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THE BEGINNINGS OF GROTON

by
M.M. Baldwin

THE BEGINNINGS OF GROTON

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(Written in 1868)

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The Beginnings of Groton

History has been called Wisdom's most pleasant school. By it, Heaven is constantly teaching mankind important lessons. Among these, traced in unmistakable lines, we find that God would have men, by painful toil, change the barren wildness into fruitful gardens; and also, that the race is destined to pass from the low state of the wild-man gradually to higher and higher types of excellence. It was never intended that these hills and valleys should remain mere hunting-grounds for savages, or haunts of wild beasts. They were designed to be peopled by enlightened, yea, Christianized humanity. And I am to speak to you on this occasion, of those who first began to fell those tall old forest-trees which once towered here heavenward, who first constructed the abodes of civilized man, who introduced domestic animals and first turned the soil with the useful plow, and, who laid the firm foundations of those humanizing institutions in the midst of which we now dwell. Would that they were alive to-day, and moving in our midst, to tell the story of those early days! With what eagerness would we not listen. But, alas! those pioneers have all passed to their reward, and also, by far the greater portion of their immediate successors. Of the latter, a few remain to delight us with their pleasant society, and to instruct us with their vivid description of the pioneers themselves and their many trials. Thus we can realize, in part, the fact that the changes which have taken place in this vicinity within the present century, have been brought about only by very great toil, sacrifices, and sufferings.

THE EARLIEST RECORD

As introductory, permit me to quote all that I have been able to find, which has been printed upon this subject. French's Gazetteer, compiled in 1860, says: "Among the first settlers of the town were Samuel Hogg, at West Groton; Ichabod Bowen, (Brown?), John Guthrie, and—Perrin, at Groton; and J. Williams, J. Houghtaling, and W. S. Clark, at East Groton." The New Topographical Atlas of Tompkins Co., published in 1866, says: "Among the first settlers were Samuel Hogg at West Groton; Ichabod Brown and John Guthrie at Groton, and J.

Willoughby, J. Houghtaling and W. S. Clark at East Groton." This information is probably as correct as strangers passing through the town and inquiring on the road, would be likely to obtain. But who the first settlers truly were, can be determined only on an actual comparison of well authenticated dates.

This part of the State of New York was known, at first, as "The Military District," which title was bestowed upon it soon after the close of the American Revolution. After having driven the British invaders from our soil, and having secured the liberties of our nation for all-coming time, our noble army was disbanded. Each soldier, though rich in glory and crowned with imperishable laurels, returned to the bosom of that society he had contributed to save, in most cases in a very destitute and impoverished condition. But they went not alone, for the hearts of the entire nation went with them. As a slight token of gratitude, a law was passed bestowing upon them, pensions and bounty-lands. This region, then a howling wilderness, was surveyed into townships ten miles square; and these were divided into lots a mile square, under the superintendence of Hon. Simeon DeWitt, then Surveyor General of the State. The lots of twenty of these townships were bestowed by the State of New York, upon survivors of the New York line in that heroic army. In process of time, they were to be settled; and, as it happened, it was undertaken at a very auspicious period. The terrible storm of the Revolution had passed away. The "garments dyed in blood" had disappeared, and no foe by his presence alarmed the weak and the fearful. Even the fierce Aborigines had been swept from this entire region by that wonderfully successful campaign of Gen. Sullivan. Through Napoleon Bonaparte, that mighty chieftain "the lowly born," was shaking the thrones of the mightiest monarchs of Europe with the thunder of his artillery, yet those dread sounds died far away from our shores; and, if known at all, they were little heeded by those who were then making feeble settlements here and there amid the hills and valleys of Tompkins County.

WHAT TRADITION SAYS

At the close of the last century set-

tlements were made nearly simultaneously in various portions of the town. But the honor of first settling this beautiful valley in the center of the town, is not undisputed. Many-tongued tradition brings to us at least two somewhat different stories. One is, that Ephraim Spaulding and Michael Grummon, from Battleborough, Vt., came to this place in June, 1795, cleared six acres of ground where the Academy now stands, and sowed it to winter wheat, and built two log houses: one for Spaulding, near where Wm. Hicks now lives, and one for Grummon north of the Sulphur Spring. That they were here before 1804 is undisputed. The other story is, that Major Benjamin Hicks, who had served with distinction in the Revolution, under Col. Willet at Fort Stanwix, (now Rome,) against the British and Indians, in the many bloody battles fought in that vicinity, and to whom Lot No. 75, in the town of Locke, now Groton, had fallen, then living near Canajoharie, N. Y., had in his employ during the summer of 1797, John Perrin, formerly of Berkshire Co. Mass. During said time, Hicks made an arrangement with Perrin to move upon said lot, commence clearing it off, cause it to be surveyed, and to offer such portions of it to actual settlers as he should be able. In October of that year, two teams with lumber wagons loaded with provisions, household furniture and other necessaries were fitted out; Perrin and his wife, with Ebenezer Williams, from Charlemont, Mass., going with the first load, and Ezra Carpenter, from Savoy, Mass., with the second. On and on they traveled day after day, over roads well nigh impassable. During the latter part of their journey, when they had left all beaten paths behind them, Williams acted as guide to the teams, going forward on foot and selecting the track. For the last few miles he was directed by the "blazed trees," along the lines which had been left by the original surveyor. It seems that on the last day of their lonely journey, he had gone far ahead of the teams and had actually arrived at the bounds of "the promised land." Here lay lot 75 in all its primeval loveliness, but silent and solitary. At one time, he saw, in the distance, beautiful wild deer as they swiftly fled away; and, at another, a huge black bear, which slowly and reluctantly retreated before him, yielding his sceptre to one mightier and more intelligent than he. Having hastily observed the "lay of the land," he returned to meet his companions, whom he found in the vicinity of

James MacIachlan's. When some ten rods south of Benj. Hatch's, they found a tree turned up from the roots. Here they halted; and beside this tree, they built a sort of shelter from the elements, which they occupied, for nearly a month, while they. On the first or second day in the dusk constructed a permanent dwelling. Of the evening, they were surprised in hearing questions pronounced in a clear, and manly voice, "What are you doing here?" Looking around they beheld a hunter in full dress; and they soon learned that he was John Bowker, (father of Clinton Bowker), one of the first settlers of Lansing, then on his way to visit friends in Dryden. Of course he camped with them. Their house was of log, and was located in the hollow south of Roland White's, and some four rods west of the road. It is said that the ground was then so marshy, that it took them all day to cross with their teams, for the first time, the valley from their brush shanty to their log "palace." This is claimed to be the first house in this part of the town. Then Williams, who was a surveyor, went on foot to Cortland, and borrowed a compass and chain of Samuel Crittenden, grandfather of our G. D. Crittenden; and, with these they surveyed the lot, and subdivided it into portions suitable for farms, preparatory to offering them for sale, in accordance with Major Hicks' plan. Before winter set in, Williams and Carpenter returned to Canajoharie, and thence to Mass. Now, whether Spaulding and Grummon, or John Perrin and wife were the first settlers in this vicinity, let others decide. The latter, it seems to me, is much the most probable.

