ITHACA

By HENRY EDWARD ABT

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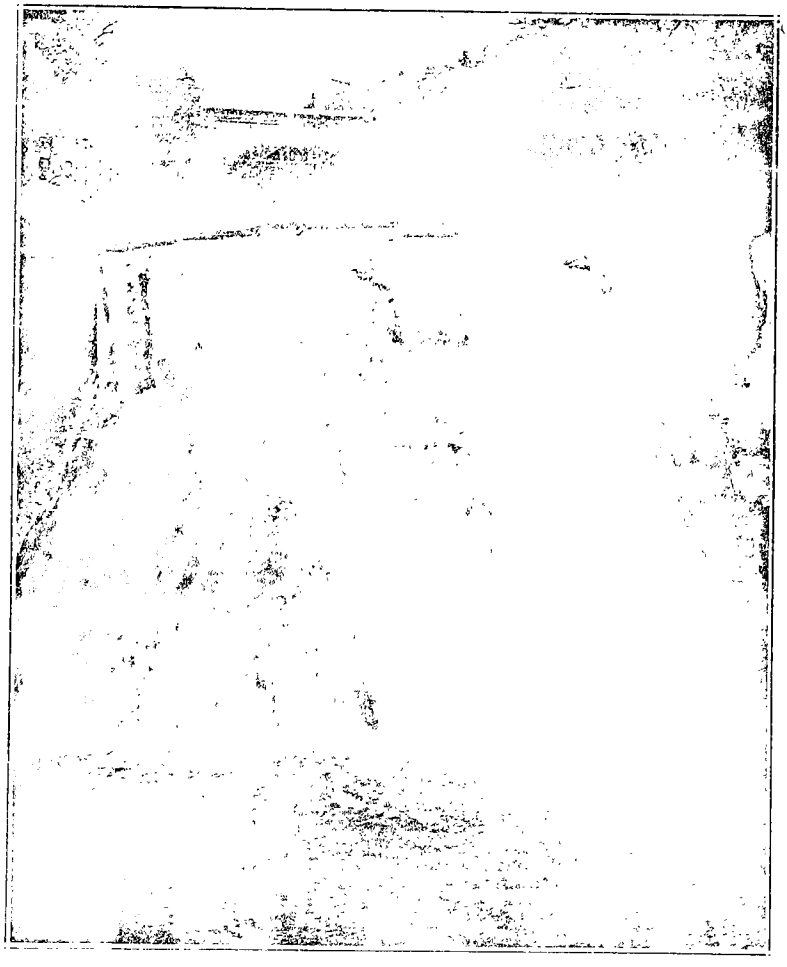
To

WALTER FRANCIS WILLCOX

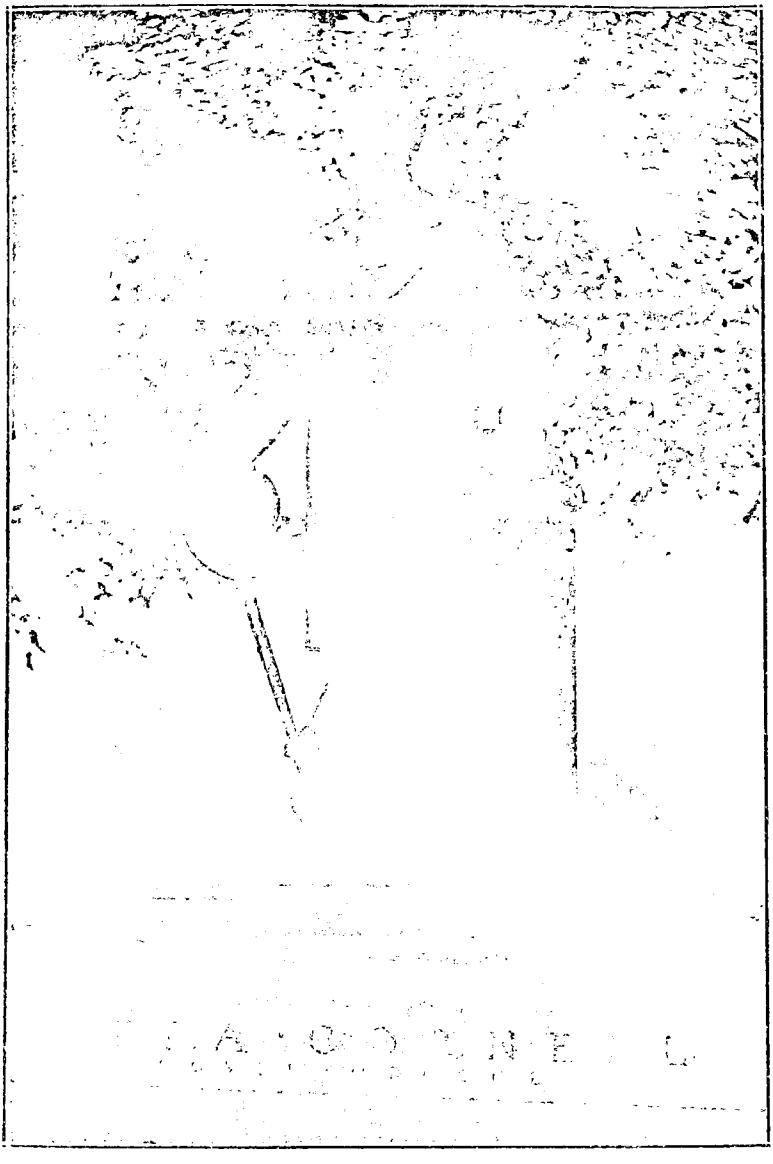
WITH AFFECTION AND

GRATITUDE



Photograph by J. P. Troy

ITHACA FALLS IN FALL CREEK GORGE



Photograph by J. P. Troy

STATUE OF EZRA CORNELL

PREFACE

Fifty years ago groups of professional historians traveled throughout the older parts of this country, tarrying a while in each county to gather the facts about its past and to incorporate them in bulky volumes of history. Liberal sums were paid toward the production of such books by prominent citizens, whose biographies and pictures were inserted in special sections to "reward" their public spirit. Inaccurate as such works often were, the passing of their vogue left a distinct gap in Americana, which lovers of narrative, students of sociology, and historians have cause to regret.

The story of a community is often more interesting than personal biography or fiction. In it are registered conflicts, dreams, comedies, and tragedies through periods which are measured in decades or in hundreds of years. It is the colorful drama of not one but of thousands of human lives. The people living together in one place develop "typical" or "group" aspirations. They encounter obstacles and live through adventures in achieving them. Like those of individuals, the experiences of communities come to tragic or happy ends, but rarely those which were anticipated.

Ithaca as we know it in its maturity today is the result of an unusual and dramatic past. Dreams which failed to materialize and those which became realized alike left their imprint on the community. Out of these trials and hope grew this city that is so important in the life of America.

PREFACE

The study of community history has a definite sociological and psychological value. The annals of their immediate environments offer the best available record of the thoughts and ways of thinking of human individuals and the interplay of human personalities in society. And it is only in the complete histories of individual communities that historians may verify their accounts of the internal development of the nation as a whole.

Therefore, I have attempted to present an unbiased account of the history of Ithaca, its origin and growth and to treat the community as a biographer writes of his subject, describing the past influences, environmental and hereditary, which have shaped his character. Only on the basis of a knowledge of the past and present can we guide future policy. In democracy, which gives to each citizen a share in government if he cares to use it, it is important that he be prepared for his responsibility. A knowledge of things as they are, and an historical background, are essential to the intelligent American. Such a history should be valuable and interesting not only to Ithacans but also to the many students who tarry here for a limited period, always remembering this as their second home during a most significant and formative period of their lives.

I know of no way fully to express my indebtedness to the citizens of this community for the cooperation they have given to me. The list of those who have helped me would fill another volume. To Professors Charles H. Tud Martin W. Sampson, and Walter F. Willcox, who read over this entire manuscript and rendered invaluable advice and assistance in its preparation; to Miss Marguerite Coffin; to Mr. Laurence June and Mr. Leonard Miscall, who prepared the drawings and maps; to Mr. Paul S. Livermore,

Mr. William A. Boyd, Mr. Joseph Hickey, Mr. Ralph Smith, and Mr. James E. Van Natta; to my publisher, Mr. Ross Kellogg, and to his staff; to the Ithaca Chamber of Commerce, and to the Ithaca Advertising Club; as well as to the many other friends who have aided me, I offer my deep and sincere thanks.

H. E. A.

Ithaca, New York, October 15, 1926.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

THE curtain rises. The scene is laid in central New York State, in Tompkins County. Hills form the setting, south, east, and west. To the north in a deep valley stretches a long, narrow lake. To the south an inlet opens a passageway between the southern and western hills. On the plain at the head of the lake is Ithaca.

Far above the lake and town, on an upward sloping table land, stand the buildings and residential sections of Cornell University. A tower silhouetted clearly against the sky marks the University Library. The University campus is bounded on the north by Fall Creek and on the south by Cascadilla Creek, which have carved deep chasms in the hillside. The waters which flow through their depths are at some seasons mighty torrents and at others trickling streams. In places they form dancing cataracts, and elsewhere roaring waterfalls. They tumble for hundreds of feet from the sloping plateaus above to the winding channels in the valley, and come to rest in the waters of Lake Cayuga.

The buildings of the town are a curious mixture of modernity and antiquity. Here is a thriving hotel erected almost a century ago. A block away is an imposing bank building, but recently opened. On the streets are sturdy farmers bearing unmistakable marks of their Pilgrim ancestry. With them are urbane business men, intent on the

problems of modern industry. There are scholarly professors, preoccupied with academic questions. Mingling in the crowd are the cosmopolitan students, young gentlemen from California, and young gentlemen from Maine. There are students from China and Japan, and their classmates from all parts of the world.

The streets are filled with vehicles: the public trolleys and inter-urban busses; Pierce-Arrows belonging to leaders of industry; dilapidated, rattling, squeaking Fords belonging to the care-free students; horses and buggies from the farms; and massive trucks carrying merchandise for great corporations.

This community that we gaze upon is indeed interesting. Here is a cross-section of American life with the added spice of Heidelberg. Here, located in an area of magnificent natural beauty, explorers in the world of imagination are associated with those in the world of material activities. Here is the mark of romantic tradition, and here the stamp of the modern industrial community.

We are full of questions. What circumstances in past ages fashioned this garden of natural beauty? What dramatic incidents, in the interplay of environment and human personality, created this strangely heterogeneous community? What institutions, what adjustments have developed during its existence? What manner of men have come to the fore as its leaders? What has it to teach us, and how can we participate in its activities further than we do, we who are its citizens? These, and other queries, should be answered in these pages.

Before beginning our narrative, we must pause to state a few fundamental facts concerning the dimensions of this community. It has about 19,000 inhabitants. This figure

does not include the 7,000 or more students of Cornell University and of the Ithaca Conservatory of Music. And Ithaca's foster children, who have resided here during their period of education, number many thousands. A large number of these return each year, fond pilgrims to shrines of learning. The town's industry and residential capacity must constantly be prepared to meet the needs of many more persons than the census figures indicate.

The population is predominatingly native-born white persons. In 1920 the census showed that only 1,609 or 9.5 percent had been born in other countries, as compared with an average of thirteen percent for the nation. The figures show a higher proportion of women than of men, the relation being approximately 53 to 47 percent. This relation is contrary to that in the nation as a whole, but is characteristic of cities, to which women have been migrating in recent years for industrial employment. Finally, there is a considerably smaller number of children under fifteen years of age than is to be found in state or national averages. Along with this we find a slightly lower birth rate.

With these general facts in mind, we turn to history and description.

CHAPTER II

THE SETTING OF ITHACA

MODERN dramatists and novelists employ settings, features of environment, to express the mood and character of action. Social science daily shows the marked effect of environment upon men, individually and in groups. And so we have to consider the physical environment of the community in which we are interested.

Elaborate dramatic settings are produced at the hands of highly skilled craftsmen during periods which are reckoned, at most, in months. We may well wonder, then, at magnificent settings skillfully prepared for human habitation during eras which are measured in millions of years. Great masses of matter were severed, moulded, and shaped by processes lasting through thousands of centuries. In the Ithaca region, we have a product surpassingly beautiful.

The community resides in the Finger Lakes Region, so called because five narrow lakes, Canandaigua, Seneca, Cayuga, Owasco, and Skaneateles, appear as the fingers of a southward pointed hand. The region forms the central section of western New York State. Ithaca is at the south end of Cayuga Lake, about thirty-five miles from the Pennsylvania border.

The Finger Lakes Region is noted for its hundreds of deep gorges and ravines, for the rapid streams which plunge through these rock canyons in waterfalls and cataracts, and for its wooded hills and fertile valleys. As for

the section surrounding Ithaca, Solomon Southwick, a visitor from abroad, published as early as 1835 the statement:

"Had I the genius of Claude Lorraine as a painter of natural scenery, and that of Shakespeare, Milton, or Thomson as poetical describers of such scenery, I should still despair of doing anything like ample justice to the uncommonly beautiful landscape views, the grand and numerous waterfalls, and the sublime heights of beautiful landscape rock or verdant mountain top with which Ithaca is surrounded." [1]

As far as geologists can ascertain the entire region during ancient geological time was the bottom of a great interior sea which extended over the larger portion of the North American continent, and was connected with the Atlantic Ocean by an outlet varying in width through the ages. How long ago that was, no one, of course, can venture to estimate with even approximate accuracy. H. G. Wells in his *Outline of History* imagines that since the first geological period there have elapsed between eighty and eight hundred million years,[2] from which we may gather only that the first steps in shaping the setting of Ithaca occurred almost incredibly long ago.

It is generally agreed that the country under discussion belongs to the oldest dry land of the continent. The Laurentian Plateau, "Eastern Canada and its extension south, the Adirondacks and a considerable area around the Great Lakes" [3] emerged first, the Appalachian range of mountains leading the way. Students surmise from an examination of rock forms that the land thus exposed was a series of

[1] *Views of Ithaca and Environs*, p. 1.
[2] H. G. Wells, *Outline of History*, Chs. I and II.
[3] Livingston Farrand, *Basis of American History*, pp. 14-15.

layers of clay, sand, salt, and lime. The surface clay has been pressed into shales and the sand into limestone by the weight of material later superimposed.

Through long succeeding ages, rain and rivers wore the exposed region into a nearly featureless plain, the plateau slanted gently to the south, and where rivers met with rock resistance, north facing cliffs were formed. These cliffs constitute a large part of the barrier which is the north-south watershed today.

In very recent geological time, there moved across the area those tremendous masses of ice known as the "great glaciers." They cut deeply into the land and reduced the central and northern parts of the plateau to a level below that of the southern parts into which they did not advance. Where they found paths of low resistance, such as the valleys of the south flowing streams, they gouged out the land to great depths. Thus were formed the valleys of the Finger Lakes. Lobes of the great ice sheets are thought to have projected into the basins of the streams that intersected south bound waters from the west and the east. The channels thus excavated form, in the main, the monster gorges of this locality.

The long eras during which the ice receded had their marked influence in drawing the final contours of Ithaca's setting. The ice melted by stages, and each recession redammed the streams now flowing northward, forming larger and larger lakes. On the slopes, at the borders of these lakes, a succession of temporary bodies of water appeared at lower and lower levels. The melting of ice at the summit would release a stream which dashed down the hillside to a new lake and ice barrier, bringing a burden of deposits with it, and forming a delta at its mouth. These

dams would in turn give way, and the water would tumble to a new temporary basin. Deltas thus formed may be seen at various points along the borders of the gorges. The final terminus of the streams of this vicinity was Cayuga Lake, and the deposits which they brought down the hillsides with them formed their last great delta and the "Flats" upon which the city was later built.

Among the dozens of creeks and rivers which course over the neighboring hillsides, four cross the boundaries of the city of Ithaca and have been effective in determining phases of local history. Two of these streams, Fall Creek and the Cayuga Inlet, enter Cayuga Lake directly. Two others, Cascadilla Creek and Six Mile Creek, join the Inlet near its mouth. Each of these except the Inlet, which approaches the city on that lowland lying between the southern and western hills, has its channel in a gorge of rare beauty.

Fall Creek has its origin about twelve miles northeast of the city, in the vicinity of Dryden. It is fed by two streams rising respectively from Dryden Lake and Summer Hill. The river crosses the plateau with little descent until it reaches its canyon at the border of Cornell University, where, mainly by five steps, it plunges a total distance of over four hundred feet.

The last of these, about one hundred and forty feet in height, constitutes the Ithaca Falls, a cataract formerly known as the Olympic. This waterfall is among the most beautiful of the Finger Lakes Region. Its force, in early spring, is tremendous.

Cascadilla Creek rises almost directly east of Ithaca, some seven or eight miles distant. Its upper course slopes more rapidly than does that of its northern neighbor, and

the drop at Ithaca is not as precipitous, the chief descent being forty-five feet over the "Giant's Staircase" at the southern entrance to the University grounds. Its banks are fringed with colorful flora, and the beauty of Cascadilla Gorge is of a gentler sort than that of majestic Fall Creek canyon.

Winding alongside of South Hill, Six Mile Creek drops from its source on the Cayuga-Susquehanna divide a total distance of over fifteen hundred feet. The Cayuga Inlet originates near Spencer, southwest of Ithaca. It is fed by four major tributaries in addition to the two already mentioned, and it drains ninety-two square miles.

On the "Flats" the border lands of Fall Creek are most charming. The wooded areas north and south of its channel were purchased by the municipal government in 1908 and reserved as a natural park. Contributing streamlets wind through this forest between banks thickly carpeted in the springtime with forget-me-nots and violets. The woods are a mecca for birds of every description. Citizens and students who love natural beauty delight in wandering along the water's edge to listen to the feathered choristers and borrow from the deep peacefulness of the place. Lovers make its verdant retreats their rendezvous, and pronounce them gloriously conducive to romance.

The valley paths of Six Mile Creek and Cascadilla have been straightened and walled against flood. The former at one time had two branches, one turning southwest through the present route of Buffalo Street, and the other following irregularly the general course covered by the stream today. Cascadilla, in the early part of the last century, was directed through an "avenue of willows" running from its intersection with Cayuga Street northwestward to the Inlet.

The Inlet has been widened and deepened, and its banks marked with industrial enterprises. Only Fall Creek, unchangingly beautiful, flows through its natural channel in its natural state.

The environment of Ithaca has lent to the city two popular names, "The Forest City" and "The Storm Country," the latter being a title bestowed by a lesser contemporary novelist. Both names have considerable justification. Very thick forest covered this entire region prior to the clearing activities of the nineteenth century lumber enterprises. The residue of deposits left by the glaciers contained the seeds of many trees native much farther north. Under the characteristic heavy rainfall, native and transplanted forest throve. There were white pines on the upper parts of East Hill; Norway, red, and pitch pines on South Hill; and oaks, elms, and maples on the slopes below. In the valley grew tamaracks, black spruce, balsam firs, and hemlocks. Most of the virgin growth has been cut, but strenuous efforts toward reforestation are now under way.

As to the appellation "Storm Country," it is true that Ithaca lies in the belt of the cyclonic storms originating in the northwestern parts of the United States. A study of forty-two years of Ithaca climate revealed one hundred and fifty-five days of rainfall in the average local year as compared with one hundred and twenty-eight in New York City. The range of temperature during that period ran from a maximum of one hundred and two degrees Fahrenheit to a minimum of twenty degrees below zero Fahrenheit. However, the average annual temperature in the lowlands is forty-seven degrees Fahrenheit, resulting in an agreeable mean. An interesting fact shown by the weather records is that the temperature on the summits of the

hills averages about two degrees lower than that in the valley.

In the lower sections of this country, naturally fertile Volusia loam yields to the farmers fruit trees and good crops of hay, oats, potatoes, buckwheat, wheat, and corn. Tompkins is a farming county slightly better than the average for the state, a fact important to its central city, whose mercantile establishments supply many rural needs.

The setting of Ithaca, then, is a region charmingly beautiful, characterized by lakes, streams, cataracts, hills, and valleys. It yields natural produce valuable to man. Its climate is uneven, in general mild without being monotonous. Its wooded hills, abundant with game, and its rich alluvial soil, first attracted the red men to this valley.

CHAPTER III

INFANCY: 1653-1810

TWO HUNDRED and fifty years ago this region was the birthplace of the first American republic, the League of the Iroquois. It would be interesting to have the accurate record of local dwellers before that era. But we have little information from which to construct the human history of this continent before the beginning of the European Renaissance.

According to President Farrand of Cornell University, most of our archæologists agree that there is no sufficient evidence of pre-glacial or glacial man in America.[1] Existent evidences of human habitation seem to date centuries after the glaciers retreated. The oldest implements found buried in American soil seem to belong to a culture akin to that of the Indians who were here when white men first landed. If any exception can be made to that statement it may be that a few evidences have been uncovered recently suggesting an Oriental civilization. There is a widespread opinion that ancestors of the redskins came from Asia across a northwestern land link which has since been covered by the sea.

Certain it is that in 1609, when Hendrick Hudson sailed up the river which bears his name, a federated league of five Indian nations occupied almost all of the area now comprising the Empire State. The nations were the Senecas, the Onondagas, the Oneidas, the Mohawks, and the group

[1] Livingston Farrand, *Basis of American History*, p. 70.

which lived in the area surrounding Cayuga Lake, the Cayugas. And it is fairly certain that these Iroquois, as they were generically known, had not always been in that part of the continent, but had driven from their homes an earlier group known as the Algonquins.

Whence came the Iroquois? That question has been disputed for two centuries, and today Clark Wissler, curator of anthropology at the New York City Museum of Natural History, writes that their culture shows them to be of southern origin,[1] while Erl Bates, advisor in Indian extension at the New York State College of Agriculture, maintains that the invasion took place from the west and north.[2]

Indian lore has a host of stories about the origins of the nations and the creation of the league. One popular legend told that the tribes banded together in a time of stress, advised to do so by the "Holder of the Heavens." The Onondagas had been very nearly exterminated by invaders, and the league was formed for mutual protection at a great council fire, held on the shores of Lake Onondaga.

Whatever brought them together originally, the five tribes in confederation were very nearly invincible. They not only repelled invasions successfully, but became aggressors, and received tribute from tribes which lived west as far as the Mississippi and south as far as the Floridan peninsula. They developed so efficient a political organization, and so high a culture that modern students have found in them suggestions of present-day value.

For example, there were two forms of league division, the national and the clan grouping. The former we have

[1] Clark Wissler, *The American Indian*, pp. 108-109; 120.

[2] Erl A. Bates, *Our New York Indians*, Cornell Rural School Leaflet, Vol. 19, No. 2, p. 57.

already mentioned. But each nation possessed Bear, Wolf, Beaver, Turtle, Deer, Snipe, Heron, and Hawk clans, and the members of the same clan in the several nations were thought to be related. Each clan performed a specific economic function. Clanship was transmitted maternally, and intermarriage within the clan was forbidden.

Public opinion was voiced through the national chiefs, elected by the matrons to a grand council, which met on the shores of Lake Onondaga. In the later years of the confederacy, women had absolute political control, and could remove members of the council whenever they were not pleased with the public policy there enacted. Decisions of the ruling body were by unanimous vote only, and the chiefs came as spokesmen for their people, rather than to express their personal opinion. Frequently, in times of stress, thousands of Indians would gather in conventions at Onondaga to formulate their policies and transmit them promptly to their representatives. Such political unity and efficiency cannot be found today. Among the Iroquois, politics was clean. The dignity of his position was an office holder's reward, and he would be elected only after years of meritorious public service. The leaders were men of prudence and sagacity and the founders of our republic profited much by observing their statesmanship.

And what of the homes that dotted the lands upon which we now live? The Iroquois were an agricultural people, and lived in villages, moving their sites about once in a decade when fields were exhausted and fuel was no longer plentiful. Their houses were rectangular, from fifty to one hundred feet long. Two lines of upright poles were set firmly in the ground, and bent together at the top to form a series of arched frames. Through the frame were woven

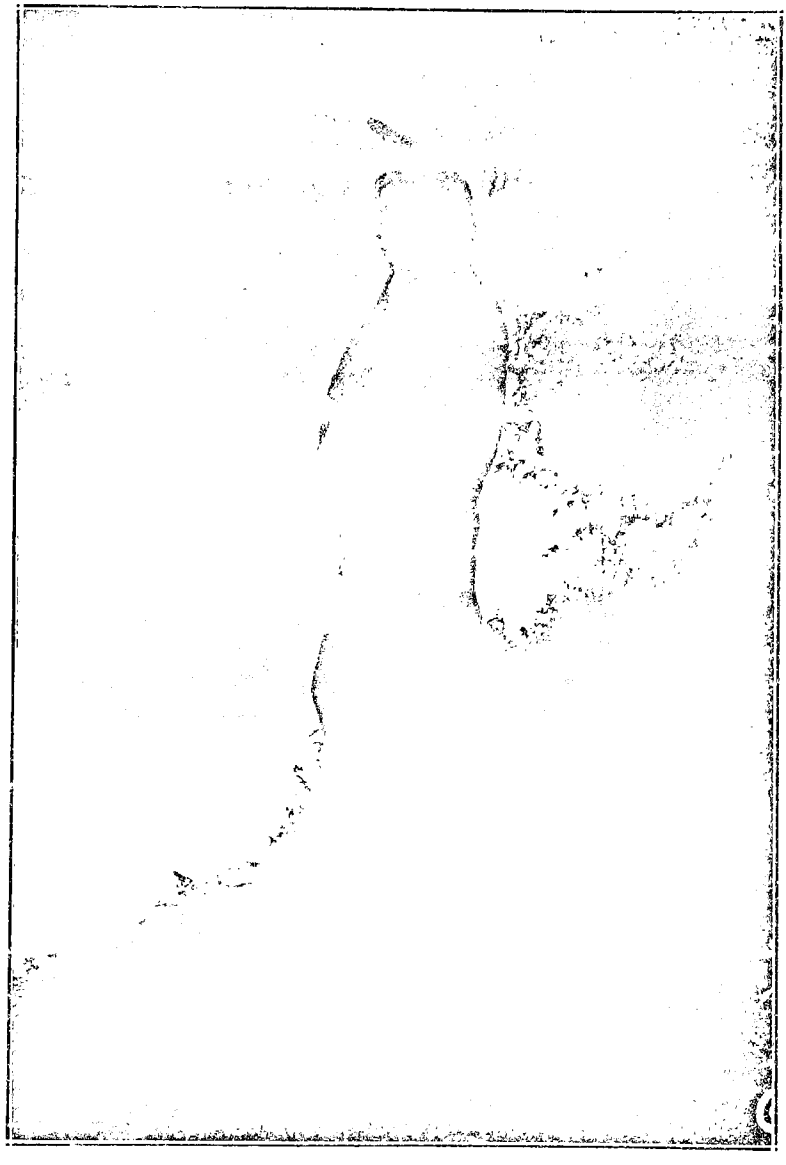
flexible branches and split poles to constitute the walls. Brush, bark, reeds, and leaves covered the outer surfaces.

Entrances at the ends of these buildings led into long passageways, to the right and left of which were apartments. A complete family occupied the building, and its several branches the individual apartments. In the average home the latter numbered twenty, ten on each side of the house. Housewares and furnishings were communally owned.

Early in the seventeenth century events occurred which ultimately led to the downfall of the league. First, Samuel Champlain established a French colony at Quebec and a year later Hudson's exploration interested the Dutch government in the new continent. When France and Holland dreamed of vast empires in America, the league became a buffer between the two continental powers.

Except for a few unfortunate skirmishes between the Hollanders and the Mohawks, the Dutch governors maintained friendship with the nations, and used them as mediators with the aggressive French. The latter built no colonies below the present Canadian border, but were represented by sincere and courageous priests who traveled from a central mission at Montreal, and attempted to establish permanent religious centers in the several cantons. Around such centers the governors of New France hoped to create French colonies that would rival New England and New Netherlands.

The French missionaries were probably the first white men to reach the head of Cayuga Lake. It has been suggested that Father Isaac Jogues, in his travels to and from the St. Lawrence valley, may have touched Cayuga Lake; but the writer has no evidence with which to support that



Photograph by George F. Morgan

AN IROQUOIS ON SHORE OF BEEBE LAKE

suggestion. Up to 1653, the Iroquois stubbornly resisted efforts of the priests to gain a foothold. But at about that time they desired peaceful relationships with New France in order to make war upon the hostile Eries. Upon an assurance of good will, the general council dispatched a delegation to Montreal and asked that Jesuit missionaries be sent among them.

Father Simon Le Moyne left Quebec July 2, 1654, and was received enthusiastically by the Onondagas and by Cayuga and Seneca deputies. The missionary spent several months at Onondaga and then returned to Montreal, to be followed two months later by Joseph Chaumonot and Claude Dablon, who established the first mission. The Cayugas sent their venerable and kindly chief, Saonchiowaga, with a party of representatives to welcome the newcomers. Friendly relations were developed, and Father Chaumonot was formally received into the Cayuga tribe. Two years later, in May, a larger party of missionaries and colonists came and was greeted again by Saonchiowaga. At this time, he requested that another mission be established at the Cayuga capital.

And so Chaumonot and René Menard, one of the party that had come that year, established the Mission of St. Joseph at Goiogouen, three and one-half miles south of the present Union Springs on the shore of Cayuga Lake. Chaumonot went on to the Seneca capital, while Menard remained for two months at Goiogouen. Then he was forced to return to the assistance of the Onondaga mission. Later, accompanied by five colonists, he came back for a short visit. It may be reasonably assumed that Menard, as well as one or two of his aides, reached the present site of Ithaca that year. Doubtless, among the converted Ca-

yugas, there were residents near or at the Cayuga Inlet. Transportation by birch-bark canoe was rapid and facile, and these Jesuit priests moved about frequently in their efforts to administer last rites to the dying, or to baptize infants.

