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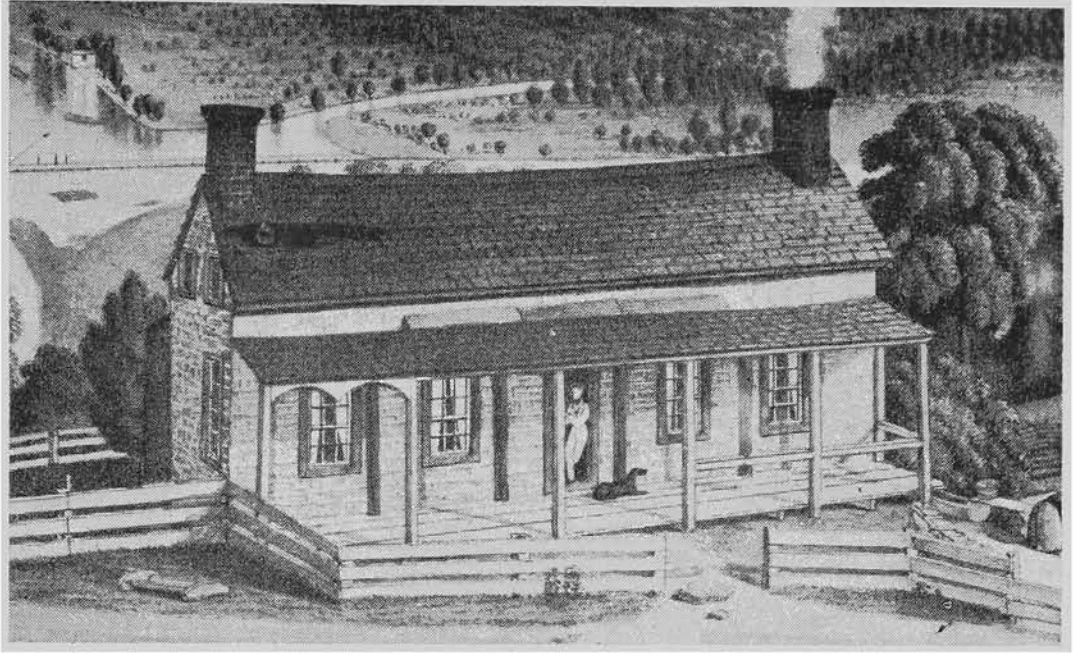
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### DAVENPORT STONE HOUSE

*Erected in 1820 by Nathaniel Davenport as a tavern on the Ithaca-Geneva Turnpike. Photograph is from Walton's lithograph of 1839.*



# WEST HILL

## and Some of Its Historic Homes and Families

BY

ELIZABETH GENUNG

ROBERT FLINN

WM. HEIDT, JR.



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## West Hill's Residents

As the glacier ice receded northward, Cayuga Lake waters followed it so that a narrow residual plain extended from the higher elevation to the southward up to the edge of the retreating water. Hills ringed the lowland area on three sides: only the north was open. Before expanding their settlement in Ithaca to these hillsides, the early white settlers located upon the flatlands and, being unromantic people, referred to the hills simply as West, East, and South.

West Hill, to the west of Ithaca, is near the southern end of a ridge that lies between Cayuga and Seneca Lakes. This ridge extends northward from the higher elevations of Tompkins County to the marshlands at the foot of these lakes, later called Montezuma marshes. The hill is well drained. Its soil was more than adequate for the limited agriculture of the Indians, and for more than a century it satisfied requirements of farmers who began its cultivation in the early years of the 1800's.

West Hill has been selected as a site that illustrates three phases of occupancy: Indian, farmer and suburbanite. There are numerous areas in Central New York where a similar development occurred, but not all of them have preserved the continuous record that this site provides. Therefore, it is believed that, by using West Hill as an example, development of less well-recorded communities will be better understood.

**Indian Occupancy:** There is no reason to believe the hill was unoccupied before the Iroquois overran the area. It was then assigned to the Cayuga Nation as keepers of the South Gate of the Iroquois Confederacy. At the beginning of recorded history, they were found occupying the region as they long had

been. However, along with the other Iroquois nations, the Cayugas abanded their lands after General Sullivan's expedition in 1779. By then they had a number of villages on West Hill, tilled a small area adjacent to each, hunted its forests, fished its waters and used its topmost elevation for signal-fire locations that warned of the expedition's advance.

As the Indians preferred high ground for village sites and for croplands, West Hill with its natural drainage was a desirable location for the aborigines. As their agriculture was of a limited nature, clearing of large areas was uncalled for; but because of the unsanitary habits of village dwellers it was necessary to move the village to new sites after a few years' occupancy. As sparse as the population was, there were three sizable Indian villages in the general area which we think of as West Hill. The current West Hill is that section along the Trumansburg highway which extends from Ithaca to the Ulysses town boundry; but to the Indian it was a broader expanse that encompassed the "backbone of Hector."

One of these village sites has been located about two miles north of Route 79 on the town road just over the Hector line. Originally, this village was of immense size and characterized by a palisade around a circular pond. Here the inhabitants obtained clay for pottery.

A second site is on Route 79, north of the Mecklenberg Road and on the County Line Road, again just over the Hector line. Here have been found arrowheads, cracked bones, beads, cooking stones, flint, and pieces of Iroquoian pottery. Both sites are identified by State markers.

There was a third village, located west of Waterburg, a part of which is now the Owen Hoffmire farm.

**Pioneer Occupancy:** This began the Hill's recorded history as early as 1790, when the Military Tract was opened to settlement by Revolutionary War soldiers who had been assigned bounty lands. Simon DeWitt, founder of Ithaca, as State surveyor-general had surveyed and mapped 28 military townships in the heartland of Central New York, West Hill being in the Township of Ulysses.



### CHARLES HAYT'S DWELLING

*Erected a few years after Charles Hayt located on West Hill about 1818. His farm remained in the family for nearly a century. Older residents of the area remember the watering trough along the roadside where oftentimes eight or ten teams of horses were lined up while enroute to or from Ithaca.*



One of the firstcomers was William VanOrman, a Revolutionary War bounty-land claimant from New Jersey. Although he early held many town offices in Ulysses, history remembers him for a misfortune. After he had established his home in the wilderness, he began clearing the land and setting out an orchard among his improvements, but he was warned that his title was faulty. It had been claimed by another through an error in registering by the State Land Commission before VanOrman was assigned it. Many other settlers were cheated out of much hard work during the opening years of awarding bounty lands.

Eventually, to settle the question once and for all, VanOrman saddled his horse, rode to Albany and searched his title. There he learned the harsh truth that he was an unintentional squatter upon a choice West Hill farm site. Returning home, he purchased land near Buttermilk Falls, then removed the apple trees from his young orchard to the new location.

Another man who played a prominent role in developing Ithaca and adjacent areas was Luther Gere, who came from his native Groton, Connecticut, to the little settlement. He was accompanied by the Carter, Buell and Hutchinson families, the heads of which were his brothers-in-law. Gere has been described as an apprentice carpenter who helped build the Abram Markle house on Linn Street in 1800. He constructed three miles of the Ithaca-Owego turnpike and in 1810-11, built the original Ithaca Hotel at a cost of \$6,000. He soon engaged in, among other enterprises, extensive farming operations on West Hill where in 1824 he owned 675 acres.

Thus began West Hill's agricultural cycle that was to endure for more than a century, challenging man's industry and ingenuity. Today this activity is represented by a few and more highly specialized operations that are interspersed among suburban dwellings spread over its once producing acres.

**Suburbanite Occupancy:** Although development of certain sites on West Hill as residential areas began in the early 1800's, it was not until after World War II that it became a typical suburban community. Abandoned farmlands have been turned

into residential locations and modern dwellings now dot the undulating eastern slope. Notwithstanding this invasion of current architectural designs so very foreign to that preferred by early residents, many older houses persist to commingle the old with the new.

From the many farms developed and successfully operated on West Hill and in its environs, so far as known only two have records sufficiently complete to enable one to derive an adequate financial picture of farming 150 years ago. Preservation of these records is fortunate as they make it possible to understand the pioneering era which bore many characteristics of colonialism: scarcity of money, low wages, low value of farm products, inadequate transportation facilities, and a veritable struggle for an existence.

A detailed inventory of Charles Hayt's personal estate informs us of the tools used on his farm, its products and the value placed upon them both. Likewise, some indication of his ability as a financial manager is reflected in the \$13,953 total appraisal, which would represent \$31,500 in terms of today's wholesale price index.

Additionally, the figures compiled on the Frear farm from 1855 to 1877, inclusive, show a high gross sales of \$2,100 in 1864 and a low of \$684.66 in 1875. The lowest expenditure was \$415.57 made in 1867, and the highest \$1,971.41 ten years later. Average gross sales for the 23-year period of record keeping was \$1,453.53; expenditures were recorded between 1863 and 1877, inclusive, for an average of \$733. In terms of current values, these figures should be multiplied by  $2\frac{1}{4}$  as in the Hayt computation.

While expenditures seem small, it will be noticed that on the average they represent one-half of the total sales income from products of the operation. One must conclude hired help was held to a minimum and much work was done by owners of these farms. Owners of less successful operations must have employed fewer hands and carried a greater proportion of the work load.

## Some Early Settlers on the Hill

One of the earliest settlers on the Trumansburg Road was Charles Hayt who obtained rights to a Military Tract through his father, Stephen Hayt who served six years in the Revolutionary War and received a Badge of Merit from General Washington. Three brothers, Dr. John, Charles and Stephen Hayt came to Ithaca from Westchester County, New York, Circa 1818. They were descendants of Simeon Hayt, who emigrated from England to Charlestown, Massachusetts. in 1629. He was admitted as "Freeman" at Boston, Massachusetts, in 1631. This is the earliest record of anyone so constituted this side of the Atlantic.

Dr. John Hayt practiced medicine in Ithaca for several years, and was a member of the Tompkins County Medical Society. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church where he and his brother Charles were members, John Hayt's picture is included in the collection of photographs of elders of that church. He was elected school trustee in 1816. He was never married.

The other brother, Stephen Hayt, went to Corning, New York, where he established the Southern Tier Roller Mill, a thriving flour-mill business. There are very few records available about his family, but in the obituary notice of his daughter, Mrs. Susan E. Graves, who died in 1890, Stephen Hayt, Jr., and Towner Hayt were listed as nephews, and Harold Hayt Pratt, a great-grandson of Stephen, was the Republican candidate for Congress in 1914. He had also a daughter Elizabeth.

Charles Hayt acquired land in the town of Ithaca in addition to the Military Tract, which he inherited, and between 1825 and 1837 he owned 476 acres. About 1824 he built the house



which still stands on Trumansburg Road just south of Hayt's Chapel for which he gave acreage. That same year he married Deborah Starr of the Town of Ithaca whose home was on the Mecklenburg Road, probably on the farm now occupied by the Marshall Brothers and formerly known as the Starland Dairy Farm.

