johnson, with a force little less numerous. The spirit of adventure prompted the men to scouting. On July 11, Martin Webster and S. J. Tobias, of Company I, while foraging were fired upon by a party of Stuart's cavalry, and Tobias was struck in the hip. Webster returned the fire and killed a rebel. A brief skirmish, and the men were captured and sent to the later famous Libby prison. Tobias died of his wound September 26, and Webster, exchanged, returned to duty in June, 1862. The battle of Bull Run, the panic of victorious troops, the arrival of Johnson with fresh columns, and the failure of Patterson to co-operate with McDowell, are well-known events, and no troops more deeply regretted their forced inaction than the ragged but popular Nineteenth New York. Patterson was retired and Banks assumed command. He found few regiments except New Yorkers,—the Pennsylvanians enlisted for three months had gone to their homes,—and established himself on the Maryland side at the "Heights." On July 30, the Cayugas for the first time went gladly to dress parade, clothed in army blue. On August 22, the regiment was forced to continue in the service for two years, under penalty of being treated as mutineers. Cannon and musketry were brought in readiness to fire upon them. Most of the men yielded to necessity, but the *morale* of the organization was broken. It was not the continued service, but the want of good faith, which brought difficulty, and the intelligence of the men increased the effect. It was an *unmerited wrong and disgrace*. Most returned to duty, but twenty-three immovable men were court-martialed and sentenced to two years' hard labor on fortifications, but were subsequently pardoned and entered the service in Carr's Second Cavalry. On December 11, 1861, the Nineteenth volunteers was changed to a regiment of heavy artillery, and, as an organization of infantry, passes from sight. It saw heavy guard and picket duty along the Potomac, and, if it bore no part in battle, it was not the less entitled to the honors due those who were always ready and often anxious for the fray.

#### THE FIFTEENTH NEW YORK ENGINEERS.

The *Fifteenth Regiment, New York Engineers*, had been years in service, and, in common with other organizations, had become reduced in numbers. On the call of the President in 1864, a large accession was made to the ranks of the Fiftieth Engineers, and a surplus of volunteers, numbering about sixty men, who had volunteered for this regiment from Seneca Falls and its vicinity, were assigned to the Fifteenth. Mustered into service in Camp Seward, at Auburn, they reached Elmira on October 3. Their stay was brief; experience had not been in vain, and the Senecans, leaving camp at Elmira October 8, found themselves at City Point by the 14th. They came at once upon the field, and heard with strange feelings the booming of heavy guns, the crash of shells, and saw the stern realities of military life, to which Seneca's veteran soldiers had grown familiar. The men found quarters at a line of works located some six miles from Petersburg, and, during the winter, were employed in laying out and building fortifications and erecting hospitals for the Second and Ninth Army Corps. From time to time they were brought to the front to line new works, and while their duty was not to mingle in the fray, they were made familiar with its most stirring scenes. On April 2, 1865, they were actively engaged in extinguishing fires in Petersburg, and were kept in the advance from that point westward to Berkshire and to the Staunton River, to construct bridges for passage of troops and trains. On May 1, they were ordered to Washington. On their march they passed through Richmond, forming a part of the forces that, on May 6, passed through that rebel stronghold in grand review. Reaching Arlington Heights, they again marched in review, on May 12, through the streets of Washington. Thence they were furnished transportation to Elmira, and in June were discharged

from service. The skill shown in works, the rapid construction of bridges for railways and pontons for the passage of troops, have excited astonishment and admiration, and the prompt service of this branch of the army made success in pursuit possible and prevented combinations that would have protracted the struggle.

#### THE THIRTY-THIRD NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS.

The *Thirty-third New York Volunteers* was among the very first organized. Three companies went out from Seneca County—two from Seneca Falls and one from Waterloo. Close upon receipt of the news of hostilities at Charleston, enrolling offices were opened and recruits enlisted. E. J. Tyler, Esq., established an office in Seneca Falls, and within a week eighty men had been obtained. May 9, George M. Guion was elected Captain; E. J. Tyler, First Lieutenant; Pryce W. Bailey, Second Lieutenant. Upon May 13 the company left their home for Elmira, amidst the enthusiasm of citizens, and bearing away the best wishes of the community. At Waterloo meetings were held, and funds and influence were freely bestowed by such men as Hon. A. P. King, Hon. D. S. Kendig, and Messrs. Kendig, Knox, Hadley, Wells, Mackey, and Dr. S. Wells. On April 26, the company, eighty-six strong, was sworn into the State service by Major John Bean, of Geneva. The company known as the "Waterloo Wright Guards" was officered by John F. Aikens, Captain; Chester H. Cole, First Lieutenant, and Andrew Schott, Second Lieutenant. It left for Elmira on the last of April, and was speedily introduced to the discomforts of the barrel factory. Two companies had departed from Seneca Falls; a third soon followed them. Aided by Brigadier-General Miller, John McFarland, and George Daniels, Patrick McGraw, a British soldier for fifteen years, organized a company of Irishmen, and, encouraged by Rev. Edward McGowan, received at the Catholic Church, after vespers, from him his benediction. On May 22, 1861, the Irish company departed for Elmira, by way of Geneva and the lake. On May 21, a regimental organization was effected by eight companies, two companies afterwards joining them. The following election was held: Colonel, Robert F. Taylor, of Rochester; Lieutenant-Colonel, Calvin Walker, Geneva; Major, Robert J. Mann, of Seneca Falls; and Adjutant, Charles T. Sutton, of New York City. The regiment was numbered the Thirty-third. Guion's Company became A, that of Aikens C, and McGraw's K. Prior to their departure for Washington, the regiment was presented with a beautiful flag by the ladies of Canandaigua. Formed in hollow square, the regiment was presented with the banner by Mrs. Chesebro, who accompanied it with an earnest and eloquent speech, in which the organization was designated as the Ontario regiment—a title which brought honor in the field to the old county of which they thus became the namesake. Colonel Taylor, receiving the flag, gave promise that "it should never be dishonored or disgraced." On July 3, the Thirty-third was mustered into the United States service for two years, by Captain Sitgreaves, a regular officer. July 8 they were *en route* to the capital. At Camp Granger, located near the city, E. Backerstose, of Company H, was accidentally shot; this was the first death in the regiment. While the battle of Bull Run was in progress, the regiment listened with feverish excitement to the far-away sounds of artillery all that day. Evening came, and with other regiments they promptly obeyed orders, and started for the Long Bridge, but were recalled. Chester H. Cole here succeeded Aikens, who had resigned his position as Captain of Company C. Lieutenant Schott, of the same company, was succeeded by L. C. Mix, promoted from commissary sergeant. The regiment moved, on the 6th of July, to the vicinity of the Chain Bridge, and were brigaded with the Third Vermont and Sixth Maine, under Colonel W. F. Smith. On September 15, the Thirty-third was attached to the Third Brigade, formed of the Forty-ninth and Seventy-ninth New York and Forty-seventh Pennsylvania, and commanded by Colonel Stevens, who, in a special order, forbade profanity. Divisions were now formed, and the Thirty-third found itself under command of General Smith, promoted from colonelcy. On the morning of the 29th of September, Smith advanced his division upon Vienna, formed in line, and placed Mott's battery in advance, and the Thirty-third as its support. Other batteries were put in position. The enemy were in force, and suddenly opened with artillery, which caused no casualties. Our batteries responded. The force soon returned to camp. From time to time other advances were made, and skirmishing ensued, so preparing the men for the work to follow. All winter it was "all quiet upon the Potomac," and the rebels having fallen back from Manassas, McClellan began the transfer of his magnificent army to the vicinity of the James. The Thirty-third were taken on board three steamers, on March 23, and conveyed southward to Old Point Comfort; they were employed in reconnoitering; built a redoubt of logs, to which was given the name Fort Wright, in honor of Joseph Wright, of Waterloo.