By 1657 the Iroquois were becoming more aggressive and warlike. The Mohawks had resumed the struggle with France. Fearing extermination, residents at the Onondaga mission escaped to Montreal, reaching there the third of April of that year. But in the warfare that followed, Mohawks alone were active, while the Onondagas and Cayugas remained anxious to have their missions restored. Garacontie, Onondaga chief, and Saonchiowaga leaned toward the Catholic faith, though neither had as yet been received into the church. An embassy, including the Cayuga chief, was sent to Montreal to beg the return of the Jesuits.

Although Father Le Moyne visited the Onondaga capital in 1660, and also spent a month with the Cayugas in 1662, he did not stay in the region, and missionary activities were not resumed until 1666, when peace with the Mohawks was finally concluded. In 1664 Saonchiowaga renewed his request for a mission, but he was not successful. In 1666, when the mission at Onondaga resumed activity, Fathers Jacques Fremin and Pierre Raffeix were chosen to labor at Cayuga Lake, but at the last moment they were appointed to other posts. This time Chief Garacontie went to Montreal to intercede for his Cayuga neighbors.

Finally, in 1668, Fathers Pierre Milet and Stephen de Carheil set forth for the land of the Iroquois. Milet joined the post at Onondaga, and Carheil moved on to the Cayugas. A party of the Indians which had awaited him at the central

mission conducted him to their homeland. On the way the Jesuits baptized an Andastes slave girl who was of the party, and it is related that on their arrival at Cayuga, she was roasted and eaten by the natives to celebrate Carheil's arrival. Such was their savage notion of facilitating her passage to paradise. Another member of this second inaugural party was Father Julian Garnier, who, however, did not stay long.

The mission of St. Joseph was rebuilt near Choharo or St. Stephen, as it was known among the French, at the foot of Cayuga Lake. The new building was completed on November 9. At first Saonchiowaga was not as friendly to Father Carheil as he had been to the earlier missionary because the Cayugas had been disappointed in their request to have Fremin as pastor. But Garacontie, hearing of discontent among his neighbors, presented Saonchiowaga with a wampum belt to insure Carheil's safety. For three years this missionary labored among the natives, securing many conversions, including that of Saonchiowaga in 1671. If any Jesuit reached the ground upon which Ithaca is now erected, he was most probably de Carheil. When he was ill in 1671, Father Pierre Raffeix replaced him for a year.

While the French were active first in what is now central and western New York, this section of the country soon attracted the attention of the English, who had dispossessed the Dutch in the New Netherlands in 1664 and renamed the colony for the king's brother James, Duke of York. Hollanders had been interested in the new world for its commercial possibilities. The British desired to build homes and permanent colonies. They saw that they could remain free from French invasion only by actively cultivating the friendship of those Indian nations occupying the buffer

territory. They at once renewed the earlier Dutch guarantees of Indian rights. Every effort was made to win and hold Mohawk friendship, thereby to extend English influence to the nations further west.

Among the Cayugas converted in the first year of the second St. Joseph mission were Orehaoue and Serennoa, two prominent tribesmen. Upon these men, Mohawk and English influences were exerted to the extent that in 1684, when they succeeded to a joint chieftanship, they led their compatriots to plunder and drive out that gentle missionary who so generously for eleven years had labored in their behalf. Thus ended the last French activity at Lake Cayuga.

Pierre Raffeix, during his year at the mission, left us the most complete account of the valley as it appeared at that time. On June 24, 1672, he wrote, in part:

"I found the Cayugas more tractable and less naughty than Onondagas and Oneidas. . . . More than a thousand deer are killed every year in the neighborhood of Cayuga. . . . Fishing for salmon and eel is abundant. . . . Tiohero [Lake Cayuga] abounds with swan and geese through the winter, and in the spring nothing is seen but continued clouds of all sorts of game." [1]

Beautiful it must have been, this wild, thickly forested country, before white men cleared it and covered it with dwellings!

In the Treaty of Utrecht (1713), Louis XIV of France recognized England's dominion over the entire territory of the Five Nations. The French missionaries came southward no longer. In 1715 the Tuscaroras came from the South and joined the Iroquois League, which then became

[1] *The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents*, Vol. 56, pp. 48-52.

known as the Six Nations. By treaty in 1722, British agents succeeded in concluding an ancient warfare which had existed between the Iroquois and two Sioux tribes of Virginia and North Carolina known as the Saponis and Tutelos. Thirty-one years later these tribes migrated to the land of the Cayugas, and established themselves respectively at Saponi (now popularly known as "Pony Hollow"), southwest of the present site of Ithaca, and Coreogonel (De Horiss Kanadia) on the Inlet, opposite to Buttermilk Falls, three miles from the head of the lake.

Local historians have failed to mention the probable visits of the Moravian missionaries to this region in 1745, 1750, and 1756. Representatives of that sect, led by David Zeisberger, made several trips into central New York during that period to study Indian habits and life, preparatory to an intensive program of religious conversion with which they never proceeded. Their effect on Iroquois Indian life was very little indeed, and their visits were generally forgotten.

From their journals, we may judge it very likely that Zeisberger and his companions crossed the site of Ithaca several times. One of them wrote in relating of his visit to the Cayugas in 1750:

"We went in the plain through the high grass and crossed a creek. . . . The creek is named Nochewaio. . . . We crossed two other creeks; the first is named Notantakto, and the second Nogaene. . . . All these creeks flow into one lake. We saw the last creek after rushing on wildly, fall perpendicularly from a height of ninety feet. It was indeed an interesting and thrilling sight. . . . Beyond the lake there is a particularly large creek, named Tschochnioke, which as the Gajuka and another Indian told us, falls

over the rock from a height of 150 feet, and empties into the lake." [1]

We may reasonably judge that the first three creeks referred to were the Cayuga Inlet, Six Mile Creek, and Fall Creek, the Ithaca Falls being described. Tschochnioke was probably the stream we call Taughannock. Gajuka was of course Cayuga.[2]

We may pause now to examine the Cayuga Lake settlements just before the American Revolution. Cayugas, Tutelos, and Saponis were among the least warlike of the peoples that lived within the bounds of the confederacy. Le Moyne, in 1662, had "found the Cayugas more affectionate than the other nations." They built towns and tilled the soil. Similar were the newcomers from the south. When Sullivan's Expedition came through in 1779, they found great areas of land cleared for the raising of corn and cultivation of orchards. The Cayuga capital was composed of three towns: Cayuga Castle (fifteen houses); East Cayuga (thirteen houses); and Upper Cayuga (fourteen houses). Near the present location of Union Springs was the town of Chohero. Chonodote (Peach Tree Town) was located at the present site of Aurora. Coreogonel, in the valley at the head of the lake, was a village of twenty-five houses.

At the opening of the American Revolution the Continental Congress endeavored in vain to win Iroquois sympathies, or at least to keep the nations neutral. The Reverend Dr. Samuel Kirkland, a patriot missionary, succeeded in obtaining the defection from the British cause of part

[1] Rev. Wm. Beauchamp, ed., *Moravian Journals Relating to Central New York*, 1745-1766, p. 39.

[2] The journalist's spellings were merely his phonetic interpretations of Indian pronunciations.

of the Oneidas and Tuscaroras. But in the main the warriors fought as "Red-coat" allies.

Iroquois activities were mainly confined to harassing the patriot frontier. Joseph Brant, chief Indian sachem, took charge at Unadilla in 1777, and cooperated with the Johnsons and Butler in raiding border towns. Authorities agree that the chief's influence was directed toward moderation and humanity, but the Tories incited the warriors to brutality, cruelty, and barbarity. Who truly can blame uneducated savages for deluging the country with blood, when they were urged to such atrocities by their white "civilizers"?

Stone, in his *Life of Joseph Brant,* tells of an incident during one of his raids when an Indian, noted for his savageness, approached a baby's cradle. The infant looked up and smiled at the red man, who would have spared its life. A loyalist, enraged at such leniency, rushed up and ran his bayonet through the child's heart.[1]

During the winter and spring of 1778 these border raids became more and more frightful. A massacre at Springfield was followed by one in the Wyoming Valley. And then the inhabitants of Andrustown, of German Flats, and of Cherry Valley were butchered. The Continental Congress, in session at Philadelphia, was besieged with exaggerated stories of Iroquois cruelty and piteous appeals for assistance. Finally, on February 27, 1779, that body passed a resolution to chastise the marauders. General Washington offered to General Gates command of an expedition for that purpose, but youth and strength were required for such an arduous campaign, and the man finally selected to lead it was John Sullivan of New Hampshire,

[1] William L. Stone, *Life of Joseph Brant,* Vol. I, pp. 311-312.

thirty-nine years of age; the man who three years before had organized and led the first assault against royal authority at Fort William and Mary, in his native state.

We cannot devote much of this narrative to a detailed account of Sullivan's Expedition. The spring was consumed in preparation. The entire company moved from Easton, Pennsylvania, on June 18. They encamped in the Wyoming Valley on June 23 and remained there until the last day in July. When they moved forward, their strength was slightly more than twenty-five hundred men. Maps prepared by Robert Erskine, surveyor-general of Washington's army, and the services of Oneida guides, facilitated their travel. The first significant battle was at Newtown (now Elmira) on August 29, when 400 Tories under Sir John Johnson, and 1,000 Indians led by Brant were defeated by the patriot army.

Washington's instructions to Gates, transmitted to Sullivan, were carried out with ruthless completeness. The expedition was to "chastise and intimidate hostile nations; to cut off their settlements; destroy the next year's crops; and do them every other mischief which time and circumstances will permit."[1] From West Point, Washington wrote on September 15, 1779, that Sullivan should keep in mind "the necessity of pushing the Indians to the greatest practicable distance from their own settlements and our frontiers, to throwing them wholly on the British enemy, . . . making the destruction of their settlements so final and complete as to put it out of their power to derive the smallest succor from them in case they should attempt to return this season."[2] The general interpreted that to

[1] *Journals of the Military Expedition of General John Sullivan*, p. 340.

[2] Ibid., pp. 382-383.

mean "burn—kill—and destroy," and his efficiency equaled that with which the Tories had led the Indians to similar activities.

The expedition reached Kanadesega, the Seneca capital, on September 19. There Sullivan was met by an Oneida delegation which begged him to spare the Cayugas, who claimed to have been neutral. But the general felt that Indians were not to be trusted.

Sullivan later wrote: "I flatter myself that the orders with which I was intrusted are fully executed, as we have not left a single settlement or field of corn in the country of the Five Nations, nor is there even the appearance of an Indian, this side of Niagara.

"I detached Colonel Butler with six hundred men to destroy the Cayuga country, and with him sent all the Indian warriors, who said if they could find the Cayugas, they would endeavor to persuade them to deliver themselves up prisoners; the chief of them being Teguttelawana, a near relation to the sachem. I then crossed the Seneca River and detached Colonel Dearborn to the west side of Cayuga Lake to destroy all the settlements which might be found there and to intercept the Cayugas if they attempted to escape Colonel Butler. The residue of the armies passed on between the lakes toward Katherines. Colonel Dearborn burnt in his route six towns, including one which had been before destroyed by a small party; destroying at the same time quantities of corn. He took an Indian lad and three women prisoners, one of the women being very old, and the lad a cripple; and he left them . . . and brought on the other two, and joined the army on the evening of the 26th. . . . Colonel Butler joined the army on the 28th, whereby a complete junction was formed at Conowalohala

on the 29th day after our leaving Newtown. . . . Colonel Butler destroyed in the Cayuga country five principal towns and a number of scattering houses, the whole making about one hundred in number, exceedingly large and well built, also destroyed two hundred acres of excellent corn with a number of orchards, one of which had in it 1500 fruit trees.

"I trust that the steps I have taken with respect to the Oneidas, Cayugas, and Mohawks will prove satisfactory; and here I beg leave to mention that in searching the houses of those pretended neutral Cayugas, a number of scalps were found which appeared to have been lately taken, which Colonel Butler showed to the Oneidas, who said that they were then convinced of the justice of the steps I had taken." [1]

Lieutenant Colonel Henry Dearborn's detachment of two hundred men was the first to cross the site of Ithaca. They camped at the foot of West Hill on the night of September 23, and marched at sunrise toward the Tutelo village. Crossing the flats, they stopped to burn two huts and a cornfield. That morning Coreogonel was destroyed. Of course no one stopped to obtain evidence as to whether this agricultural tribe from the South had in any way participated in the border outrages. Guilty or innocent, the Tutelos were extinguished that day forever more.

Two days later Colonel William Butler reached the embers on the bank of the Inlet. To quote from the journal of one of his soldiers, Thomas Grant by name:

"Marched this morning at 6 o'clock and encamped at an Indian town about three and one-half miles above Cayuga Lake. The town appears to be just consumed. Supposed to be burnt by a detachment of Sullivan's army. The town

[1] Ibid., pp. 303-305.

was situated on a rising ground in a large beautiful valley. The soil is equal to, or rather superior to any in the country. Through which run several fine streams of water, the first a creek about four poles wide which falls from the mountain on the east side of the valley about 120 feet perpendicular, into which creek three other fine streams empty. The second creek is the principal supply of the Cayuga Lake, navigable for large canoes or boats to the town." [1]

The first creek referred to probably was Fall Creek. The other three were Cascadilla, Six Mile, and the Inlet. If the soldier's account was accurate, the last named may have been tributary to Fall Creek at that time. In those days the creeks changed their courses frequently, forming new channels in the swamp when spring rains overflowed their banks.

After Sullivan's invasion, a few of the Iroquois returned to their hunting grounds to die. Occasional border attacks occurred until after the Peace of 1781, when negotiations were begun by New York State to obtain formal title to the Indian lands. The Cayugas ceded theirs to the state on February 25, 1789. In return for their territory, the red men were given reservations for residence and full protection by the new government.

Much of the land ceded by the Cayuga and Onondaga Indians (an area bounded roughly by a line which might be drawn along the west shore of Lake Seneca to Sodus Bay, east to Lake Oneida, and south to the town of Oxford) was established in 1781 as a Military Tract, from which soldiers of the Revolution were to draw for lots. At about the same time there began the process of dividing the western part of the state into counties. The British had

[1] Ibid., p. 744.

known that part of the colony now western New York as Tryon County. This region was renamed Montgomery by the state legislature. Then Herkimer County was divided off, and from Herkimer, Onondaga County was created March 5, 1794. The Military Tract was largely in the latter.

Even before the process of lot apportionment was begun, there was a movement of white men toward those lands which had formerly belonged to the Indians. Sullivan's army disbanded soon after the war was concluded, and the soldiers returned to their homes to relate to their neighbors glowing accounts of vast areas open to culture and full of opportunities for development. Brutal as may have been his method, there can be no question that Sullivan's expedition opened for settlement most of western New York.

Two groups directed their paths toward the head of Cayuga Lake in the decade following Sullivan's raid. In September, 1786, Robert McDowell, Ira Stevens, and Jonathan Woodward moved from Kingston, Pennsylvania, on the Susquehanna River near Wilkes-Barre, to Chemung, New York, west of Waverly. McDowell was born a Scotchman, and when very young had emigrated with his father to Pennsylvania. At the time of his northward movement, he was twenty-six years of age.

The following summer McDowell, Nehemiah and Charles Woodward (sons of Jonathan), Abram and Joseph Smith, and Richard Loomis traveled by way of Catherine, south of Watkins, to the present Ithaca valley, and put up a quantity of marsh hay, then returning to Chemung. That group came to Cayuga Lake several times in the succeeding years for the same purpose.

In April, 1788, eleven men from another Kingston, that city on the Hudson River, guided by two Delaware Indians, journeyed forth to explore for home sites the area west of the Susquehanna River. In this group were Jacob Yaple, Peter Hinepaw, and Isaac Dumond. The first named was twenty-eight years of age, of Dutch descent, married to Maria Dumond, sister of Isaac. Concerning Peter Hinepaw, we know only that he also was of Dutch extraction. Dumond's ancestors came from Holland, but were originally French Huguenots. The expedition returned to Kingston in about a month, and most of the members abandoned the project.

One year later, however, the men whose names are mentioned above decided to settle at the head of Cayuga Lake. Bringing with them John Yaple, then twenty-four years of age, a brother of Jacob, they arrived at the "Flats" in April, 1789, and planted corn upon the old Indian clearings. Hinepaw selected a cabin site just north of where University Avenue now touches Cascadilla Creek. Yaple and Dumond selected lands south of the Cascadilla, between the present line of State Street and the creek, near the so-called Cowdrey Estate.

Then, leaving John Yaple in charge of their crops, the original trio returned to Kingston and gathered their families and household goods, preparatory to permanent location on the present site of Ithaca. The party that left the Hudson River in August numbered nineteen persons: Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Yaple and three children; Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Dumond and three children; Mr. and Mrs. Hinepaw and five children; and Mr. and Mrs. John Dumond, brother and sister-in-law of the original pioneer. The trip was long and arduous, the travelers being encumbered with

household goods, sheep, cattle, and horses, and it took them over a month and a half to reach their destination. When at last they arrived at the head of the lake, log cabins were at once erected on the Yaple, Dumond, and Hinepaw sites, the latter being the first completed. Thus was a community born.

Very shortly after the settlers from Kingston, New York, had established themselves at the foot of East Hill, Robert McDowell, his wife, five children, and two servants, moved on from Chemung and settled on the present line of Seneca Street near its junction with Cayuga Street. With their advent the population of the little community was increased to about twenty-seven.

Other members of the original Kingston, Pennsylvania, party soon came to make their homes near or at the site of Ithaca. Captain Jonathan Woodward and his two sons, Sergeant Abram Smith, and Ira Stevens, were among the early arrivals. William Van Orman, George Sager, Nathaniel Davenport (of New Jersey), Isaac Patchin, Abram and Henry Markle, the Bloom family, and Francis King have been mentioned by writers as very early settlers.

Events to which we may lay the present imperfection of our record of those times were occurring at Albany. The personnel of the little community was upset completely when drawings for military lots took place in 1791. Each township was divided into one hundred sections, and a veteran was entitled to settle upon one and obtain title thereto within a period of three years. In 1792 this total period was extended by legislation to eight years. Few of the soldiers actually settled upon their lands, but many of those who were dwelling thereon became, in the eyes of the law, squatters; and as the patents were gradually sold to capital-

ists or pioneers who intended to settle, original settlers were dispossessed. The prices of these lots were ridiculously low, ranging from eight to thirty dollars apiece, but some of the settlers failed to purchase their homes promptly, while others lost their titles through imperfect communication which resulted in their failure to pay taxes promptly.

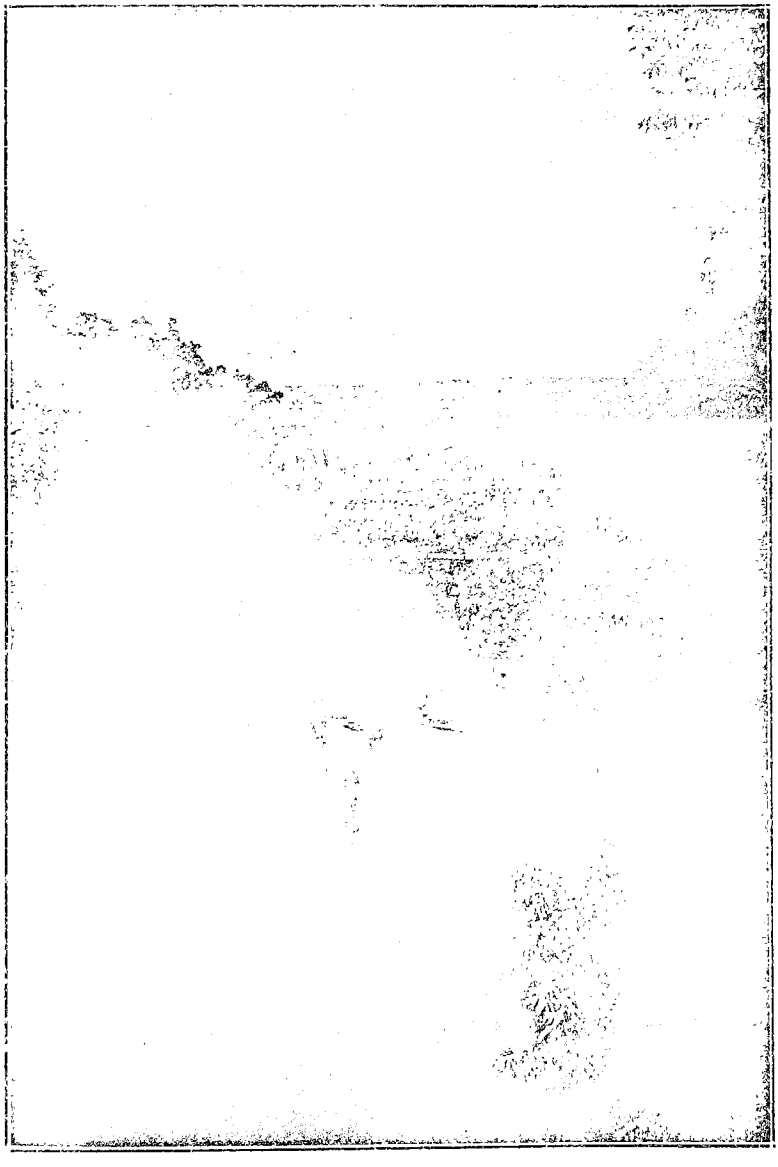
Thus by the end of the century many of the first settlers had moved on or changed location in the valley. The Woodwards left in 1793. The Yaples, Dumonds, and Hinepaws lost their lands in 1795 through nonpayment of taxes, it is said. The first two moved to Danby, while the third migrated to a site near Aurora. William Van Orman and George Sager changed locations, both of them purchasing sections from a veteran named Pangborn, in 1793.

The major portion of the valley was soon purchased by the surveyor-general of New York State, Simeon DeWitt, and by Abraham Bloodgood, his brother-in-law. Simeon DeWitt, a first cousin of DeWitt Clinton, governor of New York between 1817 and 1823, was a native of Ulster County, born December 25, 1756. His was one of the oldest families in the colony. He graduated from Rutgers in 1776, the second highest student in his class. A patriot battalion was organized in Ulster County in 1777, and DeWitt was made adjutant. He returned to the ranks when his battalion was amalgamated with another regiment, but his skill as a surveyor and geographer soon caught Commander-in-Chief Washington's attention, and in 1778 DeWitt was appointed assistant to Robert Erskine, geographer-general of the patriot army. Two years later, when Erskine died, DeWitt succeeded to the generalship. The importance of his work can be comprehended only

when it is remembered that warfare was being conducted on a comparatively new continent, through which passage was difficult and possible only by waterways or uncharted Indian trails. The young geographer had to work quickly and accurately to save the soldiers from needless loss of energy and to facilitate movements.

After the war, on May 13, 1784, DeWitt accepted the surveyor-generalship of New York State, to succeed General Philip Schuyler. In 1796 he declined Washington's offer of the position of surveyor-general of the United States. We do not know when he became interested in Cayuga Lake property but at some time between 1790 and 1800, probably after 1795, he made his first encampment on East Hill for the purpose of completing the official map of the region. He named the little settlement Ithaca, presumably because it was the center of the township of Ulysses, just as the ancient Greek Ithaca was the capital of Ulysses's realms. DeWitt later purchased Bloodgood's tract, thereby owning almost all of what is now within the city limits. He sent his brother, Moses DeWitt, to administer the property.

Only fragments of information remain to tell us of the history of this community in the last decade of the eighteenth century and the first of the nineteenth century. The first road from the outer world probably was begun by Joseph Chaplin in 1791, under contract with the state. When completed in 1795, we know that it extended from Dryden to "Keeder's Ferry," a point then near Ludlowville, and to Ithaca as well. Local historians maintain that the road extended east to Oxford, Chenango County. But in the transmission of information, through the decades, the road has become popularly confused with the



Photograph by J. P. Troy

A GLIMPSE OF ITHACA THROUGH CASCADILLA GORGE

Susquehanna-Bath (or Jericho-Bath) highway, built considerably later as an extension of the Catskill Turnpike, and our investigation of the matter leaves us convinced only that there was a rude highway through the forest to the east in the last decade of the nineteenth century.

Goodrich's *Centennial History of Dryden* adds the following to our knowledge of Chaplin's road:

"Mr. Chaplin was the first settler in the town of Virgil and we quote from Bouton's history of that town, pages 9 and 10, concerning him and his work as follows:

" 'To facilitate the settlement of this section of the country a road was projected connecting Oxford with Cayuga Lake, to pass through this town [Virgil]. Joseph Chaplin, the inhabitant, was intrusted with this work. . . . The work of cutting and clearing the road was done in 1793–4; so that he moved his family from Oxford over it in the winter of 1794–5, employing six or seven sleighs freighted with family, furniture, provisions, etc.

" 'But it seems that when he had completed the road as far as Virgil he was persuaded by some settlers from Kidder's Ferry to continue the road from Virgil through to that point, as it then contained more inhabitants than Ithaca.' Having done so he presented his bill to the legislature, which rejected it on the ground that he had not complied with the terms of his contract, which required the road to be built to Ithaca. He then returned, and in the year 1795 cut the road through from Virgil to Ithaca known as the "Bridle Road" and thus became entitled to his pay, the first road opened by him being known as the old State Road, extending between the towns of Dryden and Groton and through Lansing to the lake.'

"The foregoing is the version of this matter which has

appeared in local histories previously published, but it is now claimed with better reason as it seems to us, and more consistently with the conditions which are known to have then existed, that the 'Bridle Road' was the trial road first partly opened by Chaplin, and which the state government refused to accept because it did not terminate as required by contract at a point on Cayuga Lake, the early Ithaca settlement being at least a mile from its nearest shore. . . ." [1]

Travelers began to filter in along that route, and a few came by the long, slow water and portage route from the Hudson. Among these, a man called Lightfoot brought tea, coffee, crockery, earthenware, lead, and whiskey, and traded them for marten, otter, beaver, fox, bear, and deer skins in a shack which he erected probably on the banks of the Inlet. For about a decade this continued as the only mercantile institution of the immediate region.

John Yaple had erected the first mill, on Cascadilla Creek, above Hinepaw's cabin. It was capable of grinding twenty to twenty-five bushels of grain a day. Governor DeWitt Clinton later wrote of the operation of this mill by "one Hancock, a squatter," which may have been a misnomer for Yaple, and may have been the name of a subsequent occupant to whom credit for building the plant had been popularly given.

Clinton wrote, "On the north of this mount [East Hill] you see below a precipice of 100 feet, at the foot of which there passes a considerable stream. The remains of the first mill in this country are there visible. It is not much larger than a large hog pen, and the stones were the size of the largest grindstones. A trough led the water to the

[1] George E. Goodrich, *The Centennial History of The Town of Dryden*, pp. 9-10.

wheel. It ground about forty or fifty bushels a day, and was resorted to by people a distance of thirty miles." [1]

A complete mill was erected by Joseph Sidney on Fall Creek, at Forest Home, a few years later. Sidney, a settler, who arrived after the apportionment of lots, subsequently moved his establishment to Cascadilla Creek near the present East Ithaca Station of the Lehigh Valley Railroad.

Two baby girls, Sally and Polly Dumond, were the first children born in the community. The former, a daughter of John, came into the world on March 10, 1791; the latter, a daughter of Isaac, was born one month later. On August 25 of that year was born the first Ithaca boy, Henry, son of Jacob Yaple. The first marriage within the present limits of the city was that of Abram (son of Nathaniel) Davenport and Mary (daughter of Abram) Johnson.

From 1795 until 1810 there developed at the head of Cayuga Lake a typical frontier community, distinguished by no markedly unusual features. It was not until almost the end of that era that Ithaca was connected with commercial centers by dependable transportation routes, and the increase of population by New Englanders who sought new homes proceeded very slowly. The opening of the Genesee road in 1804 diverted much of the pioneer stream westward to the Genesee Valley.

No other road to Ithaca than "Chaplin's Bridle" was begun until 1804. Then there was chartered the "Bath-Jericho" Turnpike, an extension of the great Catskill Turnpike from the Hudson River. The new highway was built from Jericho (now Bainbridge) through Richford, Caro-

[1] W. W. Campbell, *The Life and Writings of DeWitt Clinton*, p. 161.

line, Slaterville, and Ithaca to Bath. For many years thereafter this was the leading road in central New York. In 1807 a charter was granted permitting the construction of a road from Ithaca to Owego, and soon thereafter contractors were working on a road to Geneva.

The first frame house is said to have been built for Abram Markle, on Cascadilla Creek, near Linn Street, in about 1800. Horace King, Ithaca's first historian, suggests that Markle for a short while may have conducted a general store in that building.[1] The enterprise must have failed, for several years later, Archer Green ran the place as a tavern, Ithaca's first inn. Then in 1805, Luther Gere, a leader among the early settlers who had helped build Markle's building, erected the first tavern intended for that purpose, on the southeast corner of Aurora and Seneca Streets. At about the same time, Jacob Vrooman built an "Ithaca Hotel" diagonally across from Gere's establishment. The next year a Dr. Hartshorn established an inn where the Cornell Library stands.

In 1809 Vrooman changed the name of the Ithaca Hotel to The Tompkins House (for Governor Daniel Tompkins of New York). Gere abandoned his inn and purchased a share of DeWitt's lot to build another Ithaca Hotel at the corner which is now the intersection of State and Aurora Streets. This was a predecessor of the hotel which bears that name today.

Before 1804 a frame store was being erected on the northwest corner of the Aurora-Seneca Street intersection. There David Quigg, who had carried on business for a few months in a cabin on Cascadilla Creek, traded imports for home products within a radius of about thirty miles. In

[1] Horace King, *Early History of Ithaca*, p. 15.