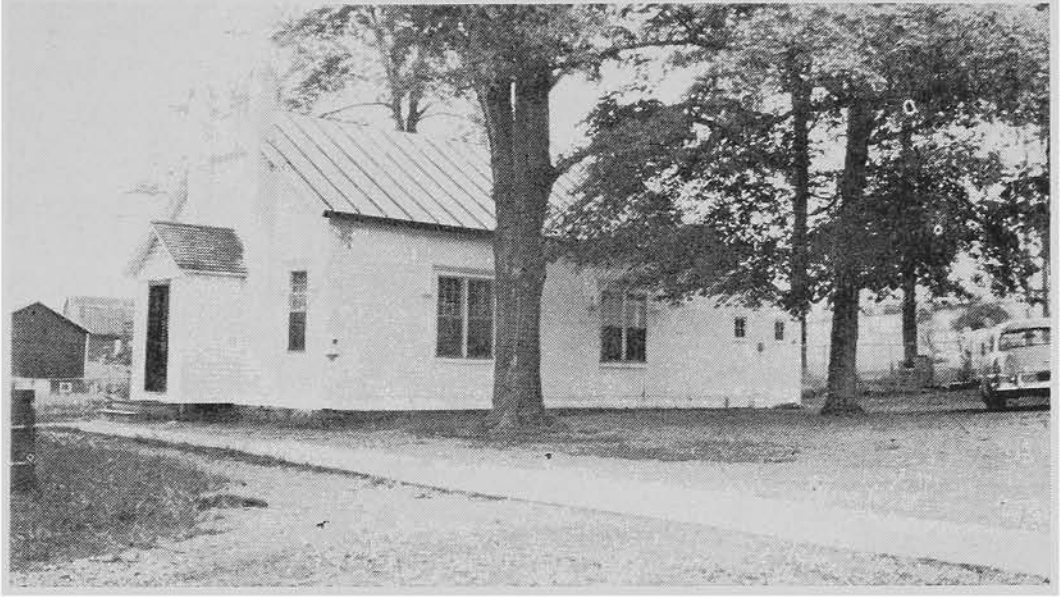
The church known as Hayt's Chapel was built by subscription by members of the surrounding community after they had used the schoolhouse for several months. The chapel was officially opened at an organization meeting on December 4, 1847. At that meeting Charles Hayt was elected to the office of deacon which led to his often being referred to as "Deacon Hayt."

The members who built the church paid for the services of a pastor for many years. During the late 19th and early 20th century religious services were conducted on Sundays by members of the Cornell University Christian Association. Later it was difficult to obtain religious leaders and it became evident that the building was not needed for church services, thereupon the descendants of Charles Hayt deeded the church over to the West Hill Cemetery Association and later gave permission for its use as a recreation center.

Charles Hayt was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Ithaca and was well known for his antislavery stand. He was outspoken on this matter at a time when few people cared to express an opinion on the subject. He was a leader in the local movement and it was rumored about that his farm was a "station" on the "Underground railroad" for Negro slaves escaping from their southern masters.

This attitude on the part of Mr. Hayt aroused the ire of the Reverend William Wisner, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, who considered slavery to be a "Divine Institution." He threatened to "church" Hayt if he continued in these activities. As a result of this opposition, Hayt left the Presbyterian church and threw his entire support to the church which had been built and organized adjacent to his farm before this controversy took place. He gave the first acre of land for the cemetery.

There were several other families who took up Military



### HAYTS CHAPEL

*Built in 1847 on land donated by Charles Hayt, at corner of Hayt and Trumansburg Roads. Now used as recreation center.*



Tracts in this area about this time. David Colgrove acquired some land owned by Charles Hayt and probably built the house on Hayt Road just above the cemetery. Enlarged, it is owned and occupied by his great-grandson George Hopkins. David Colegrove's daughter Hester married George Hopkins, senior, who lived there and operated the farm for many years. After marriage of his son Don about 1900, he bought the Hayt place, which had earlier passed from the Hayt family. Hopkins and his wife lived there the rest of their lives, Mrs. Hopkins dying at the age of 97.

A neighbor of David Colegrove was Moses Snook, who lived on the adjoining farm to the west with his sister Charlotte. He probably built the house which still stands there, since it apparently dates back to that time. Charlotte married Alfred Jenner and they all lived there many years. Eventually the farm was sold to James Stuart Ainslie, a grandson of George Hopkins, senior. He lived there until his death in 1957 when his son James acquired the property, and now lives there.

Louis Stebbins was another early West Hill settler. He was born in 1778 in Putnam County, New York, and in 1815 married Rhoda Arnold. In 1832 he came to Tompkins County with his wife and three children William, Julia and Mary. He bought land from Ben Johnson and occupied the house, which later became part of the Frear home. It had been built about 1800 and consisted of two rooms and a woodshed with four bedrooms on the second floor. Mrs. Stebbins died three years after they came here; later he married Sarah Lockwood.

When his daughter Julia married Alexander Frear, Mr. Stebbins and the rest of the family moved across the road to the house on the corner of Dubois and Trumansburg Roads. There are no records of who originally built that house, but Louis Stebbins evidently enlarged it by an addition to the east side. It is now owned by Mrs. H. D. Jenks.

Alexander Frear was the son of Baltus Frear, who had settled on a farm on the Willow Creek road, now known as the Albrechtson farm. After his marriage to Julia Stebbins in 1848, he enlarged the former Stebbins residence to its present

fine proportions. It now stands on the west side of Trumansburg Road, opposite Dubois Road. Mr. Frear added to the original acreage and with his son Louis developed a successful fruit-farming business. This is still carried on by his grandson Raymond Frear who lives there; the farm is now known as the Indian Creek Fruit Farm.

Levi Williams came into Tompkins County about this time, took up land and built the house which stands on the west side of Trumansburg Road opposite the present residence of Frank Saturn. He was the father of Deforest Williams, a former Ithaca businessman, who owned also the farm on Dubois Road where a grandnephew of Mrs. Williams, Deforest Franklin, now lives. The house is below and across the road from the Louis Stebbins home and was probably built in 1828 by Alexander Phillips whose son Orlando once lived there.

Thomas Vincent arrived in the county about 1818 and acquired a farm on the east side of Trumansburg Road which is now included in the Woolf development. He built a very fine and spacious house there but, unfortunately, after passing out of the hands of the Vincent family, it was allowed to deteriorate and finally had to be torn down.

Thomas Vincent married Eliza Arnold, a sister of the first Mrs. Louis Stebbins. His son Arnold married Eliza Ackley of Ithaca and his sister Amanda married Judge Boardman whose home on East Buffalo Street is now owned by Ithaca College and known as Boardman Hall. Arnold Vincent with his wife and five children lived all his life in the Vincent home.

The record is not clear whether John Williams bought or built the house which stands on the southwest corner of the Townline Road and the Trumansburg Road. He came about 1820 and operated there for several years a tavern which was known as Williams Tavern. His granddaughter Mary Williams married William Smith of Enfield and their son Rexford and his wife now occupy the house.

Landon Krum, another early settler in the area, operated a blacksmith shop on the northeast corner of the Trumansburg and Krum Roads. This is now known as Krum's Corners. He

built a house a little distance from the shop on the Krum Road where he lived with his wife, three sons and daughter Amelia, who was an expert dressmaker and sewed for many families in the town and city of Ithaca. She was correspondent for The Ithaca Journal for sixty-three years, dying at the age of ninety-five in the house where she was born.

The house on the northwest corner of Bundy and Trumansburg Roads was originally owned by Joseph Hixon but he sold the house and farm to Deacon Luce, who later sold it to James Crager, husband of David Colegrove's daughter Katharine. They had two daughters who lived there all their lives. The house still remains much the same in appearance as when Crager occupied it.

Joseph Hixon had another farm just south of the Bundy Road. Apparently there had been a plan at that time to construct a road west of the Owego-Geneva turnpike. On the basis of this plan, Mr. Hixon built a house which he thought would be on the proposed road. The road was never constructed and the Hixon house was eventually situated some distance west of the turnpike and was reached by a long lane from that road. Later the farm was occupied by Chester Luce and his family who lived there many years. Eventually it came into the possession of Prof. Emeritus Howard W. Riley of the College of Agriculture of Cornell University. The Hixon house burned during his ownership and a new house was built which, together with other farm buildings, can be seen from the Trumansburg Road.

The Stone House, long and presently known as "The Old Stone Heap," which is on the east side of Trumansburg Road a short distance north of the city line has a very interesting history. Nathaniel Davenport with his wife and four children, Moses, Henry, Catherine and Abram, came from New Jersey and took up Lot 87 of the Military Tract in 1791. His property extended south and east to the corner of the lake and some distance west of the present road. Most of it was forest land and had to be cleared. The Indians had made a trail through

a portion of it to a salt lick at the corner of the lake. Traces of this hard-packed trail may still be found.

Nathaniel Davenport first built a log cabin on the site of the present house, but later he replaced it with a larger house of logs and stone which he operated as a tavern for stage-coaches and other travelers. Town meetings were held here from 1796-1803, and Nathaniel Davenport was elected overseer of the poor in 1795 and in 1796 was commissioner of highways. His son Abram married Mary Johnson in 1798. Her father was another pioneer, Abram Johnson who came to the town in 1791. This was the first wedding held in the town of Ithaca. The second house burned and in 1820, according to the corner stone, the present one was built of stone taken from a local quarry. Another son Henry ran this as a tavern and operated a sawmill just west of the road near the ravine. He, probably, used the falls in the stream as a source of power.

The original stone house was a story and a half on the road side and three stories on the lake side. The kitchen and dining room were in the lower part and a series of verandas on the lake side allowed a wonderful view of the lake and surrounding hills. There was a porch on the road side which extended across the entire front of the house and was supported by wooden pillars. A picture printed from a stone engraving made by Henry Walton in 1836 shows this porch. Later it was replaced by an entry porch at the front door and dormer windows were built in the roof as we see it now.

The Stone House was operated as a tavern by Myron Ferris, who bought the farm from Henry Davenport in 1837, and was a popular stopping place for travelers until it came into possession of Walter Williams in 1859. He closed up the tavern and removed the bar, traces of which can still be seen in one of the living rooms. Mr. and Mrs. Williams occupied it as a private dwelling. After Mr. William's death in 1875, his wife Candace owned the property until 1912.

Since that time it has had many owners, one of whom was David B. Fales who now lives in Trumansburg. He and his wife lived there for twenty-five years. We are indebted to Mrs.



LEVI WILLIAMS' HOUSE

*This is another West Hill residence that dates from the early years of the last century. Still used as residence.*





Fales for much information about this house whose history she diligently explored.

All of these farms acquired in the 1820's or earlier were originally Military Tracts which the owners either inherited or bought from persons who had acquired them for service in the Revolutionary War but who did not wish to live on them. Charles Hayt apparently bought several such tracts and sold some of the land to his neighbors as probably many others did. It was rich and fertile farm land which had already been, at least partially cleared of forest trees, and they cleared more as time went on.

One must remember that these men did not have any modern tools or machinery. Trees were felled with axes, then split with the aid of wedges into long strips for rail fences or into shorter lengths for the fireplaces. The stumps and roots were loosened with spades and crowbars, then hauled away by oxen. Sometimes they were used to fence the fields of the farm.

There were no mowing machines, reapers or sulky plows. Plowing was done one furrow at a time usually with a yoke of oxen drawing a steel-pointed plow. Seed was scattered by hand on the prepared soil. Hay was cut with a scythe, raked and gathered into "haycocks" with hand rakes and pitchforks, then drawn to the barn or stacked in a field and covered with canvas until a roomy barn could be built.

Wheat and oats and other grains were cut by hand with a "cradle" which left them gathered in an orderly swath to be tied up with strands of straw and gathreed into a "stock", later to be carried to the barn. Corn was cut with a sharp, curved knife, gathered into shocks and transferred by wagons to the barn where it was husked by the farmer unless he was helped out by a "husking bee."