GROTON SO NAMED

The year 1817 was a very important one to this locality. The Legislature, on the 17th, of April, formed the new county of Tompkins, so named in honor of Gov. Tompkins, by taking from Seneca County, the towns of Hector and Ulysses, and from Cayuga County, Dryden and parts of the towns of Locke and Milton. At first, the part of Locke thus set off was called Division; but the next year, it was changed to Groton, on the petition of the inhabitants of the town, some of whom had moved from Groton, Mass., and some from Groton, Ct., though a few desired the name of York. The town, therefore, lies in the N. E. Corner of Tompkins Co., is ten miles long and five miles wide, containing fifty square miles, or 32,000 square acres. In the

same month, the Annual Town Meeting was held at the log barn of Samuel Love, near A. Woodbury's. Hon. Samuel Crittenden was elected Supervisor, and Admatha Blodget, Town Clerk. The town being thus set off, business received a new impetus; improvements were rapidly effected, and the number of inhabitants was rapidly increased by the arrival of new settlers.

Robert C. Reynolds, born in Richmond, R. I. in 1792, came to Groton this year. The village then contained, as he informs me, seven framed-buildings, viz: a house then occupied by Wm. Williams, sen., and his son Benjamin, where the Union Block now stands; a house near the residence of the late Orrin Clark, which Reynolds purchased and in which he opened a store; the old red house north of Edward Thomas' then occupied by S. Jenks Carpenter; a house where John Vantine's now is, occupied by James Austin as a tavern; Pliny Sikes' dwelling; a small house near Conant's where Dr. Daniel Mead lived; and a school house near Wm. Perrigo's dwelling. There was about the same number of log houses. Soon after, Pliny Sikes built the houses now owned by C. W. Conger and D. V. Linderman; Ebenezer Williams returned as a permanent settler and erected a carriage shop and also a dwelling on Main street, known then as the Mansion House; Azariah Dodge built a part of the present Groton Hotel, to which R. C. Reynolds made additions in '33, and Harrison Bowker in 1854-5.

THE FIRST FULLING MILL

In 1818, Wm. Williams, sen., erected the S. DeLano house, and Luther Trumble, a fulling-mill down at "the Willows." At this mill a large amount of carding and cloth-dressing was done for several years, particularly by Dexter & Demmon, until finally the building burned down. James Gibbs with his family moved from Windsor, Ct., purchased an acre of ground, and built on it the Bresee house. The next year, he built a shop back of the apple-tree in front of Wm. Perrigo & Co's machine shop, in which he carried on the saddle and harness business, it being the first, and for many years, the only shop of its kind in the town. Some twenty years ago, he became a Baptist Minister, and was pastor of several different churches. Luther Trumble seems to have been quite a builder, for about this time, we find, that he erected the dwelling now used by Levi Thomas as a grocery-

store. In 1820, he built the store now owned by Adams Brothers, and also the house south of Goodyear's Hall. Leaving "the corners" in 1825, he built A. Woodbury's present dwelling for a tavern, and Mrs. James Gibbs' dwelling for a store, which was filled with goods by him and Major Eliphallet Clark. In the fall of 1824, Zimri Marsh came to this village and engaged in mercantile trade upon the ground now occupied by L. H. Marsh as a store. Born and married in Amherst, Mass., he moved to Schenectady, thence to Moravia, and afterwards to Groton City. In 1827, he purchased the store now owned by Adams Brothers, for \$450. He owned the first gig in these parts and it attracted much attention. In that gig, he was accustomed to travel to Albany, and thence on the river to New York for goods. He was esteemed a good business man, and a man of fine abilities; and was for a time a member of our State Legislature.

MEN OF CHARACTER

I have thus, my friends, presented all the facts concerning the early settlement of this vicinity, that the space allowed me will permit. I now proceed to give a brief account of the rise and progress of the public institutions and principal kinds of business in our midst. The first settlers were generally young men, moral, industrious and public spirited. They came expecting to be called upon to endure the usual wants and privations of pioneers, and to labor unremittingly to introduce all the institutions usually found in civilized, christian lands. They had been reared under the sound of the gospel, and were ready to welcome "the preached word," here in their wilderness homes. Preachers from the surrounding settlements occasionally passed through this valley, and they were invited to stop, and to preach and conduct prayer-meetings at private houses. The first sermon I heard mentioned, was at the first funeral, by a Presbyterian minister, who happened here at the time. The first child born here, the little daughter of John Perrin, some two or three years old, was accidentally scalded to death. Her grave, the first in the old burying-ground, is now to be found on the top of the hill, extending north and south. It was dug by E. Spaulding. Dea. B. Williams remembers the first sermon he heard here was by Jabez Chadwick of Genoa.

A BEAR STORY

No doubt, a large number of inter-

esting incidents could be collected, if one had the time to spare, which would give some idea of the trials and difficulties encountered by the early settlers, and which would also throw some light upon the manners and customs of that period. For instance, it is said that in April 1798, Ephraim Spaulding killed, where Henry Allen's barn now stands, the largest and fattest bear ever seen in this region. The summer after, a bear came and took a hog belonging to Spaulding, and having carried her across the Inlet on a log near where Ashley & Co.'s steam saw-mill recently stood, killed and ate her. They were compelled to feed the six little motherless pigs with a spoon. The same year, Silas Stuart was attacked by a pack of wolves; and in order to save his life, he was compelled to take refuge in the top of a tree, and remain there much of the night. Alarmed by his absence, the neighbors with torches in hand, went in search of him. The wolves, being frightened by these, retreated leaving the frightened man in the hands of his friends. But we cannot take leave of Stuart yet. He had built a house on the East Hill, near where John Adams now resides. A bear visited his hog pen one night to carry away his hog, being one of the aforesaid "spoon-fed-pigs." The night was very dark, and the bear determined in his purpose. Stuart, remembering well his former experience when "tread" by the wolves, was suddenly taken very sick, just at the time the tumult at the pen was the greatest. Under these trying circumstances, his wife became desperate, and, seizing some fire-brands, rushed out of the house, taking care to close the door so firmly behind her that the bear could not get in to hurt her poor, sick husband. Then by shouting and brandishing the fire-brands, she kept the bear from the hog until assistance came from the valley.

A WEDDING FEE

Jonathan Bennett was appointed the first Justice-of-the-Peace in 1805 or 6, which office he held for many years. Once it is said after having officiated at a wedding, the bridegroom asked him what he would receive for his fees, as he had little money. Bennett who was a kind, jovial man, replied that he was not particular, most anything would answer. Upon this, the young man gave him two very fine sap-buckets, which Bennett took, and, placing one under each arm, trudged

along home on foot through the woods, whistling.