Early in April, the entire army advanced towards Yorktown. The Thirty-third occupied quarters at Young's Mills on the afternoon of April 4, and by noon of the next day the division was in front of Lee's Mills. The Thirty-third

were placed on picket, and C was ordered to support sections of Wheeler's and Cowan's batteries. Artillery and musketry began, and a ball from the enemy striking a caisson exploded several shells, but the danger of explosion was averted by an artilleryman running up and drenching the ammunition with a bucket of water. The artillery killed but few men. Captains Cole and Guion, with a volunteer party, reconnoitering the rebel works, were fired upon. Smith withdrew for a short distance, and the Thirty-third were relieved, after being under fire for fifty-four hours, and having several wounded. Moving close upon Yorktown, the regiment made frequent forays, and worked hard upon earthworks. All things were ready to storm the rebel works, when the "intelligent contraband" brought in the news that the Quaker guns of Manassas were mounted at Yorktown, and the enemy in full retreat. Among others, Key's Corps, to which Smith's Division was attached, were at once started in pursuit. On May 4, Smith reached the rebel works, two miles from Williamsburg. These works consisted of a long breastwork named Fort Magruder, and of seven square earthworks, extending across the peninsula, and were held by several thousand men. Resting fitfully at night, the national troops advanced upon the forts on Monday morning, the 5th of May. Hooker's advance was met and forced back. At eleven o'clock, Hancock was ordered to take his own and the Third Brigade, and flank the rebel position. The Thirty-third had been halted some eight miles back, and had not resumed its advance till 5 P.M., and came up just in time to join the Fifth Wisconsin, Forty-ninth Pennsylvania, and Sixth and Seventh Maine, in this flank movement. Marching two miles to the right, near York River, the columns bore off to the left, crossed King's Creek on a dam built to overflow the ground fronting a portion of the rebel lines, and came upon works of great strength, but deserted. Near the dam, Companies B, G, and K, of the Thirty-third, were left to guard the forks, and, the force having crossed, Major Platner, in command, marched them into the first fort. Hancock moved half a mile to the left, and halted by a deserted redoubt, near the enemy. Lieutenant-Colonel Corning was ordered to occupy this work with Companies A, D, and F, with the colors and color-guard. The remainder of the regiment was at once deployed as skirmishers, and advanced to the front and right. Two batteries, supported by a brigade, opened upon Fort Magruder with shell for some time, and then ceased. All was quiet for hours, while heavy firing showed hard fighting to the left. Night was at hand, when a force of the enemy was seen coming up from Williamsburg, and rapidly forming in double line of battle. Hancock ordered his batteries and infantry back to position, and the three companies of the Thirty-third were withdrawn from the redoubt, to take their place in line, leaving the color-guard and the regiment's flag in the work. The rebels advanced, with shouts of "Bull Run" and "Ball's Bluff," in steady lines, and disregarded the continued fire, with which it was attempted to check them. Lieutenant Brown and others had fallen wounded; the batteries were hurrying to escape by the dam, and the line wavered. Within seventy yards, and Colonel Taylor, fresh from the skirmish line, flashing his sword in the air, shouted, "Forward, men!" "Charge bayonets!" repeated Lieutenant-Colonel Corning, and forward on the charge double-quick it was, with three companies of Seneca soldiers to check a rebel division. Other regiments followed, the rebels broke and ran, while volley upon volley followed them on to their works. Above two hundred of the rebels lay dead and wounded on the plain, among them several officers. The four companies deployed on the left had opened fire on the rebel advance, and slowly fell back. A party of the Thirty-third, under Captain Root, had been ordered forward as a reinforcement, and, advancing, found the enemy all about him. Falling back, Root halted about two hundred yards from his former position, and seeing a small party of the enemy near by, fired upon them, and compelled their surrender. In all, forty prisoners were captured, and then Captain Root marched them in with his little force of twenty-seven. When the line wavered, Warford attempted to hold it firm. A rebel officer approaching the captain, was captured by him. The enemy passing through Company H, took several of its men. Soon some fifty rebels returned and attacked the company from the rear, and Captain Drake and some twenty men were taken prisoners. The Waterloo Company (C) took thirty-seven prisoners, who were sent under charge of Lieutenant Brett to headquarters. William Moran compelled his captives to fall upon their knees, and make complete surrender. The conduct of the different companies in this engagement won a personal compliment from General McClellan, who rightly attributed the victory to the veteran conduct of this regiment.