All this was hard, slow work and the farmers labored from dawn until dusk, during harvest and planting time especially. They often exchanged work with neighbors or hired men who might be available. It could not be satisfactorily done by one man alone.

The housewives who lived in these houses that we have des-

cribed should also be considered. Theirs was no easy lot for the only means of heating were fireplaces. In the kitchen was an especially large fireplace and an adjoining brick oven where all the cooking and baking were done. There was a fireplace in nearly every bedroom and livingroom in the Charles Hayt house, and this is probably true of most of the other houses of the time.

As soon as stoves were available in the 1840's many of the fireplaces were closed and their presence was not discovered until some years later when modern owners began making alterations. The only fuel for the stoves was wood and the fire usually went out during the winter nights. It took some "grit" to rise at five or six o'clock on a zero morning in winter and kindle a wood fire in an icy kitchen in order to prepare the hearty breakfast, usually of pancakes, sausage, panfried potatoes, bread, doughnuts and tea and coffee which the hard-working farmer expected.

All cooking and baking for the family was done by the heat of a wood fire, which had to be frequently stoked to maintain an adequate temperature. There were no mixes or frozen foods nor were there canned foods available at the corner grocery. Bread was made once or twice a week and cakes and pies all were baked daily in the brick oven or the oven in the wood stove.

The women of the household had to make all their clothes, since none could be bought ready made. They used the discarded scraps and pieces from the cutting out of new dresses for making bed quilts. These pieces were sewn together in various designs and patterns then when the quilt was ready, they had a "quilting bee" to finish it off—a social function they all enjoyed.

Another use was put to the worn out dresses. They were cut or torn into narrow strips which were sewn together and wound into balls. When there were enough pound balls, they were sent to a carpet weaver to be woven into rag carpets for living rooms and bedrooms. Wall to wall carpeting is not a new idea, our grandmothers and great-grandmothers had wall to

wall carpets—both rag and ingrain—in the early 19th century and before. What a job it was to put them down smoothly and evenly!

Another thing to remember is that these early housewives had no electricity, no hot and cold running water so no modern plumbing; no refrigerator or ice boxes, candles were used for light and another job for the women was dipping the supply of tallow candles; later in the 1870's they had kerosene oil lamps which had to be cleaned and filled every day.

Water was usually pumped and carried into the house from a nearby well. There were no washing machines, only wooden tubs, washboards, copper boilers and pounding barrels were available while homemade soap, another yearly job for the housewife, was used to cleanse both garments and dishes.

How did a housekeeper manage to keep food from spoiling during the hot summer days? Refrigerators and ice boxes were unknown and not yet invented. The only cool place was the cellar where cream was raised on shallow pans of milk, skimmed and eventually churned in a "dasher churn." Other foods could be stored in the cool cellar but many would spoil in a few days—thus much of the food had to be freshly prepared and used quite promptly.

When Charles Hayt died on November 29, 1865, he left instructions in his will (appended to this article) to divide his 240-acre farm into four equal parts, one-fourth of which was to go to each of his four daughters. The farm extended east to the shore of Cayuga Lake and west to the David Colegrove farm. The northern boundary was what is now called Hayt Road and the southern part joined the Crager farm.

In 1853 his daughter Sarah had married Luther Lewis who was the son of an early pioneer near Jacksonville. Sarah inherited the southwest portion of her father's farm and Luther Lewis acquired the southeast portion from his sister-in-law Ann Hayt.

The Lewis family then moved from the Dubois Road into a house on the property which had formerly been a tavern and in 1868 they built the large barns now standing on the land

owned by the Odd Fellows State Home. These buildings included a main barn, 100 feet long, for storage of hay and grain on the upper portion with stables and a yard for cattle below. There were also a horse barn and a shed for sheep.

In 1870 Mr. Lewis built a large thirteen-room house some distance north of the barns where the family lived after his death in 1892 until it was sold to Richard McGreavey in 1913. This house burned down in the 1920's.

The portion of the farm which Augusta Hayt inherited was the northeast section and part of that land now belongs to the Tompkins County Hospital, having been acquired by the State when Biggs Memorial Hospital was built. The northwest portion on which the house was located went to his daughter Maria, who later married and went to live in the West. She sold the property which is now owned by Dr. Goff.

One of the reasons that it seems important to write this record of the original development of this area is that of the twelve houses and farms which we have considered ten are still standing, sturdy and strong and their outward appearance is much the same as when they were built. The Hixon house burned and the Vincent house was torn down. In three of these houses direct descendants of the original owners and builders are still living.

Another reason for this record is that most of the farms worked by these men and their sons have disappeared into new developments for modern homes. The land does not now produce the bountiful crops of food and grain which sustained those pioneer families and their cattle and horses.

The final reason is to give some meaning to names which still linger in the area known as West Hill. Names like Krum's Corners, Hayts School, Cemetery, or Hayt Road, Hopkins Road, etc. These were names of some of the families who at one time, long ago, came into the country, lived on the farms, built solid barns and houses and were all friends and good neighbors, helping each other as needed and enjoying the neighborhood socials and picnics as well as the quilting and husking bees.



### THOMAS VINCENT DWELLING

*Vincent came to West Hill about 1818, and a few years later erected spacious dwelling. It was razed after a century of existence.*



## Hayt's Personal Property

Among the extant documentary records of West Hill are Hayt's deed for the cemetery established at Hayt's, the little community named in his honor; his will, and the inventory of his personal estate that was valued just under \$14,000 by its appraisers. These documents are reproduced in this work.

Additionally, the inventory indicated how much a farmer could accomplish during the early and mid-nineteenth century, the tools he used, the animals maintained on his farm, and the number, type and value of each item of personal property. A detailed account, it tells us how a careful man disposed of a valuable farm property.

Charles Hayt, farmer, was typical of uncounted thousands of early farmers throughout New York State but whose records have not been preserved so completely. These records may be taken as typical of those of his contemporaries who are now forgotten.

Deacon Hayt provided in his will that "if at any time the chapel known as Hayt's Chapel was not used for religious purposes, the land was to revert to my heirs." A few years ago the heirs deeded the land to the West Hill Cemetery Association with the stipulation that at any time it was so desired, it should be used for religious meetings.

It will be interesting to note that Deacon Hayt donated also the first acre of land comprising the original plot of Hayt's Cemetery, which has since been incorporated as the West Hill Cemetery Association and has been enlarged from time to time by purchase of adjoining land.

Hayt's will is dated July 9, 1864. It was probated December 30, 1865, before H. S. Walbridge, Tompkins County judge.



Luther Lewis, a son-in-law, and Rhoda Maria Hayt, daughter, were the executors. They named Joseph F. Hixon and David Colegrove appraisers of the personal estate.

Keeping in mind that the Hayt lands were exceptionally well situated for the type of agriculture of the day, as well as being near the growing market of Ithaca village, capable management was required and exercised to make the success it became under Hayt. His accomplishment demonstrates what could be done in the heyday of family-type farming in Tompkins County before the era of mechanization.

Although county records indicate that Hayt purchased a total of 476 acres of land, it cannot be established that he farmed all of this acreage at any one time, and some portions seemed to have been sold at one time or another, for the division by his will indicates that he then disposed of 240 acres. Whatever the facts, Hayt could not be called an extensive operator in terms of today's large-scale farms. Nevertheless, the value of his personal property as determined by the appraisers points indubitably to the fact that he gave his soil good management, a conclusion that is supported by the completeness of his records.

Appraisal of his personal property valued the home-and-farm equipment at \$4,577.84; cash on hand and in banks, \$1,151.51; mortgages, \$2,888.58; government bonds, county bonds and accrued interest, \$5,329.29, for a total of \$13,958.67. This was a comfortable fortune for the time.

Hayt's will divided the farm into two equal parts, the north and the south, the division line beginning on the west shore of Cayuga Lake. To his daughters Sarah, wife of Luther Lewis, and Cora Ann, wife of William Saussman, he gave the south half; the north half he willed to his other two daughters, Rhoda Marie Hayt and Frances Augusta Hayt. To these latter daughters were left "all the household goods, beds, bedding and furniture which I shall leave in my dwelling at my decease."

His executors were "ordered and directed" to invest \$500, the income from which was to be applied "annually for 20

years from my death to the support of an Evangelical ministry in the church near my residence in Ithaca or in the neighborhood in which I reside.”

It has been assumed that the reference to “Ithaca” is to the town rather than the village. This interpretation appears to be supported by inclusion of the phrase “or in the neighborhood in which I reside” coupled with the fact that he is not listed as a resident of the village by contemporary directories. The \$500 was ordered divided equally among his four daughters at the expiration of the 20 years.

## Charles Hayt's Will

In the name of God, Amen. I, Chares Hayt of Ithaca in the County of Tompkins and State of New York being of Sound Mind and Memory and considering the uncertainty of this frail and transitory Life do therefor make, ordain, publish and declare this to be my last will and testament, that is to say:

FIRST I order and direct my farm on which I reside in the said town of Ithaca containing over two hundred forty acres of land to be divided as follows: Beginning on the west shore of Cayuga Lake at a Point in the center of my East line and running from thence in westerly direction in such way and by such lines as shall divide said farm into two equal parts and leave the woodland which is on the northwest part of said farm on the north half thereof and the woodland which is in the southeast part of said farm on the south half thereof. And that all fences on said farm (Except the west line fence) which are within twenty rods of where said division line shall come on either side thereof to be used as far as may be needed for the purpose of making a division line fence of said farm.

SECOND I hereby give and devise the South half of said farm to my two daughters, Sarah Amelia, wife of Luther Lewis and Cornelia Ann, wife of William Sausman, their heirs and assigns forever.

THIRD I give and devise the north half of said farm unto my two other daughters, Rhoda Maria Hayt and Frances Augusta Hayt, their heirs and assigns forever. I also give and bequeath unto my two Daughters last named all the household goods, beds, bedding and furniture which I shall leave in my dwelling house at my decease.

FOURTH I order and dlrect my executors hereinafter



### THE HOPKINS HOUSE

*Original builder is unknown, but it may have been David Colegrove. Jacob Sausman was an early owner; it is recorded that he sold it in 1856 to James Cregar who sold it to George Hopkins, Sr., whose grandson, George Hopkins, now lives there.*



named to safely invest five hundred dollars so that the interest thereon shall be used and applied by them annually for twenty years from my death to the support of an Evangelical Ministry in the church near my residence in Ithaca or in the neighborhood in which I reside.

FIFTH I give, devise and bequeath all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate of every means and kind including the said five hundred dollars to be invested as above directed after the expiration of the said twenty years, unto my said four daughters above named, their heirs and assigns forever.

SIXTH I make, constitute and appoint my son-in-law, Luther Lewis to be executor and my Daughter, Rhoda Maria Hayt to be executrix of this my last will and Testament hereby revoking all former wills by me made.

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed My Seal the ninth day of July in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Four.

Charles Hayt (Seal)

The above written Instrument was subscribed by the said Charles Hayt in our presence and acknowledged by him to each of us and he at the same time declared the above instrument to be his last Will and Testament and we at his request and in his presence have signed our names as witnesses hereto and written opposite our names, our respective places of residence.