In 1806, David Hicks, a half-brother of old Major Hicks; also, Wm. Hicks and his son James, came and settled here. In 1807 or 8, Benjamin Williams and his brother William bought five acres of land for \$51.56, and erected the second frame dwelling in the village near the site of H. K. Clark's dwelling. Soon after, they began to use one part of this for a store. They purchased their goods, consisting mainly of calico, course broad-cloth, muslin, groceries, nails, tobacco, etc., at Waterford, ten miles north of Albany, and had them transported the entire distance by two-horse teams, the drivers generally carrying their provisions with them and occupying some twelve days in the journey. They then sold the goods for ashes, manufactured these into potash, sent the potash to Waterford by team to pay for the goods, and bought more goods with which the teams were loaded on their return. They put up the first ashery in 1808 or 9, near C. P. Atwood's. Prior to that, potash was made in the open air. They also carried on a distillery near the store. August 15, 1811, Wm. Williams, senior, purchased the grist-mill and forty acres of land for \$1,226, tore down the mill, and erected a new one on the same site.

ALONE IN THE WILDERNESS

In 1804, Dea. Benjamin Williams, now eighty-four years of age, a brother of Ebenezer Williams, and also of Mrs. John Perrin, came to Groton to reside. From him I learned that Perrin and wife passed the winter of 1797-8 alone in the wilderness. The next spring, his father, Lemuel Perrin, and family came and settled on the thirty-nine acres, where B. Hatch's dwelling now is. It cost him three dollars per acre, and he afterwards sold it to Amzi Clark for \$18. per acre. Also S. Jenks Carpenter, father of our Ruel B. Carpenter, came from Savoy. He worked for J. Perrin that summer, and claimed to help clear off the first piece of land in the vicinity. In 1803, he bought fifty acres where Mr. A. Page resides, and paid for it one hundred and fourteen dollars "in gold." Ephraim Spaulding built a house a little east of Wm. Hicks', which he sold to Ezra Loomis, who occupied it in 1804. Samuel Ingalls and Silas Stuart came about this time; also Michael Grummon who built a house near F. A. Sherman's. May 7, 1802, Jonas Williams purchased one hundred and

six acres for \$320.25 and built upon it the first grist-mill in Groton. This was one story and a half high, and it had one small run of stone which was used in grinding both wheat and corn. To show the scarcity of musical instruments and the estimation of music among the people of that day, it is related that one of the customers of the mill would sometimes bring along his violin as well as his grist, and that in return for the entertainment afforded the miller and his customers, his grist went toll-free. Then, he built the first saw-mill, known to us as "the old saw-mill," and which has lately been torn down to "clear the track" for the Southern Central R. R. He also erected the first framed dwelling in the place where the Union Block now stands. Before 1804, Ezra Carpenter had married John Perrin's sister and moved upon the farm where Alfred Underwood now lives. Admatha Blodgett from Homer bought the same farm three or four years after. Dr. Nathan Branch occupied a house near John Vantine's. Jonathan Bennett lived in a house near Roland White's. Peleg Hathaway lived on the farm now owned by Henry Allen. Abiatha Hattaway dwelt nearly opposite to Virgil Hatch's and John Perrin had moved and built a house near Aaron Woodbury's residence.

THE OLD EAST CHURCH

The "East Cong. Church in Locke," was organized June 19th, 1805. A log meeting-house was erected soon after, two miles east of Groton village. Rev. Joshua Lane was installed minister, as recorded in neat and scholarly style with his own hand; a copy of which I here insert, as it is the only specimen of "ye olden style" I have discovered in the town:

"Wednesday, July 12th, 1809, Joshua Lane of Stratham, State of New Hampshire, licensed by the Piscataqua Association, was solemnly ordained to ye work of the gospel ministry by ye Middle Association, of which this church is a member, and installed to take the pastoral charge and oversight of this church and congregation as their first minister."

In 1818 or '19, they raised a large framed meeting-house, which was dedicated in the winter of 1821. It was erected mainly by contributions of labor, grain, and neat cattle. This church became large and influential, the greatest number of communicants in any one year (1838) being 295. After the Congregational Church was established, in the village, many withdrew

and joined here. At length their large edifice was purchased by our enterprising townsman, Dr. John Goodyear, and moved to the village in 1864, and converted into an excellent Town Hall, stores, &c.

In earlier days easy carriages were unknown here, and to show how the abler classes frequently went to "meeting," as it was called, it may not be improper to state that Deacon B. was often seen on his way on horseback, with his wife riding behind and a couple of children before him. Also that J. C. took his wife behind him on horseback, and leaving her at the Baptist church in the village, of which she was a member, he would gallop furiously up the hill to the "East Church," two miles distant, to attend his meeting.

THE FIRST BAPTIST SOCIETY

Was incorporated Feb. 10th, 1818. They soon agreed to build a church edifice 32 by 40 feet with a porch, on the ground directly south of our district school house, and let the job to Ebenezer Williams for \$450. To defray the expenses, they voted to sell the pews, "payments for the same to be made in three equal annual payments in saleable neat stock or grain." For their minister, Benjamin Andrews, they hired a farm, which he, truly believing in the nobility of labor, continued very cheerfully to cultivate for years. In 1834 they built an addition having on it a steeple. To this society is due the credit of purchasing the first church bell in the town. Early in 1843, they voted to build a new meeting-house, 45 by 60 feet, on land bought of Jeremiah Pratt. The same was completed January 1st, 1844.

THE METHODIST CHURCH

Incorporated July 18, 1836, L. K. Redington minister, and Justus P. Penoyer official member. In January 1842, they resolved to build a meeting-house, entered at once upon the work like earnest men, and had it dedicated on the 20th of December following. In 1853 they voted "to sell the old parsonage and buy new of Geo. Watson." Thus it will be seen that at an early day, they had the enterprise and judgment to provide "a home" for their minister; and they have not given him an opportunity on his first coming among them, as too many abler societies have, to say in the words of our Saviour: "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the

son of man hath not where to lay his head."

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Incorporated March 12, 1849. They at once resolved to employ Rev. H. A. Sackett as minister, at a salary of \$400, and to build a house of worship, 40 by 55 feet. This was dedicated January 29th, 1851. This society has the credit of securing for use in public worship the first church-organ in the village. This was accomplished mainly through the exertions and assistance of the Rev. Augustus Pomeroy, who for more than ten years served them very acceptably as pastor.

SCHOOLS

As with our Pilgrim Fathers, so was it with the first settlers of this region. No sooner had they secured comfortable homes for themselves and their families, than they made arrangements for the public worship of God, and the education of their children. Each settler having contributed labor according to his ability, they erected in 1805, a low log school-house, 30 by 25 feet, north-west of S. S. Williams' dwelling. Abiatha Hathaway was the first teacher and the next two winters, Benjamin Williams instructed the school. Miss Blodgett taught the intermediate summer. This house was accidentally burned down in the winter of 1813-14. It seems that by the direction of their teacher, Mr. Zenas Riggs, it was the turn of Elias and Reuel Carpenter to build the fire on that morning. The weather was cold, and they, desirous of faithfully accomplishing their task, built such a fire on those stone and-irons in that old stick chimney, "as they little thought." This was the great event of the season. They then built a little red framed school-house, south of F. Avery's; then a good sized two-story one, on the site of the present one, and this latter in 1858. The Groton High School was begun in 1835—S. D. Carr, Principal.