After a delay of a few days, the advance was renewed. The Thirty-third advanced fifteen miles on May 9. Next day a farther progress was made, and numerous evidences of rebel discomfiture seen. Having reached the White House on the Pamunkey, the left wing was detailed for picket, and in trying to find the line, advanced a mile beyond the cavalry picket, and stampeded a rebel patrol, who doubtless reported a night movement in force. On the 21st of May,

Smith's Division was within eleven miles of Richmond. Three days later, and three companies of the Thirty-third, upon the advance on the skirmish line, encountered the enemy at Mechanicsville. The line of battle was formed, and both sides opening with artillery, the skirmishers were between two fires. A solid shot passed between Captain Guion and Major Platner as they were conversing. A heavy fire was directed upon the buildings which afforded the enemy protection, and presently they began to retreat. General Davidson ordered a charge, and the enemy fled, casting aside knapsacks and blankets to accelerate their progress. The opinion is hazarded that had Davidson been strengthened and ordered forward, Richmond would have fallen. Davidson's Brigade are next reported at "Gaines's Farm," on fatigue and picket duty. The battle of Seven Pines was followed by "Fair Oaks," and heroic work was done by the national corps. On June 5, the division advanced three miles, and the Thirty-third were halted by Colonel Taylor within six miles of Richmond, and a thousand yards from the rebel lines. Here they remained till June 28, and here the Twentieth New York was attached to the brigade. Sharpshooting was done by the enemy, while our men were kept busy at works and bridges, the latter of which employment later served the army in good stead when the masses of the enemy assailed the right wing. McClellan, with one hundred and fifteen thousand men fit for duty, already anticipated an entry to Richmond, when Lee, the successor of Johnson, massing with Jackson on our right, came down upon them at Mechanicsville. Midnight came and our lines were formed at "Gaines's Farm," where, on June 27, our loss was nine thousand men. McClellan had two alternatives—to mass his forces and risk all upon a decisive battle, or fall back to the James. He decided on the latter. On the morning of June 28, Colonel Taylor, acting under orders from General Smith, advanced a portion of the Thirty-third to relieve the picket line, then but two hundred yards from the enemy; the remainder, under Acting Adjutant Tyler, were to prepare for retreat. As the men reached the line, the rebels opened a concentrated fire from twenty pieces upon the camp. Shot and shell fell like hail, riddling tents, firing stores, and driving all in camp to the breastwork. This safeguard was struck repeatedly. A shell fell among the men. J. W. Hendricks, of Company A, threw it over the works; Peter Roach, of the same company, flung it down the hill, where it exploded harmlessly. An hour of this artillery fire was passed unanswered by our side, since the national cannon had been withdrawn, and the rebels ceased. Then two full regiments of infantry assailed the picket line. A slow retreat was made, with steady firing, till the regiments were united at the earthwork. The enemy came on with confidence, assured of success, and the defenses were ominously silent. With leveled muskets the soldiers marked their men, and heard the order given them, "Fire low." The enemy were close upon the breastwork, uttering a yell which those who heard will never forget, when a general discharge from the rampart smote them down. Another volley, yet another, and the enemy halted, hesitated, turned, and fled disorderly, pursued till beyond range by the same deadly aim from the defenses. Again the enemy reformed, advanced, encountered that decimating fire, and once more withdrew. Colonel Lamar, of the Eighth Georgia, waving hat and sword in air, ordered another charge. A volley from the works struck him wounded to the earth, as a section of Mott's battery enfiladed their left and drove them from the field. The Seventh and Eighth Georgia lost ninety-one killed, many wounded, and fifty prisoners, among whom were Colonel Lamar, of the Eighth, and Lieutenant-Colonel Tower, of the Seventh Georgia. The Thirty-third lost but few, and these mainly in falling back from the picket line.

The army of McClellan was in full retreat; the right wing were marching along the west bank of the Chickahominy towards White Oak Swamp, thence to Harrison's Bar. Three sleepless nights for the right wing of the Thirty-third, the last of the three, June 28, being passed as the unsupported picket line left to deceive the enemy, while regiment after regiment marched away and "left them alone in their glory." This dangerous service continued till daylight, Companies C, D, and I being relieved at 1 A.M. of the 29th by A and F. Gladly they received the signal to return, and, concealed by an opportune dense fog, returned to the division. At Savage's Station an immense accumulation of war material was destroyed by fire. At this point was a general hospital, where the thousands of sick and wounded had been congregated. They were to be left to the mercies of the enemy, and many a brave fellow struggled on through that fearful retreat and reached the river. Davidson's Brigade were marched to the rear of the station, and, finding abandoned clothing, soon had "drawn" for themselves new suits. At a double-quick they were returned to the station, and till an hour after sunset bore their part in the engagement into which they immediately entered. A detail, including ten men of the Thirty-third, were sent to bury the dead, and were mostly captured. As the men moved at ten of the night towards White Oak Swamp, they were encouraged to look for speedy arrival at that temporary goal, but it was not till just before day that the brigade reached the bridge. Guards stood with torches to fire the structure should the enemy appear. An hour of anxious waiting and

the Thirty-third was crossed, moved over a hill crest, and halted in line of battle. At eleven the bridge was fired and burning fiercely. The Thirty-third were drawing rations, when with a crash some fifty cannon, planted in the dense wood in close range, opened with a storm of shot and shell. A partial panic occurred. A regiment in front of the Thirty-third stampeded, and were brought back by the officers of the Ontario regiment. General Davidson, sun-struck, had resigned command to Colonel Taylor, and Major Platner, commanding the regiment, being ordered to report to General Hancock, was placed by him on the extreme right, accompanying the order with the remark, "Major, you have the post of honor; hold the position at all hazards, and add new laurels to those already won by the Thirty-third." Firing was heavy, and several attempts to cross the swamp were repulsed. At half-past-eight of the evening the enemy ceased firing, and silently the division withdrew. General Davidson, by special order, reported Captain C. H. Cole, of Company C, for promotion for distinguished services, as well as Major John S. Platner and Captain James McNair, of Company F. Pickets had been placed as the troops withdrew, and it was morning ere the enemy became aware of our withdrawal. The division, now the rear guard, found the enemy, under Huger, had planted himself on the road in their rear and intercepted their retreat. This news, to men who had labored so steadily for four days, was discouraging. It was seven miles to the river direct, but Smith turned from the road, and by a circuit of twenty-two miles passed the enemy in safety. The soldiers had now become so wearied as to fall asleep upon the march and move along unconsciously. An hour before day Malvern was reached, and joyfully an hour's sleep was taken. The Thirty-third was then ordered on picket. Major Platner deployed the men, and each alternate man was then permitted to sleep. In the rear of the regiment a part of the army were in line, expecting an attack. A Vermont brigade slashed the timber between the picket and the line and made a strong abattis, through which, no openings being left, the men relieved at three o'clock in the morning found their way in amidst the darkness and obstructions. A few hours' rest for the regiment were given, and it was then ordered to the front as support to Ayer's Battery. The battle of Malvern Hill was fought and the enemy fearfully repulsed. At two in the afternoon the regiment, having joined the brigade, had reached Harrison's Landing, where was found food and rest. While remaining here the Thirty-third aided in building a large fort mounting several thirty-two pound cannon. Each company of the regiment dug for itself a well, and enjoyed the healthfulness of pure water. Soft bread was issued and the men fared well.