H. A. Dowe	of Ithaca, Tompkins County, New York
S. H. Wilcox	of Ithaca, Tompkins County, New York
H. S. Walbridge	of Ithaca, Tompkins County, New York

# Inventory of His Personal Estate

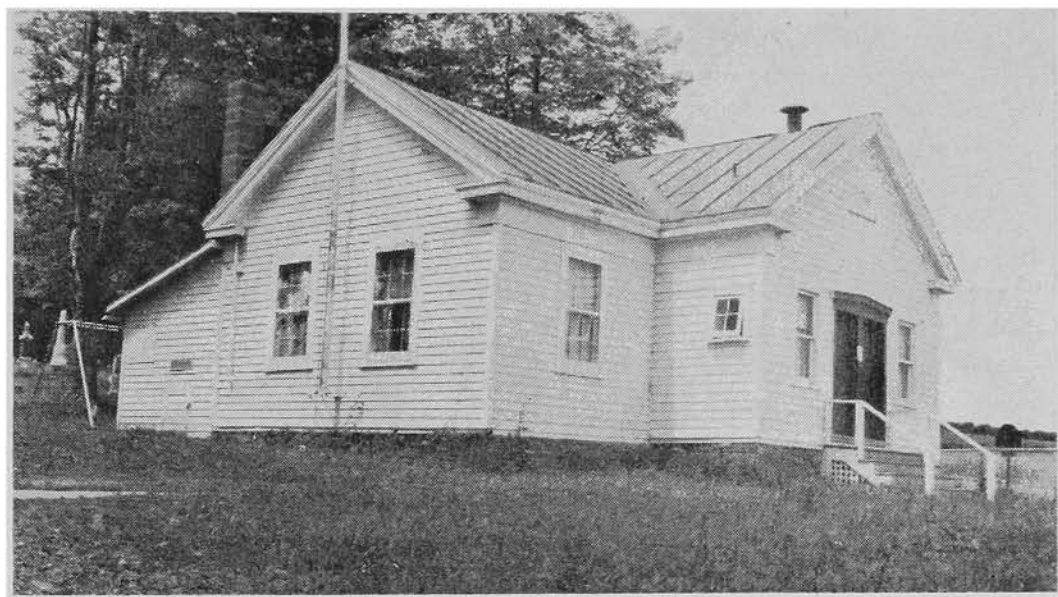
Joseph F. Hixson and David Colegrove, appraisers of the estate, on January 11, 1866, listed the following "Assets in the hands of the adminisistrator:"

2 dry cows, \$230; and white and roan steers, \$250 .....	\$ 480.00
Spotted steer \$65; white 2-year-old steer \$55 .....	120.00
Roan steer, 1-year-old, \$40; roan hifer, 2 years old \$60 ....	100.00
White heifer, 2 years old, \$40; 2 white steers \$55 .....	95.00
3 yearling heifers, \$75; roan cow, \$80 .....	155.00
Red cow, \$70; white farrow cow, \$40 .....	110.00
White 3-year-old heifer .....	50.00
White yearling heifer .....	30.00
Red heifer 3 years old, \$48; spotted heifer 3 years old, \$25 .....	73.00
White yearling bull, \$20; spotted yearling bull, \$25 .....	45.00
31 wethers .....	170.50
7 store sheep, \$2.50 each .....	17.50
27 lambs, \$3.50 each, \$64.50; 56 ewes at \$6, \$336 .....	450.50
Buck, \$10; 2 buck lambs \$12 .....	22.00
Sorrel mare .....	125.00
Roan and brown horses \$30; bay mare \$125 .....	155.00
204 bl. oats .40cts bl., \$81.60; 22 bl wheat, \$2.25, \$49.50....	131.10
84 bl. barley @ 60cts bl. ....	50.40
234 bl. Corn in Ear .35cts bl. ....	81.90
529½ lbs. wool @ .50cts lb. ....	264.75
91½ acres of wheat on ground \$15 per acre (Loss \$16.38)	140.00
A lot of forks and rakes, \$1; baskets, 25c .....	1.25
Scoop and half bushel, .50cts; fanning mill \$8 .....	8.50
Mowing machine and reaper .....	100.00
2-horse pleasure carriage .....	70.00
1-horse carriage .....	10.00
2-horse light harness .....	8.00
2 buffalo robes, \$11; loose lumber, \$8 .....	19.00
Ditching plow, \$5; 2-horse pleasure sleigh, \$10 .....	15.00
Ox cart, \$3; 2-horse lumber wagon, \$20 .....	23.00
One-horse harness .....	3.00
Iron axle 2-horse wagon .....	10.00
Best 2-horse wagon .....	40.00
Democrat wagon \$20; lumber sleigh, \$20 .....	40.00
Bob sleigh, \$8; 2 road scrappers, \$4.50 .....	12.50
Two old drags, \$2; Plain Ox yokes, .75cts .....	2.75
2 cultivators, .50cts; 3 plows, \$2 .....	2.50
2 spades, hog hook and rake, \$1; wheelbarrow, \$1 .....	2.00

2 hay racks, \$4.50; stoneboat, \$1.50; old iron, \$5 .....	11.00
Crowbar, small, 1.50; crow bar, large, \$2.50 .....	4.00
2 shovels, \$1; 2 dung forks, \$1 .....	2.00
2 neck yokes, \$1; ax, .50cts; ox chain, \$2.50 .....	4.00
Large pine tub, \$2; 2 gates, \$6 .....	8.00
Set of whiffletrees, \$1; best set, do, \$2 .....	3.00
2 picks, \$1.25; beatle and wedges, \$1 .....	2.25
Small grindstone, \$2.50; large grindstone, .50cts .....	3.00
2 scythes and snaths .....	2.00
Barrel plaster and bucksaw, 75c; horserake, \$2 .....	2.75
4 barrel and box, 50c; cornsheller, \$1 .....	1.50
Cutting box, \$1; horserake and block, \$5 .....	6.00
Set of planes, \$5; three saws, \$3 .....	8.00
Square and bevel, \$1.25; six chisels, \$1.50 .....	2.75
Draw knife, 50c; adz, 75c .....	1.25
Brace and bits, chalkline, \$1; 5 augers and gauge, \$4 .....	5.00
Broad ax, \$1; crosscut saw, \$2 .....	3.00
Long auger and sap borers, \$2; pine fencing, \$2.50 .....	4.50
Set of double harness, \$30; saddle, 50c .....	30.50
Old harness, \$2; 3 whiffletrees and rope, 50c .....	2.50
25 chickens at 30c each, \$7.50; had sled, \$1 .....	8.50
9 bags at 2 shillings per bag, \$2.25; old lead pipe, 75c .....	3.00
Hoop iron, 50c; ice tongs, 50c .....	1.00
Taglocks and 3 fleeces of wool .....	5.00
15 bl. of potatoes at 3 shillings bl. ....	5.62
Barrel of vinegar, \$6; 2 bbls of cider, \$5 .....	11.00
Fork and hay knife, \$1.50; 5 old barrels shilling each, 62c .....	2.12
10 bl. apples at 1 shilling, \$1.25; tar and barrel, \$1 .....	2.25
One half of roller, \$5; 2 calves, \$20 .....	25.00
3 sow pigs, \$45; 57 1/2 tons hay at \$7 ton, \$402.50 .....	447.30
1084 lbs. pork at 12c per lb. ....	130.08
267 lbs. pig pork at 11c per lb. ....	29.37
Workbench, shave horse, \$2; scale and beans, \$2 .....	4.00
Logs at Cooks mill .....	11.00
Cook stove, pike and furniture, \$25; clock, \$1 .....	1.25
Looking glass, 50c; 6 kitchen chairs, 75c .....	1.25
Lounge, \$1; stand, 25c; crockery and tinware, \$25 .....	26.25
Table, 2; sitting stove, \$4; 2 tables, \$6 .....	12.00
6 chairs, sttting room, 4shillings, \$3; 2 rockers, \$2 .....	5.00
Looking glass, \$2; lounge, \$3; sewing machine, \$10 .....	15.00
Carpet, \$2.50; lamp and candlesticks, \$1 .....	3.50
Carpet, \$20; clothing, \$5 .....	25.00
Bed and bedding and linen .....	35.00
Beaureux and stand .....	6.00
12 light chairs, \$12; 6 dark chairs, \$3 .....	15.00
Hall carpet, \$8; stair carpet, \$4 .....	12.00
Parlor stove and pipe, \$4; carpet, \$30 .....	34.00
Center table, \$8; lamp, \$1 .....	9.00
Candlesticks, snuffers and tray, \$3; stand, 75c .....	3.75
Bedstead, bedding, \$50; washstand, bowl, pitcher, \$4 .....	54.00
Carpet, \$2; pipe to stove, \$1.50; table, \$5 .....	8.50
Stand, \$4; sofa, \$4; rocker, \$2 .....	10.00
Washstand and pitcher and bowl .....	2.00
Bedstead and bedding, \$30; looking glass, \$2 .....	32.00
Hall carpet upstairs .....	.50



Bedding in the close room .....	80.00	
Bed and bedding, \$30; stove and pipe, \$3 .....	33.00	
Bedstead and Bedding, \$30; beaureux, \$6 .....	36.00	
Stand, \$1; looking glass, \$2; 3 rockers, \$3 .....	6.00	
Lounge, 50c; carpet, \$3; shovel tongs, \$1 .....	4.50	
Bed and bedding, \$15; wheel and reel, \$1 .....	16.00	
Bed and bedstead, \$10; bed and bedstead, \$5 .....	15.00	
Carpet, table and stand, \$1; 2 brass kettles, \$5 .....	6.00	
11 teaspoons, silver, \$11; 9 tablespoons, silver, \$25 .....	36.00	
Saltspoon and butterknives .....	2.50	4,577.84
Cash on hand:		
Merchants and Farmers Bank .....	540.01	
First National Bank .....	606.50	
Cash on hand .....	5.00	
Mortgages—Interest computed to Jan'y 16, '66 .....		1,151.51
One half of mortgage given by George W. Bundy to Charles Hayt and Wm. D. Sausman for two thousand dollars dated Dec. 16, 1864 .....	1,000.00	
Interest one year and one month .....	75.83	1,075.83
Bond and mortgage given by Luther Lewis to John Lewis, April 1, 1858, with interest assigned by said Lewis 2d, of April, 1863, for the amount of .....	3,193.00	
Indorsed March 30, 1859 .....	223.51	
Indorsed March 30, 1860 .....	223.51	
Indorsed April 1, 1861 .....	223.51	
Indorsed April 1, 1862 .....	1,461.51	
Indorsed April 1, 1863 .....	1,000.00	
Indorsed April 1, 1863 .....	140.00	
Indorsed April 1, 1864 .....	70.00	
Indorsed April 1, 1865 .....	70.00	
Leaving due April 1, 1865, on mortgage .....	1,000.00	
Interest 16th January .....	55.57	1,055.57
Bond and mortgage given to Charles Hayt and Wm. D. Sausman jointly for \$4,312.88. Charles Hayt's in- terest on the principal of said mortgage was .....	3,146.00	
Dated April 1, 1860		
April 1, 1861, Indorsed .....	520.27	
April 1, 1862, Indorsed .....	900.00	
April 1, 1863, Indorsed .....	150.16	
April 1, 1864, Indorsed .....	615.22	
April 1, 1865, Indorsed .....	875.00	
May 11, 1865, Indorsed .....	200.00	
May 11, 1865, Indorsed .....	200.00	152.89
Balance due January 16, 1866 .....	152.89	8,013.64
Notes:		
Notes given to Charles Hayt by the Trustees of West- hill Cemetery, Dec. 28, 1864 .....	375.84	
Interest .....	27.59	403.43
L. Lewis Note, April 2, 1862, for .....	700.00	
Indorsements, April 3, 1862 .....	100.00	
April 3, 1863 .....	42.00	
April 1, 1864 .....	42.00	
April 1, 1864 .....	310.00	
April 1, 1865 .....	13.30	
Bal. due 1st April, 1865 .....	190.00	