1804 Richard W. Pelton was appointed postmaster of the newly created Ithaca postal station.

Religious life in the town had not been entirely neglected. As early as 1793, a few of the settlers had met regularly at Robert McDowell's cabin for Methodist services. William Colbert of Pennsylvania preached the first sermon, and thereafter the Reverend John Broadhead came there irregularly to officiate. But the congregation survived only four or five years. The first permanent church was that of the Presbyterians, which incoming New Englanders organized in 1804. Two missionaries, Jedediah Chapman and Seth Williston, both of whom had preached in the community before that date, arrived in Ithaca on January 24 and organized the South or Second Presbyterian Church of Ulysses. (The First had its inception in Trumansburg the previous year.)

The Reverend Gerrit Mandeville, a cousin by marriage of Simeon DeWitt, came to the congregation as pastor in 1805. Where they first worshiped is not recorded—but we know that within the next three years District School No. 16 was erected on the present site of the High School, and the Presbyterians worshiped in the schoolhouse until 1816. Horace King says, "the first school teacher was a Mr. Howe."[1]

That self-education was recognized as important is evidenced by the fact that a public library with about three hundred dollars worth of books existed as early as 1807. These volumes later became the property of a literary society known as the Ithaca Lyceum. The Minerva Society of the Ithaca Academy later possessed the books, and we know that much of the academy collection was finally trans-

[1] *Early History of Ithaca*, p. 15.

ferred to the public library founded by Ezra Cornell. Could we identify them, we might find on its shelves today some musty, dogeared volumes that belonged to the city's first collection of literature.

Our record of Ithaca's infancy may be closed with quotations from the only first-hand records that we have from that period—documents oft reprinted in the annals of the city—invaluable as descriptions of the village approaching adolescence.

Simeon DeWitt in 1810 decided to make a permanent home in the community. From Albany he wrote on February 18:

"The place to which I purpose to go, when I have no business here, is a village of at least thirty houses, and fronts a plain of the richest lowlands. If I should live twenty years longer, I am confident that I should see Ithaca as important a place as Utica is now. Its advantages and situation cannot fail of giving it a rapid growth, and making it one of the first inland places of trade. There is now no place of its size in the country where there is such a stir of business. The principal inn—a considerable two-story house, besides another respectable tavern—was found quite insufficient for the business. When Colonel Varick and I arrived there, breakfast had been served for thirty people before we got ours. The landlord—a very respectable man—has last season built a three-story house for a tavern. I mention these things to show that what I have contemplated for my future residence is not a dreary, solitary country situation."[1]

On May 9 of that year, DeWitt was in Ithaca, and wrote:

[1] First appeared in King's *Early History of Ithaca*, p. 15.

"I find this village considerably increased since I was here before. I have counted thirty-eight dwelling houses among which are one large, elegant three-story house for a hotel, and five of two stories; the rest of one story—all generally neat frame buildings. Besides these there are a schoolhouse and buildings for merchants' stores, and shops for carpenters, cabinet-makers, blacksmiths, coopers, tanners, and we have besides shoemakers, tailors, two lawyers, one doctor, watch cleaner, turner, miller, hatters, etc." [1]

Governor Clinton, as a canal commissioner, toured the state in 1810. He reached Ithaca late in the summer, put up at the Ithaca Hotel, and in his journals observed:

"Ithaca contains a postoffice, two taverns, stores, tanneries, mills, etc. . . . and near fifty houses. The situation of this place at the head of Cayuga Lake and a short distance from the descending waters to the Atlantic, and about 120 miles to the descending waters to the Mississippi, must render it a place of great importance.

"The price of a barrel of salt at Ithaca is twenty shillings; conveyance to Owego by land, six shillings; from Owego to Baltimore by water, eight shillings. Allowing a profit of six shillings on a barrel, salt can be sent from here to Baltimore for one dollar per bushel. Packing salt sold there last spring for six shillings.

"Salt is taken down the country from this place by water as far as Northumberland, Pennsylvania, 150 miles from Owego. It is 120 miles from here to the headwaters of the Alleghany. There is no road but a sleigh road in winter by which salt is conveyed in small quantities; 3,500 barrels will be distributed from Ithaca this season.

"Flour will be sent from this place to Montreal, via

[1] Ibid., p. 16.

Oswego, or to Baltimore, via Owego. There is no great difference in the expense of transportation. It will probably seek Montreal as the most certain market.

"A boat carrying from 100 to 140 barrels will go to and return from Schenectady in six weeks. An ark carrying 250 barrels costs $75 at Owego. It can go down the river to Baltimore in 8, 10 or 12 days, and when there it will sell for half the original price. The owner, after vending his produce, returns home by land with his money, or goes to New York by water, where, as at Albany, he lays out his money in goods. The rapids of the Susquehanna are fatal to ascending navigation.

"Cattle are sent in droves to Philadelphia. Upwards of 200 barrels of beef and pork were sent from this place last spring, by arks, to Baltimore from Owego by Buel and Gere, and sold to advantage. . . ." [1]

An analysis of Clinton's estimate of Ithaca trade in 1810 shows it to have been based largely on possibilities and we may doubt that many merchants were prosperously emulating Buel and Gere at that time. Nothing that we know of the city in 1810 would suggest that it was a thriving commercial center. Rather are we inclined to think of it as a well endowed child among communities, ready to venture on in search of experience.

[1] W. W. Campbell, *The Life and Writings of DeWitt Clinton*, pp. 159-160.

CHAPTER IV

WATERWAY DREAMS

THE next era of Ithaca's history was to be shaped by the influence of waterways and water power. At first some men had dreamed of substituting fertile fields of grain for the thick forests of this inland valley. And so they had come from the older colonies east and south, cut down the trees, and planted corn and wheat. Then, that over-burdened home industry might be relieved of some of its responsibility for the essentials of life, a small community center of exchange had developed at the intersection of East Hill and South Hill. A few merchants brought in goods that could not yet be produced in the hamlet, and took in exchange for them the products of the frontier. A few mills ground the grain, that there might be bread in Ithaca.

The infiltration of settlers had continued; some coming to offer merchandise, some to offer services. The settlement of thirty-eight homes that dotted the land within three blocks in each direction from the old Ithaca Hotel was not unlike the communities that were to be found on the border line of civilization throughout the nineteenth century as the American frontier advanced slowly toward the Pacific Ocean.

But the War of 1812 was to give Ithaca indirectly a new significance and to stimulate its first advance toward a position of high importance among American communities. In the first place, gypsum, a lime compound then

used in the manufacture of fertilizing plaster, ceased to be shipped from Canada. Builders turned to the lime-laden Finger Lakes Region for their supply of this mineral. Thus, for the first time, Ithaca assumed importance as a distributing center of a needed commodity.

This war with England had an effect even more significant. Before the Revolution, a few dreamers had visualized an inland waterway which would aid in the development of middle western America. After the Revolutionary War more and more interest had been aroused in the construction of canals; and many plans by which Lake Erie and the Hudson River could be connected were advanced. It was not until the War of 1812 had proved conclusively the value of lakes and rivers for defense and trade, that popular enthusiasm was enlisted for the Erie Canal project. Legislation authorizing the construction of the Grand Canal was passed April 15, 1817, although all the New York City representatives were still opposed to it, and a few months later operations were actually begun.

In 1822 two hundred and twenty-two miles of channel were open to navigation. A year later the entire eastern section was ready. It was formally opened on October 8, 1823. N. E. Whitford wrote:

"In November, 1823, there arrived in New York a boat from Hector [1] at the head of Seneca Lake, which attracted considerable attention. She had come by way of Seneca Lake and Seneca River through a private company's locks at Waterloo, from a point seventy miles south of the Erie Canal and three hundred and fifty miles from New York. As an indication of the extent and importance of the bene-

[1] Until the erection of Schuyler County in 1859, the Town of Hector was in Tompkins County.

fits that would follow the opening of canals into the interior, this event was deemed worthy of notice, and her owners and navigators, two persons from Tompkins County, were given a public entertainment." [1]

The "private company" referred to above was the Seneca Lock Navigation Company. Southwestern and south central New York had not been slow to awaken to the advantages to be gained from water transport to the seaboard. They had not opposed the Erie Canal project but felt that they ought to have a "share in the pie." As early as 1813, the Seneca Lock Navigation Company, supported by the inhabitants of Tioga, Steuben, Ontario, and Seneca Counties, had petitioned and received a charter to connect Cayuga and Seneca Lakes by canal. The canal, the legislature dictated, should be "not less than seventy feet broad at the bottom or base, nor any lock less than seventy feet long between the gates." [2]

After some financial difficulties, the task of building the channel was finished in 1821. By following natural streams, craft then could reach the Erie Canal from both lakes. The improvements, however, were not adequate for the traffic, and in 1824 the inhabitants of Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Yates, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Cayuga, and Onondaga Counties petitioned the legislature for an official survey, preparatory to further improvements. They wanted to facilitate travel from Lakes Cayuga and Seneca to the Erie Canal at Montezuma. The canal commissioners proposed a route from Cayuga Bridge to Montezuma, which the legislature accepted, and the entire route of the Cayuga and Seneca Canal was completed on November 15, 1828.

[1] *History of New York Canals*, p. 115.
[2] Ibid.

Further improvements in navigation from Cayuga Lake to the Erie Canal were made in 1829. The state had purchased the stock, property, and privileges of the lock company in 1852. Meanwhile, the main canal from Lake Erie to New York City was ready on November 4, 1825.

We can realize the significance of these events to Ithaca only when we examine her progress from 1810 to 1820, and from 1820 to 1837. Roads to Owego and Geneva had been opened in 1811. These thoroughfares, the latter through the heart of the Finger Lakes Region, the former to the Susquehanna River providing water transportation to Baltimore, were increasingly traversed.

"It is said that as many as 800 teams have passed over the Ithaca and Owego Turnpike laden with Cayuga plaster in a single day." [1]

One of the newcomers, Jesse Grant by name, reopened the original Gere Hotel at Seneca and Aurora Streets. At about the same time, on the north side of State Street a few doors east of Cayuga Street, a Mr. Teeter was building a house that Grant was to take over later as Grant's Coffee House. In time this was to become a famous stage coach terminal. Captain Comfort Butler had a tannery at Buffalo and Aurora Streets, on the old north branch of Six Mile Creek, and Daniel Bates built a tannery the next year on the opposite side of the creek. Power for the latter plant was diverted from Cascadilla Creek, nearby, through a raceway extending down the side of East Hill. Bates' Tannery was later owned by Cooper, Pelton & Co., and still later by John Tichenor; but its date of demolition is unknown.

[1] H. P. Pierce and D. H. Hurd, *History of Tioga, Chemung, Tompkins and Schuyler Counties*, p. 408.

Then, in May of 1813, the demand for Cayuga plaster stimulated interest in power sites, and Phineas Bennett conceived that Fall Creek as well as Cascadilla might be of value for manufacturing purposes. There was more volume of water in the former, though the falls were inconveniently far away, then beyond the northern limit of the village. However, Bennett bought from Benjamin Pelton a large strip of his property at the north end of Military Lot 94, along the banks of Fall Creek Gorge.

A new industrial center thus had its beginning. Some time thereafter Bennett built a plaster and carding mill on his property. As early as 1817 he erected the first Fall Creek grist mill, southeast of the present Fall Creek Milling Company's plant, and probably in that year also he had a saw mill in operation.

The directors of the Bank of Newburgh, New York (an institution then four years old), decided to open a branch in Ithaca, and on April 18, 1815, incorporation papers were issued. A bank building was erected near the present Journal-News Block on State Street west of Cayuga, and the branch opened its doors in 1820. Benjamin Johnson, Joseph Benjamin, Levi Leonard, Calvin Burr, Herman Camp, and Charles Morrell were directors. In 1815, also, Jonathan Ingersoll founded the *Seneca Republican*, the first local newspaper and predecessor of the *Ithaca Journal-News*. In that year a Mr. Leslie built the first brick building, on State Street, near the present Cowdrey estate. Ackley and Hibbard, hatters, who had occupied a wooden building at Buffalo and Aurora Streets, moved into the brick edifice at once.

The next year was full of activity. Luther Gere returned to Ithaca from Cincinnati, where he had resided for

three years. Always a progressive citizen, Gere saw that the village had been making strides and lent his efforts toward increasing the rapidity of its growth. He repurchased the Ithaca Hotel from Elnathan Andrus, and began constructing another hostelry, that which was to be the Columbian Inn, at the northwest corner of Owego (now State) and Cayuga Streets. Gere also headed a movement to build a new and larger schoolhouse to replace the red frame building that had been erected in 1807. He was elected president of the branch of the Bank of Newburgh. His influence was lent to every worthy project suggested for the betterment of the village.

The fourth day of April, 1817, saw the creation of Tompkins County. Cayuga County had been subdivided from Onondaga in 1797 and Seneca from Cayuga in March, 1804. Tompkins, named after Governor Daniel D. Tompkins, newly elected vice-president of the nation, was created from parts of Seneca and Cayuga Counties. The township of Ulysses, in which Ithaca was located, had been successively a part of the above named civil divisions.

In 1817 the village numbered about 400 inhabitants.[1] The Reverend Mr. William Wisner arrived that year to take charge of the Presbyterian congregation. He seems to have had to contend with a very difficult situation. During their early days, frontier communities—and particularly those which the canal traffic touched—were rather rough places, the lawless element being strong and comparatively unrestricted. Dominie Wisner, as he was known, was a sincere, stern, and serious man and the godless wilder element determined to make him the butt of their pranks. On one

[1] *One Hundred Years of the Presbyterian Church of Ithaca*, 1904, letter from the Rev. Mr. Parker of Danby, p. 13.

occasion, after he had delivered a strong sermon on temperance, the rogues proceeded to hang the tavern sign upon the Reverend Mr. Wisner's front door.

To quote from a letter written by the Reverend Mr. Parker, pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Danby, at the time:

"There were but one praying man and two or three pious females in the village . . . and the church had little more than a name to live. . . . It had twenty nominal members, of whom one was a Swedenborgian preacher, and five were intemperate, and some others were so grossly immoral that six of the male members and two females had to be cut off from the communion of God's people. While this was the case within the pales of the church . . . there was a corresponding state of things in the community without. Sabbath breaking, gambling, horse racing, profane swearing, drunkenness and licentiousness were fearfully common. . . . The pillars of society . . . so far as pecuniary means were concerned, were gamblers, horse racers, Sabbath breakers, and some of them profane swearers. Two prominent physicians in the place would course their horses on the Sabbath in time of divine service, and in sight of the place of public worship. There was no public authority exercised in the place except by the so-called 'Moral Society'." [1]

We may well question the seriousness of the "so-called 'Moral Society'," though it probably yielded some good to the community during its years of existence. It began as a conception of Benjamin Drake, known to the members as "Tecumseh," and ended with Drake's death in the 'twenties.

Henry C. Goodwin wrote of the society, that it "claimed

[1] Ibid.

almost every right that despotism would dare to sanction or a crowned head would think to assume . . . the right to drench an offender with water . . . lasso the boaster . . . drag him hurriedly to the creek, and treat him with a cold water bath; to compel the 'ignorant or uncivilized' to run the gauntlet, the loafer to pass through a mock trial . . . the seizing of a drunkard and carrying him to close quarters, or conveying him to the care of eight or ten lazaronas who hesitated not to strip the unfortunate man of his clothing and exhibit him to the crowd. Woe to the unhappy wight of another town who became intoxicated and prolonged his stay until after nightfall. . . . He was sure to be conducted to safe enclosure . . . frequently with swine or cattle . . . to ruminate on his condition until the next morning." [1]

Goodwin proceeds to tell how they locked out-of-town inebriates in the hog pound on Aurora Street. On a Saturday night, in November, 1813, these outraged visitors gathered together for protection, and revenged themselves by locking in the pound four of the leading members of the Moral Society, Jesse Grant, Joseph Benjamin, Peleg Cheesebrough, and Zachariah Hogan. That group of civic reformers was found the following morning, bound and gagged, in their favorite incarceration house.

The Moral Society demanded tribute from every itinerant show that stopped in the village, and it went hard with the proprietor who attempted to give his performance without proper respect to Tecumseh and his followers. *The Castigator*, published in 1823, was more or less the official organ of Tecumseh. The sheet spared no one, and its admonitions were given prompt attention. For instance, a

[1] H. C. Goodwin, *Ithaca as It Was and Ithaca as It Is*, 1853, p. 14.

veiled hint is contained in the following quotation from its pages:

"When married gentlemen want to court girls so badly as to pass for widowers, I think they might as well leave their wives and go to some other country."

Again, the local inspector of pork and beef fell out in some way with the society, and Tecumseh ordered that the members might lawfully "speak to, trade with, and employ him in his official capacity of inspecting beef and pork and no further."

The Reverend Mr. Parker, in the letter quoted before, said, "The society existed in its full power at the time when the church received its second minister, and its credit in the village was such that it supplied the inhabitants with their small change by issuing its notes or 'shin plasters' as they were called."

While for the law-abiding section of the citizenry conditions were difficult, they could not have been hopeless, since we note that although a mob of the wilder element burned down the first schoolhouse in 1817, and thus deprived the Presbyterians of a place in which to worship, a new meeting house was erected in DeWitt Park by January 1, 1818. By 1820 Dominie Wisner had increased his congregation to 120; by 1827 to 478 members.[1] And Luther Gere's committee had succeeded in arranging by September, 1819, for the construction of a new school on the site of the old one.

In that year Otis Eddy and T. Matthewson started to build the first power mill as an addition to the Fall Creek industries. There was a new grist mill owned by a Mr. Robinson on Six Mile Creek, the exact location being lost to

[1] *Manual of the Presbyterian Church*, 1880.

record. The Tompkins County Medical Society was organized, and the first county courthouse, on the site of the present one, was completed.

With the Cayuga and Seneca Canal assured, Ithacans had given attention to their facilities for traveling on the waterway and on December 15, 1819, the Cayuga Steamboat Company had been incorporated, David Woodcock being president, Charles W. O'Connor, treasurer, Charles Humphrey, secretary, Oliver Phelps, agent, and James Pumpelly, Joseph Benjamin, Lewis Tooker, and Oliver Phelps, directors of the company.

In surveying the decade which ended January 1, 1820, we can see distinct growth in the settlements at the head of Cayuga Lake. In ten years the industrial centers had increased to three, one at the banks of Cascadilla Creek, one at the edge of Fall Creek Gorge, and a third group of factories on the north branch of Six Mile Creek, where it then crossed Aurora Street. Considerably more business was being done in the commercial district, between State and Seneca Streets or Aurora. The new paths of transportation had opened the way to many new settlers, so that in an 1820 census the population for the hamlet and its immediate environs was reported as 859 persons, all but five of whom were American citizens; ten of whom were engaged in agriculture, ten in commerce, and one hundred and forty-three in the manufacturing trades.[1] And now, with the launching of the first steamboat, a new development was to take place.

It was fourteen years after Robert Fulton had navigated the *Clermont* on the Hudson River that a steam engine built in Jersey City was brought to Ithaca for the *Enter-*

[1] D. Morris Kurtz, *Ithaca and Its Resources*, 1883, p. 54.

prise. The keel was laid by local builders, and the craft, a sidewheeler, made its maiden voyage from Ithaca to Cayuga Bridge on June 1, 1821. One hundred and fifty guests were on board for that trial trip, and the Genoa band joined the party at Kidder's Ferry. The voyage was made in eight hours.

We do not know when stage coaches first completed the route from Newburgh to Ithaca, but a line must have been established at that time, for we do know that Newburgh citizens were asked to subscribe for stock in the steamship company (and did so [1]) because they would benefit from the new extension of the stage lines. We have the following statement from a contemporary paper:

"The *Enterprise* is connected with the line of stages from Newburgh to Buffalo—and others going west, one of the most expeditious and pleasant routes in the state. The stage runs from Newburgh to this village in two days. The travelers may leave New York at five o'clock, P. M., in the steamboat (to Newburgh); the second day arrive at Ithaca; go on board the steamer *Enterprise* the same night; and rest in comfortable berths during the passage; resume the stage the next morning at Cayuga Bridge; and the same night arrive at Buffalo, making the whole route in three days—one day sooner than it is performed by way of Albany." [2]

As a sandbar obstructed the entrance to the Cayuga Inlet the steamboat landing was made at Port Renwick, at the southeast corner of the lake, near the park that so long bore that name. There probably was a hotel near Port Renwick at that time.

[1] Ruttenber, *History of Newburgh*, p. 121.
[2] *The American Journal*, June 7, 1821.

In 1820 George Blythe took possession of the Fall Creek grist mill, converting it into a wool carding factory. Down town, commerce began spreading westward on Owego (now State) Street, when J. S. Beebe opened a store at the Cayuga Street intersection, near the Columbian Inn. The Methodists, who had been meeting at the school house, then built the second Ithaca church building, on the corner of Aurora and Mill Streets. D. D. Spencer founded a newspaper, *The Ithaca Chronicle*, to rival *The American Journal*, which had succeeded *The Seneca Republican* in 1817. Toward the end of the year the inhabitants petitioned for incorporation, with legal standing as an American village.

The Town of Ithaca was subdivided out of Ulysses by a legislative act of March 16, 1821, and seventeen days later, on April 2, the village was incorporated by the state. This legal change gave the citizenry a local government of five trustees who could raise money for public buildings, establish fire and police protection, and serve other civic interests. In the same act the Cayuga Inlet was made a "public highway."

Daniel Bates was at once elected president of the village and William K. Collins, Andrew D. Bruyn, Julius Ackley, and George Blythe the other trustees. One of the first ordinances prohibited swine from running at large on the public streets. Other laws required the removal of rubbish; that buildings have leather buckets for fire protection; and the construction of a wooden aqueduct from Six Mile Creek to the corner of State and Tioga Streets. The aqueduct and the bucket ordinances were Ithaca's first civic attempts to combat fires.

On April 10, 1822, was incorporated a project that might seem to modern Ithacans one of the most interesting

developments of those early days. This was the Ithaca College, proposed by the Genesee Conference of the Methodist Church. This project is referred to in a later chapter.

In 1822 Andrew D. Bruyn, fourteen years later a United States congressman, became the second president of the village. Bruyn was one of the foremost early citizens, later a close friend of President Martin Van Buren, and for years judge of the county court of common pleas. His name figured prominently in most of the outstanding progressive local movements of the early nineteenth century.[1]

President Bruyn was succeeded in office in 1823 by ex-Congressman David Woodcock, another strong figure in state and national politics whose prominence in local affairs we have encountered earlier in Ithaca's development. In that year, on June 6, the village purchased its first fire engine at a cost of $300, and a fire company of twenty-four men was organized.

The Ithaca Academy was incorporated in 1823. Later that was the school at which many of the city's leading citizens were to receive their early education. At first it occupied the upper portion of the 1818 schoolhouse, the district primary school making its headquarters on the lower floor.

In 1824 the trustees were letting stalls in a 20 by 40 foot public market building, located at Tioga and Green Streets. After ten o'clock in the morning, each day, the stalls not in use by lessees were open for occupation by anyone with merchandise to sell. To the religious organizations of Ithaca was added an Episcopalian church which first opened on Christmas Eve. For a short while there appeared a new weekly magazine, *The Museum and Independent Courier*, published by G. H. Evans and L. B. Butler.

[1] Thomas Burns, *Initial Ithacans*, pp. 6–8.

Spafford's *New York Gazetteer* of 1824 indicates that Ithaca's population had nearly doubled in five years, the village inhabitants numbering 1,268. During the presidency of Ben Johnson in 1825, the entire Erie Canal was first in use, and in Ithaca, expansive activity was more pronounced than ever. The *Telemachus*, a second lake passenger steamer, was launched and the *Enterprise* was at once relegated to canal boat towing service. A steam towing craft was especially welcome to the shippers at that time. The *Enterprise* became too old for use and was abandoned west of the Inlet three years later.

The Presbyterian Church was enlarged in 1825, and probably that year the negroes first organized the St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church Zion. The district sold to the academy its interest in the school building and began constructing separate public school quarters on the northwest corner of Geneva and Mill Streets.

Progress continued when David Woodcock returned to the village presidency in 1826. The Baptists organized their first local congregation on October 18, at the courthouse. Otis Eddy moved up to East Hill, approximately at the present site of Cascadilla Dormitory, and he built a cotton factory of considerable proportions for those days. Solomon Southwick, in 1834, wrote of it as follows:

"You see on the hill east of the village a small group of buildings consisting of a cotton factory, a store, and about twenty dwelling houses which, for the sake of distinction, we shall call Eddy's Villa. In both buildings there are altogether 1600 spindles which turn out 1000 yards of cotton daily. There are seventeen families attached to these mills." [1]

[1] S. Southwick, *Views of Ithaca and its Environs*, p. 7.

The year 1827 inaugurated the most interesting decade of Ithaca's history, a period when no dream of civic greatness was too extravagant, no project too ambitious, no prediction beyond the possibility of realization. Men expected to gain great wealth from the increasing significance of water transportation, and anticipated its possession by fictitious over-valuations of anything that depended on the expansion of the village.

The decade of dreams began during the village presidency of another ex-congressman, Charles Humphrey, later appointed surrogate of Tompkins County and afterwards a member of the state assembly.[1] Early in the year 1827 Eddy's cotton factory opened. In November of that year Jeremiah Beebe purchased 125 acres of the Fall Creek industrial property, including the grist mill. At the same time the distillery was leased to Gere and Gunn for ten years. Ebenezer Mack gave his newspaper the new and more pretentious name *Ithaca Journal, Literary Gazette, and General Advertiser.* In that year also citizens began to insist on the development of a transportation link which would compete successfully with the proposed Chemung Canal.

A charter had been granted by the state for the construction of a canal from the foot of Seneca Lake to the Chemung River, thus connecting the Erie Canal system with the Susquehanna River waterway. In 1825 representatives from Tompkins and Tioga Counties had asked the state to build a canal which would serve a similar purpose from Ithaca, through the Six Mile Creek valley, to Owego.[2]

[1] Thomas Burns, *Initial Ithacans*, pp. 15–18.

[2] *Consideration of the Claims of the Southern Tier of Counties, Addressed to the Representatives of an Intelligent People*, pamphlet, Albany, N. Y., 1825.

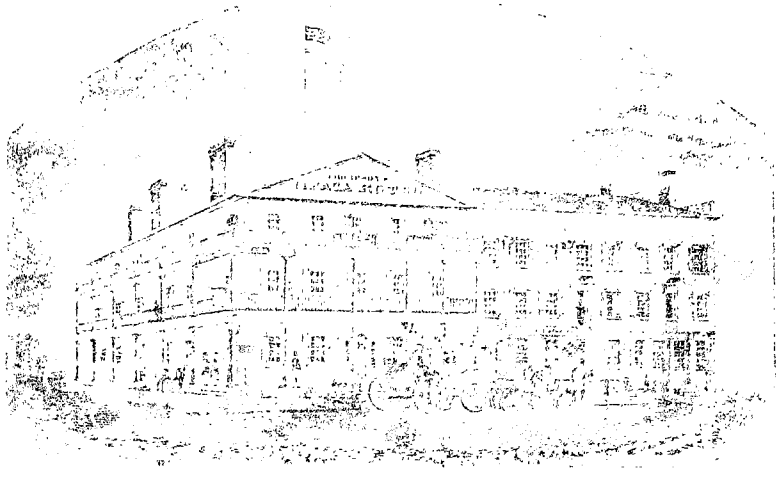
Although the latter route was nearly ten miles shorter than the one adopted, the state engineers had decided that topographical features made it less desirable.

A large portion of their trade thus being threatened, Ithacans decided to throw their fortunes with a recent invention, the railroad. We may sense something of the courage, initiative, and optimism involved in that decision when we remember that when it was made there were only two horse railways in operation in the United States, one three miles long near Boston, Massachusetts, and the other near Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania, covering a territory of nine miles. Carter, in his excellent history of early American railroads, quotes this comment on rail transportation by an early writer:

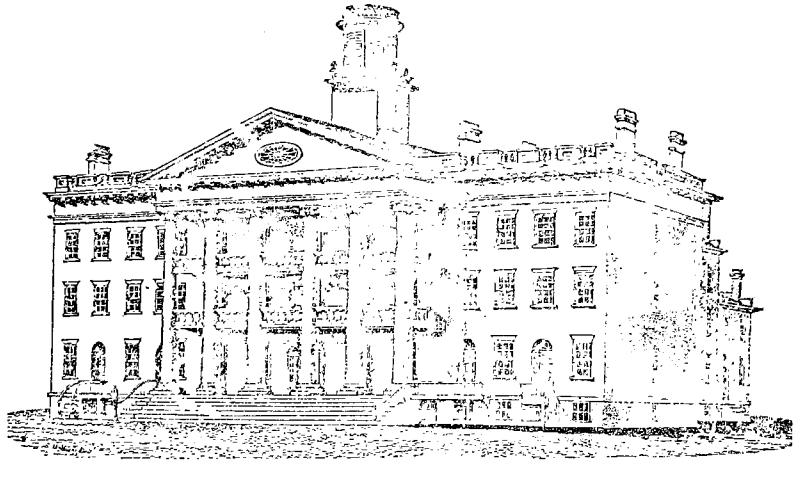
"Reader, how would you like to be put in a box like a coach or sedan, and dropped out of the window of the fifth or sixth flat of a house? Sixty-six miles an hour is the highest velocity attained by falling bodies in one hundred feet, and fifty-four miles an hour in falling sixty-four feet. Even supposing that means were found to abate one-half of the violent shock in stopping, enough remains to terrify considerate men from risking their persons in such species of conveyance. Till we have bones of brass or iron, or better methods of protecting them than we have now, it is preposterous to talk of traveling fifty or sixty miles an hour as a practical thing." [1]

Carter continues: "Most remarkable of all was the discovery of a new disease superinduced by rapid travel on the railroad. It was declared that it was a notorious fact that the brains of business men were so addled by the swiftness of the journey from Manchester to Liverpool or Lon-

[1] Charles Frederick Carter, *When Railroads Were New*, p. 10.