At midnight of July 31, the enemy, from three batteries posted on the high bank of the river, opened fire on camp and shipping, but were soon repulsed. Early in August it was determined at Washington to withdraw the army and bring it north to assist General Pope, upon whom the rebels were now concentrating their forces. Hooker led a force to Malvern Hill, which was temporarily re-occupied, straw effigies and wooden cannon were placed on the fort, and the immense army of McClellan was again on the move.

On Saturday, August 16, Smith's Division took its place in a column reaching forty miles,—the rear at Harrison's Landing; the advance of Porter at Williamsburg. The Thirty-third marched on the 17th seventeen miles, crossing near the mouth of the Chickahominy a ponton bridge, consisting of ninety-six boats, each twenty feet apart. Colonel Vegesack, of the Twentieth New York, took command of the brigade, and Lieutenant-Colonel Corning returned to the regiment. Marching by the old battle-field at Fort Magruder, the Thirty-third embarked at Fortress Monroe in steamers, and were brought to Aquia Creek. Burnside held Fredericksburg, and began its evacuation on August 22, destroying bridges and material. The Thirty-third were taken to Alexandria and went into camp August 24; five months had gone by since it had departed thence. The enemy had moved with all his force upon Pope. Cedar Mountain and other engagements followed. A hard battle was fought at the old Manassas ground, where Porter's forces lay inactive, and thereby changed a victory to defeat. The second retreat from Bull Run was consummated, Pope defeated, and personal spite triumphed over heroic valor. There were dark pages in the history of the Army of the Potomac here; and the intelligent soldiery, refusing to be sacrificed, gave way and centered near the capital. The Thirty-third was employed to stop and return stragglers; relieved, it marched to Centreville and took its place in line to cover the retreat. Again Bull Run had been fought, and this time the North had lost in killed, wounded, and prisoners an army almost equal to the one of 1861, where but little over a thousand fell. We were defeated this time by *jealousy, not incapacity*. Pope, at his own request, was relieved and McClellan reinstated. Lee crossed the Potomac, and McClellan advanced his forces to meet him. Leaving knapsacks behind, the Thirty-third moved forward with the rest, and on September 13, crossing Monocacy Bridge, received orders with the Seventieth New York to drive the enemy out of Jefferson's Pass. The service was gallantly executed without loss. The enemy held Turner's and Crampton's Passes; Slocum and Brooks were ordered to take the latter pass. The column

of Brooks marched direct upon the enemy, charged a battery, captured a section and many prisoners, among whom was Colonel Lamar, of the Eighth Georgia. Among the regiments which supported Brooks was the Thirty-third. Preparations were made to relieve the force at Harper's Ferry when its surrender was made known.

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

### BATTLES OF ANTIETAM AND FREDERICKSBURG, AND RETURN HOME.

THE battle of *Antietam* was fought on September 17, and was a hard-won victory to the Army of the Potomac. Hooker opened the fight with fury and temporary success; the rebels concentrated to crush him. Mansfield arrived, and the two commands hold firm for hours. Sumner goes in with his corps, Lee masses, the troops are giving way, when Franklin comes up with two divisions. Since daylight the force had been marching, always nearer to the roar of battle, and with a light like glory on their faces, these veterans swept back the enemy and planted their flags far in the advance. Here fell fifty killed and wounded in the Thirty-third. Sergeant-Major G. W. Bassett was shot dead after bearing Lieutenant Mix, wounded through the thigh, from the field. The ground gained in that advance was held to the end. A picket detail from the Thirty-third at night, advancing close upon the enemy, discovered evidences of retreat, and sent back word, but Lee escaped into Virginia and the opportunity was lost.

September 19, Smith was ordered to join Couch, as the enemy were reported recrossing. Two thousand cavalry had forded the river, but retired on finding the Union troops in force. On the 23d, the regiment marched near Bakersville and went into camp. October 6, Lieutenants Roach and Rossiter arrived with two hundred recruits for the Thirty-third. Part of these were formed into Company D, that company having been disbanded, and the rest were apportioned among the other companies. The lull in warfare, the pleasing scenery, the accession in numbers, all aided to make the time pass pleasantly. The Thirty-third was stationed as pickets along the Potomac about the middle of October. Meanwhile Stuart had raided around our lines and Lee retreated southward. On October 29, the Thirty-third joined the Third Brigade, and moving on reached Berlin, where it was joined by Colonel Taylor, Lieutenant Corning, and over two hundred recruits; these last were sent to Hagerstown. At Berlin, below Harper's Ferry, the Fiftieth Engineers had made a bridge of sixty pontons, one thousand five hundred feet long; converging here, the army crossed and again diverged upon reaching the opposite shore. McClellan was removed and Burnside placed in command. The army was organized in three grand divisions. Burnside determined to march rapidly to Fredericksburg, cross the Rappahannock, and attack Lee. The army were soon at the point designated, but there were no pontons; waiting for these, four weeks passed by. The enemy concentrated, learned our plan, and, posting his troops along our front a score of miles, threw up a line of works and stood ready to receive attack. Burnside determined to cross and strike the centre of the enemy at Fredericksburg, and as a feint sent the Left Grand Division down the stream, as if to cross there, and so withdrew the force of Jackson, whom Lee sent down to resist the crossing. On the night of December 11, battery upon battery was planted upon the banks of the river. The pontons were brought down and four bridges were to be thrown across. The history of the Fiftieth Engineers will tell how well they did their part. The tremendous cannonade upon Fredericksburg, the crossing in boats of the Seventh Michigan and Nineteenth Massachusetts, the capture of the enemy's sharpshooters, and the crossing of the army followed, while the enemy looked down upon our troops exultant and reserved. By 7½ o'clock, the Thirty-third had crossed with its division and drawn up in line of battle. The battle of *Fredericksburg* was fought December 13, and the men of the Ontario Regiment will never forget that date. The regiment was posted on Saturday morning on the front of three lines of battle, to support a battery. Jackson commanded in their front. A heavy mist cleared away, heavy cannonading followed; our crescent line of the Left Grand Division was straightened by an advance of the wings, and, at noon, an advance of half a mile was reached. The rebels brought up reserves, and cannon and musket were plied with vigor; still Meade pushed on, while his troops cheered loudly. A charge was made, the rebel lines were entered, and hundreds of prisoners taken. Unsupported, the men were compelled to retire. The combat was desperate, and men fell like autumn leaves struck by the gale. For hours the Thirty-third lay close upon