### HAYT SCHOOLHOUSE

*As it appears today, 117 years after the right-hand section was built,  
at the corner of Hayt and Trumansburg Roads.*



Interest to January 16, 1866 .....	10.56	200.56
Government Bonds		
Gold Bonds \$5.20 .....	\$ 3,500.00	
Interets for 2 months 16 das ..... 51.37	3,551.37	
Seven thirty bonds .....	1,400.00	
Interest on bonds to January 16, 1866 .....	59.61	1,459.61
County bond .....	300.00	
Interest .....	18.31	318.31
Book account		
Due from the trustees of the Westhill cemetery .....	6.75	6.75
		<hr/>
		\$13.953.67

## Deed for West Hill Cemetery

This Indenture made the Fifth day of January One thousand Eight Hundred and fifty-two Between Charles Hayt of Ithaca in the County of Tompkins and State of New York and Deborah, his wife of the first part and the "Ithaca West Hill Cemetery" of the second part Witnesseth, that the said parties of the first part, in consideration of one dollar to them duly paid, have sold, and by these presents do grant and convey to the said party of the second part, their successors and Assigns Forever, All that certain lot piece or parcel of land situated and being a part of the farm of the said Charles Hayt in the said town of Ithaca bounded and described as follows to wit: Beginning at the North west corner of the Schoolhouse lot and runs from thence south 38° degrees East, three chains and seventy links to a stake; thence west 7° degrees South four chains and twelve links to a stake; thence North 24° degrees West two chains and fifty-three links to the North line of said lot and to the highway leading from the Geneva Road by Jacob Sausmans; and thence East 62° degrees north along the line of said highway to the highway to the place of beginning containing one and one-eighth acre or one hundred and eighty square rods of land as surveyed by Cyrus Gray on the 12th of April, 1851.

With the Appurtenances and all the Estate, Titles, and Interest of the said parties of the First part therein: To have and to hold the same to the said parties of the second part for their use as a Cemetery or burying ground their successors and assigns forever: but only subject to and upon the following express conditions to wit: the said parties of the second part their successors and assigns shall and will from time to time and at all times hereafter keep the flowing water from

the surface above from overflowing, or running across or through or upon the said above described and hereby granted premises and shall also at all times keep up and in good repair the fences inclosing the said premises.

## 100-Year Frear Farm on West Hill

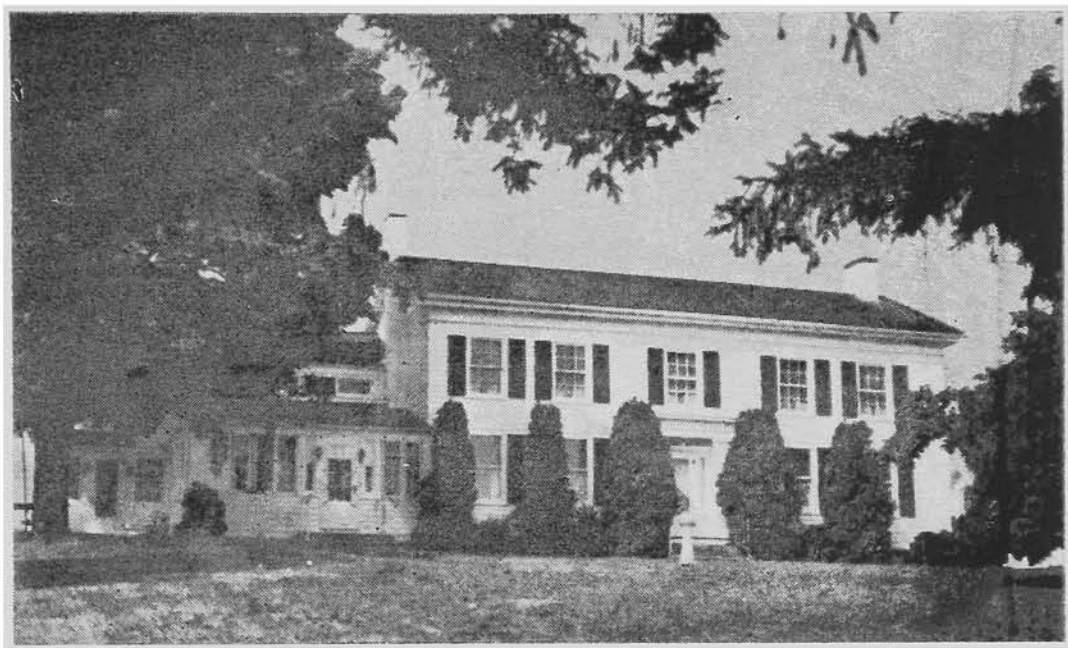
Indicative of the type of farming engaged in on West Hill is the account of the Stebbins-Frear 100-year farm that appeared in the Tompkins County Farm Bureau News in February 1950. Although there have been numerous changes in methods and products, this farm carries on as a modern fruit farm.

By 1832, settlers had commenced to fill up the territory now known as Tompkins County. When organized as such in 1817, log cabins had begun to give way to frame houses. Louis Stebbins, then a man of 54, came from Putnam County, New York, and bought a tract of 17½ acres on contract from Ben Johnson for \$350. He agreed to pay for it in four years, but completed payment in slightly over three years.

Louis Stebbins was born in 1778 and in 1815 married Rhoda Arnold. They brought with them in 1832 three children, William, Mary, and Julia. Three years later Mrs. Stebbins died, and later Stebbins married Sarah Lockwood. Stebbins died in 1868 but his wife survived him in the old homestead for 13 years.

At the same time that Louis Stebbins came to Tompkins County, Baltus Frear, father of Alexander, settled on the farm on the Willow Creek Road, now known as the Albrechtsen farm. The original Stebbins house was probably built about 1800 when it consisted of two rooms and a woodshed downstairs and four bedrooms upstairs. There was a fireplace in what was then the kitchen but is now the dining room. This fireplace, with a Dutch oven on either side, has been torn out for many years.

This land purchased by Louis Stebbins was located in Lot #41 of the Military Tract, and was drawn in 1790 by John Cooper, a private in the second, or Graham, New York Regi-



### TODAY'S FREAR FARM HOUSE

*Southwest portion was built in 1820<sup>1820</sup>. Alexander Frear subsequently erected the main part of the present-day farm dwelling.*





ment. However, John Cooper had died 12 years before this and the deed was delivered to Richard Edwards as administrator. It lies near what is known as Indian Creek, probably so named because tramp Indians still came down through as late as 1900.

In 1848, Alexander Frear married Julia Stebbins. The father and mother moved across the field to a house on the DuBois Road, which he enlarged and still is known as the Stebbins place. Alexander Frear and his wife rented the farm on shares of the father until 1864, when they purchased it. Frear kept very accurate and minute records of every expenditure and income from 1850 until about 1893 when the farm was taken over by his son. Some of the items found in hte account books give a very clear picture of life in Civil War times and the prices that were paid at the times.

### **Records**

In 1850, Frear grew corn, oats, wheat and beans. His total yield of wheat for the year was 798 bushels and 33 pounds. Thomas Sutton worked for him for seven months at \$12 per month, and he hired E. Luce to drill his oats at 50c per acre. Jabez Harding threshed his wheat at 3½ per bushel. His day help was Thomas Bradbury, Charles Barker, Munson Barker, R. Taylor, Remus Bradbury, William DeWitt, Baltus Bates, P. DuBoice, Beyer and Butler. The usual wage for day help was \$1 a day.

Frear commenced planting corn on May 13 and finished in two days. A week later he notes that the corn was not all sprouted yet and there was some fear of its rotting. However, he commenced cultivating corn for the last time on July 10 and notes that it "looks fine and some of it commences to tassel out." On July 11 he sowed buckwheat in the morning and finished working in the corn the next day.

On July 19 he notes the "greatest rain I ever saw at this time of year." On July 31 he finished cutting wheat, but did not get it quite all tied up and the next day he notes that there is some fear of the wheat growing. On August 12, he commenced cutting oats and notes that they were very short and light and

lodged very badly. On the 16th, he finished binding oats. From August 20 to October 24 he sowed 59 bushels of wheat.

### Early Accountitng

Frear was interested in the cost of producing crops and figured the cost of his beans as follows:

May 19—To plowing with 1 team 3 days and hand \$6. Team and self  $\frac{1}{2}$  day dragging \$1. DuBois for drilling beans, \$2. Beans for seed  $2\frac{1}{2}$  bushels at \$1,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  at  $46\frac{1}{2}$ , \$4. Self and team.  $\frac{1}{2}$  day drilling, \$.75.

June 19— $2\frac{1}{2}$  days dragging, 7 cultivating beans, \$2.50.

June 27—one day cultivating, \$1.

June 29— $\frac{1}{4}$  day cultivating, \$.25; 2 days hoeing, \$1.

July 8—1 day plowing with 1 horse.

July 9— $\frac{3}{4}$  day plowing beans, 2 hands  $\frac{1}{2}$  day hoeing, \$1.25; 1 hand  $1\frac{1}{2}$  day hoeing, \$1.50.

Sept 11—Sutton and self pulling beans  $\frac{3}{4}$  day each, \$.94. Will and Batt  $\frac{3}{4}$  day together, \$.40.

Sept. 12—Father Sutton and self with 3 men one day at 5/, \$3.75. Bill and Taylor each one day pulling, \$1. Charlie Barker  $\frac{1}{4}$  day, \$.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ . 5 men  $\frac{1}{4}$  day pulling beans, \$.68 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Total \$25.70.

In 1851, he commenced plowing for oats on May 29 and sowed them from April 9 to 14. On April 4, he sowed 10 bushels of barley and rolled it the next day. His sheep were sheared on June 17 but he did not commence haying until July 10. On the 18th, he had about 8 acres of hay "spread out," but it rained very hard on Saturday and he shook it out, turned it and made some of it up. On July 28, he finished cutting wheat and binding it except for a few sheaves on the sidehill. Two days later he drew wheat in the afternoon until 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  o'clock. On August 6 he cut oats with the reaper and let them lie and cure for 3 days, and he tied them about half up and finished on the 13th. He commenced husking corn on October 30, but notes that it "was rather green to husk."

He raised 1,166 bushels of oats of which he sold 994 at the B. F. Smith store. In September, he sowed about 36 bushels of

wheat of which 19 were of the Mediterranean variety and 11 of Soles. Thomas Sutton worked for him for 8 months at \$12.50 per month. Some of his expenses in 1851 were: silk hat \$3.25, pair of pantaloons and trimmings \$3.37½, making pants 62½c, coat and pants \$16.50, making coat and pants \$8, vest \$3.50, boots \$2.75, coat and pants and trimming \$7.40, cravat and two collars \$1.60, india rubber shoes \$1.

### **Boots Mended 6½c**

In 1852, Thomas Sutton was still working on the farm at \$12 per month. Frear also hired some day help, including Miles Baker, "most a half day planting corn for 31c." In this year he sowed a piece of flax on May 4, from which he harvested 86 bushels which he sold for 9/ or \$1.12½ per bushel. He grew wheat, oats, corn, hay, and oats and barley together for feed. He had started a flock of sheep and must have had some cows as he sold 17 pounds of butter at one time for 14c per pound. Some of his expenses which look strange to us were: boot mended 6¼c, pair of shoes \$1.25, ferry across the lake 50c, horse feed and dinner for two \$1.25, haircut 12½c, hairbush 31c, comb 12½c.