ITHACA HOTEL, 1841



CLINTON HOUSE, 1832 *Courtesy of Frank L. Morse*

don [1] that they often forgot what they went for and had to write home to find out. One elderly gentleman became so impregnated with velocity, as a result of a prolonged debauch in railroad rides, that he dashed head foremost into an iron post and shivered it to pieces, according to veracious authority." [2] Carter's use of the impersonal pronoun in this last sentence is a bit ambiguous.

Against these manifest dangers proponents of the plan pointed out, in the *Journal* of December 5, 1827, that one horse on a railway could draw as much weight as eight horses on the best constructed highway. A great annual income from exports was in danger of being lost to the Seneca Lake traders.[3] The average transportation cost to Owego would be reduced from $3 to $1.25 a ton. And finally, the leaders had written to Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania, inquiries concerning the success of "their railway." They received this reply from Josiah White: [4]

"We are . . . well satisfied with the railroad."

Therefore committees from Ithaca and Owego met at the house of Philip Goodman in the latter village, on November 30, 1827, and passed the following resolution:

"Resolved: that it is expedient to petition the legislature at its next session for an act of incorporation to a company with a capital of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars to construct a railroad from Cayuga Lake, at the town of Ithaca, to the Susquehanna River, at the town of Owego, and that Andrew D. Bruyn, Ebenezer Mack, Charles Humphrey, John R. Drake, and John H. Avery be a committee

[1] Steam railroad service had been operating in England for several years at that time.

[2] C. F. Carter, *When Railroads Were New*, pp. 10–11.

[3] *The Ithaca Journal*, December 26, 1827.

[4] *The Ithaca Journal*, December 2, 1827.

to prepare a memorial and take necessary measures for carrying this resolution into effect.

"Resolved: that Ebenezer Mack, Francis A. Bloodgood, and Levi Leonard of Ithaca, and John Drake, Stephen B. Leonard, James Pumpelly, and John H. Avery of Owego be a general corresponding committee on the subject."

Ebenezer Mack, through his newspaper, had led the movement to create the new transportation link. Something of his zeal and the local optimism are reflected in these lines printed in the *Ithaca Journal*, January 1, 1828.

> Beneath our feet the village lies,
> Above, around, on either side
> Improvements greet us far and wide.
> Here Eddy's factory appears,
> First of the hardy pioneers.
> Yes, Ithaca, where from this brow
> I gaze around upon you, now
> I see you not as first I knew.
> Your dwellings, humble, low and few,
> Your chimney smokes I then could count;
> But now my eyes cannot surmount
> The splendid walls that meet the eye
> And mock my early memory.
> Yes, village of the classick name,
> Wouldst thou had more of classick fame!
> Go on and prosper! There are still
> Plots to improve, and space to fill.
> With private zeal, and public spirit,
> No small proportion of your merit,
> Build railroads, canals, roads, and banks;
> Make money plenty, and my thanks
> At least you'll have.—May education
> Here also occupy its station.

The Ithaca and Owego Railroad was incorporated on January 28, 1828, receiving the second railway charter in New York State. It was capitalized at $150,000. The amount of trade that was to be protected by this highway is

reflected in the following estimate printed in the *Journal* during December of the previous year:

Year	Plaster Tons	Salt Bbls.	Pork Bbls.	Whiskey Bbls.	Flour Bbls.	Wheat Bu.
1815	10,000	3,000	300			
1816	6,000	4,000	450			
1817	6,000	5,000	500			
1818	6,000	6,000	2,000			
1819	5,000	5,000	1,000			
1820	5,000	5,400	850			
1821	4,500	5,300	740			
1822	5.000	5,600	1,000	400		10,000
1823	3,500	6,000	1,000	200		12,000
1824	3,500	2,200	475	450	200	3,000
1825	3,000	5,000	300	400	200	3,000
1826	2,500	5,500	150	500	300	3,500
1827	2,500	5,000	500	1,000	5,500	4,500

(Estimated by John R. Drake of Owego, in the *Ithaca Journal*, December 26, 1827.)

Once having taken the plunge, Ithacans decided to seek fulfillment of Ebenezer Mack's dreams. To complete a link with the eastern seaboard, and to divert Middle Western freight through Ithaca on its way to New York City, there was incorporated on April 21, 1828, the Catskill and Ithaca Railroad, capitalized at $1,500,000. On the heels of that project developed the Sodus Bay Canal dream.

It was proposed to build a deep waterway from Cascadilla Creek's intersection with Cayuga Street, through Cayuga Lake, via a portion of the Erie Canal, and directly therefrom to Sodus Bay, on Lake Ontario. Deep water ships were to convey the raw materials of the Middle West through the Great Lakes and canal to Ithaca, where local mills would grind the grain and finish the lumber, local factories would smelt western iron, and local tanneries would prepare frontier hides for merchandising purposes. There was very little skepticism that the vision would be realized. So confident did our forbears become that Henry Walton,

lithographing some views of the city in November, 1838, included the ships in one of his pictures. "The vessels are introduced," he said, "to shew the results of the Sodus Canal being complete according to plan." [1]

The newspaper industry expanded in 1828. The *Ithaca Chronicle* became the *Ithaca Republican,* and a new *Ithaca Chronicle* was founded. The *Journal* shortened its name to the *Ithaca Journal and Advertiser.* On May 12 the village trustees organized a second fire company, the original one being given the name Rescue Company No. 2, and the newcomer Red Rover Company No. 1. The construction of the Clinton House, a new hotel at Seneca and Cayuga Streets, was begun. The new district school opened its doors on October 9. Gordon's *Gazetteer* (1836) states that "in 1823 exports were 10,078 tons." [2]

The next year a census reported that the village population had grown to 3,592 persons, or nearly triple the number of inhabitants reported five years earlier. Much to the delight of all Ithacans, the state charter for the Sodus Bay Canal was granted on March 19. The project was capitalized at $200,000 and the work was to be finished within ten years.

Another state charter, that for the Bank of Ithaca, issued April 29, testified to the growth of local commerce. Ten thousand shares totaling $200,000, the authorized capital, were marketed within three days. Luther Gere was elected president, and Andrew D. W. Bruyn, Daniel Bates, James Nichols, Benjamin Drake, Jeremiah S. Beebe, Henry Ackley, Calvin Burr, William Randall, Stephen Tuttle, Jon-

[1] Subtitle on lithograph.

[2] Thomas F. Gordon, *Gazetteer of the State of New York,* 1836, pp. 730–834.

athan Platt, David Hammer, and Ebenezer Mack, almost all familiar figures in Ithaca's early history, were directors. Ancel St. John was cashier. The new institution bought the property of the old Branch Bank of Newburgh, and opened business almost at once.

Another boat, *The DeWitt Clinton,* was launched to supersede the *Telemachus* in passenger service, the older vessel entering the towing fleet. On East Hill, Otis Eddy opened a machine shop at his cotton factory, and as manager he hired a young man named Ezra Cornell, who had recently walked to Ithaca from De Ruyter in search of employment.[1]

Henry S. Walbridge was president of the village in 1829 and carried on a determined campaign to check the grocery store traffic in intoxicants which had prospered for some years. Canal travelers and boatmen especially were fond of hard cider and metheglin, a fermented beverage the basis of which is honey. As early as 1827 this notice had appeared in the *Museum:*

"The citizens of Tompkins County are requested to meet at the courthouse in this village Thursday the 10th, at 2 P. M. to take into consideration the subject of intemperance and adopt some prudent and temperate measure which will have a tendency to check this alarming and growing evil."

The presidency of John Holman (1830) was marked by a series of important internal improvements. Sidewalks were graded and graveled and beautification of the public square or DeWitt Park proceeded. A decided improvement in the Fall Creek properties began when the new landlord, Colonel Jeremiah Beebe, hired Ezra Cornell from Eddy's Villa to overhaul and repair the several mills.

[1] Alonzo B. Cornell, *Biography of Ezra Cornell,* pp. 43–48.

At the time, water power was supplied through a wooden flume which extended down the south bank of the gorge. That conveyor was a constant source of nuisance to owners, low winter temperatures freezing the water and breaking the flume. Accordingly, Cornell undertook the correction of this difficulty as his first task, and he excavated a tunnel through the rock, 200 feet long, 12 feet wide, and 13 feet high. Through this the water was diverted from the main stream to turn the mill wheels along its path. The tunnel is still in use, conveying water to the plants of the Fall Creek Milling Company, Ithaca Gun Company, and Read Paper Company.

The congregation of another church, the Reformed Protestant Dutch, organized on April 2 and the church building was completed twenty-six days later. Thirty-one members of the Presbyterian Church withdrew from Mr. Wisner's congregation to join the new organization. In June the Rev. Alexander Mann was called from the Graduate Theological Seminary to act as their first pastor. The opening of that church was followed in the same year by the erection of a new building for the Baptists, in DeWitt Park, where their church is now located.

Levi Leonard was president of the village in 1831 and he continued the progressive policy of his predecessor, appointing the first local board of health and the first village attorney, Derrick B. Stockholm.

During President Leonard's second administration, the impressive Clinton House opened its doors, early in 1832, appearing very much as it does now. It was regarded as one of the finest hotels west of New York City. On the site of Jacob Vrooman's old Tompkins House, a new one and one-half story inn was built. On April 9 of that year

another railroad, the Ithaca and Geneva, capitalized at $500,000, was chartered.

The board of trustees, under the presidency of Ira Tillotson, in 1833 continued its public works by assessing two days of highway labor against every male inhabitant. The city government instituted legal proceedings against the factory owners on the north branch of Six Mile Creek, declaring that their dams caused floods and were a public nuisance.

In April, 1834, during the presidency of Wait T. Huntington, the first train of cars made the thirty-three-miles trip by rail from Ithaca to Owego. This early railroad for many years attracted widespread attention because of the peculiar handicap that it overcame. Trains were windlassed by blind horses up from the valley on two inclined planes. The first rose a height of 405 feet in a lateral distance of 1,733 feet. The second, or upper plane rose 165 feet in a distance of 2,225 feet. The broad gauge rails were flat iron straps spiked to stringers. During these first years horses were the only motive power. Much of the traffic that had hitherto moved by road was now transported on the railway to and from the Susquehanna River. After the opening of the railroad the state granted a charter for the construction of a canal from the Fall Creek industrial section to the steamboat landing, at Port Renwick.

On January 1, 1834, the committee on commerce of Tompkins County estimated the total Ithaca exports and imports to be worth $1,648,404, many times John Drake's estimate six years earlier. Local trade had grown sufficiently to interest the state in Ithaca as a port. By an act of April 7, the legislature directed that the Inlet be surveyed and that a toll collector's office be established at

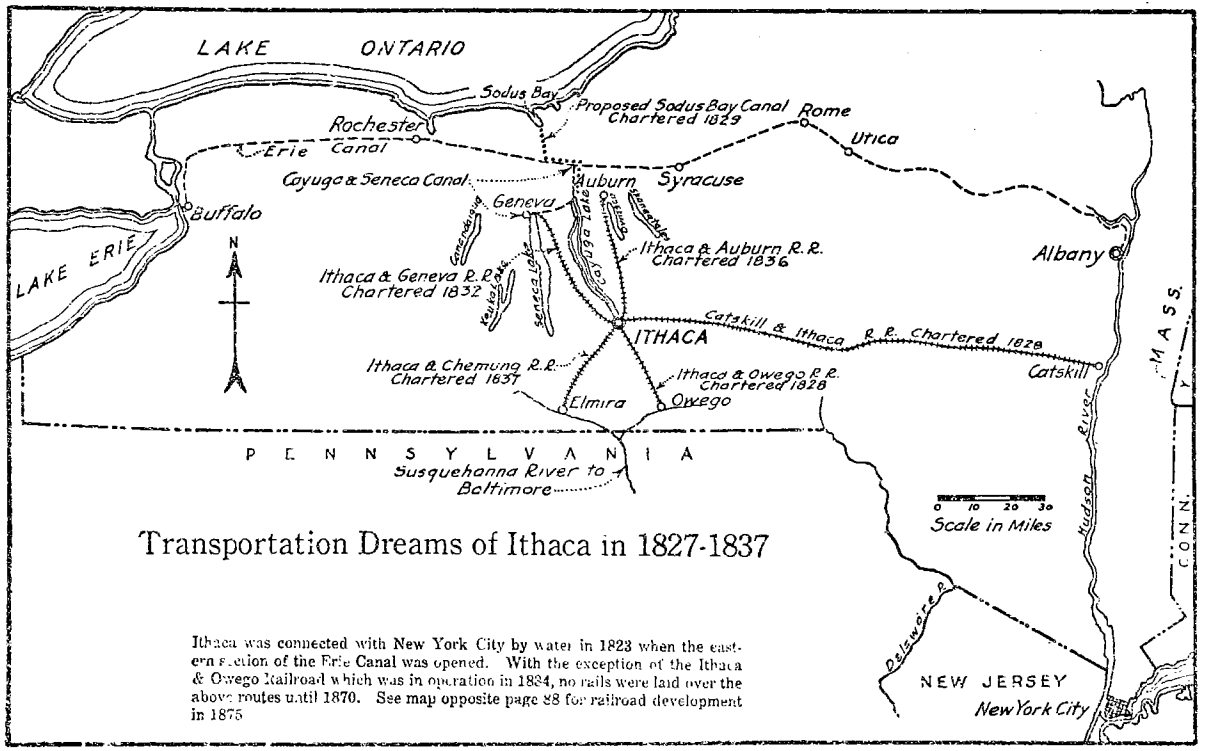
Ithaca. This office was to collect revenues from the Inlet only. To facilitate navigation another act, on May 2, directed that the Inlet be dredged.

The village charter was amended April 16, new provisions prohibiting the erection of wooden structures within one hundred feet from Owego or State Street. That ordinance for the purpose of further fire protection, indicated a distinct development in civic consciousness.

The president in 1835 and 1836 was Amasa Dana and in 1837, George P. Frost. In 1836 a railroad to Auburn was chartered and soon after a charter for an Ithaca and Chemung Railroad was issued. The state built a long pier on the west side of the Inlet. The legislature granted a charter for a second Ithaca bank, the Tompkins County Bank. The *Jeffersonian-Democrat* first appeared in 1835, shortly after the *Ithaca Republican* had discontinued.

Gordon's *New York Gazetteer,* in 1836, gave the village population as 3,923. Trade reached new peaks in the fall and winter of that year and early months of the year following. The DeWitt estate had been placed on the market, and parcels were changing hands at almost incredible prices. A piece of the estate that had sold for $4,676 in January brought $59,929 in July. Land quickly rose in price from twice to ten times its former value. The inhabitants believed firmly that the Sodus Bay Canal would be completed at an early date. In the *Journal* of January 11 it was announced that 1,400 acres of land had been purchased for a terminal at Sodus Bay—and that all the stock in the company had been subscribed for. The article said:

"We are glad to state that effective measures have been taken for the speedy and substantial completion of this important work."



Transportation Dreams of Ithaca in 1827-1837

Ithaca was connected with New York City by water in 1823 when the eastern section of the Erie Canal was opened. With the exception of the Ithaca & Owego Railroad which was in operation in 1834, no rails were laid over the above routes until 1870. See map opposite page 88 for railroad development in 1875

On February 15 it was announced that construction of the first six miles of the canal would begin immediately. Boats, it was predicted, would be able to complete the passage from Ithaca to Lake Ontario in seven or eight hours. General Joseph K. Swift had been appointed as chief engineer, and General W. W. Adams as commissioner.

"With a railroad from here to New York and from this place to the Pennsylvania coal mines, who can compete with us as a commercial depot for northern and western trades?"

The Sodus Bay Ship Canal was never built. Neither were the Ithaca and Chemung Railroad, the Catskill and Ithaca, nor the Ithaca and Port Renwick. No trains were to run from Ithaca to Geneva or Auburn for over thirty years. It was Ithaca's great misfortune that her most ambitious dreams were fostered when the nation's financial system was tottering. Banks throughout the states had floated insecure paper currency. The United States Bank, which had required that notes be returned to their source for redemption within a reasonable period, came under the mistaken suspicion of President Jackson and the Democratic party. By order of the president, in 1833, the secretary of the treasury had ceased to deposit government funds with the bank. Inflation was more pronounced than ever before and specie was almost out of circulation.

When in 1835 the national debt had been extinguished, congress believed that the surplus of that year would increase annually. It voted, in June, 1836, to transfer to the states about $36,000,000. But the money for this purpose had to come from government deposits with local banks, and none of them was in a position to meet the obligation. As the news spread, early in 1837, depositors hurried to call for their funds. A national panic was in process

In April, 1837, the *Ithaca Journal,* then a Democratic organ, took cognizance of the situation, but refused to accept it as seriously as did its contemporaries in New York City and elsewhere. But on May 17 appeared the ominous notice that banks, throughout the country, were suspending specie payments. Ithaca banks did not go under, but suspended specie payments with the others.

Fictitious property values were first to tumble. At once, the lots that had been purchased for many times their worth became almost valueless. Trading came to a standstill. Funds for the proposed transportation routes were out of the question. Eddy's cotton mill was abandoned in 1839. For some years, other mills stood practically idle. Dozens of projects were swamped in the general cataclysm. For the time, Ithaca was practically bankrupt.

CHAPTER V

THE RAILWAY WEB

DURING five years following the catastrophe of 1837, Ithacans struggled to recuperate from the calamity which had prostrated them. The period of prosperity, tremendous as it had promised to be, had not lasted sufficiently long to enable any of the new enterprises to become firmly established. Some of the older and formerly most prosperous industries which endeavored to go forward against terrific odds were halted.

The little community might have recovered rapidly if canal transportation had not already reached and passed its zenith. Ithaca had risen on the crest of the wave of prosperity generally attendant upon the development of inland waterways, but iron monsters on rails were beginning to challenge the canal boats for valuable shares of the nation's traffic. The silence and neglect of Ithaca's docks and piers today is duplicated at hundreds of inland ports throughout the country. On the great Mississippi or along the Illinois and Ohio Rivers exist hundreds of starved and desolate villages whose only glory is their distant past before the merry floating pageant forsook them. Fortune was to be kinder to Ithaca, by providing other paths of development, but between the panic of 1837 and the Civil War the community was to watch great trunk lines of railroad spread through other valleys and gradually appropriate the local traffic.

The first competitor to the Ithaca waterway route was the Erie Railroad. It had been organized at a convention in New York City on August 9, 1833, to connect the Great Lakes with New York Harbor; and its route followed the southern boundary of the state. For topographical reasons, and because the ill-fated Catskill and Ithaca Railroad had already been chartered, the Erie avoided the Cayuga Lake Valley. In 1841 the first trainload of passengers was taken to Ramapo, in Rockland County. The road was completed to Corning, December 31, 1849; two years later on May 15, to Dunkirk on Lake Erie.

Another competitor for coast-to-lakes traffic was the great New York Central system. Independent companies, between 1836 and 1842, had built tracks from Schenectady to Buffalo, through Utica, Syracuse, Auburn, and Rochester. These roads, totaling 342 miles of track, were consolidated in 1853 as the New York Central Railroad.

It is interesting and somewhat strange that the first new enterprises to get under way in Ithaca after the panic were two banks. With all the existing banks of the state relieved of their obligation to make specie payments, the Tompkins County Bank in 1838 first opened the doors of the building that it occupies today. On April 18 of that same year Timothy S., Josiah B., and Manuel R. Williams obtained a charter for the Merchants' and Farmers' Bank. They began business almost at once at the residence of Timothy S. Williams, on the northwest corner of Owego and Albany Streets and at the same time they contracted for the construction of permanent banking quarters nearby.

The panic and general stagnation of trade caused a cessation of activities at Jeremiah Beebe's mill. It was sold

in 1838 to Horace Mack and John James Speed, who for one year endeavored to succeed as millers. They built a new storehouse at the steamboat landing. History is not quite clear whether Ezra Cornell stayed to work for them or not, but we assume that he did for he was in Ithaca in 1838 and was a candidate for a trusteeship in the elections of that year. Incidentally, he was the only Whig who failed to be elected.

In one way it was fortunate for Ithaca that Mack and Speed failed to weather a second lesser panic in 1839. The mill was sold to the Ithaca Falls Woolen Manufacturing Company, which remodeled it entirely, introducing fabric production machinery. The change deprived Ezra Cornell of employment and caused him to leave Ithaca in 1841 to sell an improved plough in Maine and Georgia. Thus did the failure of Mack and Speed throw Ithaca's benefactor on the path to success.

Meanwhile like the discharge of explosives on a recently deserted battlefield came the reports of successive industrial failures. The career of Eddy's cotton factory on East Hill came to a close during the third presidency of Amasa Dana, in 1839. This mill and machine shop of which Ithaca had been so proud stood idle for twenty-seven years thereafter. But the most disheartening of the failures was that of the Ithaca and Owego Railroad, in 1842.

That crude little transportation system was Ithaca's monument to its era of hopefulness and prosperity. Its construction had been fostered by local leaders and on it they had pinned great hopes of importance. But they had borrowed $300,000 from the state to build it, and the depression following 1837 so reduced trade that they could not eke out enough revenue to make interest payments. In

default thereof, the mortgage was foreclosed by the state on May 30, 1842, and the road was sold to Dwight McIntyre and his associates.

However, it was soon seen that this change was to the advantage of all concerned. When the new owners had incorporated as the Cayuga and Susquehanna Railroad Company they set out to improve service. Acting on a permit which had been granted by the village trustees in 1840, they laid rails down to the mouth of the Inlet, reaching the steamboat landing which was then at the state pier. They installed a stationary engine to supplant the blind horses that raised trains from the valley to the summit of South Hill. And finally—the date is not known—a suitable railroad engine drew trains from the inclined planes to the Owego terminal.

Earlier attempts to replace horses as the motive power had failed. Three years before McIntyre's purchase, an engine brought from Schenectady had proved too light for the weight of an average train. On one occasion southbound passengers were obliged to push the train for some miles to reach Owego. A new engine, which supplanted the first one soon thereafter, was found to be too heavy for the strap rails and wooden bridges. The straps had rolled up and pierced the floors of the cars, and finally a bridge had given way under the burden.

When the Cayuga and Susquehanna Company had completed its improvements, an increasing number of transients entered Ithaca by rail and transferred by lake steamers at the pier, to journey westward via stage coach, canal packet, or, somewhat later, via the New York Central Railroad, at Cayuga Bridge. To supply the increased service thus demanded from the floating carriers, there arrived at

Ithaca, in 1841, Captain Timothy D. Wilcox, a Long Island Sound navigator who had commanded the *Robert Fulton.* The newcomer soon purchased the interests of the Cayuga Steamboat Company, and at once added two new vessels to the fleet, the *Simeon DeWitt* and the *Forest City.*

During the period of depression so many buildings stood idle that there was constant danger of a general conflagration in the village. In June, 1840, the buildings on the north side of Owego Street, from Aurora Street west, burned to the ground. During Benjamin Ferris's presidency, the next year, $1,200 was invested in a new fire engine but it was of little avail on Sunday night, July 24, 1842, when, in the presidency of Henry S. Walbridge, another fire destroyed a large number of buildings on the south side of Owego Street. Because of these calamities it was a terrified and saddened populace that, in 1842, welcomed the national bankruptcy law. Many Ithacans took advantage of it, and at last business began to recover.

Indications of a return to economic stability during the next decade gradually manifested themselves in the resumption of activity at the old factories and in the development of local improvements. During the presidency of John James Speed the present city hall was opened in December, 1843. Timothy S. Williams was the first president to hold office in the new headquarters. During his three consecutive terms, the construction of streets was resumed; the village cemetery was surveyed, mapped, and improved; and Mr. Williams himself built a new grist mill on Cascadilla Creek. The old DeWitt grist mill was purchased by the Williams interests to serve as a plaster factory.

The young plough salesman, Ezra Cornell, for whom there had been no place in local industry, was soon to be-

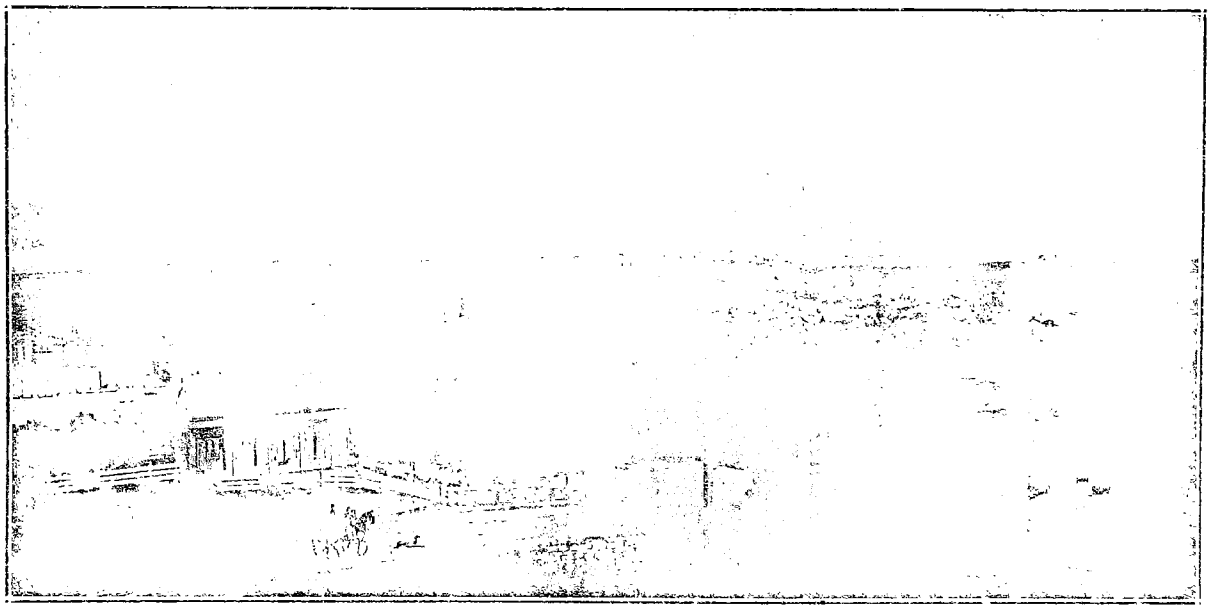
come Ithaca's leading citizen. He had journeyed to Maine in 1842, and in the autumn of that year he had gone on to Georgia to interest southerners in his new plough. Inadequacy of transportation had compelled him to walk about 1,500 miles. His trip was not very successful, and after returning to Ithaca for a short period, he went again to Portland, Maine, in July, 1843.

There Ezra Cornell chanced to meet an individual who sought a kind of a scraper or machine for digging a ditch "that will leave the dirt deposited on each side, convenient to be used for filling the ditch by means of another machine . . . for laying our telegraph wire underground." [1]

That seemingly unimportant meeting was, as we shall see, the turning point in Cornell's career and probably likewise in the history of Ithaca. The man whom the young Ithacan nad met, Robertson by name, had contracted to lay a wire for Samuel Finley Morse, inventor of the telegraph. Cornell was ingenious enough to produce the needed machine which, when completed, was tested under the observation of Morse himself, in August, 1843.

The great inventor became interested in Cornell, and persuaded him to abandon his plough business and to take charge of laying the Baltimore-Washington wire. The story of that work, filled with evidences of the ingenuity and perseverance of the young superintendent, is no part of the history of Ithaca, and in any event, it is too long for these pages. The completed telegraph was judged a success. Congress, however, deemed it too expensive a medium of communication to purchase, and so Cornell and his associates were obliged to seek private capital for their enterprise.

[1] Alonzo B. Cornell, *Biography of Ezra Cornell*, p. 73.



Lithograph by Henry Walton *Courtesy of Lincoln E. Patterson*

ITHACA IN 1839, FROM CLIFF STREET

He visited his family in Ithaca in the summer of 1845, and then engaged himself in telegraph development. In that year New York City and Philadelphia were connected and an Albany-Buffalo line was laid. In 1846 the latter was extended to New York City. Ezra Cornell's success was Ithaca's eternal good fortune. From the first he never forgot his adopted home, and the Buffalo to Albany line was hardly under way before its builder saw to it that a branch of the telegraph was extended through Auburn to Ithaca. Thus, in 1846, the village was connected with the outside world by the fastest means of communication then known, and the weekly newspapers were already issuing special broadsides with the latest telegraphic news.

The Nathan T. Williams administration, in 1847 and 1848, proceeded to make up for lost time in public improvements. Owego Street was planked from curb to curb, from Aurora Street to the Inlet. Other streets were opened, extended, or improved. Washington Park was taken over by the trustees for control, improvement, and public use. Wages of laborers were increased in 1847 from six to nine "York" shillings per day. The board of trustees assessed property owners 10,000 days of work for highway improvement.

The village elections went Whig in 1849 and Frederick Deming, one of the pioneers in the Fall Creek industries, was elected president for that year. His administration, continuing the progressive policy of the previous two years, gave to Henry W. Sage permission to bring pure water into the city.[1] The first Ithaca speed law was passed, imposing a fine of $10 for fast driving on newly planked Owego Street.

[1] Thomas Burns, *Initial Ithacans*, p. 67.

Horace Mack, Benjamin Ferris, Anson Spencer, and Philip J. Partenheimer served successive terms as president between 1851 and 1855. Partenheimer's presidency, in 1854, saw the completion of a new central public schoolhouse, and the present county courthouse and jail. The old school at Mill and Geneva Streets had become hopelessly inadequate to the demands upon it, for it seated only about one-half of the 2,000 eligible pupils. In the new edifice the grade system was at once substituted for the archaic Lancastrian "forms."

Two fires at about that time seriously retarded the development of the Fall Creek industrial section. A new mill devoted to the production of wrapping paper had recently been built by Mack and Andrus when their older or "lower" building burned to the ground in 1846, causing them to manufacture their necessary white paper at Free Hollow, now Forest Home. Dissatisfied with this plant, in 1852 they returned to their old site and rebuilt the lower factory, the "white paper mill," at Fall Creek.