the battery, receiving the fire from the rebel artillery in silence, and, by good fortune, with little loss. Relieved at night, they fell back to the second line of battle. Heroic fighting had been done, and done fruitlessly. The army was in great danger from the enemy, but recrossed the river unassailed. On December 19, the Thirty-third marched back to White Oak Church, and began to build winter quarters. Many promotions had occurred, of which the following are a few: Captain G. M. Guion, of A, promoted lieutenant-colonel of the One Hundred and Forty-eighth New York; Lieutenant E. J. Tyler, promoted captain, vice Guion; P. W. Baily, from second to first lieutenant in A; Second Lieutenant J. M. Guion of H, resigned; L. C. Mix, promoted first from second lieutenant of B; J. E. Stebbin, from first sergeant to second lieutenant of C, and T. H. Sibbalds, from first sergeant to second lieutenant of A. On January 20, another movement was in progress, when a storm began whose violence mired the army in a sea of mud and made the Thirty-third glad to occupy its old camp for the third time. Burnside resigned, and Hooker took command. In February, the Thirty-third was brigaded with the Forty-ninth Pennsylvania and One Hundred and Nineteenth Pennsylvania, under command of Colonel Taylor. Winter passed away, and on April 27 and 28, the army corps were again moving towards the Rappahannock. Then followed the battle of Chancellorsville, the attack by Jackson upon and defeat of the Eleventh Corps, the night attack by Hooker, the death of Jackson, the assault, the repulse, and the recrossing of the famous river. The Thirty-third, with other regiments of Howe's Division, under Sedgwick, again reached Fredericksburg; the river was crossed, and three army corps gathered at this point. Soon the enemy appeared and watched our movements, giving time to Hooker to reach Chancellorsville. Sickles moved up the river to join Hooker; the enemy, after skirmishing, withdrew; the First Corps marched to join the right wing, and the Sixth was left alone.

On Sunday, May 3, a courier from Hooker brought Sedgwick orders to storm the heights and push on towards Chancellorsville. Lee had left what he deemed a force sufficient to hold the hills, under command of Barksdale. Twenty-four regiments, among which was the Thirty-third, were selected to make the assault. The left storming column was led by Neill's Brigade, and to the Thirty-third was given the honor of leading the brigade. As was usual, cannon answered cannon while the troops were forming, and at eleven the movement began. Of four hundred yards to traverse, three-fourths were won, and then the right closed up and swept over the rebel works. Neill's men had also reached and planted their flag upon the heights. A heavy battery on the left enfilades the captured works. The Thirty-third, led on by officers, start for the guns upon a double-quick. A hurricane of canister sweeps through their ranks; Captains Root and Cole and Lieutenant Byrne fall, and seventy men are wounded or dead. One after another seizes the standard and is shot down, till six heroic souls have fallen; then Sergeant Vandecar, rushing forward, hoists the torn colors on his musket, and presses with the regiment forward. As they leave the woods a deadly hail of bullets meets them from the rebel infantry, but on they go, up the glacis, over the parapet, and into the work. A thirty-two pound cannon is captured; the rebel reserves fall back and form; a lagging squad are ordered in, they refuse. Sergeant Proudfoot, leveling his musket, brings one down; Sergeant Kane killed a second; others were dropped. The supports opened fire, the Seventh Maine came up, and the enemy were put to flight. Over the dearly-bought line, the flag of the Thirty-third floated in victory, while the men lay down to take a brief rest. Captain Draine, with a few men, discovered some rebels at a short distance, went after them, and returned with Colonel Luce, of the Eighteenth Mississippi, a captain, four lieutenants, and thirty-eight men of that regiment. The corps now moved rapidly towards Chancellorsville, and had advanced four miles, when a mass of the enemy, which had been placed in line for that purpose, opened upon our infantry a deadly fire. Soon the enemy appeared on the left, and under their cross-fire our men fell fast. Twelve hundred men were cut down ere darkness closed the contest. The next day the enemy were seen to occupy the heights, and could have captured the ponton bridges and insured the destruction of the Sixth Corps, but their caution was its salvation. Sedgwick was now environed by Lee's main army on the west, and rebels on the heights in his rear. Brooks was drawn back, formed in an arc, the corps was gradually compacted, and the line extended towards the river, till Banks's Ford was inclosed, and so night passed away. Morning came, and Neill's Brigade went out and put to flight a force which threatened our line. Returning, the brigade threw up works. Nigh noon, a rebel brigade charged, were repulsed, and from a counter-charge lost two hundred men. Hours wore away and the enemy deferred attack, but at 4 P.M. they were seen descending the upper ridge. At 5, their shrill yell announced their coming, and soon they swarmed before Neill's Brigade, which, undismayed, bore the brunt of the assault, and drove them back in great disorder. Again the enemy closed in upon the arc, and Neill fell back for fear of having his position turned, leaving behind, as test of what had been withstood, a thousand of his men.