GROTON LIBRARY

In 1834, the Groton Library was started, and by the introduction of a large number of excellent books, inaugurated a new era. Before that, in the words of the Psalmist, "A man was famous according as he had lifted up axes upon the thick trees," but after that, he was also to be famous for knowledge and intelligence. It was given up in 1839, after the establishment of the

GROTON ACADEMY

Great was the undertaking, and many were the sacrifices which the stockholders made in founding the Academy, in the midst of the sparse population, possessing then so little accumulated wealth. But they knew the worth of learning to their children and to the community at large, and to secure which, no sacrifices were deemed too great which were in their power to make. The necessary funds were raised, the building planned and contracted for, and an excellent site selected on yonder beautiful elevation, with ample grounds, and decorated with trees. Though centrally located, it is yet remote from the noise and the bustle of the village. In 1837, Prof. S. W. Clark, a recent graduate of Amherst College, was chosen Principal, and the school went into operation. The Academy was at once truly a success, and soon acquired an enviable reputation, which it has retained to the present time. Not the youth of the immediate vicinity only, but also those of far distant sections, assembled here to partake of the bread of intellectual life, and to quench their thirst in the pure waters of knowledge. Though it often failed to be self-sustaining, its stockholders labored unremittingly for its prosperity. It has had a mighty influence in elevating, refining, and ennobling the character and moral feelings of the entire people in the vicinity, as well as contributing to their intelligence, mental vigor and acumen. These results are to be seen everywhere around us; in the offices of professional men; in the stores, banks, and other business places; in our mechanical shops, and upon many a well cultivated farm; at home, at the lecture, and in the church. Its pupils are already scattered from Maine, (Rev. W. Stearns,) to California, (Miss D. S. Baldrige.) To realize how great its influence has been, one needs to visit the people of some secluded section, far away from institutions of learning and the benefits of a local newspaper press, and carefully note their habits, manners and customs.

Prior to the erection of the Academy, public opinion was greatly divided as to where the main village in the town would eventually be. But, as soon as this institution began to pour out its blessings upon the community, that question was decided. Those seeking new locations at once gave this the preference. Many have been the families which have settled here, mainly on this account.

**GROTON BALANCE AND
DEMOCRAT**

On the 31st of January, 1839, H. P. Eels & Co. commenced the publication of a neutral weekly newspaper, entitled the Groton Balance, and issued thirty-nine numbers. This was a creditable sheet and did honor to its managers. It then passed into the hands of E. S. Keeney, an energetic young man then resident here, who completed the year. He then issued thirty-five numbers as a democratic paper, called the Groton Democrat. Through the kindness of Mrs. Dr. Goodyear, a bound volume of this paper is before me, and its perusal has given much satisfaction. From it, I learn that on the Fourth of July, 1840, at a celebration then held, the Declaration was read by Dr. Moe; orator, F. DeLano; and a sermon in the afternoon by Rev. Dr. Bellamy. Also, that in August, 1839, the Ithaca Brass Band gave a concert at Groton. We have now, and have had for years, under the leadership of Oliver Avery, jr., a cornet band that could return the compliment. In its columns a young man was advertised for running away from his dear father, and whom we have learned has since been found in the great city of New York in most prosperous circumstances. I have only room to add a choice literary extract of great connubial vigor, if not of tenderness. A wife says: "Ran away from my board, and took with him my bed, my husband in the shape of a man. He is about five feet, eight or nine inches high, dark complexion, black eyes, and is quite a smart looking fellow; can whistle, sing, dance, preach, pray, and whip his wife."

CARRIAGE SHOPS

Since 1820, there have been from two to four carriage shops constantly in the place, conducted by numerous individuals and firms. This branch of business has been very successfully and extensively pursued, and has added much to the wealth and prosperity of the place. In durability, neatness and taste, the carriages manufactured here have been quite celebrated. In proof of this, and of the extent of the business, we are assured that besides supplying the home calls, carriages, wagons and cutters in large quantities and for many years, have been sent from Groton to supply the wants of the people of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Wisconsin, California and Oregon. One shop alone

during the past year, (S. S. Williams') has disposed of \$24,000 worth of work.

FURNACE AND MACHINE SHOP

In the fall of 1849, Charles and Lyman Ferrigo settled here and established this shop, with a capital of only about \$2,000. By their thorough knowledge of the business, industrious habits, frank and honest dealings, and promptness in executing all work promised at a given time, they have secured a very large circle of friends and an extensive patronage. Their work has found a ready sale at remunerative prices, not only about home and in our State, but also in California, in some of the Eastern States, and in nearly every one of the Western States. Though contributing liberally of their means in aid of every public enterprise, they have accumulated a handsome property, and added two excellent dwellings to the village. Latterly, Oliver Avery, jr., a fine mechanic, has been a member of the firm. Their actual sales for the last year amount to \$29,000.

GROTON SEPARATOR WORKS

These works now owned by Wm. Ferrigo and Frederick Avery, were started some ten or twelve years ago, and have been very successful. In addition to the home supply, their work has found a ready market in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, California Missouri and Maryland. Their sales for the past year amount to \$26,500.

Thus it is readily seen that these carriage, furnace and machine, and separator shops furnish employment for a large number of laborers, thereby supporting many families, and adding nearly, if not quite, \$100,000 annually to our circulating medium.

GROTON VILLAGE

This was incorporated June 11th, 1860. The Trustees soon succeeded in having good side-walks constructed upon all the principal streets. Shortly after the destruction of Messrs. Williams & Finney's block by fire, the citizens voted the necessary funds for purchasing an excellent fire engine, and in December, 1864, the "Excelsior Fire Co." was organized, of which B. F. Fields was chosen Foreman. "The Pioneer Hose Co." was organized June 1st, 1865, C. S. Barney, President, and A. Glover, Foreman.

During the past season a respectable engine house was erected, near the

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Baptist church. Notwithstanding these preparations, I am sorry to be compelled to record the destruction by fire, in 1866, of the old steam saw-mill owned by Ashley & Thayer, and also the new carriage shop of Brokaw & Powers, the latter of which has since been rebuilt by Powers & Pennoyer, and is doing a successful business.

The Cheese Factory, erected in the spring of 1866, has been well patronized, but I have not the statistics before me.

The Dryden, Groton & Moravia Telegraph Co. was organized in April, 1865. Their lines run through this valley. The office here is now doing well.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

The Bank was organized and commenced business April 28th, 1865. Capital, \$100,000. The first directors were: Charles Perrigo, Lyman Perrigo, Clinton Bowker, D. H. Marsh, John Green, S. Hopkins, S. C. Reynolds, John G. Stevens, Arad S. Beach, C. P. Atwood, Henry Allen, John W. Halladay and Artemus Backus. They organized by electing Charles Perrigo, President, S. Hopkins, Vice-President, and D. H. Marsh, Cashier. Notwithstanding all the "croaking" at home and abroad, the bank has been very successful. The whole capital has been constantly employed, and the officers declare that if the capital were doubled, they could use it all profitably.