In 1853, he changed hired men and William Wilkin worked for 8 months at \$8 per month. By this time he must have had two teams because they commenced plowing with both teams on April 11. On April 23, he sowed 19 bushels of plaster and on May 2, he plastered his corn. On June 15, he bought five head of cattle for \$115, one yoke of oxen of Baker for \$100 and a cow of William Lansman for \$27. These he later sold for a profit of \$85 which brought the total income of his farm up to \$567.29½ for the year. His private expenses for the year were \$211.93 which did not leave a great amount of profit.

Some of his receipts for 1853 were one firkin of (94½ lbs.) butter sent to New York, 79 lbs. of butter for 14c, chestnuts 75c, turkey at 10c per pound, corn at 67½c per bushel, apples at 37½c per bushel and 112 bushels of wheat at \$2 per bushel. Some of his expenses were: Dr. Coryell, bill for six visits, \$7, buffalo robe \$4.50, a pint of lamp oil at 18¾c. He had 15

entries for pills, liniment and doctor visits between August 11 and December 2, so there must have been considerable sickness in the family.

In 1854, William Wilkin was again the hired man but his wages were increased to \$8.50 per month. Among the products sold from the farm were butter at from 15 to 20½c per pound, apples at 25 and 50c per bushel, chestnuts at \$2.25 per bushel, smoked beef at 10c per pound, pork at 7 and 8c a pound, lard at 12½c, 53½ pounds of turkey at 8¼c, 297 bushels of oats at 50c, 450 bushels of corn to Culver at 75c, 43 bushels of wheat at \$2.25, clover seed at \$7.50 per bushel, 3 sheep at \$2 each, 7 head of cattle for \$387.66, and 7 head of 3-year-old heifers \$285.

Among his purchases were coffee at 13½c per pound, mackerel at 10½c, a barrel of sugar at 6c per pound, a pair of fine boots \$4.50, and a newspaper at 6¼c. On December 9, he notes that his spotted oxen weighed 3,655 lbs., a speckled ox 1,815, and a heifer 737½ pounds.

In 1858, William Wilkins was again the hired man but this year he got only \$8.00 per month. He hired 13 days of help. The men employed were L. Savage, William Ferrell, Frank MacDonald, L. Lewis, L. Leonard, and Mr. Shears. This year he apparently had a different agreement with his father-in-law whereby the owner took one-third and Frear had two-thirds of the proceeds.

Margaret O'Conner came from New York and lived with the Frears in 1858. The fare from New York was \$5.50 and Frear notes that he bought a spelling book, reader, and arithmetic for 81c so Margaret was apparently a school girl.

The main products sold from the farm in 1855 were: 5 pigs, butter, buckwheat at 50c per bushel, eggs, 1 hog weighing 440 lbs. at 7½c per pound, 151 pounds of chicken at 11c, 5 heads of cattle for \$310, 571 bushels of potatoes at 31½c, 2 head of 3-year-old steers to Bishop for \$110, Newton Pippin apples, 178 bushels of rye at 78c, chestnuts \$3 per bushel, and 461 bushels of oats at 60c.

The taxes on the farm this year were \$29.66. By way of

comparison, in 1950 they were almost seven times as much.

We quote a few of the living expenses for this year: 1 beaver hat at Tichenors \$3.50; 2 1/3 lbs. of beefsteak at 10c; 1 gross of matches, 43 1/2; 2 3/4 yards of cloth for pants, \$2.41; cutting pantaloons, 45c; pound of coffee, 10c; 100 lbs. of sugar, @ 8 1/2c; 2 lbs. cape coffee @ at 15 1/2c; 4 lbs. Java coffee 18 3/4c; state fair expenses \$1.77 3/4c; 100 clams at 62 1/2c per hundred, admittance to see fat woman 12 1/2c.

This was the period of change from candles to lamps. Frear notes that he bought a pound of sperm oil candles for 31c but he also had one lamp fixed to burn fluid. He bought three fluid lamps for \$2.25 and a gallon of "burning fluid at \$1."

### **Present House Built in 1856**

In 1856, the upright part of the present farmhouse wits built. Dunavan spent 3 3/4 days digging cellar for which he was paid \$3.75. Shumway took 8 3/4 days laying up the cellar wall for which he received \$13.12. Swartout received \$1.25 a day for lathing and was paid \$12 for making blinds. The lath cost 12 1/2c per bunch. William Daniels did the painting at \$1.37 1/2 per day. 3,081 feet of pine lumber was \$10 per thousand and 1,086 feet of hemlock cost \$5.50 per thousand. Other expenses for building were 3 oak planks for cellar steps which cost \$1.12, 5,000 shingles at \$2.25 per thousand, 6 pounds of green paint at 37 1/2c per pound, 25 pounds of white lead at \$10 and 2 bushels of hair at 25c per bushel. This latter was used in mixing the plaster.

Frear bought also a load of tan bark, probably from the tannery of McKinney & Slocum at Free Hollow or what is now known as Forest Home. Of course, a new house required more furniture and 33 yard of carpet were bought at 50c per yard, a sheet-iron stove at \$10.23, 2 bedsteads at \$6 each, a looking glass for the bedroom cost \$6, a shovel and tongs stand for the fireplace at \$1.20 1/2, a set of 6 curly-maple chairs \$7.50, and a "Russian pipe for stove to our bedroom \$8.10."

Some of the expenses that look strange in 1950 were: Ithaca Journal \$1, horse in stable 25c, tip to hostler 6c, 4 teeth filled

\$4, overcoat \$8.21, vest \$3.25, pants \$2.06, making overcoat and vest \$7, iron beam plow \$8.50, fresh fish 9c per pound, barrel of flour \$7.50, 1 pair of calkskin boots \$6.25.

Some of the farm sales of 1857 were: 2 hogs weighing 535 lbs. at 8c, clover seed at \$7 per bushel, a pair of 3-year-old steers weighing 3,030 lbs. at 5c per pound, pair of oxen weighing 3645 at 5½c, 422 bushels of oats at 57c, 1 steer weighing 1,400 pounds at 6c, 1,384 pounds of pork 6½c, besides some butter, eggs, lard, rye, and oat straw. Taxes on the farm for the year were \$27.30.

Some of the personal expenses this year were: 18¾c for hair and whisker trim, 9c for a half pound of smoking tobacco, \$1 for a portrait, black Rio coffee 16½c, and Mocha coffee 21½c, ½ barrel mackerel for \$8.50, oysters 18¾c per dozen, strawberry plants at 1c each, a grain cradle for \$3.50, and a keyhole for 18¾c. Burning fluid had dropped to 70c per gallon.

In 1858, Perry Miles began work at \$10 a month. Apparently he was not satisfied and quit on March 5. On June 30, William Young started at \$15 a month and stayed until August 8. On October 12, Dunevan took over at \$6 per month but went home in less than a month. William Wilkins started on December 1, at \$12 per month. L. Leonard, Nelson Van Order, and L. Savage were the day hands. This year Frear put blind ditches in his cow lot. These ditches cost him 46c a rod of which 28c per rod was for digging and 17¾c for boards and nails. He threshed 260 bushels of rye of which 160 were sold to Mr. Halsey and balance fed to the horses. He notes also that he had 351 bushels of oats in storage with Wodyt Esty. He sold 24 bushels of oats at 34c, clover seed at \$4, 2 fat hogs, 508 pounds at 5c per pound, and 85 pounds of poultry at 7c per pound.

### **Interested in Sheep**

He apparently was building up his flock of sheep as he bought 61 at \$1.87½ per head, and sold 19 at \$2 per head. Taxes on his farm this year were \$28.03 and the insurance on his house, barn, and wagon house cost him \$12.

On November 11 of this year a son, Lewis B., was born to

Mr. and Mrs. Frear. On December 24, a willow cradle was bought for the baby at \$1.50. This cradle is still in the family. The family was still using candles to some extent as we note the purchase of a pound of candle wick at 38c a pound.

The following year, 1859, Baby Lewis attracted considerable attention. A willow cart was bought for \$7.75 and a rubber ring to chew on cost 10c. Two pictures of the baby were taken at \$1.25. Mrs. Hillick, a nurse, was hired for nine weeks at \$5 a week and Sarah Maria worked 6 weeks at \$1 per week. Eliza Boyle worked for 1 month at \$5 per month. Delevan Mills was the hired man at \$12 per month.

As in previous years, Frear hired his sheep sheared. The cost of shearing the 35 sheep was \$1.35. About 100 pounds of butter were produced and sold, a few eggs, 23 lambs brought \$2 per head, 351 bushels of oats were sold at 30c per bushel, 202 bushels of corn at 75c, 136 bushels of rye at 70 to 78c, a pair of red 5-year-old steers brought \$105, a white steer \$30, a red heifer \$30 and 3 cows \$100. In addition to this a veal calf, few muskmelons and about 30 bushels of potatoes were sold. Taxes on the farm for the year were \$24.40, and a tax for the new schoolhouse was \$1.62½. A trip to the fair at Trumansburg cost 73c, candle wicking cost 31c.

The following year, 1860, Henry Snyder started working on the Frear farm but left at the end of 5 days. Henry E. Snow worked for 1 month and Jefferson Sabin finished the year at \$13 per month. Produce from the farm this year included 352 pounds of butter, 3 pounds of strained honey, 27 fleeces of wool, 104 pounds at 37½c per pound, 23 lambs at \$2 per head, 184 bushels of rye at 75c, one ton of hay at \$5, 3 bushels of clover seed \$4.75, 402 lbs. of pork at 5¾c, 1,114 bushels of oats were produced, of which 848 bushels were sold, 200 bushels of corn, 50 bushels of apples, 24 of potatoes, and a few pickles.

Sales of cows and steers totaled over \$400 for the year. Frear at this time had 4 horses, Jim, Jenny, Charlie, and Nancy. He bought a new lumber wagon for \$75. He purchased 3 kerosene lamps for \$4.19 and a gallon of kerosene oil at \$1. The family was apparently still using candles as shown by the purchase of



candle wicking. He bought 150 pounds of oil meal at \$1.87½ per hundredweight. This is the first entry we found of purchased grain.

The family started preserving fruit at this time as we find an entry of \$1.74 for a dozen glass fruit jars. A curled hair mattress was bought at 50c per pound. Three daguerrotypes of Lewis cost \$2.50 and a pair of copper-toed shoes for him 62½c. Doctors were cheaper than at the present time as Dr. Chase made five visits to the Frear homestead for \$5. On June 28, Grandma Arnold came to board for \$3 per week. In 1864, it was raised to \$4 per week and shortly after we find a note that she went to Uncle Jacob's to live. On January 29, L. B. Frear was 33 inches in height and 3 months later he had grown one inch.

### **Civil War Period**

In 1861, the first year of the Civil War, little change was made in the type of farming. 133 bushels of beans were grown and sold from 72c to \$1.25 per bushel. This was the first time in several years that Frear grew beans. He also seemed to have gone into the pork business more extensively as he marketed 584 pounds of pork at from 3½ to 4½c per pound. Apparently he did not keep as many sheep as usual as only 25 fleeces were marketed. This brought 27c a pound.