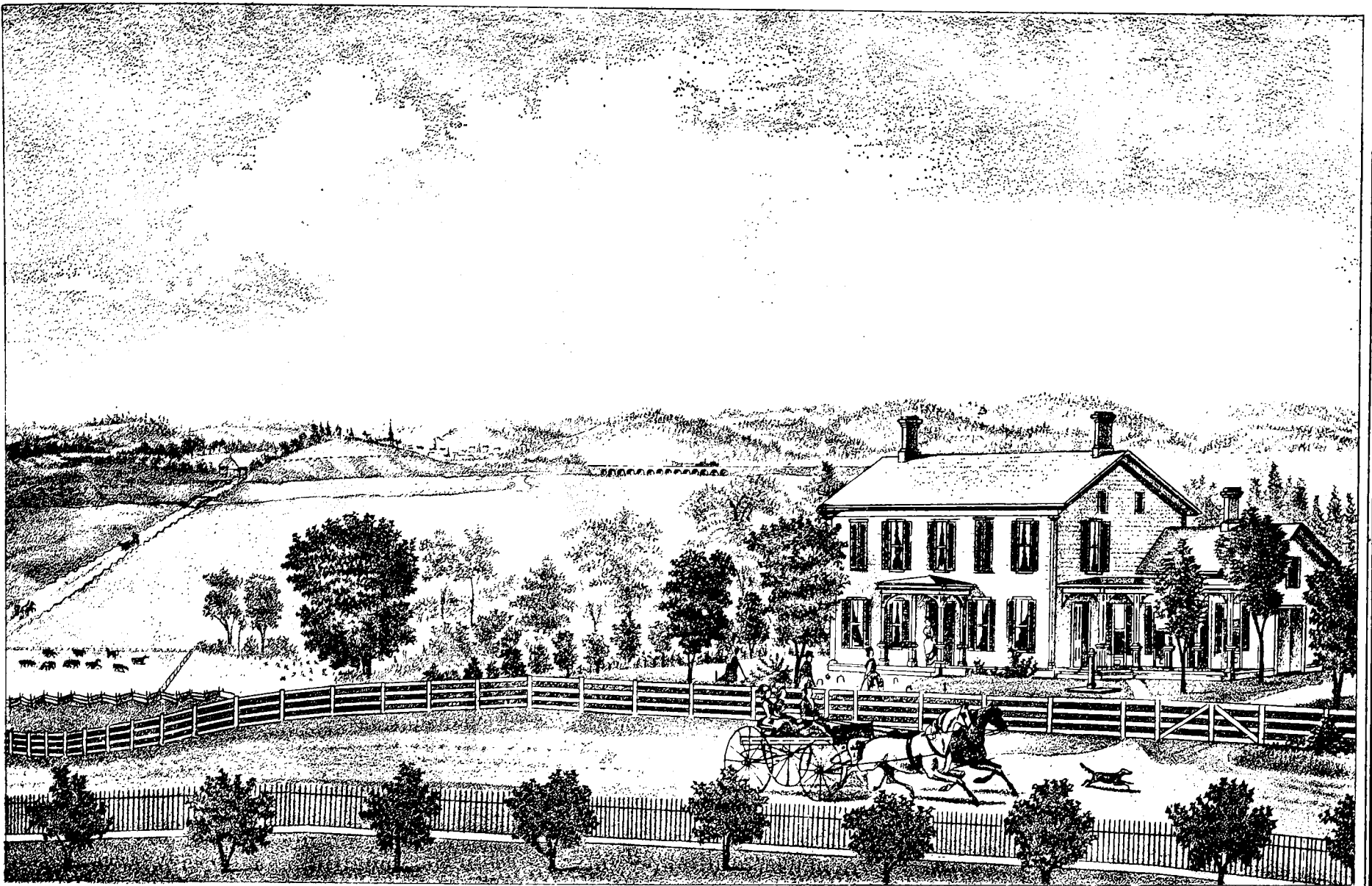
Slowly the lines drew back, artillery, with grape and canister, aiding the infantry to repel assault. The loss was heavy, but the retreat was successful. The Thirty-third lost severely. Darkness came, the corps crossed the bridge during the night. It was 8 A.M. when the Thirty-third crossed over; two weeks before, five hundred and fifty men had marched under its banner to meet the enemy, now three hundred only remained. On May 12, the regiment, their term of service having expired, were discharged and ordered to Elmira for muster out. Commendations were given by Major-General Sedgwick, commander of Sixth Army Corps, Brigadier-General Howe, of Second Division, and Brigadier-General F. H. Neill, of Third Brigade. The recruits, one hundred and sixty-three in number, were formed in one company, under Captain Gifford, and attached to the Forty-ninth New York. Reaching Elmira, they departed for Geneva, and met a noble welcome. At Canandaigua a joyous reception greeted their return. Speeches were made, allusions to services occurred, and by Colonel Taylor the flag of the regiment was returned unsullied to the ladies who had bestowed it, two years before, with their prayers and blessings. The regiment left Elmira with nine hundred men; they returned with three hundred and fifty, and crowned with honor. Returning to Geneva, the regiment was mustered out on June 2, 1863, and few of its members but that in other organizations aided to win for them those high honors ever claimed by true bravery.

## CHAPTER XXIX.

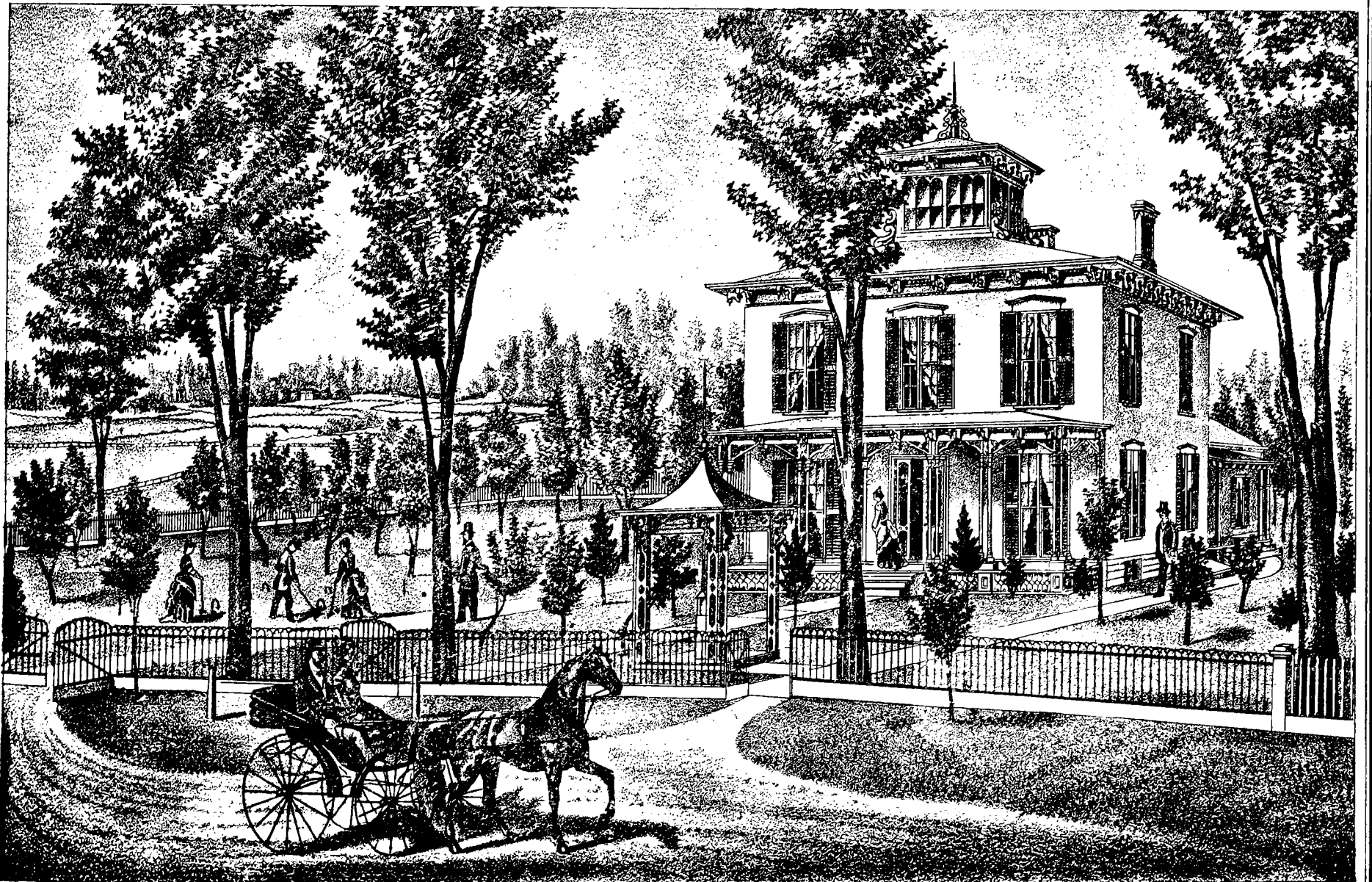
### THE FORTY-FOURTH NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS AND THE FIFTIETH ENGINEERS.