GROTON JOURNAL

On the 9th of November, 1866, the first number of the Groton Journal appeared, under the management of H. C. Marsh, editor and proprietor. It at once became popular, and has constantly been growing in the estimation of our citizens. Indeed, we now feel that we cannot do without it. It is truly among the very best newspapers published in this State. It has a respectable circulation already, and is worthy of a place in every family in this entire region. As the prosperity of our village and town is intimately connected with the success of the Groton Journal, we feel that the inhabitants are especially interested in patronizing it, and sustaining it to the extent of their ability. If we can take but one, let that be the home paper.

SOUTHERN CENTRAL RAILROAD

Over thirty years ago, a railroad was projected to run from Auburn southerly through Moravia, Groton, &c., to Pugsley's Station, intersecting, at that

point, the Ithaca & Owego Railroad. On surveying the route, it was found a feasible one, and plans were adopted for raising the funds. But the Ithaca & Owego Company having failed, and the stockholders thereof having lost their entire stock by the sale of the road, the friends of this route became disheartened, and abandoned the undertaking. But this they did with regret, for there were those among them who had the ability and the foresight to see that in the process of time, the wants of this section would call for the construction of just such a thoroughfare, and that here was one of the very best in the whole State. Among our citizens who then took an active part and expended their money for it, we may mention R. C. Reynolds, Dr. E. W. Crain, Franklin Willoughby, and Sylvanus Larned. In 1865, a plan was projected of uniting, by railroad, Lake Ontario at Fair Haven, with the coal fields of Pennsylvania, via Moravia, Groton, Dryden and Owego, with the expectation of a continuation thence by rail to New York, and also to Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington. A number of our most public-spirited, far-sighted, and wealthy citizens, engaged in promoting the enterprise. A company was formed and officers were chosen. The name finally adopted was proposed by the newly elected President, the late C. C. Dennis, at a meeting in our village. The law required that at least one thousand dollars in stock should be subscribed for and taken, for every mile of the proposed road. Who that had the money to spare, would step forward and pledge the \$5,000 required of our town, and actually pay in ten per cent of the same? Five individuals and firms alone were found; and that their names may be held in lasting remembrance, I here insert them:

HILAND K. CLARK
CHARLES PERRIGO
LYMAN PERRIGO
PIERSON & AVERY
PERRIGO, AVERY & FIELD

Sept. 18, 1865.

H. K. Clark was elected Director, who, in company with S. C. Reynolds, A. Woodbury, A. Backus and others, procured individual subscriptions to the stock of \$50,000, and a subscription from the town of an equal amount. The contract for the construction of the road has already been executed, and the work is progressing rapidly through our town and all along the route of Auburn. When the work shall finally be completed, there will be rejoicing in Groton! Nevermore then will mer-

chants go to New York in gigs to purchase goods.

GROTON RURAL CEMETERY

Incorporated June 28th, 1858. Permit me, in speaking of the Cemetery, to repeat in part, what I said of it in an address last autumn. "Among the many modest rural burying-places to be found in our land, which evince cultivated taste, refinement, and a becoming respect for the dead, is that of our own beautiful and retired village. Happily located here upon the sides and top of this mount, with the pure waters of the quiet little stream laving its base, and the white pleasant edifices of our thriving village lying in the vale beneath, it contains treasures dearer to our hearts than the golden sands of California. Well adapted by nature for this purpose, it has been rendered more so by art. These winding foot-paths and carriage walks, these trees, both evergreen and deciduous so skillfully planted by the hand of man here and there throughout the grounds, and those tall old forest-trees planted by the hand of God, which have escaped the ruthless woodman's ax, and still rear aloft their foliage as a fine background to the picture; these flowers of many form and hues, both native and exotic, which breathe their odors over many a grave; these marble slabs, tablets, and monuments, whose beautiful forms meet the eye from every direction; and its seclusion from the noise, bustle, and turmoil of the business and activities of life, render this a most desirable place for the interment of the dead. If, for the next few years, as great improvements are made in these grounds as have already been made, The Groton Rural Cemetery will be among the finest in the land."

To show most clearly the healthfulness of this locality, it may not be improper to state that the records of the Cemetery show that of the twenty-five interments for the year ending January last, more than half had reached, or nearly so, three score years and ten; and that one half of the remainder were infants but a few days or months old.

Thus far I have spoken mainly of what has transpired upon lots number 75 and 76. I will now add what I have been able to ascertain of others. On the 10th of May, 1804, the whole of lot 76 was deeded by Hy. Ten Brook, of New York, to Hy. Codbury, of London. Great Britain, for \$1,200; being less than two dollars per acre.

Christopher Pipher with his wife Elizabeth, settled on lot 96 in 1802, where he built a log house. Elizabeth, who is present on this occasion, is more than 105 years old, having been born in Springfield, Pa., 23rd of October, 1762, and is now much the oldest person in this part of the State. Her health has always been good; her style of living, plain but uniform. Her drink has generally been water. She still does the work for a family, and is in possession of all her faculties, except

PERUVILLE

This village is situated on lot 95. Among the early settlers were Asa Church who built the first grist-mill, H. I. Brinkerhoff, Thomas Johnson, and Dr. Wright. "In 1820 it had been regularly surveyed for a village, by Levi Bodley, surveyor. The business of the place was one old lazy grist-mill, two saw-mills, a cabinet shop, a blacksmith shop, a tannery, an ashery, a log tavern kept by Jeremiah Elston, and of course a distillery. There were twelve private dwellings. Of public buildings, we had none, save a school-house in which religious meetings were held occasionally. Henry I. Brinkerhoff was Justice-of-the-Peace, but lived just out of the corporation. Since that time, we have built two churches, and two new school-houses."

Sylvanus Larned of Peruville was one of the first Justices-of-the-Peace elected by the people of the town, in 1827, after the Constitutional Convention gave the people that right.

GROTON CITY

"One of the early settlements of the old town of Locke, now Groton, was on lot 59, which was bestowed upon Captain Daniel Niven, for merited Revolutionary services. A portion of this was purchased and settled by Major Lemī Bradley, and another part by Jesse Bartholomew. Aaron and John Benedict also purchased land and built a grist-mill and a saw-mill. Wm. S. Clark, Esq., bought a water privilege and built a dam and machinery for clothing-works; and Gen. Wm. Cobb had the first carding machine I ever saw. About the year 1813, Zacheus that her hearing is somewhat impaired. She remembers distinctly, having heard Elder Starr preach in 1804, at the house of Daniel Luther. Starr was the first regular Baptist minister who preached in that section. Maltby set up a tavern on lot 69. A free meeting-house was erected by subscription, and a Masonic hall was built, in which Science Lodge met regularly

for some years." John Shaw located on lot 49 in 1806, and some of the family have occupied the spot ever since. The only store ever built in the place was erected in 1809, by Crosby & Tanner. It was next occupied by Amos B. Fuller, of whom it was purchased in 1812 or 1813, by Daniel J. Shaw, a son of John Shaw. "For more than thirty years, we have had thrifty farmers and mechanics of most kinds, saw and grist-mills, and most of the time a store and post-office, but never a tavern."