A fire in 1851 burned the oldest Fall Creek factory. The Woolen Manufacturing Company had enlarged that building to five stories, put in a great amount of expensive machinery, and placed stock in large quantities among local citizens. But the company was poorly financed and had begun to operate during the worst of the depression, so that its ledgers never showed a profit. Operations had ceased at the plant some time before its destruction. Four years after the woolen mill had burned, Judge Henry S. Walbridge erected on its site a larger flour mill, which, unsuccessful under his ownership, passed in 1862 through the hands of Ezra Cornell to those of A. M. Hull. In 1926, some time after his death, it was sold to Cornell University.

In 1849 New York capitalists purchased and rebuilt the Cayuga and Susquehanna Railroad. In the fall iron rails were laid from the old windlass station through to Owego; and the next spring they replaced the old inclined planes, following the present switchback route along the side of South Hill. Probably this improvement was initiated by a new development of Pennsylvania coal mines, beginning at about that time. Anthracite coal was coming into use in factories to replace other fuel; and mine operators were finding that the cheapest way of shipping the former was by way of Owego to Ithaca, where it could be loaded on boats for points on the canal. Suitable facilities for the transfer were constructed at the Inlet.

Thus was provided a temporary compensation for the local loss of trade to the Erie and New York Central Railroads, until the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western finally obtained control of the Syracuse, Binghamton, and New York and the Oswego and Syracuse lines, and shipped by those routes part of the coal that had gone via Cayuga Lake. Meanwhile the coal traffic through Ithaca was enormous, as we may gather from the following statement printed in 1860:

"During the past few years, the coal trade (from Scranton and Lackawanna through Ithaca and Owego) averages 90,000 tons per annum." [1]

In 1847 the legislature had appropriated $1,500 to keep the Cayuga Inlet clear for vessels drawing five feet of water. Recognizing that the traffic thereon was increasing, in 1852 they placed such portions of the Inlet as were subject to canal tolls in charge of canal commissioners. The village prior to that time had built swing bridges.

[1] J. H. French, *Gazetteer of New York State*, 1860, p. 657.

The Lackawanna Railroad, which was bringing a large portion of the coal traffic to Owego, decided to lease the Cayuga and Susquehanna line and they obtained a ninety-nine year title on January 1, 1855. They have since purchased a majority of the Cayuga and Susquehanna stock. To control the last transit link up to the New York Central at Cayuga Bridge the railroad also bought Captain Wilcox's steamboats. The *Simeon DeWitt* was renamed the *William L. Dodge,* in honor of a Lackawanna director, and Ithaca boat builders were instructed to build the *Emily McAllister* and the *Beardsley,* both of which cruised on the lake for many years. But evidently the new owners did not find the operation of steamboats profitable, for in 1856 they sold the vessels back to Captain Wilcox. The old navigator built the *Kate Morgan,* another passenger steamer, in 1856.

It was an era of invention and improvement. The telegraph, with its news of the world, had knitted the American towns more closely together and in 1846 had given Ithaca a place in the great American community.

Seven years later the glare of gas light gave a new aspect to the village. On June 8 foundations were laid for the first four buildings of the Ithaca Gas Light Company, and residences and stores were first lighted on Saturday evening, November 9. Before the end of the year the construction of street lights was almost complete.

The action of the board of trustees in 1849, permitting Henry W. Sage to bring pure water into the village, bore fruit in 1853 when Henry W. Sage, Alfred Wells, Joseph E. Shaw, Charles E. Hardy, and Anson Spencer incorporated as the Ithaca Water Works Company. They delivered into the valley an inadequate supply of water from springs

near Buffalo Street. Both the gas company and the water works later passed into the hands of members of the Treman and King families.

The year of the inception of the water works and the gas company saw the beginning of what was later to be one of Ithaca's best known industries. J. H. Hawes obtained a patent for one of the earliest known calendar clocks, a deficient model in that it did not register the quadrennial twenty-ninth day of February. In 1854 W. H. Akins of Caroline remedied that defect and others, and sold his rights to Huntington and Platts, Ithaca manufacturers. Not long thereafter, however, the industry moved temporarily to Plymouth Hollow, Connecticut, then the home of the Seth Thomas Clock Company, which bought out Huntington and Platts.

The state census of 1850, reported more accurately than its predecessors, revealed the check which the growth of Ithaca had suffered. Increasing threefold between 1825 and 1835, after the opening of the canal, it grew from 3,923 to 4,908, or less than twenty-five percent, in the next twenty years. Since more than ten percent of the inhabitants in 1855 were Irish, and probably newcomers, it seems probable that many native Ithacans had migrated to the West during the period of depression after the panic.

From the census of 1855, when for the first time the birthplace of the native Americans was recorded, we learn that most Ithacans not born in the county had come from Connecticut, New Jersey, or the New York counties along the highways from those states. The Connecticut migration took place, on the whole, earlier than that from New Jersey.[1]

[1] Oliver F. Emerson, *The Ithaca Dialect*, 1891.

During an era of intense religious interest throughout the nation in the 'fifties, local attention centered on the erection of new churches. First in this activity was a group who built a second Methodist church in 1851, known as the Seneca Street Methodist Episcopal Church. The Catholics in the same year built the Church of St. Luke, a frame building on Seneca Street. In 1853, in the ministry of the Reverend William Neil McHurg, a new building supplanted the older Presbyterian edifice. A year later the Baptists built their second church on the east side of DeWitt Park, replacing one destroyed by fire.

In 1857 a group of negro Methodists broke away from the A. M. E. Zion congregation, and erected a Wesleyan (colored) Methodist Episcopal Church on North Albany Street. That year Unitarian worshipers were granted use of the City Hall at five dollars a day. Three years later at Geneva and Seneca Streets, a new Catholic church, the Church of the Immaculate Conception, replaced the Church of St. Luke. At about the same time the Episcopalians erected their present place of worship at Buffalo and Cayuga Streets.

In 1857 there occurred one of the most unfortunate events in local history. On a sultry day in June "the windows of heaven were opened" and "waters prevailed" in the valley. John H. Selkreg describes Ithaca's worst flood in the following passages:

"Previous to the 17th of June of that year there had been constant yet moderate rains, which filled the streams to a somewhat unusual degree. About 12 o'clock, noon, of the day last named, a fearful thunder storm arose, and an immense bank of low lying clouds passed over the village and settled in the Six Mile Creek valley, where it remained

for four hours, discharging terrible sheets of water. The stream in the valley . . . swept away dams, the accumulating waters reaching Ithaca about seven o'clock in the evening.

"Halsey's mill dam, just east of the present electric power house, succumbed to the pressure, crushed the plaster mill, swept out the foundations of the grist mill, and carried two barns on the flood down against the stone arch bridge on Aurora Street, where they were crushed like egg shells. This bridge had a height of about twenty-two feet and a span of nearly thirty feet, with a race waterway on the north side of the main structure. Stoddard's tannery, above the bridge, on the north side of the stream, was swept away, as were also the creek banks on South Tioga Street, near to the line of Green Street. Before the stone bridge gave way, at eight o'clock, the water flowed down State Street, floated off the planking, filled all the cellars in the main part of the village, swept down Aurora Street, and spreading out, finally reached the lake." [1]

Three men were drowned in the torrent, and numerous other individuals were endangered. Every bridge across Six Mile Creek was swept away, and for a considerable period crossings were made by small boats only. Property valued at about $100,000 was destroyed. Buildings, machinery, and animals were disentangled from the wreckage many months later. Parts of the village were under water until the following November.

As is so often the case, the shock of this catastrophe brought forth those two great contrasting human forces, altruism and selfishness. There were many Ithacans who went energetically to the task of aiding those who had

[1] John H. Selkreg, *Landmarks of Tompkins County*, p. 139.

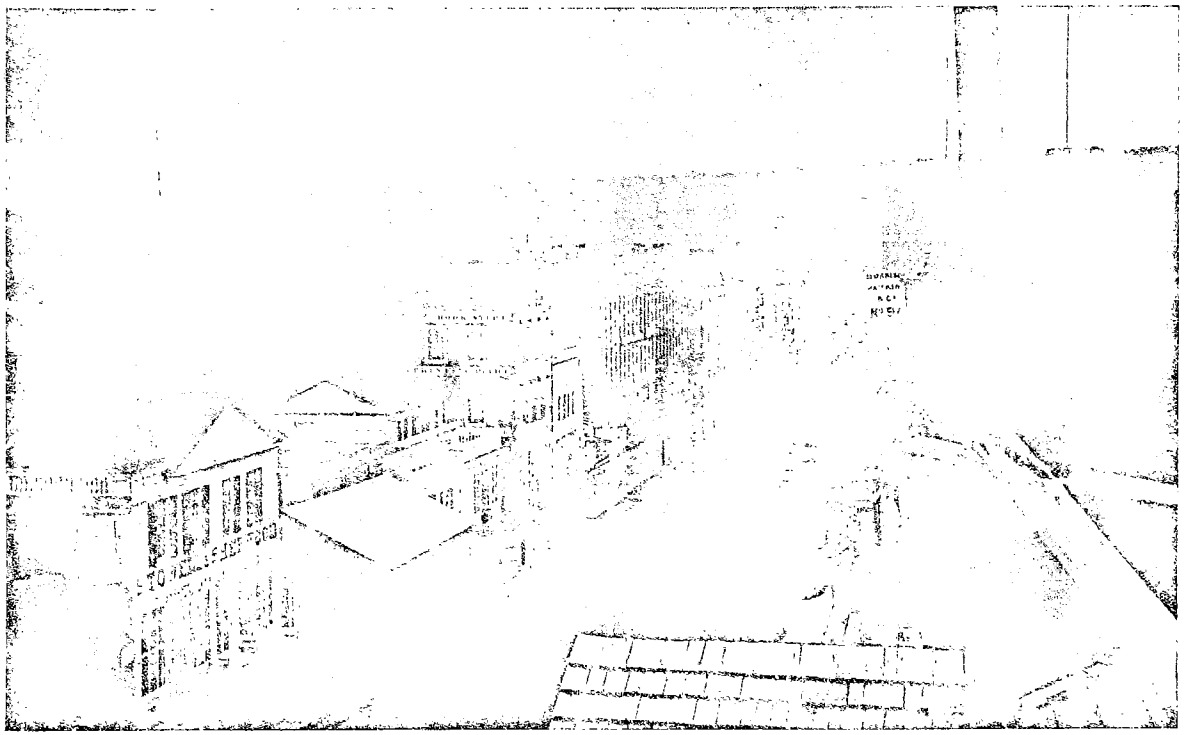
suffered. The board of trustees appointed a committee to solicit provisions from unaffected neighboring towns for the suffering poor. Wealthier citizens contributed generously from their store of resources.

On the other hand, during Thomas P. St. John's administration in 1859, the village was very nearly bankrupted in vicarious indemnity for the damage to certain State Street properties. A merchant brought suit for the amount of his property loss, and had he won a favorable verdict a series of similar litigations was expected to follow. Fortunately for the population as a whole the board of trustees was successfully defended, and the matter went no further.

The old adage that "it never rains but it pours" was confirmed once more three months after the flood, when another national panic took place. While Ithaca did not suffer as much or for nearly as long in 1857 as it had twenty years earlier, the banks suspended specie payments for a while, adding to the general distress of the population.

The administrations of Dr. Charles Coryell, 1858, Thomas P. St. John, 1859, George McChain, 1860, and Elias Treman, 1861, were active in the pursuit of public works. Lower Owego Street was macadamized (Geneva to Fulton); the village cemetery was enlarged; a code of laws governing the fire companies was adopted, and a board of fire engineers created; and perhaps of primary importance, in 1860 it was made obligatory upon property owners to clean every Saturday morning the streets abutting on their lands.

Remembering the disaster of 1857, four years later the board of trustees appointed a committee to superintend the draining of marsh lands and swamps in and near Ithaca. It was hoped that this measure would reduce the flood hazard, increase available residential area, and elimi-



STATE STREET WEST OF AURORA, 1869 *Photograph from R. C. Taber*

nate the spread of disease resulting from stagnant waters. The work was being planned when, on April 12, 1861, the news was flashed to Ithaca that Fort Sumter had been fired upon.

Such pioneer population as had formed this village never countenanced human slavery. The very earliest censuses showed local negroes to have been free men. In 1856 the *Ithaca Journal,* a Jacksonian Democratic organ, reflected public opinion by turning Republican and adopting the platform of that party. It is said that Ithacans did much to facilitate the escape of runaway slaves, but such information cannot now be easily verified. Certainly, at the opening of the Civil War local energy went unreservedly into the task of preserving the Union. Work on public improvements was suspended and it was only eleven days after the outbreak of hostilities that the old DeWitt Guard [1] mobilized and offered its services to the government. Another company of volunteers was formed on May 8. A third regiment of volunteers from Tompkins County left Ithaca for the field of action on September 15, 1862. Another entered the service in October. Over one hundred men went from Ithaca in 1863. The following year several hundred more Ithacans were serving in the Union armies. A relief fund for the families of volunteers had raised nearly $9,000 by May, 1861. A Ladies' Volunteer Association worked toward the same purpose. A Loyal Legion, to further the cause of the Union in all possible ways, had been formed on March 24, 1862.

Ithaca did not suffer any loss of prosperity during the war. The census of 1865 showed that in spite of the dis-

[1] Company A, 50th Regiment, National Guard of N. Y. State. Organized 1851.

tress just prior to the beginning of hostilities, the village had grown to 5,685 inhabitants, fifteen percent more than the population a decade earlier. The demand for canal boats and the products that they carried increased steadily during the five years of national strife. During the winter of 1862 canal boats were prohibited from mooring in the Inlet above the Seneca Street bridge, in order that the ice might move freely and that navigation might begin at the earliest possible moment in the springtime. A year later the state legislature provided funds for further dredging the Inlet and repairing the pier. At the same time trustees were repaid $1,600 for building two bridges over the channel.

The chief activities of the board of trustees during the presidencies of Frederick Greenley (1862 and 1863), and George McChain (1864 and 1865), were to codify the village laws and extend the village boundaries, creating three voting wards on April 21, 1863. Gold and silver were so scarce in 1864 that the trustees and a few prominent merchants issued currency known as "shin plasters," in five cent, ten cent, twenty-five cent, and fifty cent denominations. These were later redeemed and destroyed. A new building for the county clerk's office was completed in 1863.

While the Civil War was drawing to its desired end, Ezra Cornell was gradually assuming the center of the local stage. He had come home to Ithaca in 1857, when he purchased a farm of 300 acres on East Hill, beyond the old Eddy factory. Having already acquired an immense fortune from his telegraph interests, holding a large amount of stock in the newly formed Western Union Telegraph Company, Cornell now felt free to devote himself to his favorite pursuit, the science of agriculture. He raised mag-

nificent crops, orchards, and herds for study and exhibition. He was soon elected president of the Tompkins County Agricultural Society.

In 1857, however, Ezra Cornell was only fifty years old, in the prime of his vigor, and his neighbors would not permit him thus to withdraw from the more complex walks of life. In 1861 they sent him to Albany as their representative in the New York State assembly. Two years later Broome, Tioga, and Tompkins Counties joined to elect him as a state senator for the twenty-fourth district. It was during his service in the state legislature that Cornell came upon an opportunity to cooperate with the State of New York in founding the great university that bears his name. Our next chapter will deal with those events.

The University is only one of many assets that modern Ithaca owes to the public spirit of Ezra Cornell. The first of his munificent gifts was the local library. No large collection of books free for public circulation had even been available in Ithaca. Early libraries had been small and restricted in use. In his own words, Mr. Cornell recognized a need for "increasing the knowledge and elevating the moral and religious standard"[1] of the community, and he determined to present his neighbors with one of the finest libraries in New York State.

Contractors began to erect a three-story building at Seneca and Tioga Streets in the spring of 1863. The edifice was to include a public lecture hall and office quarters, the rents from which would maintain the building and provide an income for the library. "The cost of the site and building was $61,676 besides $4,000 for books, all paid for by Mr. Cornell, conveyed by trust deed to the trustees of

[1] *Presentation Address*, December 20, 1866.

the Cornell Library Association, and delivered to them in the presence of a crowded meeting of citizens of Ithaca and vicinity, assembled in Library Hall on the evening of the twentieth of December, 1866. During the day the building had been decorated with flags by appreciative citizens and the lecture room was tastefully trimmed, with the name of the founder wrought in evergreens. The weather was intensely cold, but at an early hour every available portion of the hall was crowded, while the firing of cannon and exultant ringing of village bells gave voice to the general appreciation of the generous gift of the public." [1]

"The Cornell Library was projected and established by Mr. Cornell as an evidence of his gratitude to the kind Providence which had vouchsafed to him the great measure of success that had attended his onerous labors in the telegraph enterprise." [2]

The founder of the University did much to keep the local banking system up to date. A system of national banks was created by congressional charter in 1863, the new institutions being empowered to issue a currency secured by government bonds, deposited at Washington. The charter of the old Bank of Ithaca had expired in 1850, and it was clear that a substitute was needed. Therefore, the First National Bank of Ithaca was organized in 1864 by Ezra Cornell, Ebenezer T. Turner, John McGraw, John Southworth, Douglass Boardman, John C. Stowell, Joseph Esty, Edward S. Esty, Alonzo B. Cornell, and George R. William. As congress laid a tax on notes of state banks in 1864, the Tompkins County Bank reorganized as a part of the national banking system two years later. In 1873 the First

[1] Alonzo B. Cornell, *Biography of Ezra Cornell*, pp. 158–159, 170.
[2] Ibid.

National absorbed the Merchants' and Farmers' Bank.

Between 1850 and 1860 the number of savings banks in the United States had more than doubled. Small capitalists were becoming educated to benefit by expert advice when investing their money. An act incorporating an Ithaca Savings Bank was passed by the state legislature on April 17, 1863, but no action was taken on it. When, however, five years later the number of these banks in the United States had nearly doubled again, Ezra Cornell decided to act for his village, and on April 3, 1868, together with Douglas Boardman, John H. Selkreg, William Andrus, Joseph Esty, John Rumsey, John L. Whiton, Leonard Treman, Obadiah B. Curran, George W. Schuyler, and Wesley Hooker, he revived the old charter.

The end of the Civil War was followed by eight years of unprecedented railroad building throughout the North. Over 36,000 miles of track were laid between 1865 and 1873. It was clear to Ezra Cornell and his friends that the canal would not long survive as a medium of transportation and they hoped to save Ithaca as a center by developing a network of railroads. To that purpose towns and villages were heavily bonded and the promoting individuals invested their entire fortunes.

The first of these plans was to create a feeder from the great New York Central system into Ithaca. A road known as the Southern Central was completed from Auburn, on the New York Central, through Freeville to Owego in 1869. That year Cornell, with his brother-in-law, Otis Wood, and Edward Esty. Charles M. Titus, and O. B. Curran of Ithaca; H. P. Goodrich of Cortland; and General William L. Burt of Boston, Mass., obtained a charter for the Ithaca and Cortland Railroad which was to meet the

Southern Central at Freeville and also to serve the second purpose of feeding into Ithaca traffic from Cortland and the region northeast of Cayuga Lake.

Contractors had hardly set to grading the Cortland road when a second and more ambitious scheme was initiated. The Lehigh Valley Railroad, a line that had been chartered in 1847, extended through the rich Pennsylvania coal district, from Easton, through Mauch Chunk, Penn Haven, Wilkes-Barre, Pittston, and Towanda to Athens. Cornell, with Lafayette Treman, Leonard Treman, and Chauncey L. Grant of Ithaca; Amos Hixon of Van Etten; John Nichols of Spencer; and Colonel Charles Wells of Athens, Pennsylvania, proposed to bring Pennsylvania coal directly to Cayuga Lake by rail and to send western products south by the same route. They obtained a charter for the Ithaca and Athens Railroad in 1870.

It may be recalled that among the casualties of the panic of 1837 was an Ithaca and Geneva Railroad, proposed by Ebenezer Mack to divert the products of the rich Genesee, Canandaigua, and Seneca valleys into Ithaca. And so, soon after the authorization of the road to Athens, there was issued a charter for the Geneva and Ithaca Railroad. Ezra Cornell, Charles M. Titus, and John Rumsey of Ithaca; Nelson Noble of Trumansburg; R. R. Steele of Romulus; and a Mr. McDonald of Geneva, were the promoters of this part of the web.

As soon as the first of the roads had been successfully completed from Ithaca to Cortland its directors reorganized to complete the last link of the Cornell system of trackage by extending their line southwest through Spencer and Horseheads to Elmira, on the Erie; and northwest to Canastota on the New York Central. Thus, Joseph Rod-

bourn of Breesport, Chemung County, and Sidney Fairchild of Cazenovia, joined the original promoters to form the Utica, Ithaca and Elmira Railroad. That name was soon changed to the Elmira, Cortland and Northern Company.

One other link to the New York Central system was brought into Ithaca during that period, a road that Cornell vigorously declared to be unsound, and that he refused to sponsor. The Cayuga Lake Railroad, which was to run northward along the east shore of the lake, was chartered by Henry D. Morgan, Edwin D. Morgan, and Talmadge Delafield, of Aurora; and Leonard Treman of Ithaca, in 1867. Cornell felt that it was well enough to bring roads into Ithaca to feed the canal with traffic, but a line that competed directly with the water route seemed to him superfluous.

The Ithaca and Cortland Railroad was the first of these lines in operation and built its station, a fifteen by twenty foot shanty, on the Cornell University campus across South Avenue from the present residence of Professor Walter F. Willcox. Later, to avoid paying city taxes, the company moved its terminal to East Ithaca, just outside the city line. The first movement of traffic on the new line of rails was announced as follows: [1]

RAILROAD TO ITHACA AND CORNELL UNIVERSITY
Cars leave Auburn for Ithaca over the Southern Central R. R.
at 8:30 A. M. and 3:34 P. M. Daily, Sundays Excepted
Fare from Auburn, including carriage to hotels
and private houses in Ithaca, $1.75
Freight delivered without charge in all narrow gauge cars
M. L. WOOD, Supt.
Ithaca, January 1st, 1871. ITHACA AND CORTLAND R. R.

[1] *Ithaca Journal* January 3, 1871.

Six months later, while the Ithaca and Athens line was under construction, the first train left a ten by sixteen foot shanty on the west side of the Cayuga Inlet to make the three hour trip to Athens. A selected group had received the following invitation:[1]

ITHACA AND ATHENS R. R.
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

You are invited to become one of the passengers to ride in the first train that will run from Ithaca to Athens and return next week, Wednesday. It will be a jubilee train. This will pass you free.

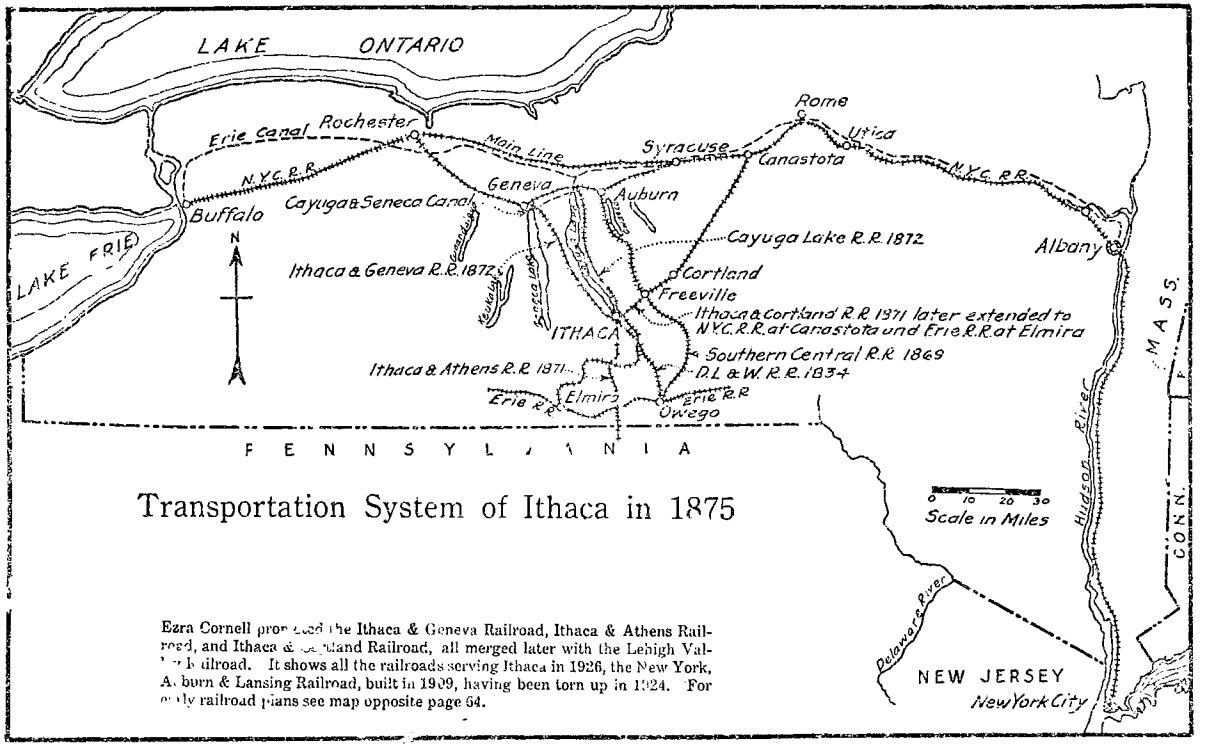
Yours, etc.
L. L. TREMAN,
Secretary.

Contractors who were working on the road strenuously objected to the passage of this train and their men endeavored repeatedly to switch it onto a side track. But the passengers forced the representatives of the contractors away from the switches and completed the journey successfully. Two months later, while there was still work to be done, two daily trains were scheduled between Ithaca and Athens.

That year grading was begun on the Cayuga Lake Railroad and on the Geneva and Ithaca line. Each of these was extremely expensive to construct, the former because it was so often washed out by the waves of Lake Cayuga, the latter because it had to bridge so many gullies, gorges, and ravines. Only the undaunted faith and courage of their promoters made completion possible.

It can be seen that a new period of optimism had developed. The ambitious aspirations of four decades earlier were again proclaimed in the community. In the 'thirties Ithaca had almost become one of the great cities of the

[1] Thomas Burns, *Reminiscences, Heroic and Historic, of Early Days of the Lehigh Valley System in Southern and Central New York.* Black Diamond Express Monthly, January 1905, p. 10.



Transportation System of Ithaca in 1875

Ezra Cornell promoted the Ithaca & Geneva Railroad, Ithaca & Athens Railroad, and Ithaca & Cortland Railroad, all merged later with the Lehigh Valley Railroad. It shows all the railroads serving Ithaca in 1926, the New York, Auburn & Lansing Railroad, built in 1909, having been torn up in 1924. For early railroad plans see map opposite page 64.

country. What had failed to materialize in the "Decade of Dreams" was to be realized. At the dawn of this new millenium Ithacans had a wealthy and aggressive leader who would not rest until economic supremacy was theirs. Were not the railroads already under construction? Were not great industries contemplated?

That greatest of fantasies, the dream of a ship canal to Lake Ontario, was revived. During his legislative term in 1862 Cornell had obtained the passage of a new act chartering a Sodus Bay Canal, and it was provided that if congress would furnish the money necessary to complete the work, government vessels might have perpetual use of the waterway free of tolls. Cornell wrote:

"It is also expected, at no distant day, that the Cayuga Lake will be connected to Lake Ontario by a ship canal, which will open the entire chain of lakes from Ogdensburg to Chicago and Superior City, to vessels hailing from the port of Ithaca. With this improvement, Ithaca becomes a point where the coals of Pennsylvania, and the ores of northeastern New York, Canada, and Lake Superior can be brought together at less cost than at any other point, thus giving Ithaca superior advantages for the various manufactures of iron and copper. A large traffic would soon grow up between Ithaca and the ore supplying regions on the Great Lakes, they requiring the cheap coals from Ithaca, and Ithaca in turn taking their ores, thus affording tonnage both ways, which produces the greatest economy in transportation." [1]

[1] Ezra Cornell, "The Manufacturing Facilities of Ithaca," in *The Scenery of Ithaca*, edited by Spence Spencer, Ithaca, 1866, pp. 131-133. That Mr. Cornell's essential idea of manufacturing steel where rail-borne coal met water-borne ore was a sound one, the later history of Buffalo, Cleveland, Gary, and Joliet sufficiently proves.

Another writer said:[1]

"Six months from this time a railroad will be constructed from Ithaca to Geneva and the Cayuga Lake Railroad from Ithaca to Cayuga. In addition to the above, the Utica, Ithaca and Elmira Railroad will be completed at the same time, making Ithaca literally the 'Hub' of New York State."

As in the earlier period, such dreams initiated many new industrial projects and village improvements. As early as 1867 a factory for the manufacture of agricultural implements was established on the south bank of Fall Creek gorge and incorporated as the Ithaca Agricultural Works. A patent hay rake and a seeder, its principal products, were marketed with increasing success.

In 1867, also, Herman V. Bostwick was building shops on Clinton Street east of Cayuga, for a cooperage. He developed a large business in barrels, firkins, and other coopered products.

What became nationally the best known manufacturing institution ever developed in Ithaca was gaining a firm footing in those years. The Seth Thomas Clock Company had purchased the right to Akins' original calendar clock in 1863, but Henry B. Horton, loath to see the work abandoned here, was experimenting with new improvements in the old product. He overcame minor imperfections in the mechanism and patented his inventions in 1864 and 1865.

Three years later, the Ithaca Calendar Clock Company was incorporated with John H. Selkreg, Samuel P. Sherwood and William J. Storms as president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer, respectively. Their first factory

[1] W. G. Johnson, *Illustrated Guide Book of the Ithaca Gorge and Its Surroundings*, page 57.

was a single room on the west side of Cayuga Street, between Green and State Streets. The business expanded so rapidly that a year later a 2,000 percent increase in facilities was required and the plant was moved to the three-story "old bank building" on State Street.