THE *Forty-fourth New York Volunteers*, called the People's Ellsworth Regiment, was to be composed of young men taken from every county in the State; selection being made of those having superior fitness for military service. The regiment was well represented from Seneca County, proportioned with other counties, and her sons were no laggards in the line of duty. It was organized at Albany, from August 30 to October 29, 1861, and was mustered out of service October 11, 1864. The veterans and recruits were transferred to the One Hundred and Fortieth and One Hundred and Forty-sixth New York Volunteers. The regiment on departing, during October, for the seat of war, received from the hands of Mrs. Erastus Corning a beautiful banner to attest their devotion; and hard they fought and bravely, losing heavily in that decisive battle fought at Gettysburg, in July of 1863. A few incidents will be all we can give or offer as a remembrance of the party who went with them from Seneca.

The early stage of the civil war was marked by a studious care not to offend by trespass upon property, even of a known and bitter enemy, and the burning of a few rails was heinous transgression; but one of the first acts of Quartermaster Mundy was the commanding of an expedition upon the "Old Dominion," which returned from the plantations with one hundred and thirty-two wagon-loads of corn, hay, and oats. The regiment lay in camp at Hall's Hill, Va., studious of discipline and daily practicing the evolutions and arts of war, and perfecting that second nature which transforms the individual unit into a connected part of a powerful organization. Their quiet was broken on the evening of March 9, 1862, by the pleasant tidings of an order to prepare to march on the morrow. At 1 A.M., March 10, the Army of the Potomac was on the move. The Forty-fourth left their old, well-arranged camp, and moved in the direction of Manassas, via Fairfax and Centreville. The Ellsworths had the advance of the right of the Grand Army,—the post of honor. Their course lay over fields of mud and through patches of timber to Fairfax. Here they were joined by their colonel, and with loud cheers moved out upon the road to Centreville, which place they were the first to enter. "An hour's rest and on to Manassas," was the order; and had it been carried out, a march of thirty-four miles would have signalized the first day's service. Manassas was evacuated, and the movement made too late. Countermarching, a return was made to Fairfax, where the regiment lay till the 15th, when it proceeded to Alexandria, where it lay in camp till the 21st. Porter's Division, in which was the Forty-fourth, was taken upon a fleet of twenty-four steamers, guarded by two gunboats, and transported to Fortress Monroe. On the morning of March 24, the division disembarked, and marched within five miles of Big Bethel. A reconnoissance in force was made, with the Forty-fourth in advance. In sight of the rebel intrenchments, the men were deployed, and saw before them a line of rifle-pits, extending a mile and a half along their front, wherein were men in gray busily at work. At "Forward!" the line advanced under cover of a close picket fence. Leveling the fence, a double-quick was struck, and the rebels fled, leaving their fires burning. The forces under