Into this part of the town, and on lot 69, came Daniel Maltby in the spring of 1806. He was then a young man of fine prospects, and was preparing for the practice of medicine. He was a man of great peculiarities. He lived to the advanced age of eighty, having passed most of his life as a real, genuine Hermit, one of the few ever found in any Protestant country.

McLEAN VILLAGE

Mrs. Elisha Bangs, eighty-two years of age, says that her husband and herself came from Mass., and settled on lot number 100 in 1813. At that time, there lived in the first framed house. The Anson Hanchett, (who came before 1806,) L. Cummings, J. Davis, Mr. Pettis and Ezra Bangs. She thinks that Amasa Cobb was one of the first settlers, and probably built the first log-house on the site of the present hotel. Elijah West lived near Wm. Harris, lived in the first framed house. The first minister who preached in the village was a Baptist, Rev. Benj. Whipple, in the fall of 1805.

Mr. David Whipple settled near McLean in 1806. A Mr. Sherwood lived just over the line in Dryden, and is probably one of the first who began the settlement of McLean village. John Benedict was an early settler, and built the first grist-mill. Amasa Cobb built the first public house. Wm. and Roswell Randall built and opened the first store upon the present site of D. B. Marsh & Co.'s. The present grist-mill was built in 1837, by John Neal. The Baptist church was erected in 1827; the Methodist, in 1832; the Universalist, in 1842; and the Episcopal, in 1849, and dedicated the same year by Bishop De Lancey. The first Episcopal minister was Rev. Wm. A. Clark. Two distilleries were running in 1828. There is here, one of the largest and most successful cheese factories in the State, which was finished and put in operation in the spring of 1864, where there has

already been manufactured 1,716,202 pounds of cheese. The first name of the village was Moscow. Upon the establishment of the post-office, the name was changed to McLean by Judge McLean, then Post Master-General. Samuel Noice was the first post-master.

WEST GROTON

It is situated mainly on lot 51, which was sold in 1795, by Anthony Smith inn-keeper, to Geo. Smith, attorney, both of New York city, for two hundred pounds current money of New York. It has two churches, a school-house, a saw-mill (near by), a few shops, and a number of pleasant dwellings. Hon. Wm. R. Fitch, long an attorney in that vicinity, and at different times, a member of the Legislature from this county, settled there in 1817, and was well acquainted with very many of the early settlers. Among these he names, on lot 51, Job Alling, who became Justice-of-the-Peace in 1819-20. He owned some 250 acres of land, on which he had already built a two-story framed house, and a saw-mill on Hemlock Creek. Isaac Allen, father of the present post-master, lived on the north-east corner of lot 51, and in 1817 or '18, built the west part of what is known as the Tavern house. Old Mr. Sellen kept tavern half a mile north of West Groton. Old Mr. Henshaw and Joseph Henshaw lived near where John Sellen now lives. Henry Carter and old Mr. Travis were early settlers. In 1817, Deacon John Seaton lived where M. D. Fitch now resides. The saw-mill there was erected in 1848. Nathan Fish carried on the cloth-dressing business formerly on Hemlock Creek, near the Locke line, and was remarkable for coloring an excellent red. He also had a small grist-mill. Both establishments were carried away at a very early day by a great freshet, well remembered yet at Groton village.

Samuel Hogg settled quite early near the south-east corner of lot 61, where he kept a tavern. He sold to Henry Hower, and his heirs now hold it. Ichabod Brown settled on the place where Eleazer Hatch now lives. Capt. John Guthrie settled very early on lot 71. His daughter (Mrs. Cobb) now resides at West Groton.

Lot 52, lying on the east, was deeded by the State of New York to Geo. Nesbit, July 9, 1790; and afterwards on Jan. 24, 1795, to A. Alexander, of Schenectady, for fifteen pounds current money of New York. How little,

THE BEGINNINGS OF GROTON

many of those Revolutionary heroes realized for their "soldiers claims!"

THE FIRST—THE OLDEST.

Deacon Benjamin Williams now more than eighty-four years of age is the oldest person in this village, doing business here in 1810; also the first post-master. Reuel B. Carpenter, S. S. Williams and Wm. Morton, are the oldest persons who were born here. John Perrin was the first inn-keeper, distiller, merchant and brick-maker. For many years after the first settlement, bricks of very excellent quality were made on the very spot now occupied by Snyder & Lobdell's brick-yard. Ebenezer Williams was the first surveyor, and wagon-maker; Andrew and David Allen, the first blacksmiths; Jonas Williams, the first shoemaker; John Winslow the first potter, just north of the cheese factory; the first settled Baptist minister, Elder Whipple, father of David Whipple; first marriage, Jonas Williams, jr., to Miss Hathaway, in 1805 or 6; Samuel Love, the first tanner, in 1811; Dr. Nathan Branch, the first physician and surgeon, and Dr. Obed Andrews, the first druggist; C. C. Godley, the first hardware store, and Oliver Avery, the first cabinet maker. Joseph Parker had the first cabinet-shop. (An errata note in the original of this history says Oliver Avery had the first cabinet-shop and sold to Joseph Parker. Editor.) The first mail was brought from Homer about 1812, in a bag, by a boy on horseback; next Mr. Loomis brought it in a portmanteau. Henry Clark claims that he drove the first two-horse stage-team from Groton to Cortland. Henry Crain has one of the oldest apple-trees in the village, and the most valuable, owing to the superior cultivation bestowed upon it. Warren Jones built the first sash factory, in 1849; L. J. Covert opened the first cigar factory. Esquire Blake was the first lawyer, came in 1819, died soon after, and was buried on the north side of the old burying-ground, near the fence. The earth has since crumbled away and exposed his remains. Perhaps his sad fate has been the reason why so few lawyers have settled among us. As an act has just passed the Legislature, (our lawyer drew it up,) for the removal of those buried in the old ground, perhaps his remains may yet find a quiet resting place.

POLITICS

The town was generally Democratic

until 1849. In '26, a Federal was elected supervisor; an Anti-Mason in 1831-2-3 and 4; and a Whig in '39. In 1849 and the four succeeding years, Free-Soil Whigs or Democrats were chosen; since which time the town has been strongly Republican.

TEMPERANCE

Not less than seven distilleries have been erected within the limits of the town, the first one dating back to the beginning of the present century, three of them having been in Groton village. Nearly all of the ardent spirits produced by them, was used at home. The use of alcohol in some form was almost universal among the early settlers, upon all occasions. Yet the great temperance movement reached us here quite as soon as in other rural districts. It is said that David Wright, now living in Dryden, but then, in Peruville, forty-two years ago, went to Ludlowville and invited Hon. Benjamin Joy to lecture in Peruville, and that but seven women, thirteen girls and Wright himself were present, he acting as chairman. This was the first temperance meeting. The reform progressed finely, and at a special town meeting in 1844, "374 voted 'no license,' 76 'license,' and one scattering."