The *Frontenac*, last of the T. D. Wilcox passenger steamers, was built in 1869 and journeyed on its first trip on June 24, 1870. It was Lake Cayuga's most beautiful vessel and very completely furnished with life boats, life preservers, yawls, fire buckets, fire pumps, and luxurious cabin equipment. Its destruction by fire thirty-seven years later was to bring to a tragic end the waterway transportation in this valley.

During this time the cultural and religious needs of the community were being met.

In May, 1868, the Wilgus Opera House[1] at State and Tioga Streets was opened and dedicated by Sherry's Theatre Company. Quoting from the *Ithaca Journal* of April 28:

"This hall is the largest in this section of the state and is calculated to seat a large audience comfortably. It has a magnificent space made and fitted up expressly for theatrical purposes, with four dressing rooms attached. The hall is very high, beautifully arched, and has sixty-four gas jets in a circle under a bright and shining reflector in the center, from which the hall is brilliantly illuminated."

While the construction of churches had been somewhat retarded during the Civil War, the Presbyterians had succeeded in raising funds to erect a brick chapel which they first occupied in February, 1864. In the years that followed

[1] Second story of the building since remodeled and now occupied by Rothschild Bros.' Department Store.

other new churches were formed and built. The Tabernacle Baptist congregation was formed in 1870 and worshiped in a small church building on Railroad Avenue. The Free Methodist Society was organized in 1871 and built a church on Tioga near Farm Street. Two years later the Reformed Dutch Church became a Congregational Society and soon erected a fine new building on their old site, at Geneva and Seneca Streets. The Unitarian Society, which had been meeting in Library Hall since February, 1866, opened its first church building on the north side of Buffalo Street, east of Aurora in May, 1873.

Philip J. Partenheimer served once more as village president in 1866, Samuel Stoddard in 1867, John P. Gauntlett in 1868 and 1869, Rufus Bates in 1870, John Gauntlett again in 1871, John H. Selkreg in 1872, and Adam Cowdrey in 1873 and 1874.

By order of the common council in 1867 the local streets were numbered, street signs were posted, and the name of Owego Street was changed to State Street. The administration three years later ordered the construction of an iron bridge across Six Mile Creek at Aurora Street In 1873 Cascadilla Creek was similarly bridged at Tioga Street. The first modern street paving was done in 1870 when a Medina stone pavement was laid on State Street from Aurora to Tioga. On April 1, 1871, the fifteen fire companies of Ithaca incorporated jointly as the Ithaca Fire Department and achieved a more effective group organization than had ever before existed.

At the peak of her prosperity, however, clouds were again gathering on Ithaca's horizon. The citizens were soon to learn once more that only the fewest of dreams are ever realized, and those not as they were dreamed. Com-

munities, like individuals, live to be thwarted, to rise only that they may fall, thus perhaps to learn their own frailty. Anything resembling stability or success comes finally in a way least expected and mocks the dreams of youth.

The first note of tragedy was struck on August 22, 1871, when the worst fire in Ithaca's history damaged and destroyed buildings in the area bounded by South Aurora Street on the east, Six Mile Creek on the south, and State Street on the north, and extending west as far as the Tompkins County Bank. Eleven dwellings were burned and fifteen families were rendered homeless. The property loss was over $200,000.

There is no record of how the fire started. It was first observed early in the evening at the intersection of Six Mile Creek with Aurora Street. The Ithaca Hotel was soon in flames and the entire local fire fighting equipment was inadequate to check the blaze. Early in the morning a telegram to Owego set in motion a special Lackawanna train bearing Ah-wa-ga Steamer No. 1 and Tioga Hose Carriage No. 7 with companies to man them. At about three o'clock the whistle of a locomotive on South Hill reported the arrival of that assistance. When the fire had completely destroyed the hotel, burned to the ground Andrus and Gauntlett's new printing plant, and badly damaged thirty other properties, its progress was finally halted and the morning sun rose over the smouldering ruins.

Ithacans recovered from that shock and with characteristic courage rebuilt their properties. A new Ithaca Hotel was opened in 1872. Other buildings were rapidly replaced. But worse was yet to come.

The financial system of the country was again unstable. Currency was inflated and vast speculations in railroad

stocks and securities were endangering the stability of the great New York banking houses. By 1873 railroad promoters were in default over two hundred and twenty-nine million dollars worth of securities.[1] The Brooklyn Trust Company failed on July nineteenth and on September eighteenth, known as "Black Friday," the failure of Jay Cooke and Company, the nation's leading bankers, precipitated a national panic.

The new Ithaca railroads had been expensive to build and very difficult to finance; and with the crash of the financial system throughout the country, one after another the local roads came under the auctioneer's hammer. The control and ownership of these lines went out of the hands of Ithacans and was transferred to President Asa Packer of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, who bought 189 miles of trackage for a very small percentage of its worth. The roads became parts of a great trunk line system—and thus ended the "Hub of New York State" dream.

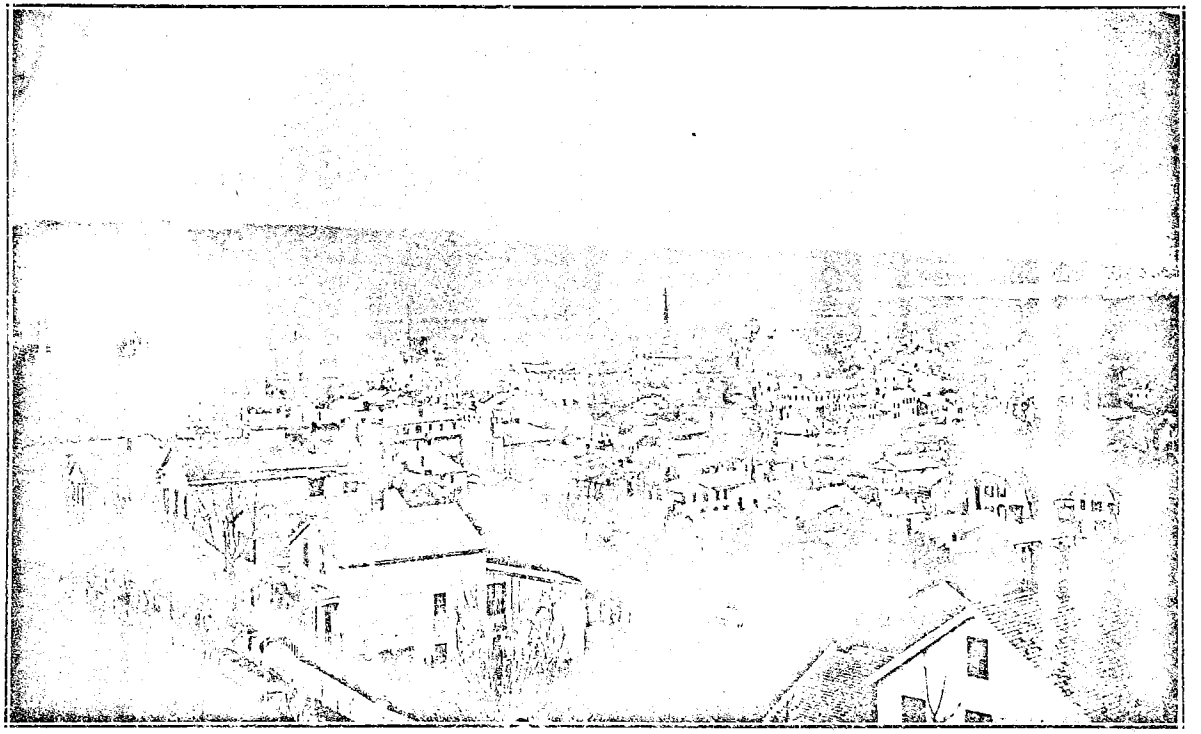
Black Friday practically bankrupted Ezra Cornell. His last two great projects, an Ithaca Glass Works, and an Ithaca Iron Works, were under way in 1873, and Cornell had the satisfaction of seeing the former in operation. Ground was broken for the latter, but it had to be abandoned because of inadequate funds after the panic.

The founder of the University, the donor of the library, the creator of railroads, the builder of local industries, the "greatest Ithacan," was a broken man. Weakened by disappointment and worry, he was prey in June, 1874, to a severe attack of pneumonia, which left his lungs in very bad condition. Six months of painful illness culminated in his death on December 9, 1874.

[1] Don C. Seitz, *The Dreadful Decade*, p. 117.

The village citizens, in public meeting, resolved "that in the death of Ezra Cornell we lose a townsman unselfishly loyal to the welfare of our common village, and a friend whose memory will abide with us as deeply and warmly cherished, as in life his daily walk and counsels were esteemed and respected." [1]

[1] Alonzo Cornell, *Biography of Ezra Cornell*, p. 278.



ITHACA FROM SOUTH HILL, 1874 *Photograph from R. C. Taber*

CHAPTER VI

A NEW IMPORTANCE

STRIPPED of his wealth in the panic of 1873, disappointed in some of his favorite projects, bitterly maligned by his enemies, in the closing years of his life Ezra Cornell had at last the satisfaction of seeing one dream fulfilled, the establishment of that University which will perpetuate his name forever among his countrymen. And, although he did not fully realize it, the village which had been dear to him and for which he had labored so conscientiously was thereby to have a new national significance.

As a result of Ezra Cornell's work, Ithacans found a secure foundation for the growth of their community in its development as an educational center. Early in Ithaca's history a few men had recognized the admirable advantages for study that such an environment offered. On April 10, 1822, the Genesee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church had obtained the passage of an act incorporating an "Ithaca College," the plans for which were curiously like those developed by Ezra Cornell and Andrew D. White forty-five years later. The institution was to be built on East Hill below the plateau where Cornell University now stands. "Our females may here acquire a useful and solid as well as finished and polite education, and our young men will have the advantages that a college can afford. . . ." The college was to be "established on as broad and liberal principles as any college in the United States

and a system of instruction adopted without regard either to particular religious or political opinions." [1]

Charles Humphrey, Luther Gere, C. P. Heermans, Archer Green, and Augustus Sherrill were members of a citizens' committee which raised more than six thousand dollars toward a college endowment. The state charter stipulated that this fund must reach fifty thousand dollars within three years.

But the Ithaca College was never built because its originators could not comply with this condition and because the little community in which it was to be located was not ready for such an institution. There were those who supported the project wholeheartedly, but a much larger group looked upon it with derision and contempt. Something of the hostility with which these Methodists were greeted is revealed in the following satire, printed in a local publication at that time:

"The inhabitants of the town are remarkable for their public spirit. After erecting a court-house, two churches (one of them with a trifling assistance from different parts of the state, far and near) and an academy with little aid from the taxable part of the population; and finishing all the roads leading into the city, in a splendid and durable style—they determined on establishing a college from voluntary subscriptions. I was told that the project would succeed in spite of every obstacle. One individual very generously subscribed a lot of ten acres of land, on a lofty eminence, as a site for the buildings—and with unexampled liberality cleared off the wood, not only on the land he gave, but on twenty or thirty acres adjoining, for the purpose of enlarging the prospect and admitting fresh air. My friend

[1] *The Ithaca Journal*, May 30, 1821; and Centennial Number, 1915.

Osborn said, that they depended very much on assistance from abroad, and that considerable sums had actually been subscribed and paid in by strangers at a distance, so general was the confidence in the integrity and judgment of the active agents in the concern. He said he himself had given a valuable horse, not with the expectation that it would be sold and the money applied to the purposes of the buildings, or even that it would be returned to him in any event, but to be able to carry on the concern to better advantage; and that he had no doubt that the property was well applied, as he had seen a gentleman driving the animal on peddling expeditions, unquestionably for the benefit of the establishment—as he was one of the first projectors and largest subscribers. Complete views of all the buildings and outbuildings are in possession of the treasurer, and may be seen by strangers who are disposed to patronize the institution." [1]

The next educational institution planned in Ithaca was the Ithaca Academy, incorporated in 1823, an excellent preparatory school which was generously supported by local citizens. In 1840 there were about five hundred volumes in its library, and its property and buildings, including the main brick edifice erected that year, were valued at $12,500. Its excellent faculty always attracted a small number of students from outside of Tompkins County. In 1859 its enrollment of 245 students [2] made it one of the largest schools of its kind in the state.

The wooden school building, built in 1818, was moved back on the lot in 1840 to make room for the new struc-

[1] Anonymous, "A View of Society and Manners on Borders of the Cayuga Lake," *The Castigator, Ithaca,* March 29, 1823.

[2] *New York State Regents' Report,* 1859.

ture. Thereafter the former was used for classrooms. The first floor of the new building was a chapel; the second floor contained large study rooms, one for boys and one for girls; and the third floor was a dormitory for non-resident boys. In that building many of Ithaca's foremost citizens gained the ideals which inspired them to contribute so generously in later years to Cornell University.

A middle aged merchant, Justin Smith Morrill of Vermont, who took his seat in the house of representatives in 1855, finally set in motion that train of events which led to the founding of Cornell University and the new life in Ithaca. The national government owned over one billion acres of middle western lands, unsold and unappropriated. Congressman Morrill, in 1857, proposed that 20,000 acres of these lands for each of its representatives in congress be given to each state; that these lands be sold and the proceeds used for the establishment of colleges. The object of such colleges was to be the "liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life." Morrill had in mind especially the education of farmers who would in turn develop the wheat fields of the Middle West and add greatly to the wealth of the nation.

After some opposition, the bill passed the house in April, 1858, and the senate in February, 1859, and was promptly vetoed by President Buchanan. When, in 1862, Morrill re-introduced the project, congress (now representing only the northern states), passed the bill and President Lincoln signed it. The grant per representative and senator was increased to 30,000 acres and there was a provision, suggested by the Civil War, that military science should be offered as a course in each land grant college. The bill

did not stipulate compulsory military training, as was subsequently widely believed.

New York State, by the terms of the act, received and accepted on May 5, 1863, by far the largest gift of them all, 989,920 acres, or one-tenth of the whole. Three members of the state legislature, Senator Charles Cook, of Havana; Senator Andrew D. White, of Syracuse, chairman of the educational committee; and Senator Ezra Cornell, saw in this grant a golden opportunity to realize life-long ambitions.

Senator Cook hoped that by obtaining the land grant for an institution known as People's College, which had been incorporated at Havana in 1853 but which was not yet in operation, he would strengthen his political position. He promptly pressed the claims of his college; and on March 14, 1863, the legislature granted it the entire fund, with the provision that the institution must have ten competent professors, buildings and equipment for two hundred and fifty students, and be free of all incumbrances at the end of two years. The inexpediency of this act was apparent almost at once, when Cook endeavored to have the provisions revised to permit him to retain a $30,000 mortgage on the college property.

Andrew D. White, born in Homer, November 7, 1832, had studied at Hobart College, graduated from Yale University, studied for three years in France and Germany, and been a professor of history at the University of Michigan prior to his election to the senate of his native state. Throughout his academic career White had dreamed of a university that would be free of some of the educational restrictions of that day: an institution in which modern literature, modern history, and architecture would

have equal rank with the classics and mathematics. It should be free from sectarian or political domination. He thought that the land grant offered an opportunity to establish such an institution if the mistaken gift to People's College did not stand in the way.

Ezra Cornell was interested in the land grant because he believed with Morrill that a college at which agriculture and the mechanical arts could be taught was needed in the state. The Ithacan was president of the New York State Agricultural Society and a trustee of the agricultural college at Ovid, which had been opened in 1860 but was broken up in its incipiency when a majority of its students volunteered for the Union Army. The idea of reviving it by use of the land grant perhaps first turned Mr. Cornell's mind to the course that led to Cornell University.

Cornell and White were drawn together early in 1864, when the bill to incorporate a library at Ithaca was referred to White's educational committee. The first president of the university later wrote of this experience: [1]

"Now began the train of events . . . which led to my acquaintance, friendship, and close alliance with the man through whom my plans became a reality, larger and better than any ever seen in my dreams.

"I was struck not merely by his gift of one hundred thousand dollars to his townsmen, but even more by a certain breadth and largeness in his way of making it.

"Forming a board of trustees . . . instead of the usual effort to tie up the organization in some sect, party, or clique, he had named the best men in town—his political opponents as well as his friends; and had added to them the pastors of all the principal churches, Catholic and Prot-

[1] *Autobiography of Andrew D. White*, Vol. 1, pp. 292-294.

estant. This breadth of mind, even more than his munificence, drew me to him."

The two men came into conflict shortly thereafter when Ezra Cornell introduced a bill to divide the grant between the schools at Havana and at Ovid. Senator White was opposed to all plans to divide and having the bill referred to his committee, he deliberately neglected to report it out.

Ezra Cornell thereupon offered to add $300,000 himself to Ovid's share, thus giving that institution a fund equal to the current valuation of the entire grant. But Mr. White was adamant that the congressional gift should not be divided. There were too many small denominational colleges that might demand attention if any division were made.

Through this conflict Cornell remained calm, patient, and open-minded. He came to see at last that his friend was right and one day, meeting White at the capitol, he said:

"I have about a half million dollars more than my family will need; what is the best thing I can do with it for the state?"

White replied: "The two things most worthy of aid in any country are charity and education; but, in our country, charities appeal to everybody. The worthy poor or unfortunate are sure to be taken care of. As to education, the lower grades will always be cared for in the public schools by the state; but the institutions of the highest grade, without which the lower can never be thoroughly good, can be appreciated by only a few." And he suggested the establishment or strengthening of a college or university.[1]

[1] *Autobiography of Andrew D. White,* Vol. 1, p. 298.

Ezra Cornell then offered to found at Ithaca a new university, to which he would pledge five hundred thousand dollars as an addition to the land grant. He wanted to name it Ithaca State College and only after persistent argument did he consent to the name Cornell University.

Toward the end of the two years allowed by the provisions of the gift to People's College, on February 4, 1865, Andrew D. White introduced into the senate a resolution to inquire into the condition of the school at Havana. Three days later he offered the bill to establish Cornell University and to endow it with the entire land grant. On February 15 the regents reported that People's College had failed to qualify and the university incorporation bill was amended to provide that if in three months People's College could not deposit with the state treasurer $150,000 as evidence of its good faith, the grant should go to Cornell.

This bill passed the senate on March 16, 1865, by a vote of 25–2. The campaign against it by the friends of People's College and by representatives of other small upstate schools was then fought in the assembly. Cornell was accused of dishonesty, of building a monument to himself, of trying to create a monopoly, and a multitude of other sins. A disgraceful amendment was passed that the man who was offering the state a personal gift of five hundred thousand dollars should be required to donate an additional twenty-five thousand dollars to the Genesee College at Lima.[1]

After a final bitter debate, the incorporation bill, thus amended, passed the assembly on April 21, 1865. People's

[1] In 1867, after Ezra Cornell had refused to accept a refund of $25,000, the legislature donated that amount to the University.

College at Havana [1] failed to produce its security in the stipulated time and Cornell University was established.

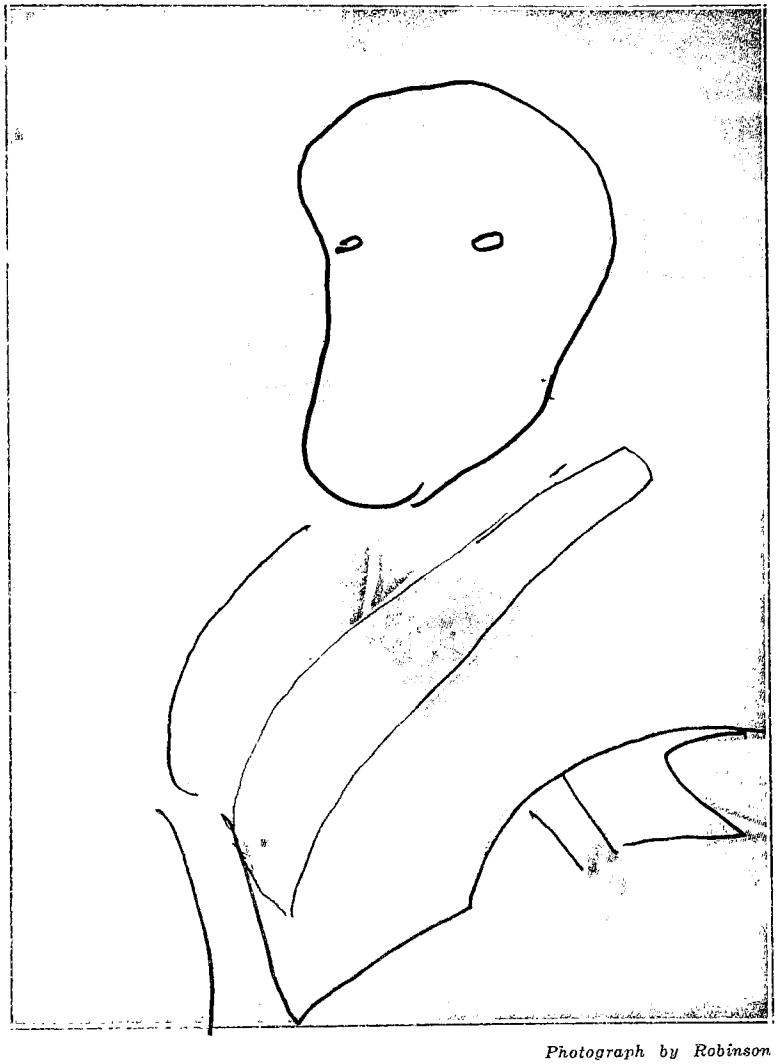
More generous than his endowment was Cornell's next offer. He foresaw that the price of lands would drop and that New York State would realize for Cornell University but a fraction of the sum for which he hoped. He therefore personally offered to buy scrip for 100,000 acres, to locate the lands, and upon their subsequent sale to turn over to the state treasurer for the College Land Scrip Fund the net receipts in excess of fifty cents an acre, which he paid in at once as the current price of scrip. The acceptance of this offer by the legislature was a signal for a new onslaught by Cornell's enemies. He had "put over" a deal on the state. It was a "grab" and a "swindle."

Undaunted by these attacks, in 1866 Cornell purchased the remainder of the lands at thirty cents an acre, agreeing to pay thirty cents per acre profit to the state treasurer to be given to Cornell University subject to the restrictions of the bill of incorporation and the Morrill Act, and to pay any additional profits into an unrestricted Cornell Endowment Fund.

Eventually, as a result of these transactions, the land grant yielded the University besides the $688,576 of the College Land Scrip Fund, a profit of $4,881,925 for the Cornell University Endowment Fund.[2] The income from the

[1] Havana is now Montour Falls. Senator Cook purchased the People's College buildings in 1870 and gave them to the Baptist State Convention with a cash endowment for the establishment of an academy. Cook Academy was chartered by the state in 1872.

[2] *Report of the Comptroller of Cornell University*, June 30, 1925; pp. 12, 66. This is threefold the amount of $1,600,000 that Mr. Cornell had estimated; *cf.* Alonzo B. Cornell, *Biography of Ezra Cornell*, p. 219.



Photograph by Robinson

ANDREW D. WHITE
First President of Cornell University

grant expected in 1863 was $40,000 a year. In 1925 it brought an annual income of over $279,000, due to the early management of the fund by Mr. Cornell.

In order to make this result possible Mr. Cornell had advanced from his own funds more than five hundred thousand dollars to pay taxes and the expenses of locating the lands, which he supervised personally. Finally physical incapacity in his last illness obliged him to turn over his holdings to the trustees of the University, who continued his policies with the success indicated.

Nevertheless the attacks upon him during his lifetime were unceasing. His generous devotion of time and money to the University was deliberately misinterpreted. He ignored most of the epithets hurled at him, but in 1873, after a politician from the Seneca Lake district had accused him in the legislature of perpetrating a "great cheat and swindle," Cornell wired Governor Dix asking that a committee be appointed to investigate and report on the truth or falsehood of these accusations. Horatio Seymour, formerly governor of New York State, William A. Wheeler, afterward vice-president of the United States, and John D. Van Buren conducted the ensuing investigation, and returned to the legislature a report filled with high commendation of Cornell's work and silenced the worst of the attacks. Yet to the day of the founder's death certain publications accused him of being a thief.[1]

When the University board of trustees first met in Ithaca on September 5, 1865, Cornell offered to them another munificent gift, two hundred acres of his farm on East Hill as a campus site. He retained only a small area west of the campus for his own home.

[1] *Autobiography of Andrew D. White*, Vol. 1, p. 321.

Within a year thereafter the board of trustees ratified Mr. Cornell's nomination of Andrew D. White as the first president of Cornell University. Then began the amalgamation of two conceptions of a university, one born in the imagination of a young professor of history, the other emanating from the experience of a successful man of affairs. It was this combination, resulting in "an institution where any person can find instruction in any study,"[1] that made the University unique in the educational world of that day.

Such liberal ideas met with widespread discouragement or contempt among Mr. Cornell's contemporaries. The late President Charles W. Eliot of Harvard published an article criticizing the basis on which the institution at Ithaca was founded.[2] It was shouted from the pulpits of the nation that a nonsectarian university must be godless and evil. But Ezra Cornell, with fortitude and patience, went ahead in the execution of his plans.

Andrew D. White submitted the plan for academic organization which was accepted by the trustees and the founder. Lacking funds to offer professorships to many leaders in the several fields of research, President White arranged that they should come to Ithaca as non-resident lecturers offering limited courses to the undergraduates. In this original non-resident faculty were James Russell Lowell, Louis Agassiz, George William Curtis, James Anthony Froude, Bayard Taylor, Theodore W. Dwight, Goldwin Smith, and others of equal reputation.

Cascadilla Hall was used as an office building and residential hall for faculty and students in the early years of

[1] From Ezra Cornell's address at the opening of Cornell University, October 7, 1868.

[2] *Atlantic Monthly*, Vol. 23, p. 215.

the University. The hall had been erected on the site of Eddy's Cotton Factory, which had been torn down in 1865, and was intended to serve as a sanitarium or "water cure." The new edifice would have been Ithaca's first great hospital.

The building was planned to accommodate two hundred patients. It was intended "for the treatment of the sick and the education of females as physicians and nurses. . . . Not that water is a universal panacea. . . . The medical directors will feel free to use and apply all appropriate medical remedies. . . . This will be a place to escape from all pathological isms." [1]

The Cascadilla Company was incorporated in 1864 with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars, of which Mr. Cornell owned the largest share. But the water cure project had fallen through by the time the site of the University had been chosen and the trustees were able to buy the building at a relatively small cost.

In 1868, after the foundations for Morrill Hall were laid, Andrew D. White spent the spring and summer in Europe observing foreign colleges and universities; arranging for the affiliation of several European scholars with the Cornell faculty; and purchasing equipment for use in research.

On October 7, 1868, Cornell University was formally opened. "The village was thronged with visiting strangers and everything betokened a joyous holiday. Many prominent citizens were present from distant sections of the state, as well, indeed, as from many different states. Prominent officers of the state government and educators of eminence in their profession were present in large numbers." [2]

[1] (Miss) S. S. Nivison, *Cascadilla Place*, a pamphlet, Ithaca, 1864.
[2] Alonzo B. Cornell, *Biography of Ezra Cornell*, p. 198.

The formal dedication of the University by the founder and the inauguration of the president took place in the morning at Library Hall. Though they were both ill from their strenuous exertions of that year, Ezra Cornell and Andrew D. White delivered memorable addresses.

"Mr. Cornell's speech on that occasion was very simple and noble; his whole position, to one who knew what he had gone through in the way of obloquy, hard work, and self-sacrifice, was touching. Worn down by illness, he was unable to stand, and he therefore read his address in a low tone from his chair. . . . It [the address] was mainly devoted to a plain presentation of the true university in its most elementary form and to a plea that women should have equal privileges with men in advanced education." [1]

"I hope," said the founder, "that we have laid the foundation of an institution that shall combine practical with liberal education." [2]

In the afternoon, on East Hill, Miss Jennie McGraw of Ithaca presented the University with a chime of nine bells, which were hung in a temporary wooden scaffolding built for the purpose. Francis Miles Finch, the superintendent of public instruction, Professor Louis Agassiz, and Professor George William Curtis addressed the faculty, students and guests.

"Just at the close, Curtis burst into a peroration. He compared the new university to a newly launched ship—'all its sails set, its rigging full, and complete from stem to stern, its crew embarked, its passengers on board, and' he added, 'even while I speak to you, even while this autumn sun sets in the west, the ship begins to glide forth rejoicing,

[1] *Autobiography of Andrew D. White*, vol. 1, p. 315.
[2] Alonzo B. Cornell, *Biography of Ezra Cornell*, p. 199.

every stitch of canvas spread, all its colors flying, its bells ringing, its heart strings beating with hope and joy; and I say, God bless the ship, God bless the builder, God bless the chosen captain, God bless the crew, and gentlemen undergraduates, may God bless all the passengers!' The audience applauded; the chimes burst merrily forth." [1]

Four hundred and twelve students: two hundred and eleven in what is now called the College of Arts and Sciences; fourteen in natural history; ten in chemistry; thirty in agriculture; twenty-seven in mechanic arts; thirty-nine in civil engineering, and eighty-one unclassified, registered in the first body of undergraduates, the largest registration that up to that time had ever been recorded at the opening of an American institution of higher learning.

The erection of buildings proceeded rapidly from that date. Morrill Hall was soon complete, White Hall was finished in 1870, and McGraw Hall, third of that group, given by John McGraw of Ithaca, was completed in 1871. It was in the latter year that the president's residence was completed.

That Cornell University was to be co-educational was a part of the founder's plan from the first. In his speech on October 7, 1868, he took care to refer to "men and women" or "persons" rather than to limit his references to the male undergraduates. One woman registered in 1869, but conditions at that time made it impossible for her to continue her course. There was only one residential hall, and that was occupied by the men. The first "co-ed" had to live downtown, and there were no good paths, much less other modes of transportation up East Hill. She continued to

[1] *Autobiography of Andrew D. White*, Vol. 1, pp. 343–344.

climb the hill two or three times daily until mid-winter ice and snow defeated her entirely.