This seems to be the first year that the family used coal for heating as seven tons were bought. Chestnut coal cost \$3.50 a ton, stove coal \$4.20, and small egg \$4.60. The tax on the farm was \$38.01 and the school tax \$1.07. Frear bought a two-horse carriage at Burton's for \$250 and a "reaper and mower combined" for \$110.55. No doubt most of the grain had been cradled before this. It is interesting to note that he paid 25c stage fare from thaca to his farm.

As the country entered into the Civil War in 1862, changes are noted on the Frear farm and prices on some things went up. Wheat sold for \$1.15 per bushel, taxes also increased. Frear subscribed \$20 to the war fund and paid \$55 for a volunteer to the war. The taxes on the farm were \$46.22 with a \$3 tax on



### LOUIS STEBBINS' HOUSE

*On the corner of Dubois and Trumansburg Roads, Stebbins moved into it about 1848 and later added a large wing.*



his two carriages, income tax \$6.06, and 50c tax on his dog.

Labor was still cheap as Jerry Niverson sheared 31 sheep for \$1.25, and Jef Sabine hoed corn for 18½ days for 94c. Beef steak could still be bought for 9 to 10c a pound and 73 pounds of sausage meat cost 73c. Kerosene oil was 40c a gallon. Frear apparently broke an ankle as he paid Dr. Rhodes a dollar to examine it; Dr. Sibley \$12 for five visits, and 50c for a bottle of skunk's oil for the ankle.

Little of the unusual happened on the Frear farm in 1863. A large number of different men worked by the day which indicate that there was more or less of a labor shortage. The sheep enterprise was increased somewhat and 30 lambs were sold at \$2.25 apiece and 32 fleeces of wool brought 42 to 45c per pound.

This was a good year for clover seed and 34 bushels were sold at \$6 per bushel. Taxes on the farm were \$20.25. Ground coffee was from 63c to \$1 during the winter, and Frear bought a half bushel of rye for coffee for 37c. A black broadcloth coat cost \$21 and a pair of French calf boots \$6. Both brown and granulated sugar were 14c per pound. Rails for fences were bought at 3 cents each.

The year 1863 was a good year for potatoes on the Frear farm: 296 bushels were sold at prices ranging from 25 to 47c per bushel. He notes that they were of the Early June and Albany seedling varieties. Apparently his apple trees were now coming into bearing and 167 bushels were sold at prices ranging from 40c to 75c per bushel. He hired Michael Wildrick to set 439 grafts in an effort to produce more fruit.

His taxes this year were \$136.67 with an income tax of \$6.45 and a special income tax of 5 per cent which amounted to \$10.75. Prices paid for goods also went up. Coffee was 34c to 62c, yellow sugar 22c, 33 yards of cashmere cost 66c, an overcoat of Marshall was \$40 and a business coat at the same store \$30.

In 1865 both the dairy and sheep enterprises seem to have been considerably expanded: 374 pounds of butter were sold at 20 to 40c per pound, 119 fleeces of wool weighing 629 pounds were sold at 62c per pound. 92 sheep and 20 lambs were sold

at \$3 each. Frear's income tax for the year was \$18.45, his carriage tax \$3 and his watch tax \$1. He paid a tax of 20c on two pigs he butchered. As for improvements, P. Dunovan was paid for digging 40 rods of ditch at the rate of 50c per rod, and a washing machine was purchased of Forester at \$15.

### **No Changes in Farming**

The year 1865 brought little change in the type of farming on the Frear farm: 119 dozen eggs were sold from 18 to 26c per dozen, a few turkeys were raised and sold for 26c per pound; 106 bushels of apples were sold, 86 fleeces of wool averaging about 6 pounds per fleece brought 60½c per pound. For the second time, Frear bought some feed as we find that he purchased 50 pounds of oil meal at \$2.75 per hundredweight, and 15 bushels of cull beans for sheep feed at 50c a bushel.

Taxes were still high. In addition to the tax on the farm of \$61.52, school tax was \$2.10 plus \$3.92, his income tax was \$23.50, carriage tax \$4, watch tax \$1, and dog tax 51c. The school tax for Lewis to Mr. Meade was \$1.16. As for personal expenses, a stovepipe hat cost \$5.50, a pair of boots of Corbin \$7, another pair of calf boots \$8, a plow of J. Rumsey was \$9, and a hoopskirt \$2.50. Kerosene was now selling for 65c per gallon. The Frears apparently had considerable sickness as they paid Dr. Morgan \$36 for nine visits and Dr. Chase for attending a conference, \$15.25.

### **Turkies Raised**

In 1867 chestnut coal was selling from \$5.60 to \$6.80, egg coal \$6.20, wood was \$4 a cord. Butter was selling for 20 to 28c per pound, eggs 16 to 30c, wheat at \$3.25 per bushel, wages had gone up to \$22 per month; Ed Gray worked at painting 19 days at \$2 per day. Taxes on the farm were \$73.66, income tax \$11.65, and watch tax \$1. Probably most people have forgotten that we had income and nuisance taxes back 80 years ago.

In 1868 turkey were raised and sold at 14c a pound live weight; 73 fleeces of wool brought 40c per pound and butter was from 40 to 45c. A bathing tub was bought for \$16.50 and

installed by Carpenter in  $6\frac{3}{4}$  days at \$2 per day. The family still used some candles as he bought candle wicking and sperm candles, since kerosene cost 45c a gallon. A democrat wagon was bought of Hays Jarvis for \$150 and a hayrake of C. Titus for \$42. Local taxes were \$62.80 and school taxes \$10.30. Tax on the gold watch was again \$1. We find no mention of an income tax this year, so possibly income was not high enough to warrant it.

The following year, 1869, an income tax of \$17.90 was paid. A grain cradle was purchased for \$6 and a Buckeye mower and reaper for \$193. In this year, 212 pounds of corn meal were bought to feed cattle.

In 1870, more cows were kept as 724 pounds of butter were marketed during the year with prices ranging from 26c to 30c per pound. 248 bushels of potatoes were raised and a number of steers and cattle sold to bring the income up. The number of sheep was apparently about the same at 31 fleeces were marketed. Dr. James Law, one of the early veterinary professors at Cornell, was called to the farm to doctor a cow and horse on April 16, for which he was paid \$4.

An addition was built onto the barn since carpenters from Rumseys worked 62 days at \$2 per day, and 771 feet of hemlock were bought for battens at \$13 per thousand. Pine boards cost \$20 to \$28 per thousand and shingles \$4. An Olive Branch stove was purchased for \$45 and a Brilliant stove for \$42; two years later the Olive Branch was traded for a Fearless stove and \$5 difference. Apparently the family was well read, as subscription to the Ithacan cost \$1.75, the Ithaca Journal \$2. Rural New Yorker \$2.50, New York Evening Post \$3, Evangelist \$3, and Harpers Monthly \$3.75.

### **Alert for New Enterprises**

Frear was constantly looking for new enterprises. In 1871 he increased the size of his dairy business, as he sold more butter than in previous years. He bought a new churn at \$4.75 and built a milk room which was lathed and plastered. There

were no cream separators at this time so the milk was set in shallow pans and the cream allowed to rise.

He must have been a very careful worker as he bought 1,000 feet of pine boards for a picket fence and we find at item of putty for the fence. Not many people would go to the trouble of puttying up the nail holes on their picket fence today. He bought 25 grape vines and 10 pear trees of W. W. Ayers for \$10. Since he already had a considerable number of apple trees, this later added to the fruit grown on the place. He notes that he bought 15 Brahma eggs for setting.

Lewis Frear was now a young man and we find his school bill at the Academy was \$8 and his board bill for 11 weeks was \$44. While attending Ithaca Academy later, his father bought him a riding saddle and habit.

It is interesting to note that in 1872, he hired day help for working on the road, drawing manure, repairing fence, plastering corn, cutting thistles, shearing ten sheep, cocking hay, and barley, and binding wheat. Again in 1873 he added to his orchard by the purchase of 61 pear trees at 50c each, 41 apple trees at 20-25c, and 25 thornless raspberries at \$1 each.

For the first time, we find that he purchased bluegrass seed. Whether this was to add to the pasture mixture or to his meadows we do not know. Frear drove to Slaterville and spent six days as we find an entry for his board with horse and 6 baths. This was the time when Slaterville Springs were popular as a health resort.

In 1874, he began to pay wages to his son Lewis when he was out of school. About this time we begin to find that Frear belonged to the Ithaca Farmers Club which cost him \$1 a year. The following year, Forest City Grange was organized and Lewis Frear became a charter member of it.

Butter became an increasing source of income and Frear began to purchase bran and middlings to add to his dairy ration. His flock of sheep apparently was reduced to about 20. The production of sweet corn became increasingly important and in 1874 he marketed about 12,000 ears at 40c per hundred. He makes one interesting observation that he weighed one pig



### LANDON KRUM HOUSE

*According to Amelia Krum's records, her father, Landon Krum, cleared the land and built this house in 1845. He purchased a house and land in the area from Thomas Hopkins' mother, Mary, about this time, according to the Hopkins' family records. It is possible that the house was built by Thomas Hopkins' father in the early 1800's.*





seven months old, 24 hours off feed. The live weight was 288 lbs. He killed and dressed it and three hours later it weighed 250 lbs., having dressed off 38 pounds.

### Yearly Farm Record

Frear gives us the following summary of his farm operations:

Year	Amt. Sales	Amt. Expended
1855	\$1,077.86	
1856	1,069.92	
1857	1,245.79	
1858	1,167.05	
1859	1,247.98	
1860	1,184.38	
1861	1,315.89	
1862	1,219.22	
1863	1,910.12	\$ 695.11
1864	2,100.00	557.58
1865	2,075.75	542.86
1866	1,346.98	437.01
1867	1,624.98	415.57
1868	1,847.41	435.14
1869	1,631.72	579.21
1870	1,774.98	420.03
1871	1,356.75	583.75
1872	1,303.63	638.13
1873	1,121.97	612.21
1874	1,419.88	645.48
1875	684.66	726.35
1876	1,661.63	1,738.41
1877	782.40	1,971.41

It can be seen from this that even though Frear used the best management, the business was not always profitable. He was very charitable and we find many entries of contributions made to the various charities. He was supervisor for the Town of Ithaca in 1880-81, but never sought another political office.

Lewis Frear, after completing his education in a business school in Poughkeepsie, worked in Cirrillos, New Mexico, a mining town near Santa Fe, where he was a partner with a Mr. Kennedy in a supply store. He worked also as a salesman for a hardware concern in Chicago, traveling through the Middle West, and for a time operated a hub factory in Forestport, Oneida County, New York. In 1892, he married Minnie Cowen, who lived where the Hillendale golf course is now, and six months later took over the farm, working it on shares.

Lewis Frear specialized in Shropshire sheep and sold some for breeding purposes. He raised hothouse lambs which were dressed and shipped by express to New York City. In 1907, disease got into the flock and the university veterinarians told him to sell his sheep. He did this and kept only a small flock from then on.

At that time he turned to cows and started a dairy of grade Holsteins. About this time he built a small, square two-story building which stands at the back of the house for a milkhouse and workshop. Milk was sold to dealers, Fay Allen, Robert Pearson, and the Sanitary Milk Company. He kept Poland hogs. In 1924 or '25 he went out of the dairy business as he had become interestd in other enterprises.