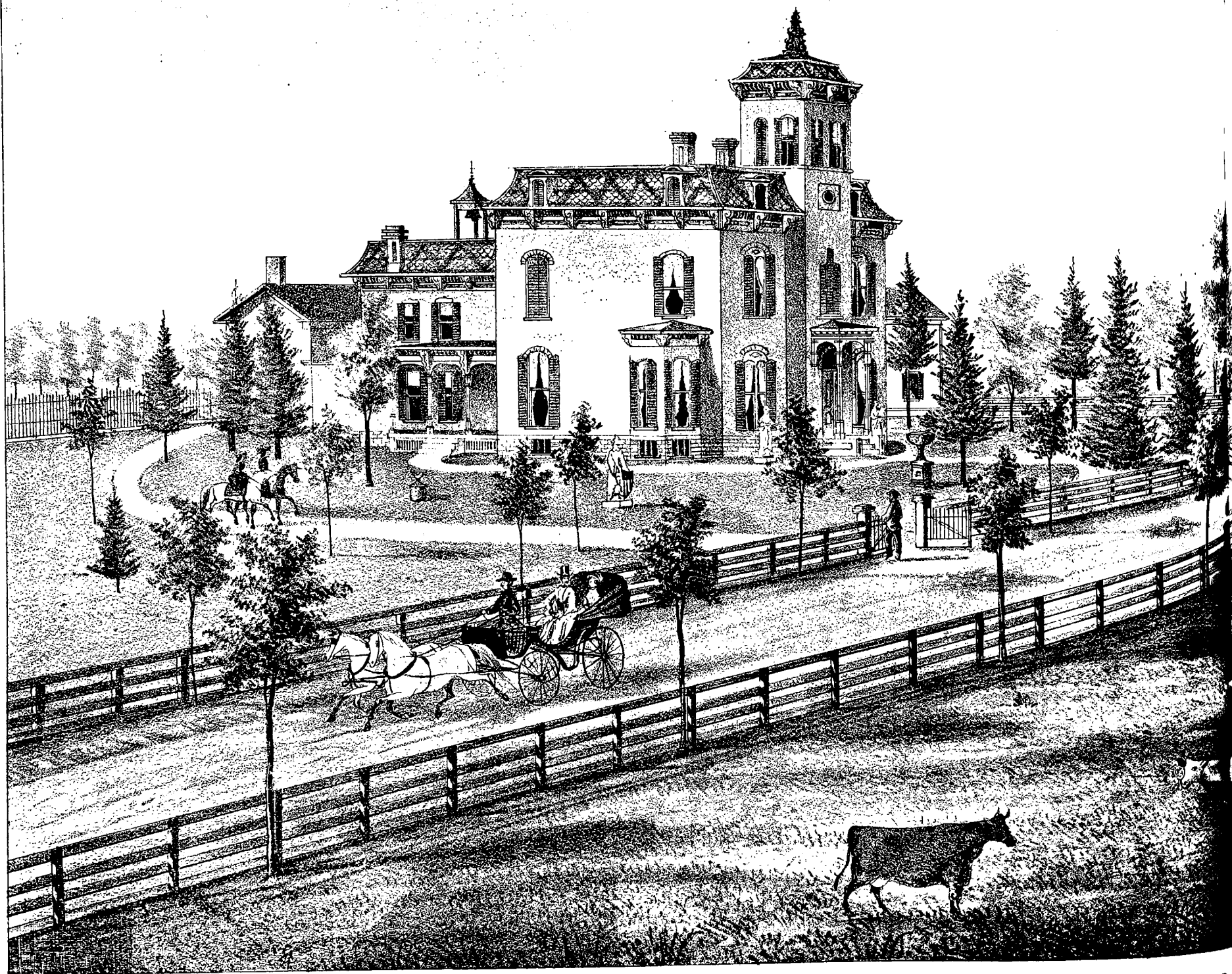


RES. OF P. K. CARVER, TYRE TP., SENECA CO., N. Y.



RES. OF THOMAS W. COMPSON, TYRE TP., SENECA CO., N. Y.

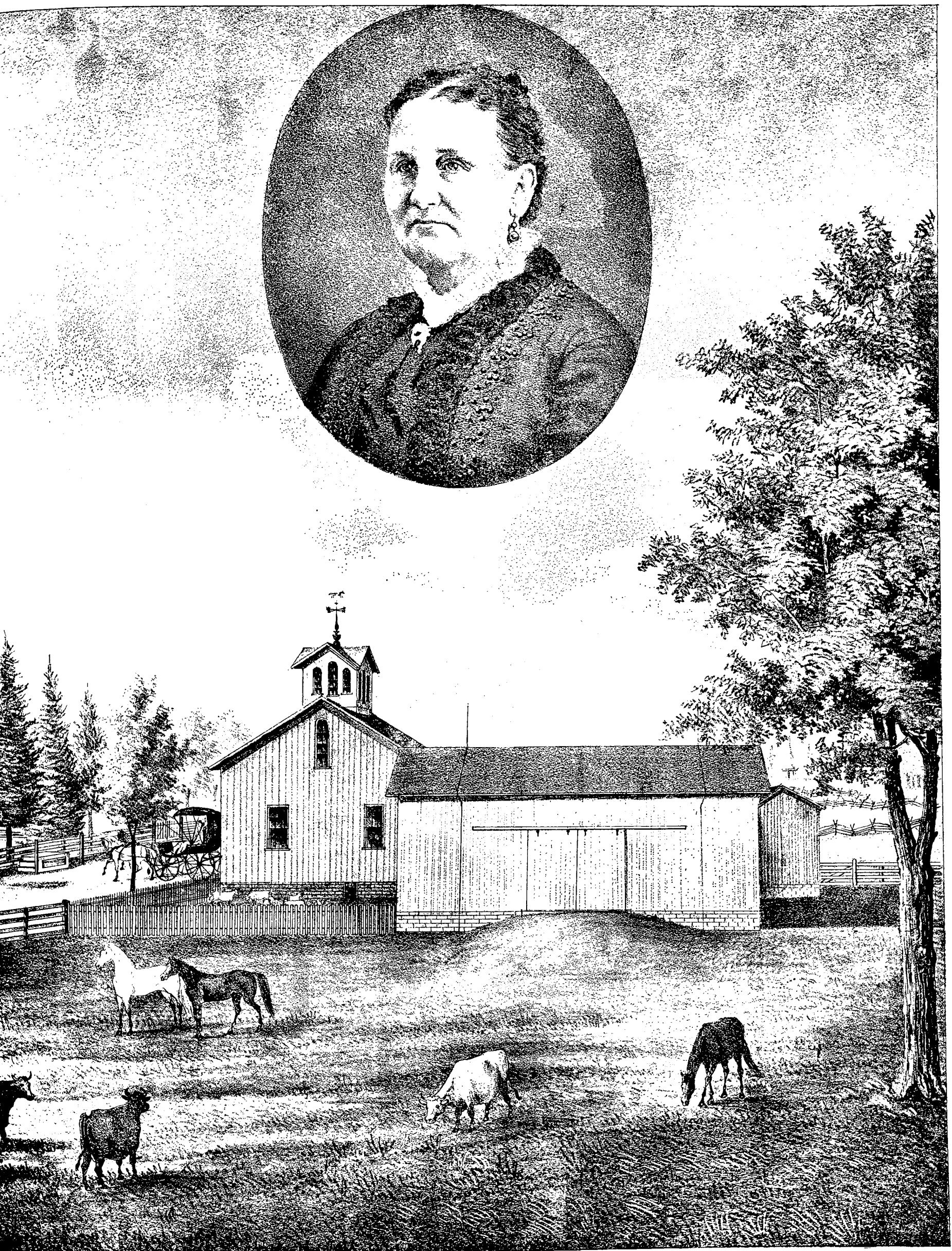




HENRY HOSTER.

RESIDENCE AND FARM OF HENRY HOSTER.





MRS. HENRY HOSTER.

AYETTE, SENECA COUNTY, NEW YORK.