Co-education was new and untried in the East. A few middle western colleges, Michigan, Oberlin, and others, had introduced it successfully, but the East was suspicious of it and there was a widespread feeling that the presence of women would distract the men from their work. There was some question as to whether a high moral standard could be maintained. The undergraduate body at Cornell objected seriously to co-education. Students said, rather disrespectfully:

"The women's right monomaniacs are attempting to mislead the public into the belief that female students are to be admitted here. The foundation of this rumor probably exists only in the imagination of some enthusiast—who, thinking the thing ought to be, unhesitatingly sets up the cry that it is so. . . ." [1]

The founder and trustees thought otherwise, however, and another great Ithacan, Ezra Cornell's successor as chairman of the University board of trustees, Henry W. Sage, donated the funds to erect Sage College for Women. This building was formally opened in 1874. Mr. Sage was Cornell University's greatest benefactor in its early years. He gave endowments totaling over one million, one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars.[2] Sage Chapel, one of his gifts, was opened shortly after the dedication of Sage College. The endowment of the Sage School of Philosophy was another beneficence of the same donor; and the building of the University Library was his greatest service to Cornell.

[1] *The Cornellian*, Vol. 7, 1868, p. 5.

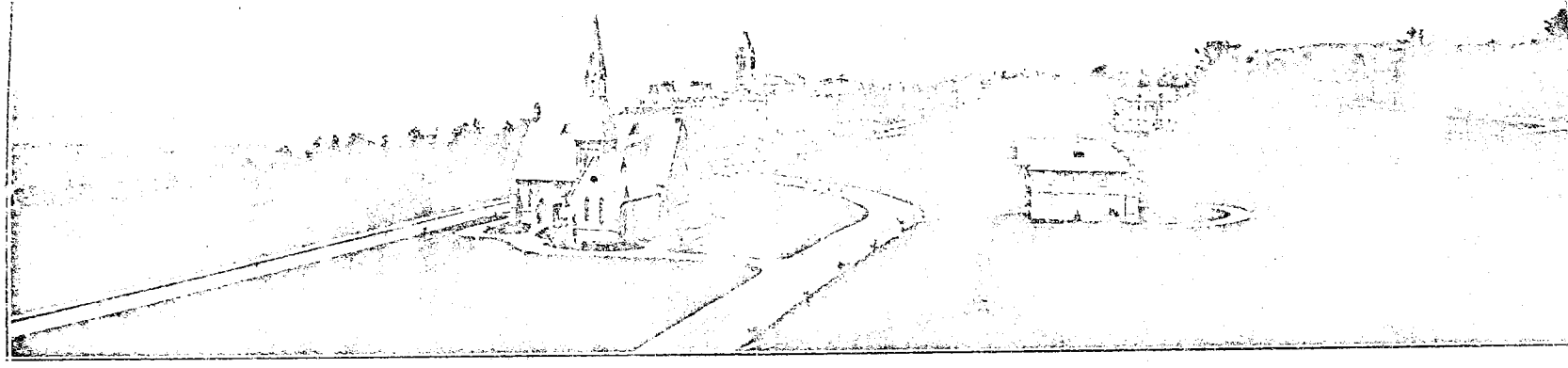
[2] O. D. Von Engeln, *Concerning Cornell*, Second Edition, p. 188.

The Library was originally endowed by Mrs. Jennie McGraw Fiske, who at the opening of the University had given the first chimes. She was the daughter of John McGraw and had married Professor Willard Fiske, the University librarian. She died in 1881, when the erection of the building had just been started, and her will provided a liberal endowment for its completion and support. However, her heirs contested the will successfully; and it seemed as though Cornell was not to have any library building except the one given by its founder to the village of Ithaca. Then Mr. Sage came forward, and during the period of litigation underwrote the building. When the University lost the suit, Mr. Sage further endowed the library with three hundred thousand dollars.[1]

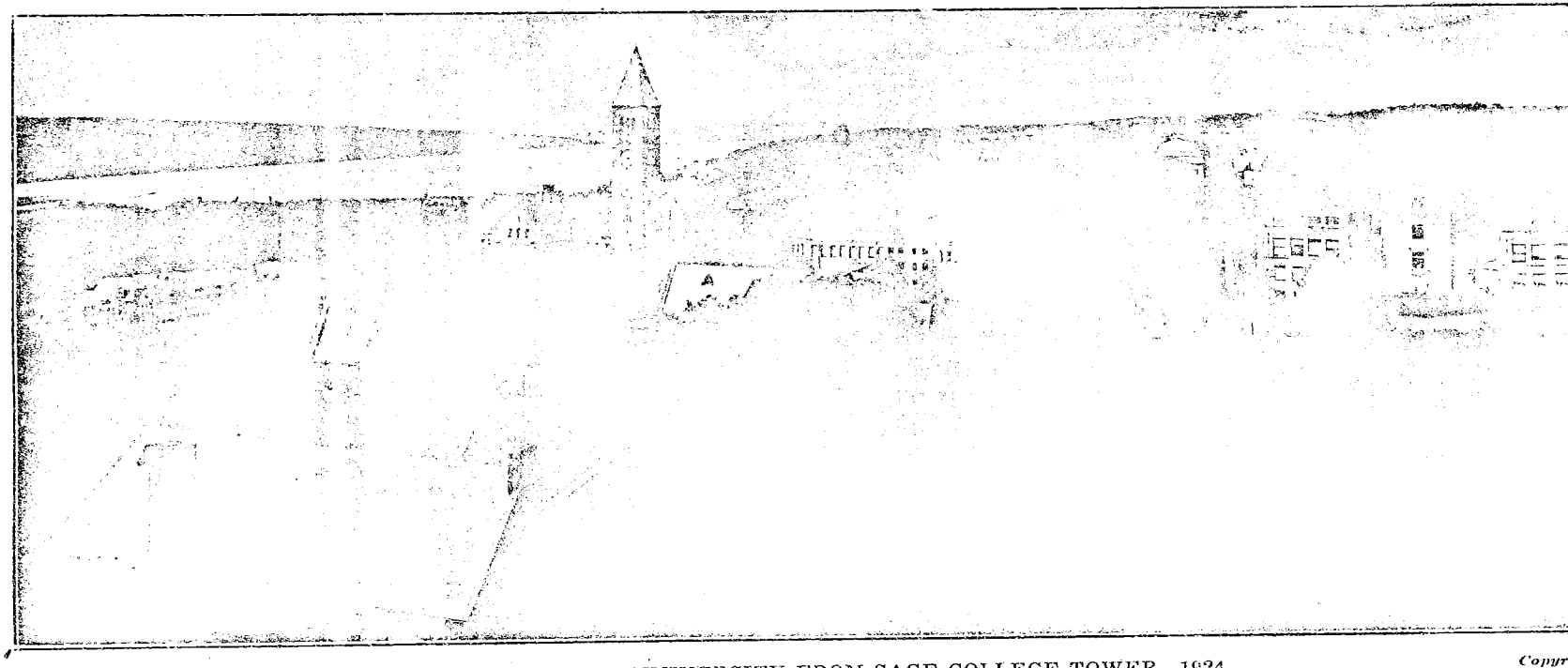
The two stone wings of what is now the Sibley College of Engineering, given by Hiram Sibley of Rochester, were built in 1871. Franklin Hall and the Armory and Gymnasium were built in 1883; and Barnes, Morse, Lincoln, and Boardman Halls were erected on the campus between 1885 and 1892. In accordance with the founder's policy, the scope of the University was gradually extended. Architecture was added to the original courses in 1871.

The establishment of Cornell University was profoundly significant to the life of Ithaca. The immediate effect was to introduce into the village, almost over night, a cosmopolitan atmosphere. What a stimulus to the life of the little town this influx of newcomers with new ideas must

[1] Another enlargement of the University Library is needed. In the fall of 1925 it contained 724,452 books. President Farrand said in his report of that year, "I doubt if any problem exceeds in importance that of the University Library. I refer particularly to its inadequacy of accommodation, both for books and readers." *Cornell University Official Publication*, Vol. 16, No. 18, pp. 14, 60.



CORNELL UNIVERSITY FROM SAGE COLLEGE TOWER—1877



CORNELL UNIVERSITY FROM SAGE COLLEGE TOWER—1924

have been! In a time when "Main Street" has become a byword in the nation, we cannot fail to observe with interest a village of the "Main Street" proportions into which there suddenly arrived internationally known poets, historians, philosophers, scientists, engineers, architects, and lawyers; accompanied by an army of young men and women, many of whom had lived in larger communities.

Evelyn Schuyler Schaeffer, in a novel about a village that she called Ptolemy, but which was really her native Ithaca, described these events in the following lines:

"Not only had Ptolemy lived through the Civil War with its suffering and loss and complementary enlargement of mind; it had found within its borders a public spirited benefactor who had, by his latest enterprise, put it in touch with the world.

"A plain man, Simeon Farrell by name, an inventor and an idealist, had had a vision of bringing education within the reach of the poor man and adapting it to the needs of the plain working man. And he had decreed that his university should belong to no church or sect.

"So the sectarians called it a 'godless' institution, the heads of older universities scoffed at its methods, and the cultivated world in general asked derisively, 'can anyone take Farrell University seriously?' . . .

"As was to be anticipated, the greatest excitement was among the women. They realized suddenly that life had been dull hitherto. Now there would be new people to know, lectures to attend, 'culture' to be had for the asking, and for the girls, beaux enough to go around." [1]

Life was no longer to be dull for men or for women in Ithaca. In the years ahead the number of these temporary

[1] Evelyn Schuyler Schaeffer, *Isabel Stirling*, pp. 95, 96.

residents in the community was to become increasingly large and the group more and more heterogeneous. In addition to Cornell University other smaller educational institutions located in Ithaca.

As the University grew larger there were founded several preparatory and tutoring schools which aimed to train candidates for admission to Cornell. Among these was one established in 1870 by Professor Lucian Wait, of the University department of mathematics. It was started on Dryden Road near the entrance to the campus. Twenty years of success led to a reorganization and expansion in 1890 and the institution was incorporated as the Cascadilla College Preparatory School. A group of school buildings and dormitories between Oak Avenue and Dryden Road on Summit Avenue was erected.

The presence of Cornell University and other institutions had stimulated in the community a widespread and unusual interest in the education of its children, resulting in the development of an excellent public school system and the maintenance of a high attendance record.[1]

On April 4, 1874, the state legislature enacted that a "Union School District of the Village of Ithaca" be created. The act provided for a "board of education" to be composed of twelve elected commissioners. All public schools in and about Ithaca were to come under the jurisdiction of this body. That the trustees of the Ithaca Academy were instrumental in procuring the passage of this act seems likely inasmuch as they were empowered by it to surrender their property to the new board of education. However, they

[1] Many of the Ithaca public school teachers attend special courses given by members of the rural education department of Cornell University.

did not make a permanent transfer at once, but leased the site and building to the board for a trial period of five years.

The first board of education, composed of Douglass Boardman, Benjamin F. Taber, John L. Whiton, William L. Bostwick, Rufus Bates, John Gauntlett, Francis M. Finch, Peter B. Crandall, Joseph C. King, Henry D. Donnelly, Marcus Lyon, and Edward S. Esty, proved its value to the village at once. By the fall of 1874 they had erected the present West Hill School and opened small temporary schools on East Hill and on South Hill. The academy was used for the high school.

Five years later the board of education purchased the academy property and at the same time erected a brick school building, on Aurora Street near Fall Creek. In 1880 the old Central School, Mill and Geneva Streets, was remodeled. The following year the present East Hill School was erected, and in 1907 a permanent primary school was built on South Hill.

In 1884 the old academy building was torn down, and on September 7 of the following year the cornerstone for a new high school building was laid. This edifice cost about sixty thousand dollars and was considered too large for its purposes at that time. Eight years later, however, a Seneca Street annex was found necessary and was built at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars; and in 1900 a Buffalo Street annex costing fifty thousand dollars was completed. The entire plant burned to the ground on February 14, 1912.

Funds were raised at once to build the present large high school and administration building, which has a capacity for eighteen hundred students. While this edifice was being planned, on April 29, 1912, the oldest of the buildings,

the Central School, burned also. The loss was not replaced until the fall of 1923, when a large modern Central School was opened at Mill and Albany Streets. A small school for the lower grades was built on Cornell Heights in 1923. The most recent Ithaca school buildings to be built were the Henry St. John School at Clinton and Albany Streets, and the Belle Sherman School in Bryant Park. These buildings were both opened in 1926.

The equipment of these schools is far above the average. Modern shops provide for manual training and instruction in printing, pattern making, garment and vest making, millinery, art, and culinary training. The music department has more than twenty pianos, seven phonographs, and many smaller instruments. Visual instruction has been introduced with excellent results. For that purpose each school is provided with a stereopticon and the high school building has a complete motion picture equipment.

Each section of the district is now adequately provided with facilities for the education of its children. In addition, the high school building contains a junior high school, a pre-academic (between junior and senior high), and a senior high school. On the roof is located an open air school for children who need to be out of doors. Central School has a department for atypical pupils. Throughout the system education is free to residents of the Union School District of Ithaca between five and twenty-one years of age.

In addition to the public schools a parochial school, erected in 1883 on West Buffalo Street near North Albany, has an enrollment of 530 students and prepares forty children of the Roman Catholic faith annually for the public high schools.

Between the opening of the University in 1868 and the graduation of Ithaca into maturity as a city in 1888 there was a period during which a number of industries, founded after the Civil War, reached their peak. None of these projects survives today. Many of them could not compete with the national trusts formed in the late 'eighties and early 'nineties. Others manufactured products fitted to the needs of that day but which were to be supplanted by new inventions. Still others were poorly financed. It was not until later that the city was to find her way into the industrial life of the nation.

The Ithaca Glass Works, originally fostered by Ezra Cornell, was established in 1874 and reorganized in 1876. The main factory was burned in 1882 and a new one, on Third Street between Franklin Street and Railroad Avenue, was built in 1883. At the time the new plant was one of the best of its kind in the United States. There were five buildings, containing three eight-pot furnaces, an engine room, a mill for grinding the crucible material, flattening and annealing equipment, and cutting and packing departments. Both the Lehigh Valley and the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroads had sidings at the works. Nine thousand boxes of single and double thick patent white crystal sheet glass were shipped over those tracks each month.

In 1882 a ten-pot factory for the manufacture of window glass was built by the Washington Glass Company, organized by B. F. Slocum. This building burned within a year after it was opened, and a larger one with two ten-pot furnaces was opened in 1883. In 1889 the United Glass Company, a Pittsburgh combination of nineteen other factories, bought the Ithaca Glass Works and

Washington Glass Company and operated both plants for three years. In 1892, they ceased operations in Ithaca.

A year later, Japhet George, E. S. Slack, Stephen Hutchinson, and W. F. George organized the Empire Glass Company, which operated in the old Washington plant for a few years and then was bought out like its predecessors. Other subsequent efforts to start glass factories in Ithaca, the Mutual Glass Company and the Ithaca Glass Manufacturing Company, both incorporated in 1898, came to similar ends.

In 1877 an Ithaca Organ and Piano Company, headed by William L. Bostwick and P. Frank Sisson, entered upon the manufacture of musical instruments. A great industry promised to develop, when in 1885 mismanagement resulted in a complete failure. The firm was declared bankrupt and its liabilities in excess of assets were found to exceed five hundred thousand dollars.

The Calendar Clock Company in 1874 purchased the old county fair grounds (at Adams, Auburn, Franklin, and Dey Streets) and erected a quadrangle of three-story buildings to meet the increasing demands of its business. The new plant was destroyed by fire two years after its erection, but it was immediately rebuilt. Thirty-four men were producing more than six thousand clocks annually. A New York City sales office was maintained on Cortlandt Street. After 1900 new patents held by other companies greatly decreased the calendar clock business and recently it ceased.

In 1877 Henry B. Horton, the inventor of the improved calendar clock, took out patents on an automatic organ known as the "Autophone." These patents were sold to a company composed of Francis M. Finch, H. F. Hibbard and the inventor, who incorporated in 1879 as the Auto-

phone Company. Their machines were first manufactured in a small section of the clock factory set aside for that purpose; but by 1881 the entire western part of the quadrangle was devoted to the manufacture of autophones. Two years later more people were employed in this work than in the clock company's section of the plant. A new invention, the roller organ, made in two styles, the "Gem" and the "Concert," supplanted the earlier product and a separate three-story building was erected for the autophone corporation. Toward the end of the last century this company was producing about fifteen thousand organs and nearly a quarter of a million music rollers each year. The business gradually declined when the phonograph came to be widely marketed, and recently the autophone plant ceased operations entirely.

The Ithaca Agricultural Works, established on a small scale in 1867, grew to considerable proportions prior to the panic of 1873.[1] West of the site now used by the Ithaca Gun Company, on the south side of the Fall Creek gorge, several buildings were devoted to the manufacture of agricultural implements. The business declined after the panic of 1873 and failed in 1879. It was bought in by J. W. Hollenbeck of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, who reopened the plant under the name Ithaca Manufacturing Works. More than four thousand hayrakes and cultivators were manufactured annually. But farm machinery trusts were being formed and the Ithaca firm could not compete with them. In about 1883 the manufacturing works was added to the list of failures.

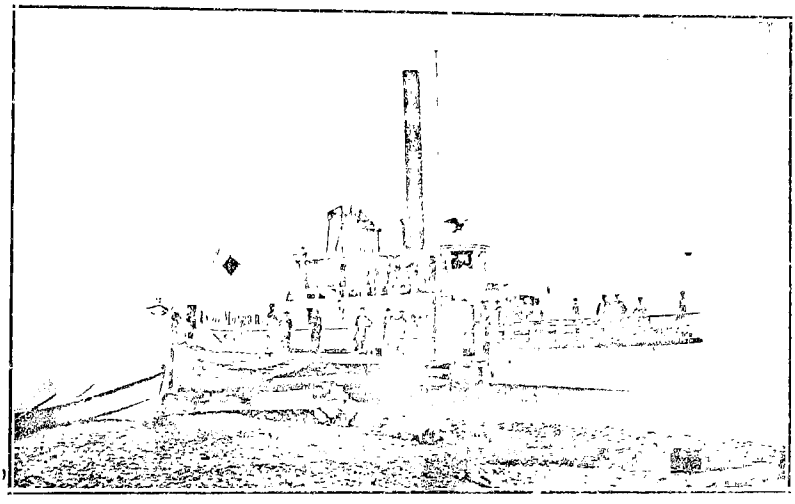
Farm implements were manufactured by the Phœnix Iron Works, which had been established in 1869 by Charles

[1] See page 90.

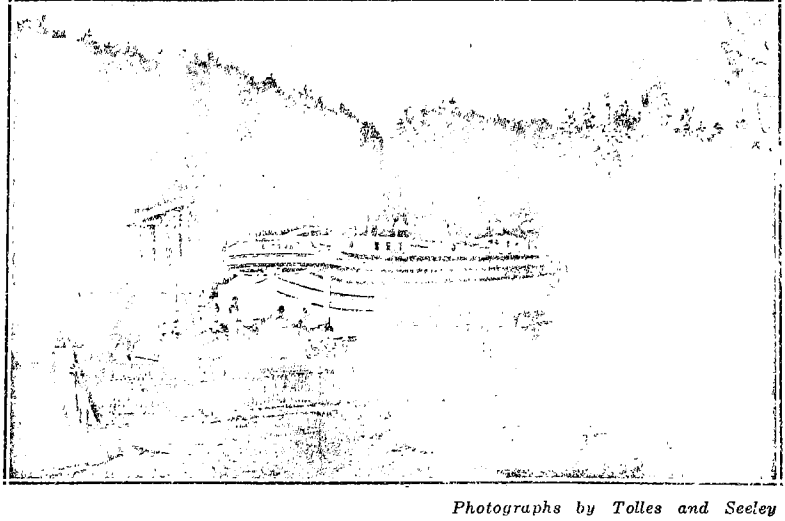
Titus and William L. Bostwick. The property came into the hands of the Williams brothers (Roger B., George R., and Henry S.) in 1872. Eleven years later Roger B. Williams conducted it alone. For a time this business was very successful, manufacturing the Ithaca wheel rake, the Ithaca portable engine, the Ithaca patent lumber wagon, and a wide variety of farm implements, including grain sowers and straw and feed cutters. During the last period of its history this firm specialized in the production of well-drilling machinery, which was shipped to all parts of the world. Like the Ithaca Manufacturing Works this plant was unable to compete with the international firms that had entered the field, and its business gradually declined. In recent years only a small foundry remains in operation.

A third agricultural equipment factory was that of Reynolds and Lang, established in 1868 by James Reynolds and John B. Lang in a machine shop on Tioga Street. The plant subsequently moved to Green Street, between Cayuga and Tioga Streets. In 1902 Ernest D. Button joined the firm, which became Lang and Button. In the new century steam traction engines were its principal products, but in 1921 their manufacture was discontinued because of the increasing use of the gasoline tractor.

The tannery of Edward S. Esty, which had grown gradually since its establishment by Joseph Esty in 1822, became a very prosperous institution after 1871. The old plant, at Green and Tioga Streets, had been destroyed by the terrible fire of that year and a new and larger building was erected in the western part of the village. But this, too, soon passed into the hands of a national combination, the United States Leather Company of New York, which afterward discontinued the Ithaca plant.



KATE MORGAN, CAYUGA LAKE STEAMBOAT



Photographs by Tolles and Seeley

AN ITHACA BOATYARD

The Forest City Mixed Paint Works was another enterprise that failed to compete with the trusts successfully. J. W. Tibbetts, the proprietor, had been a partner in the Superior Paint Company of Montour (then known as Havana), New York. He purchased complete control of the firm in 1880 and moved it to Ithaca. Thirty-two colors were manufactured at the Ithaca plant, which was a three-story building at the corner of State and Meadow Streets. Less than a decade later Tibbetts sold the property and operations were discontinued.

Boat building was an industry that developed with the increase in coal traffic at about the time of the Civil War. Four boat yards were listed in the village directory of 1878 and the work was then at its height. The leading Ithaca builders were B. F. Taber, William Jarvis, who came to Ithaca from England in 1869, and Walter Burling, who established his yard in 1880. This business declined rapidly until about 1900 when Lake Cayuga traffic had practically disappeared.

The presidents of the village of Ithaca during the period between the panic of 1873 and Ithaca's incorporation as a city were John Rumsey, in 1875; William Wisner Esty, in 1876; Joseph B. Sprague, in 1877; Albert H. Platts, in 1879 and 1880; P. Frank Sisson, in 1881; Henry H. Howe, in 1882; Charles J. Rumsey, in 1883, 1884, and 1885; Collingwood B. Brown, in 1886; Daniel W. Burdick, in 1887; and David B. Stewart, the last president, in 1888.

Village improvements completed during these years were neither significant nor numerous. The five years of financial instability that followed the panic of 1873 did not permit any large expenditures of money for unnecessary purposes. State Street was bit by bit paved with Medina

stone. Streets were lighted with about seventy gas lamps and about ninety oil lamps. A crude electric fire alarm system was in use after 1880. The water company built a new reservoir on South Hill in 1875. Daily issues of the *Ithaca Journal* had been appearing since 1871. The stone retaining wall on the south side of Cascadilla Creek, between Cayuga and Tioga Streets, was built in 1875. Three years later a simple telephone system was in use.

But by 1880 there was a new spirit in the air. The census report of that year listed the village of Ithaca as having 9,105 inhabitants, and the citizens realized that their community was nearing the ten thousand mark. The University was growing. The students and faculty came from other communities and described to Ithacans the latest developments in public utilities and local government.

There began to be talk of telephone extensions, a street railway, electric light, a sewer system, new pavements, and finally, a city charter and municipal government. And with the adoption of these improvements, Ithaca came into her maturity.

CHAPTER VII

THE CITY OF ITHACA

WHEN Cornell University was fifteen years old, Ithaca was still very much like the smaller country towns that surround it today. Except for the people who lived around the Fall Creek industrial section and a few who braved the danger of spring floods on the flats north of Farm Street, most of the inhabitants lived between Farm and Green Streets and between the road to Trumansburg and Aurora Street. At the center of the village the business section extended south as far as Six Mile Creek. There were a few homes on the lower slopes of West Hill, and a small number of houses south of the campus on East Hill, although it was slowly being built up with student rooming houses. The flats south of Green and west of Cayuga Streets, were swamps.

State Street was paved with Medina stone and a section of Aurora was planked but otherwise dirt roads were the only highways. In the spring they became almost impassable avenues of mud. At night the Ithacan, like all villagers of that era, found his way about by the flickering light of gas lamps or oil burners. On the streets he saw only horse-drawn vehicles or an occasional archaic yoke of oxen. Busses ran from the hotels to the railroad stations and campus.

As the University grew larger its graduates advertised Ithaca as a place in which to live. The needs of the institution on East Hill drew to the village builders, merchants,

and men of the professions. The local population increased sixty percent between the state census of 1865 and the national census of 1880.[1] But no corresponding change in the aspect of the village had taken place.

The new population now began to demand improvements: better means of transportation, a better lighting system, a purer and more adequate water supply, an expansion of the residential area, and a new and more efficient government. They turned to the engineers, the economists, and the sociologists of the University for advice and learned of the newest electric inventions and methods of civic improvement. Before the century was over Ithaca was better equipped with the various public utilities than many larger cities.

Ithaca had one of the nation's earliest telephone lines. Professor Alexander Graham Bell of Boston University had constructed the first successful telephone in 1876. The following year, Professor William A. Anthony of the department of physics wrote to Professor Bell asking for a permit to use the new patents in Ithaca. Permission was granted, and early in 1878 a wire was extended from the University campus down town. Captain William O. Wyckoff joined with Professor Anthony in establishing a concern known as the "Bell" Telephone Company, with offices and equipment in the Rumsey Block on Tioga Street.

The early telephones sounded at all terminals on the line. Later it was in Ithaca that selective ringing was first used. On June 30, 1880, the *Ithaca Journal* said:

"The telephone exchange has obtained its hundredth subscriber. . . . This we are informed is a larger number

[1] The population in 1865 was 5,658 inhabitants. In 1880 9,105 inhabitants were reported.

than has been obtained in so short a time in places even of twice the size of Ithaca. The management attributed their success partly to the low rate they determined at the beginning to adopt; but mainly to the readiness of the people of Ithaca to appreciate and avail themselves of the advantages offered by new inventions. We are informed that the management feels assured that unless more than unusual damage occurs to the lines, the exchange will now be self-supporting and is therefore a permanent institution of our village." [1]

In 1882 the New York and Pennsylvania Telephone and Telegraph Company was formed and the following year it purchased the interests of Anthony and Wyckoff. The exchange was moved to the Morrison Building next door and the first long distance wires out of Ithaca were completed to Auburn.

On August 16, 1901, service was "cut over" to a new switchboard, located in the building now occupied by the Salvation Army, at 121 West State Street. The New York Telephone Company, which had been operating in New York City, obtained control of the New York and Pennsylvania Company in 1909. The present commercial office, at the corner of State and Aurora Streets, was established two years later.

From 1902 to 1921 many homes and business houses had two telephone numbers, on different systems. Believing that communication could be furnished at rates lower than those then charged by the New York and Pennsylvania Company, on December 18, 1901, a group of Ithacans,

[1] In 1880 there were only slightly more than 30,000 telephones in the United States. Ithaca had three-tenths of one percent of the subscribers. That was about fifteen times the proportion of the village population to that of the nation.