### **Buys More Land**

In 1897, Frear bought about 52 acres of land near the county farm. He planted 12 acres to apples trees, 40 feet apart, interplanted with peaches. Soon after he planted 18 acres more the same way. In 1910, he planted 3 or 4 acres of solid peaches. Next he bought 13 acres more on the crossroad and planted this to solid peaches. Later 14 acres more were put out to peaches and he bought a 100-acre farm adjoining his, a portion of which is now occupied by the poultry plant of Monroe Babcock. In 1924-25 he planted out 7 acres of grapes—Concords, Niagaras, Wordens and Moore's Early—across the road from the farmhouse. When disease struck the peaches, he appealed to the College of Agriculture and Prof. H. H. Whetzel worked with him with experimental sprays. Professor Whetzel came nearly every day through the summer to watch results and later sent a graduate student who worked with Frear for several years. Bordeaux was first tried out as a spray, but later they changed to homemade lime sulphur. From this experimental work the whole technique of spraying to control disease has been developed.

The peaches were marketed in small villages and in Binghamton and Owego, but the apples were shipped to Philadelphia. Frear was a very good cooperator with the college. He

was a charter member of the Forest City Grange and a Mason for many years. Mrs. Frear passed away in 1928 and he in 1935.

Raymond A. Frear, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Frear, married Mildred L. Wilson of Enfield in 1914, and ran an auto accessories store in Ithaca from 1915 to 1936. As his father's health failed, he came back to the farm in 1934, and took over its management after his father's death. The original 77 acres were willed to him by his grandfather.

### **The Farm Today**

The farm now consists of 110 acres of which 33 are planted to peaches, 13 to grapes, 17 to apples, 3 to cherries, 1½ to prunes, and a half acre to pears, plums, quinces, and crab apples. In 1942, he fixed over the farm for a fruit storage and after the war installed a cooling unit so that he now has cold storage capacity for several thousand bushels of fruit. His fruit is all marketed at retail from the farm. He keeps one man full time, one extra hand and 5 to 10 during the fruit harvest.

Mr. Frear uses up-to-date methods of spraying and care of his fruit trees and vines and produces high-quality fruit. He is a member of the State Horticultural Society and a faithful attendant at its meetings. The Frears have been foremost in taking up new developments: the first car, a Studebaker, was purchased in 1911; running water was brought from a spring in 1908, and the same year buildings were lighted with acetylene gas. The Bell Telephone Company would not take on farmers, so an independent line was started in 1901 which gave them service. A pipeless furnace was installed in 1913, which gave way to steam heat in 1936. The first tractor, an International Titan, was purchased in 1916, and the last horse left the farm in 1941. Now Ray has two tractors in use on his farm. Electricity did not come until 1926. Mr. and Mrs. Frear are members of the Forest City Grange and the I.O.O.F. and owner of the farm has been a member of the Farm Bureau for 27 years.

Their 20-room house and storage barns stand on a knoll above the Ithaca-Trumansburg Road, affording a beautiful

view down the lake. The grounds are nicely landscaped with a large expanse of well-kept lawn in front and back. A representative of a Midwest paper stated that it was one of the most beautiful farmsteads he had ever seen.

We realize that this is a long story on this farm, but it is the first time that we have had an opportunity to give you so complete a picture of life on a Tompkins Count farm 100 years ago. This farm from its location, its soil, and its weather conditions, has always been one of the best in Tompkins County. It has provided a good living for its owners for many years. It is now in a most excellent state of cultivation and is receiving the very best of care. As such, it should continue to be one of the leading farms in the county.



### AARON K. OWEN DWELLING

*Located on Perry City Road, it was erected in 1817. The homestead remained in ownership of his descendants for 147 years. The house is still occupied.*



## Owen Farm Dates from 1817

BY ROBERT FLINN

Nestled within a strip of fertile farmland of the West Hill environs and a mile southwest of Jacksonville, rich in the traditions and history of the Society of Friends, is the 136-acre farm of Martha Owen Murray. The century-old house with its grounds commanding these venerable acres, set back from the highway at the upper end of a pine-fringed driveway, was built by Aaron Kartright Owen, Mrs. Murray's grandfather, in the years following his purchase of the land in 1817.

Aaron, a soldier in the War of 1812, had been deeply troubled by the suffering he had encountered in that campaign and became thoroughly convinced that war could never be the means of settling disputes. He therefore began a quest for a creed to live by and in his search was attracted to the way of life practiced by his neighbors, the Friends.

This sect, at that time, exerted a vital influence in the farming community of the Perry City area. Ultimately, he joined these neighbors and became an active member of his new-found faith.

Aaron, twice married, after the death of Mary Dunham, his first wife, wed Martha Carman, the daughter of a neighboring farmer. By this marriage there were six children and Charles Bodle, Mrs Murray's father, the third child, was born July 15, 1822.

Charles was also twice married, his first wife Sarah Otis was a resident of Sherwood, a village across the lake in Cayuga County.

As the years passed the Friends decreased in membership and influence in the community. Finally, in 1864, when Will



Mekeel moved off the hill, there were none left in Perry City. The area dominated by the Owen farm then became the bastion of the faith.

About that time Charles made considerable alterations to the homestead, raising the second story to its present full height. The brick oven was removed to the cellar and here on one occasion, 18 pies were baked for the meal served at a quarterly meeting once held in Perry City. He gave the land for the Quaker cemetery and there lie his two sons, Willie and Henry, the first burials made there.

At the time the farm possessed considerable woodland and within this growth of timber was one known to the family as "the bear tree." It was told that when bears had formerly inhabited the area, the frequent rubbing of their backs against this certain tree had produced a depression in the bole of the tree which was easily discerned and pointed out to visitors for many years afterward.

Across the road from the farm stands the Friends' meeting house. The present structure was erected in 1902 and here the members meet once each year.

Prior to the construction of the original meeting house, members had gathered in their schoolhouse, erected in the mid-1840's. This building originally was located just below the Owen home and was moved in 1935, after many years of disuse, to the adjoining acres on the hillside. Here, in its new location, it became a tenant house that replaced the former more impressive Gothic-styled two-story farmhouse which had burned on the site in 1919.

Sarah Otis Owen died February 29, 1876, but Charles lived on alone at the farm with various relatives keeping house for him. Then, on April 13, 1890, he married Flora Adella Housel of Jacksonville. Miss Housel was not a member of the Friends, having been reared a Methodist. For his action in marrying one of another faith, Charles was "turned out of meeting."

Ezra Cornell, before his marriage to Mary Wood, an Episcopalian, is said to have attended quarterly meeting in Perry City and there met and became acquainted with Charles Owen.

Cornell also was dismissed by the Friends, following his marriage and for his refusal to admit to be in error; he never returned to the faith of his father.

In his own situation, Charles Owen was in a more favorable position. Owing to the further decline in membership and because the group was so closely interrelated, he was spared any possible unpleasant formalities of recantation and was, at a later date, received again into membership.

Perhaps through the Owen family's ties with the Cornells, Charles' older brother Parvis was able, by journeying down into Ithaca and up on East Hill in 1864, to obtain employment as a carpenter in the erection of Cascadilla Place, one of the first in the initial group of buildings symbolizing the beginning of Mr. Cornell's latest project, the creation of a new concept in institutions of higher learning. Constructed on the site of Otis Eddy's cotton mill, on its completion the building served as a dormitory and living quarters for students and faculty members.

Two daughters, Mary and Martha, were the children from this marriage of Charles Owen and Miss Housel. Twelve years later, on February 10, 1902, Charles died in his eightieth year.

Flora Adella now found herself the head of the household. In this role she would be forced to accept sole responsibility for the care and rearing of two little girls, the solving of many problems which were sure to arise, wise decisions to make, and plans to successfully execute in the operation of a farm of such extensive acreage. Bravely she accepted her inheritance and, like many country women of her day, labored valiantly to wrest a living for her family from their land.

Across the highway there was a four-acre strip planted to a vineyard of the Niagara variety. This crop, if given proper attention, should provide a ready-cash income, and she was quick to care for this resource.

She continued to maintain the dairy built up by her husband and, in her role as supervisor of all farm operations, did not hesitate to join her farmhands, when necessity dictated, at milking.

Down in the home cellar, enclosed by its four whitewashed walls, she made butter and twice a week hitched up the team and drove off to make deliveries to an extensive list of customers. Martha recalls that she accompanied her mother on some of these trips and that they had stopped at Cliff Park, the sylvan manor house of Josiah P. Williams. Then with business successfully transacted here they went on, down steep Hector Street and into the city where stops were next made at the homes of the Treman families and at 118 West Buffalo where Fenimore C. Terry resided.

Confident that her butter was capable of competing successfully on any market, Mrs. Owen entered her product at the Pan-American Exposition held in Buffalo in 1902. Proof of her wisdom were the awards she received there, one of the most impressive of these being a silver tea set.

Her struggle to succeed must have often sorely taxed her strength but her family and friends were probably never made too acutely aware of this feeling of weariness which at times engulfed her. It was only after her death in 1913, while reading through diaries she had kept during these years that Martha notes, with sympathetic understanding, the very real fatigues she experienced and privately expressed therein.

The parlor of the homestead served as the center of varying family activities as the years passed. Each fall, following the harvesting of the grapes, this room was cleared and here the crop was sorted and packed for sale and shipment. Martha also recalls that at one period, because of the number of unruly older boys attending the village school in Jacksonville, it was thought wiser to instruct the children of the primary grade apart and, in the various homes of the sect. Mrs. Murray, therefore, was able to begin her formal education, sitting at a desk in her own front parlor.

Here, too, in the same room on June 11, 1914, Mary Owen was married to Stephen R. Wilson. Mary, although not a member of the Friends, had decided that the marriage service should be that of her father's faith.

At that time legality of such marriages was being questioned and so County Judge Monroe M. Sweetland was present and participated in the ceremony, reading the certificate of marriage.

Mary Owen Wilson died soon after her marriage and her sister then became sole owner of the farm. Martha married William Murray in 1917 and the couple tilled their land until the 1940's.

The upheaval that a war always brings to our lives was keenly experienced by even the Murrays up that side road on their placid acres. Shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, a naval task force moved into adjoining Seneca County and, having acquired a considerable tract of land there, built Sampson, one of its three new indoctrination training centers.

Will Murray, as did many of his friends and neighbors, soon left the farm to join up with the Navy as a civilian employe at this, the newest of shore stations. Although he also continued to operate the farm during this time it was now forced to compete for a portion of his time and attention with the U.S. Navy already struggling valiantly to emerge the victor in World War II.

Similarly, with the outbreak of the Korean War and the transfer of Sampson to the Air Force, Martha too was gone, joining the nursing staff at the 3650th USAF Hospital. For six years she was employed by the Air Force, retiring in 1959.

Both had now returned from the wars, home again on their farm. There were only a few brief years left for them there. Will's death in 1962 forced a painful decision and Martha put the farm up for sale.

With the coming of spring in 1964 Martha, having disposed of the property, took leave of all that had been her home and that of her ancestors for 147 years. Departing the area for the last time, she went on into the neighboring village of Interlaken and there took up residence.

On the living-room wall of her new home she has hung an interesting design in black and white: it is her family tree with

all the numerous branches and lines intact. From a study of it she has been able to trace the family back to its original home in England.

The venerable acres, so recently her former home, are now the property of Wilbur Briggs, whose farm adjoined her own. He is, she notes, a distant cousin of hers, being a descendant of her grandfather Aaron's elder brother Nathaniel. Mr. Briggs has already subdivided a portion of the farmlands into building lots. These he sells to young couples whose design for suburban living will be accomplished on a soil which these many years has played its original role in the Owen family's practice of husbandry.