Wm. Woodbury was afterward elected supervisor, upon that question. The first building raised in the town without "whiskey" was by Levi Wright. When we hear the remark that as much liquor is drank now as formerly, let us remember the seven distilleries for home consumption, and the three lodges with their hundreds of Good Templars, now located in the very places where once stood the distilleries.

PATRIOTISM

Of military record, in this "Military District," bestowed upon the heroes of the American Revolution for well merited services, we have little of which to be ashamed, but much of which we may well be proud. Patriotism has ever been one of the characteristics of our people. The leading men among the early settlers having been born and matured in New England, taught their descendants to revere the memory of the Pilgrim Fathers, and to deem the soil of Plymouth rock sacred dust. They taught them to regard the Union of these States as the palladium of their liberties, and the Constitution of the United States as a lasting bond and

pledge of that Union. They held that all human laws should be based upon the higher laws of Heaven, and that resistance to tyrants violating those higher laws, is obedience to God. Therefore, with this for their motto, "God and our Country," whenever our national rights and interests have been assailed at home or from abroad, they have been ready to defend the right and to rebuke the wrong.

Thus when the oppressions of proud old England could be borne no longer, when her violations of national rights had transcended all endurance, when no American ship could traverse the ocean unmolested, our country rose in her might, resolved no longer to submit to the foul degradation. Then, poor as were our people, and sparse as was our population, the voice of our dear native country passed not unheeded. When in December 1813, the British and Indians had surprised and gained possession of old Fort Niagara and had reduced to ashes the villages of Youngstown, Lewiston, Manchester, and the Indian Tuscarora village, Black Rock, and Buffalo, the militia of this part of the State was ordered to "the defense of the lines." That call was heeded here in the then wilderness of Groton. Leaving the rail-cut half split, the saw-log on the ox-sled, and the ax sticking in the stump of the fallen tree, onward they marched under the command of Captain John Smith and Lieut. David Morton "to the lines," and there stayed guarding the boundaries of our country until the higher authorities said "it is enough."

Also, when our country was unhappily dragged into war with our sister Republic, Mexico, Groton was not wholly unrepresented. Our town may have had many there, but only one, Harry Crain, is known to me. A sailor who had circumnavigated this mighty globe of ours, and had seven times doubled Cape Horn, happened, in May 1847, to be at Louisvike, and yielding to the impulses of patriotism, enlisted in the Third Kentucky Regiment then forming. On they moved to Vera Cruz, where Cortez had debarked 300 years before, and where but a few days previously the great chief, Winfield Scott, had landed. Then following on after Scott, he reached the City of Mexico, the ancient capital of the Montezumas, whose almost impregnable ramparts, Santa Anna, the Mexican chief, had in vain striven to defend against American valor. Yet he did not arrive in time to participate in the glory of its capture, but was

obliged to stay and guard the city for many a month.

Again, when the clouds of Rebellion had darkened all our fair land; when the lightnings of Treason were about to hurl down and destroy the fair Goddess of Liberty; when the waves of Secession were about to overwhelm and engulf in ruin, all our moral, social, and political institutions, the voice of our great chief was heard calling for aid to save the life of the nation. Groton nobly responded to this earnest call. In this our country's hour of need, bravely, cheerfully, did many a hero enter the national army to fight the nation's battles, and thereby, if possible, save the nation's liberties; and for this courageously, heroically, did many a brave pour out his wife's blood, or fall by dread disease. All honor to Major Willoughby, and Captains Crittenden, Hatch, Mount, Clark, Bristol, and Tarbell, and all those three hundred and seventy-eight whom they led to battle from the town of Groton, who faltered not in the hour of trial; and ever green be the turf over the graves of those who fell at the post of duty.

IN CONCLUSION

I have thus, my friends, introduced you into this section, while it was yet a howling wilderness; when the bear, the wolf and the fox roamed here unscared by man; when the grand old forest-trees, which for centuries had shaded these hills and these valleys, and had withstood the storm and the tempest for many an age, were yet waving; when this little stream, the Owasco Inlet, rolled on its bright waters towards the beautiful Owasco without molestation or hindrance from dam or bridge, singing its sweet song to lofty antlered deer, cropping the verdure on its banks at dewy eve, or s'aking their thirst when the sun was high in the heavens. We listened to the approach of those first immigrants; we beheld them as with toil and difficulty they urged their slow way onward over the hills and through the valleys, threading the pathless forest, fording the streams and wading the marshes. We heard the sweet music of their voices with delight, for it told us of the dawn of that civilization about to be ushered in. We saw those hopeful persons in the bright morn of manhood, with the glow of joy and health upon their countenances, forgetting their poverty and their remoteness from aid or sympathy, and, away from all the cheering influences of

civilized life, construct their little rude dwelling in the wilderness. We gazed admiringly upon that solitary couple, as they passed the first winter, toiling hard to fell the dreary forest, which stood between them and civilization with all its blessings.

Year by year we saw them reinforced: by the arrival of friends and relatives, and noticed that their hearts beat high with joy at every new accession to their numbers. We noticed with what courage and manliness they all battled with their trials and difficulties and dangers; how cheerfully and uncomplainingly they put up with the coarse fare and rude attire. We beheld their assiduity and their sacrifices while providing for religious culture and the intellectual training of their children. They and their successors cleared these fields; made these roads; built these bridges erected these dwellings; reared these shops, offices, mills, and manufactories; founded these schools; dedicated these churches; and established all these institutions which add so much to our means of improvement, and contribute so greatly to our happiness. We now behold ourselves in the midst of "a goodly town." The houses build "in the year one," have decayed. Rude huts and log-cabins, stick chimneys and brick ovens have long since disappeared. Log heaps and brush heaps are now things of the past. Ox-teams are rarely seen in the streets.

No longer are ladies, wishing to do a little shopping, obliged to ride on horse-back to Ludlowville or Homer, with a pail of butter or a basket of eggs, to be exchanged for desired arti-

cles. We now make no subscriptions for public improvements, payable in grain or meat stock. Uncle Sam now sends no mails to us by a boy on horse-back, in a bag under his arm. Fiddle we so scientifically, our grist does not go 'toil free,' Wear we beards ever so long bands of rude men assail us not, nor by force cut off those beautiful ornaments, from our faces, while pinioned upon bar-room floors, Schoolmasters, skilled in "the three R's, reading 'riting and 'rithmetic," but more skilled in wielding the "birch," no longer "tan" little boys and girls at "eight dollars per month and board around."

Our preachers no more spend all the week days in labor upon the farm, and then minister unto the people on the Sabbath day, for the merest pittance that will hold soul and body together. We do not now ride to church on horse-back with our lady behind us, and two or three young "hopefuls" before us. We sing in church without the dominie's lining for us the hymn. Flax and woolen wheels, reels, swifts, distaffs and looms, have vanished into thin air. When our neighbor knocks at the door, we do not shout at the top of our voice, "Come in." Yes, these things and many others are of the past, and let "the past bury its dead." Let us with all our powers, faithfully discharge every duty which the Present so earnestly is beseeching us to fulfil, yet all the while with eyes intent upon the mighty Future now rushing down upon us. That Future has in store for us things which we now little dream. Let us then summon up all our courage, and all our energies, and bravely do battle for the "All Hail Hereafter."

Reminiscences of Capt. W. E. Mount

(Reprinted from Grip's Historical Souvenir, 1899)

The year 1853 was marked by what then seemed to be a great event in the history of the little village of Groton, namely, the building of a new hotel. Early in the year Harrison Bowker bought of Daniel Nye the old hotel and decided to construct a new building, that should be the most considerable structure in the village and in fact in the township. After much consultation the plans were made and the contract let to Oliver Avery, senior, and Frederick A. Avery. Work was begun on the tenth of April, and with

the exception of one week was continued until nearly the first of January, 1854, before it was completed. In those days all the work was hand work. Such a thing as a boring machine was unknown. There were then no planing mills in Groton and nine-tenths of all the lumber used in the building was hand-dressed, and the hand-saw did all the slitting. The heavy timbers were hewed and corded between the east end of the hotel as it now stands, and the corner of Church street. Nothing but the toughest beach and maple

were deemed good enough for the frame.

The raising day was a great event in Groton. A small army of men gathered about the heavy bents, disdaining the aid of derricks or shear poles, and set them on end by main strength. Elder W. G. Dye, was conspicuous among that sturdy band for the resolution and courage with which he followed each bent with his pike pole. He was then pastor of the Baptist church. Frederick A. Avery displayed great skill in managing so many men, and had the satisfaction of seeing the frame up without accident. He was an expert at climbing and in this he was assisted by Horace Morton, Miles Morton, and a number of others including Benjamin Wanzer, an old sailor. The late Judge Westel Willoughby worked, during his college vacation, on this hotel. He dressed and put on all the siding on the east end. The lettering, "Groton Hotel," still to be seen on the frieze on the north and west, was done by a man by the name of Spicer, then at work for G. W. Carpenter in his carriage shop.

Moe House Built

While there had been some building done in the village prior to 1853, that year seemed to be the beginning of a new era. In 1852 the house of H. G. Moe was built by Mr. Rollin Day and was deemed then the finest home in the place. A year or two before three of what were then known as village gothics were built, namely, the house occupied by Mrs. Dr. Mason, the home of the late Charles Perrigo and the one on the corner of Main and Mechanic streets.

Then the mercantile business of the village was conducted by Marsh and DeLano on the site of the First National bank, by Stiles Berry in a building standing on the ground occupied by the west half of the Union block and by Reynolds and Clark in the old Reynolds store, on ground now occupied by the east half of the block. There was then no drug store proper in Groton. Dr. Obed Andrews had a small variety store near where Avery's news room now is and kept a few drugs. He also had a small hand press and did some printing in the way of auction bills, etc. Subsequently H. K. Clark

built the store now occupied by Buck & Goble, in 1856. W. N. Hall did something in repairing watches in a shop on the site of L. J. Townley's residence. Day and Dykeman had a tin shop in a building that stood on the ground occupied by Graveley's barber shop. There was a saw mill where Beigent and Wilcox's storehouse stands and a shop with a turning lathe just beside, to the east. It was in this shop that the work on the hotel was begun. In the building now occupied by Carey's saloon, Sylvanus DeLano did a grocery trade including some books and stationary.

This seemed to be the place where certain men gathered to discuss the various questions of the day. Such men as Justice P. Pennoyer the Rev'd David Holmes and others. It was here that the writer heard Ex-Governor Pennoyer or Oregon announce his intentions of going to that far away country to grow up with it. It was in 1853 that Professor S. G. Williams came to Groton to take charge of the Groton Academy. He was then a young man just from college, and his first year's work gave promise of his future success. He remained here seven years, going thence to Ithaca.

The Schools

The schools of Groton then consisted of the Academy and the district school, No. 8, located nearly where the office of the Crandall typewriter now stands. In 1853 the old building had become quite dilapidated, and a special meeting of the district was called through the influence of Charles and Lyman Perrigo and other citizens, to consider the question of building a new school house, but nothing came of it, and it was not until 1858 that a vote was secured for that purpose. In that year the contract for a new building was let to the Hon William Woodbury, the work being done under the supervision of Abram Tator of Peruville. That building is now the office of the Crandall Typewriter Company. The old two story building that was the former school house, after several removals, at last found a resting place on South Main street, and was years after thoroughly repaired by W. W. Hare, Esq., and is now the pleasant home of Mr. Francis Bowen.

Close beside the old school house

clustered the graves of the village cemetery. This came probably because the first Baptist church stood at one time on the vacant lot just south of the Crandall typewriter shop. After the new church was built in 1843, on Cortland street, the old church building was removed and the site taken for an addition to the cemetery, and the old ground just back of the school house became the potters' field. In the summer of 1853 the Rev. Augustine Pomeroy was installed pastor of the Congregational church of Groton. The pastor of the Baptist church was the Rev. W. G. Dye, and of the Methodist church during the first of the year, the Rev. L. G. Weaver, and during the latter part, the Rev. W. N. Pearn.

Groton had its years of excitement and interest. The people discussed with an honestly divided sentiment the merits of the fugitive slave law, and the question of slavery generally. In 1856 the new store house, then belonging to C. and L. Perrigo, and now to the Groton Bridge Co., was known as Fremont Hall, and was the headquarters for political discussion and it rang with the cheers of many an enthusiastic meeting.

Civil War Days

The years went swiftly by and the spring of 1861 came. The people waited in silence for the news from the national capitol. There was then no telegraph office nearer than Cortland, and the slow stage coach from that place, brought the news but once a day. First came the news of the fall of Sumter, then came the call for troops, and about the last of April there was a call for a meeting of cit-

izens of the town to be held in the evening at the academy hall. Quite a concourse of people gathered in front of the DeLano grocery and headed by fife and drum marched to the place of meeting. F. W. DeLano acted as fifer, Frederick A. Avery beat the tenor drum and Amos Avery the bass drum. The meeting was called to order by T. C. Jay and Daniel W. Woodbury, Esq., was named as chairman. The meeting was addressed by the Hon. Milo Goodrich and Dr. James Montgomery of Dryden.

There was considerable enthusiasm and the addresses were both able and impressive. After the addresses a subscription was circulated pledging the signers to a pro-rata assessment on the amount of their subscription, for the benefit of families of volunteers, the whole amount of such assessments not to exceed the amount of the subscriptions. The subscription was headed by Charles Perrigo with \$3,000, followed by Lyman Perrigo for a like amount. Numerous other subscriptions were taken for lesser amounts during the evening. The subscription was circulated through the town generally by W. D. Mount, then supervisor of the town, and a large amount subscribed.

The meeting adjourned amid the roar of cannon and cheers for the flag. Thus ended the first war meeting in Groton. During the next four years others were held but while patriotic, they were marked by more of the spirit of self-sacrifice born of the experience of those days that tried men's souls. From that day forward there were tears and sorrow in many households.