Charles E. Treman, Wilder D. Bancroft, Ebenezer M. Treman, Edwin C. Stewart, Charles H. Blood, Jared T. Newman, Emmons L. Williams, Robert H. Treman, Henry L. Hinckley, and Mynderse Van Cleef, with Burt G. Hubbell of Cleveland, Ohio, incorporated the Ithaca Telephone Company, which began operating the following year in an exchange located in the Colonial Building. For long distance service, the Ithaca Company was connected with the wires of the Inter-Ocean Telephone Company, which was later acquired by the Federal Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Locally, the "Ithaca" telephones were more numerous than the "Bell" instruments, chiefly because the Ithaca company made installations free of charge. But nationally the Federal system was comparatively limited and people who telephoned long distances favored the "Bell" service. The Federal company erected the present city exchange shortly before 1918—when the Federal was absorbed into the Bell system. The exchanges continued to be operated separately until midnight, January 29, 1921, when all of the telephones in town were "cut over" to the Tioga Street exchange. At the same time the "dial" system went into use. Ithaca was the third city in New York State to have the new type automatic telephones, Dunkirk and Geneva having the first two.[1]

Electrical engineering had its birth in America in 1875 when Professors William A. Anthony and George S. Moler of the department of physics of Cornell University, built the first electric dynamo constructed in the western hemisphere. With that dynamo, they supplied current to

[1] At the present time there are 5,600 subscribers in this city, about one telephone to four persons.

the first outdoor electric lights in America, two arc lights located on the campus.[1]

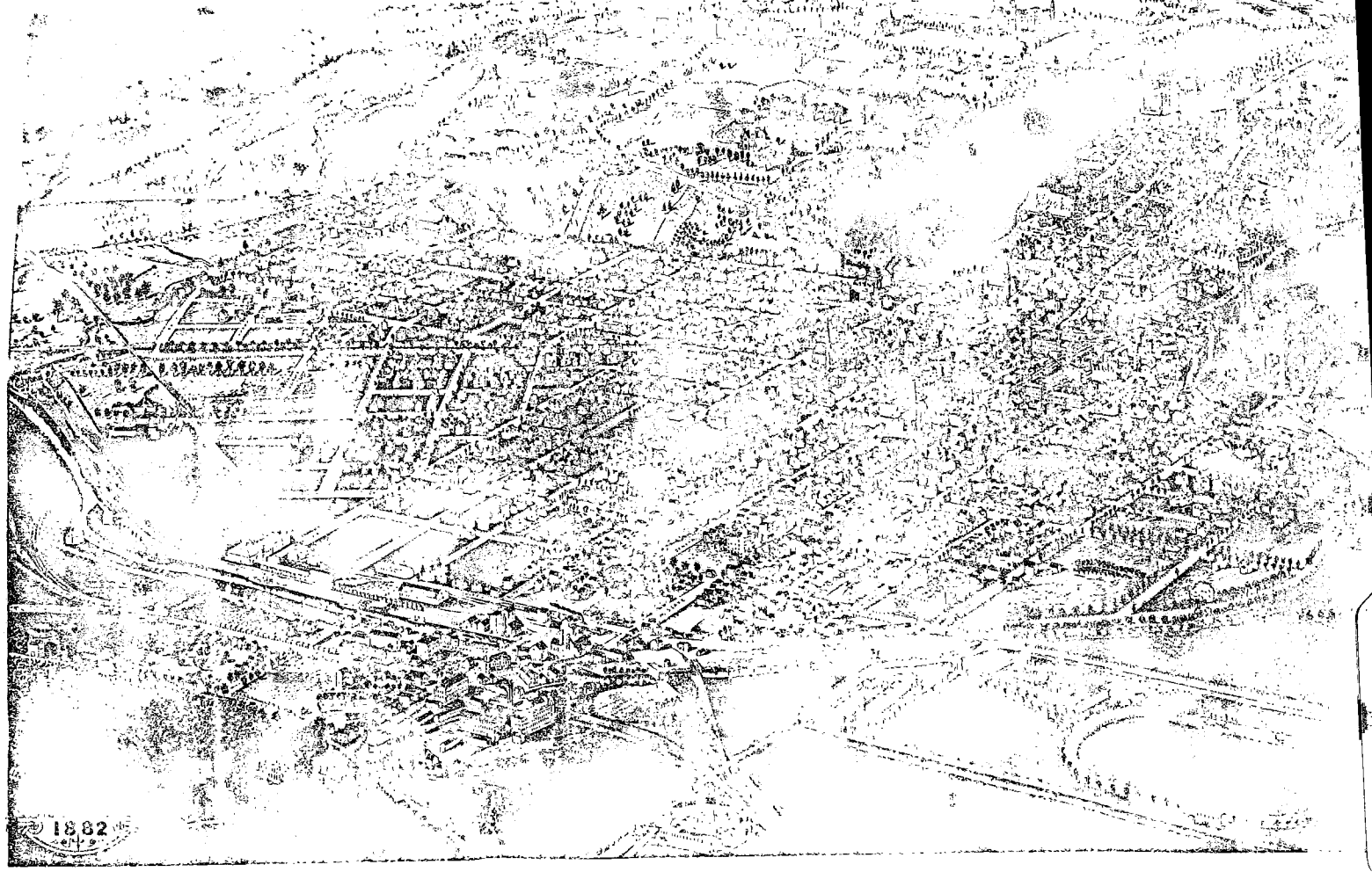
No change in the lighting system downtown was made until 1884. After other cities had taken up Anthony's innovation, Henry W. Sage, William H. Sage, Roger B. Williams, Orestus H. Gregory, and Elroy M. Avery incorporated the Brush-Swan Electric Light Company of Ithaca. This company furnished light to stores, and seventy street arc lights to the village trustees on what was known as a "moonlight schedule." During one hundred and fifteen nights in the year, when the almanac predicted that there was to be moonlight, no electric lights were provided, whether the moon was shining or not. The lights were always extinguished soon after midnight.

The first steps toward creating a dependable local transportation system were taken on July 18, 1883, when the trustees of the village granted a five-year franchise to "S. C. Pomeroy of Washington, D. C., Dr. R. W. Clapp of New York City and their associates" to construct and operate a horse car line from the Ithaca Hotel to the Geneva, Ithaca, and Sayre (Lehigh Valley) Railroad Station, the steamboat landing, and the Elmira, Cortland, and Northern Depot. It was stipulated that the company could charge a maximum fare of five cents for each adult and three cents for each child under twelve years of age. By its terms the franchise was canceled when the line was not constructed within twelve months. Meanwhile the citizens became interested in a new invention known as the "trolley," operated by electricity.

[1] The University has always had its own lighting service. Electric lights were first installed in the campus buildings in January, 1886. Waterman T. Hewitt, *Cornell University, A History*, Vol. 1, p. 367.

The earliest experiments with electric railways in this country, made by Thomas Edison and Stephen D. Field in 1880, had led to attempts by the Daft Company to introduce the trolley car commercially in the suburbs of Chicago and Kansas City in 1883. Encouraged by the news that these lines were successful, Otis E. Wood, John H. Selkreg, George B. Davis, Alonzo Chase, DeForest Van Vleet, and George W. Apgar of Ithaca, and S. S. Howe of Dryden petitioned for and were granted a charter on November 29, 1884, to establish the Ithaca Street Railways Company. The company was capitalized at $25,000 and obtained an extensive franchise to operate trolley lines. It built, however, only on State Street from the Lehigh Valley Station to the Ithaca Hotel. The rest of its rights, which extended down Aurora Street and to the steamboat landing, up Buffalo Street and Eddy to Cascadilla Gorge, and out Meadow Street to the county fair grounds, lapsed on November 1, 1888. The completed line was operated on what was known as the Daft system, a double trolley, one wire bearing the incoming current, and the other carrying the outgoing current. The Ithaca system was one of the earliest in the United States, inasmuch as, in 1885, there were only thirteen street railways in the country, the total mileage being less than fifty miles.

The street cars did not by any means run regularly during the five years following their inauguration. George Small, who was operating a planing mill on Six Mile Creek at Tioga Street, had entered into a contract to furnish twenty horsepower for the two cars that were in operation between 7 A. M. and 8 P. M. daily, but when the cars were out of order, which was frequently the case, service stopped completely.



ITHACA IN 1882 FROM A DRAWING BY L. R. BURLEIGH

Courte

This drawing when compared with the aeroplane views facing pages 176 and 208 shows the growth of Ithaca in the last 45 ye
in 1882, had very few buildings between the valley and Cornell University. The development of the residential sections north
Gorge and south of Cascadilla Gorge had not been started.

In December, 1891, Herman Bergholtz, an electrical engineer, and Horace E. Hand, a financier, came to Ithaca and bought control of the local street railway and electric light companies. They built a water-wheel plant to be used by both in the gorge of Fall Creek above the present Stewart Avenue bridge, which supplied power until it burned in 1905, whereupon the trolley company erected a steam power plant near the Remington salt works. They substituted a single feed wire for the Daft system and extended the tracks by the present East State and Eddy Street route to the campus entrance at College Avenue (then Heustis Street). At the same time they obtained a private right of way to the Elmira, Cortland, and Northern station at East Ithaca.

Many doubted that a trolley line actually could conquer the eleven percent grade. On the advice of prominent professors of the engineering college, who believed that the project would fail, the owners of the numerous horse-drawn busses continued in business.

A single track was laid up East Hill early in the winter of 1892–1893 and on Saturday afternoon, January 28, 1893, hundreds of Ithacans stood along the right of way, waiting to see the first attempt to run a car up the steep grade. The bus owners were posted along State and Eddy Streets and on Oak Avenue, each one hoping to stand at the point of failure. At last the little street car came in sight, Mr. Bergholtz himself operating it. To the amazement of the spectators the terminal was reached without any difficulty. The railways company had secured permission from the board of trustees of Cornell University to construct a spur to the campus. The company bridged Cascadilla Creek near Oak and Central Avenues and in the fall was operating cars to a point one hundred feet east of the old Armory.

The University trustees had welcomed the extension of the trolley service to the campus but many members of the board objected to the effort to carry the tracks to a more central terminal. It was contended that the noise of the trolley cars would be a disturbing factor, and that the tracks, poles, and wires would be unsightly. However, in June, 1894, the trustees granted permission for the extension of tracks on South and East Avenues to President's Avenue and thence to Boardman Hall opposite the University Library. Cars were run across the center of the campus for fifteen years until the spur west of East Avenue was torn up in 1910. Some of the old ties may still be seen imbedded in the grass in front of Boardman Hall.

On May 22, 1892, the city had granted a franchise for the construction of the Tioga Street line, a single track which extended from State Street to Railroad Avenue and thence to the steamboat landing. The part of this line that lay west of Tioga Street was taken up in 1895, when lake transportation had declined.

Thus service was being furnished on State Street, on Tioga Street, and up East Hill to President's Avenue by 1898, when Bergholtz and Hand sold control of the trolley and the electric companies to Edward G. Wyckoff, who had purchased a tract of farm land north of the University campus. In the spring and summer of 1899, he extended tracks to the southwest corner of Beebe Lake, and over the upper bridge across Fall Creek Gorge, which had been built by Mr. Bergholtz, who had formerly owned property north of the gorge. Mr. Wyckoff continued the line along Thurston Avenue, and built a track north on Stewart Avenue as far as University Avenue. The following year the loop was completed, when Fall Creek was bridged just

below the power plant. The first cars circled the loop on May 6, 1900.

Mr. Wyckoff sold his stock in the Ithaca Street Railways Company in 1908 to Albert H. Flint of New York City, who, with some associates, was planning to build a railroad to Auburn (New York, Auburn & Lansing).[1] Since they expected to carry passengers on electric cars up the steep grade as far as South Lansing, they double-tracked Tioga Street.

The Flint company was financially unsuccessful and went into receivership in 1912. Two years later, on March 30, 1914, a new group of investors, headed by Roger B. Williams, Jr., formed the Ithaca Traction Corporation and bought in the property. The new company completed the system of double tracks and switches on East Hill. It was unable to withstand the advance in prices that took place during the war period and on June 23, 1924, another receivership followed. At this writing it appears that the lines will be sold once more, and strenuous efforts are being made to place the company on a firm financial basis.

The development of the electric transit system contributed more than any other factor to the territorial expansion of the city. The first advances in that direction were made by Charles M. Titus in the late 'seventies, when he developed property for residential purposes in the southwest and northwest parts of the flats. The old north branch of Six Mile Creek, which followed a wandering course to the Inlet between Seneca and Buffalo Streets, was filled in; a new channel was built along Titus Avenue and the lowlands between it and Clinton Street were made available as home sites.

[1] See pages 171, 172.

After the street railway was extended to Railroad Avenue,[1] its owners incorporated a Cayuga Lake Railway Company, which purchased lake shore property from the James Renwick estate,[2] and in the summer of 1894 built a line from Railroad Avenue to the lake. They developed forty acres of the land at the terminus of their line as the Renwick Park. In this amusement park, with lawns, woods, and paths laid out by a landscape artist of the firm that planned Central Park in New York City, there was a landing where small boats were rented, a small zoological garden, a theater for vaudeville performances, and a pavilion where "Patsy" Conway's band gave concerts during the summer months. Thousands of visitors came, often by excursions from some distance, to enjoy its summer attractions.

The Flint interests, doubtless aware that trolley amusement parks had generally proved but a passing fad, promptly sold this part of their newly acquired property to a group of local men. These, incorporated as the Renwick Park and Traffic Association, included E. G. Wyckoff, D. W. Burdick, F. C. Cornell, Charles H. Blood, and Uri Clark.

The extension of the trolley lines up East Hill led to a rapid development north and south of the campus. The Cornell Heights Land Company, organized in 1901 by Charles H. Blood, Jared T. Newman, E. G. Wyckoff, Professor Charles H. Hull, and Professor John H. Tanner, purchased a farm north of Wyckoff's original "Heights." The Ithaca Country Club had maintained a golf links on a

[1] See page 130.

[2] Military Lot No. 88. Granted to Andrew Moody of the Revolutionary Army July 9, 1790. Sold to James Renwick, December 13, 1790. It was family property, undeveloped, for 104 years.

portion of the property for several years. The company sold thirty acres of its land to the country club. Highland Avenue, Wyckoff Avenue, Triphammer Road, and other streets were laid out and graded. Most of the property of the Cornell Heights Land Company is now included in the Village of Cayuga Heights.

The rest of the land in the new tract was offered for sale as building lots, and to render it more accessible the principal owners of the Cornell Heights Land Company, Jared T. Newman, Charles H. Blood, and John H. Tanner, with LeRoy Van Kirk, S. Edwin Banks, Charles L. Crandall, and Royal V. Lamberson, incorporated the Ithaca Suburban Railway Company on September 24, 1904. That year they built a track from the car line at Thurston Avenue, on Wyckoff Avenue, Kline Road, Highland Avenue, and thence northwest to Renwick Park.

For one season this service was very popular. The next year, however, passengers were no longer attracted by the novelty of the experience, and the line did not pay. The tracks were soon torn up from the lake to the present terminus of the Wyckoff Avenue line.

The continuance of service, however, on the Heights line as far as its present terminus eventually proved very effective in stimulating the development of Cayuga Heights, which Newman and Blood had opened up to the north of Cornell Heights. With its glorious vista of the lake and valley, Cayuga Heights is now one of the choice residential districts of Ithaca. It is an incorporated village, restricted by zoning ordinances which went into effect in 1926.

The installation of incandescent electric lights in the homes of Ithacans worked the same profound change here as it did in other communities. Candlelight, oil lamps, and

gas illumination had tended to restrict work and play after sundown.

In the new century the day does not end until almost midnight. Electric lighting makes more frequent the entertainment of friends at home, and the hundreds of other activities that fill an Ithacan's evening. In the home, electricity is used for cooking, for ironing, for washing, for refrigeration, for vacuum cleaning, or in the summer, for the operation of fans. This electrical revolution began for Ithaca in 1892 when the Brush-Swan Company introduced Edison's new lamps, which added much to the prosperity of the lighting corporation.

In 1900 William T. Morris of Penn Yan, having purchased the gas and water works, bought the electric light interests of E. G. Wyckoff, whose major interest was in the street railway and real estate developments. The new owner set about consolidating his companies and developing the sale of power to local factories. A series of incorporations culminated in July, 1918, in the formation of the New York State Gas and Electric Corporation, which now has control of a large number of neighboring light and power concerns.

In 1906 the Associated Gas & Electric Company[1] had been incorporated by Mr. Morris and Ebenezer M. Freeman. Under New York City management it has gradually gathered under its control properties in more than a thousand communities in New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Kentucky, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the Philippine Islands. Among these is the new York State Gas & Electric Corporation which serves Ithaca.

[1] Incorporated in Penn Yan. The office was moved to Ithaca.

In 1916 the Associated and the New York State Gas and Electric Companies built a five-story building at Cayuga and Green Streets, replacing their former headquarters, a wooden structure first used by Treman, King and Company as a machine shop. At the present time a new gas plant is being built on the bank of Cascadilla Creek at the foot of First Street. The Associated Gas and Electric Company now has executive offices in New York City, but its accounting control and the securities selling management are located in Ithaca. This work, which required three persons in 1920, now employs one hundred and fifty. Twenty-three more are employed in the New York State Gas and Electric Corporation offices, twenty-three at the electric power plant, eleven in the gas manufacturing plant, and fifty in the distribution department. Jointly considered, these growing organizations form one of Ithaca's largest industries.

William T. Morris and his associates sold the water works on December 13, 1904, to the City of Ithaca. This transfer came at the end of a most unfortunate controversy in which the management of the water system had been severely criticized.

Since 1872 the Ithaca Water Works Company had supplied water from Buttermilk Creek. The "Scott" or upper dam had been built in 1875, and water diverted thence to the South Hill reservoir, where the Morse Industries Building is now located. The Van Natta Mill on Six Mile Creek was purchased in 1892, and the mill dam was used to create an additional water supply. A pumping station was built at that site the following year.

For some time, however, the citizens had been dissatisfied with this service. In 1894 a typhoid fever epidemic, the cause of which was said to be in the water,

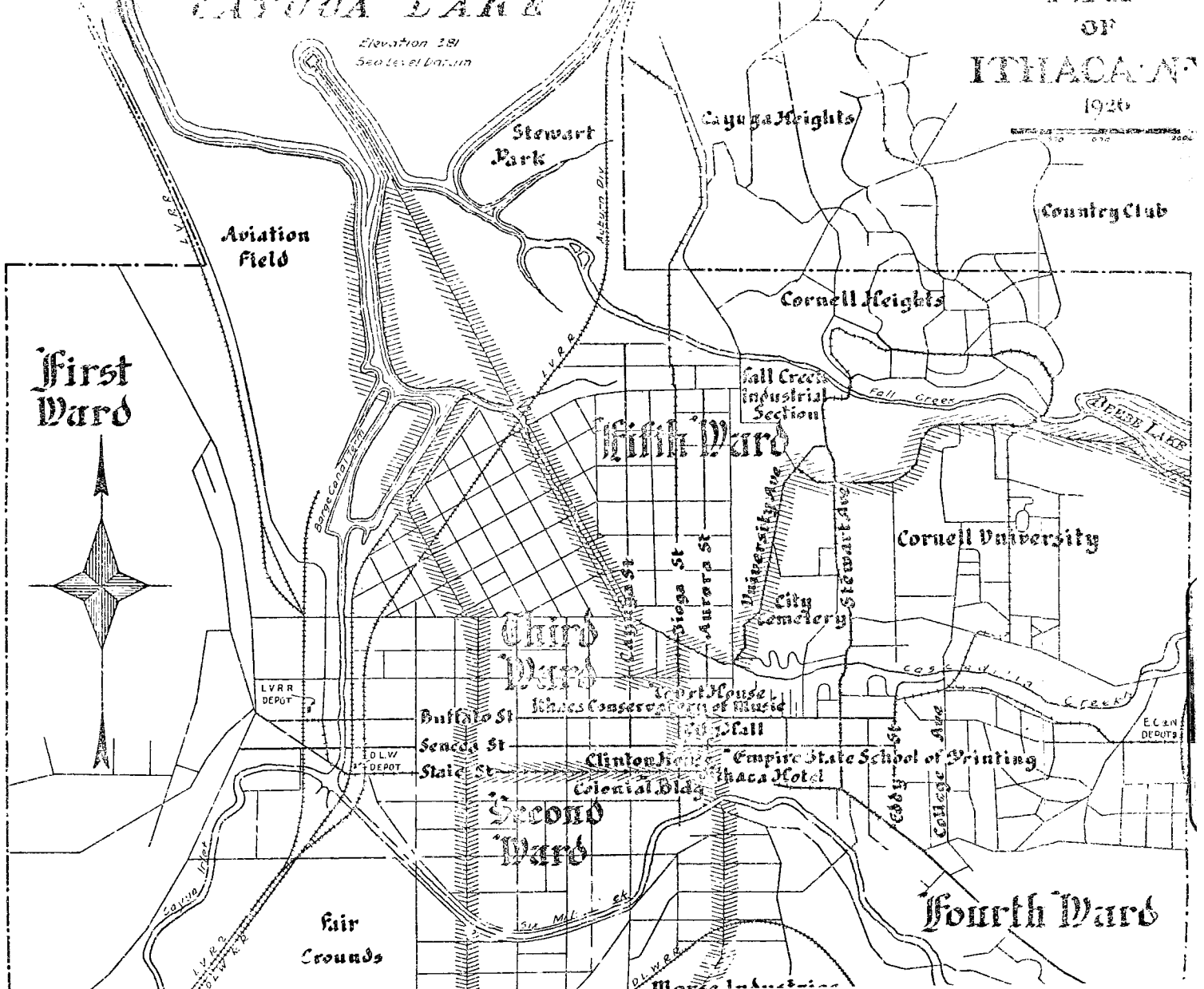
stimulated further criticism of the system. Several times it was suggested in the common council that the municipality should purchase the works but in each instance, until March, 1903, the proposal failed to obtain a majority. When the council finally voted for the purchase, no agreement as to the price could be reached. That year Mr. Morris and his associates erected a new filtration plant.

In 1903 a second severe typhoid fever epidemic swept through the city.[1] Hundreds of individuals, from the Inlet to Cornell Heights, were infected and a large number of deaths resulted. Bitterness against the water company was high, and a committee of one hundred citizens led the movement to have artesian wells opened in the Ellis Hollow Valley and in the valley of the Cayuga Inlet.

Meanwhile condemnation proceedings were instituted against the water works and a long period of litigation ensued. The company offered to sell its property for $605,000, but the city considered that price exorbitant. The law suit grew to be extremely expensive and the Morris group finally agreed to surrender the works to the city. The price was to be set by an impartial commission which was to be guided by expert appraisers. If the amount named was below that which had been asked by the company, the latter would pay the expense of employing the commission and experts. If the price was above $605,000, the city was to pay the costs. The water works were surrendered to the municipality on December 31, 1904.

The city paid a good price for its water system. The properties were appraised at $658,000. The cost of the suits, the commission, and the witnesses aggregated over $100,000 more and additional money had been wasted in

[1] See page 197.


Elevation 381
Sea level Datum
Stewart Park
Aviation Field
Cayuga Heights
Country Club
Cornell Heights
First Ward
Fall Creek Industrial Section
Fifth Ward
Cornell University
City Cemetery
Third Ward
Court House
Buffalo St
Seneca St
State St
Clinton House
Colonial Bldg
Ithaca Hotel
Empire State School of Printing
Second Ward
Fourth Ward
Fair Grounds
LVRR DEPOT
DLW DEPOT
Cascadilla Creek
Fall Creek
Inlet
Aurora St
Cayuga St
Tioga St
University Ave
Stewart Ave
Eddy St
College Ave

boring "dry" artesian wells. But the water works were at last municipally owned.

The present municipal government has existed since 1888. The question of changing the Village of Ithaca to a city had been considered as early as 1881, when Almy and Bouton, attorneys, were appointed to draw up the charter. The provisions of the document, however, met with widespread opposition, and the matter was dropped for several years. In 1884 the board of trustees submitted to the taxpayers the question of reincorporation as a city and they favored the change in government by a vote of 768 to 586. Another charter was drawn up, but it too was unsatisfactory to the several political factions.

Finally, on March 16, 1887, the board of trustees decided to appoint sixteen representative citizens, eight Democrats and eight Republicans, to draw up a charter that would satisfy all groups. The men appointed were Edward S. Esty, David B. Stewart, Elias M. Treman, Henry A. St. John, Henry B. Lord, Franklin C. Cornell, Albert H. Platts, Edmund K. Johnson, Roger B. Williams, Charles M. Titus, Collingwood B. Brown, Horace M. Hibbard, Charles L. Crandall, D. H. Wanzer, J. D. Bennett, and Isaiah Robinson.

The drafters were influenced by Bryce's newly published criticism of our city governments[1] and by Seth Low's idea that concentrating power and responsibility in the office of mayor was the remedy. But many difficulties were involved in such a change. Village feeling was against it and also it was not thought likely that a man could be found who would give enough time to the office to carry such a burden. The result was a compromise, a halting step towards the short ballot.

[1] James Bryce, *The American Commonwealth*, 1888.

Judge Douglass Boardman, Samuel D. Halliday, and Percy G. Ellsworth, with Professor Charles A. Collin of the Cornell University College of Law, advised the drafting committee concerning the legality of the charter and suggested final revisions. Thus carefully prepared, the document was returned to the board of trustees and unanimously passed. It was sanctioned in the state legislature and by the governor, and it became a law on May 2, 1887.

Under the new system of government the mayor, elected at large for a term of two years, was empowered to appoint, but only with the consent of the common council, many city officials elsewhere commonly elected. He thus had a large, though not complete, control over the executive departments.[1]

[1] The following mayors have held office since the inauguration of the new government:

David B. Stewart	1888
John Barden	1889–1890
Henry A. St. John	1891–1892
Clinton Bouton	1893–1894
Leroy G. Todd	1895–1896
John B. Lang	1897–1898
William C. Elmendorf	1899–1900
William R. Gunderman	1901–1902
George W. Miller	1903–1904
Bradford Almy	1905–1906
Jared T. Newman	1907–1908
Randolph Horton	1909–1911
John Reamer	1912–1913
Thomas Tree	1914–1915
Frederick E. Bates	1916–1917
Frank B. Davis	1918–1919
Edwin C. Stewart	1920–1921
Louis P. Smith	1922–1923
Will M. Sawdon	1924–1925
Fred B. Howe	1926–1927

The most important of these, as it turned out, was the city clerkship, an office continuously occupied throughout twenty-one years by William O. Kerr, whose diligence and sound judgment were appropriately recognized at a testimonial dinner tendered him by several civic organizations in 1925. The mayor's other general assistant is the city attorney, who examines all ordinances proposed in the common council and all resolutions of the board of public works.

The financial department includes the chamberlain, who acts in the capacity of a treasurer, the board of assessors, and the commissioners of the sinking fund. They have so managed the city's finances that, in spite of a volume of debt which at times has been burdensome, Ithaca's credit has remained consistently high.

The police and fire departments are responsible for the safety of the community. The fire commissioners are appointed by the mayor with the approval of the common council. The fire department is headed by a chief and two assistants, appointed by the fire commissioners. Company No. 2 occupies its own building adjoining City Hall. The new station opened in 1926 houses Companies Nos. 1, 3, and 4. Another station, that of Company No. 5, is between Cayuga and Geneva Streets on the north side of State Street. Company No. 6 occupies a building on West State Street between Meadow and Fulton Streets. Another fire station on Tioga Street, opposite its intersection with Queen Street, houses Company No. 7. Station No. 8 is located on College Avenue, south of Dryden Road. Although there are a few paid firemen, most of the members of these companies are volunteers, among whom are some of the most influential and active young men of the city.

The police commissioner is responsible to the mayor for the conduct of the police department, which consists of a chief of police, three officers, fourteen patrolmen, and one policewoman. Because of the large student population of Ithaca, the police department is faced by peculiar problems which have been met in a very creditable manner.

Other officers and boards in the executive department of the city government are the sealer of weights and measures, civil service commission, building commissioner, examining board of plumbers, commissioner of charities,[1] and the board of health.[2]

The charter provided for two aldermen elected to represent each of the arbitrary districts known as "wards" and to meet as a common council. There were originally four wards, the first being all west of the center of Corn Street; the second ward, all east of the center of Corn Street and south of the center of State Street; the third ward, all east of the center of Corn and Varick Streets, west of Tioga, and north of State Street; and the fourth ward being east of the center of Tioga Street and north of the center of State Street. In 1908 a fifth ward was erected and the boundary lines of the first four revised.[3]

The common council is divided into a number of standing committees, appointed by the mayor at the beginning of his term. These committees are designated as follows: city charter and ordinances, police department, relations with the board of public works, relations with the fire commission, relations with the board of health, and relations with the commissioner of charities.

[1] See page 181.
[2] See pages 196, 197.
[3] See map, opposite page 136

The judicial department is headed by the city judge elected for a term of four years. An acting city judge is appointed by the mayor for a term of two years. These officials are assisted by the clerk of the city court.

Separate commissions were created as soon as the new government had been installed. This was necessary because the occupants of conventional offices did not always have the time nor the professional qualifications needed to meet the technical problems which faced the city government. It was often found that citizens who could not be induced to become candidates for elective offices would serve as special commissioners. Such commissions eventually became a weighty factor in determining municipal policy.

The earliest problem referred to such a board concerned the streets. There was an insistent demand for pavements. They would be costly but they could be built bit by bit, and wherever built they could be seen. The representatives of the wards in common council were willing to make initial appropriations for them. The mayor, however, representing the entire city, steadfastly maintained that no streets should be paved until sewers had been provided. It was extravagant, argued Mayor Stewart, to lay pavements and then tear them up to install sewers. Local impatience with muddy streets would not tolerate the postponement of surface improvements. From this dilemma the common council at length escaped by referring the problem to a paving commission of four members, Charles F. Blood, Richard A. Crozier, O. H. Gregory, and Holmes Hollister, who took office in 1892. This commission determined that in streets about to be paved "the superintendent shall cause to be laid all drain tile that may be necessary for sewerage for each house or vacant lot along

said streets and that the full expense thereof shall be charged to property owners." Under this compromise, during four years following April, 1892, Seneca Street, Aurora Street from Buffalo Street to Six Mile Creek, Cayuga Street from Green to Seneca Street, and Green Street from Tioga to Geneva Street were all paved with vitrified bricks; Aurora Street, from the south line of Buffalo Street to Railroad Avenue, was paved with Telford macadam. The provision concerning sewerage was always included in the resolutions of the paving commission.

When doubts arose as to the advisability of laying laterals under pavements where there were no street sewers with which to make a connection, the common council in 1894 appointed a sewer commission to take office two years later. The commission was faced by a difficult technical problem because the flatness of the most thickly settled district prevented a gravity run and required expensive pumping. However, more than 3,000 feet of 24-inch sewer mains were laid during 1897 and subsequently a disposal plant with an outfall to the lake was erected at Franklin Street and Lake Avenue.

During the next decade the sanitary sewage system was extended but it was not until the typhoid epidemic[1] of 1903 aroused interest in hygienic measures that an effort was made to carry the system to all parts of the city. The board of health had urged for years that this work be done but funds had not been made available. The construction of a sanitary sewage system had been confused in the public mind with surface drainage.

Throughout its history Ithaca had suffered from spring floods. With the coming of high water in the spring, the

[1] See page 197.

creeks overflowed their banks, inundating much of "The Flats" and frequently destroying property. Thus there was created at the head of Cayuga Lake a malarial swamp very harmful to the health of the community. The problem had been recognized in 1861 but attention had been turned from it by the more pressing problems of the Civil War.[1]

The chief cause of these floods was the fact that there were also swamps at the north end of the lake and that its outlet, the Seneca River, was a sluggish stream which failed to carry off the excess water in early spring. A second cause lay in the fact that the streams in Ithaca were not deep enough to hold the high water, and were not properly banked to prevent its overflow.

The state legislature had made frequent appropriations to drain the marshes at the Cayuga outlet, $349,500 having been spent between 1825 and 1898. But this relief had been only temporary, as the outlet was not improved.

Two floods, more destructive than any since 1857, occurred in the winter of 1901–1902 and aroused the citizens to action. Mayor William R. Gunderman appointed a citizens' committee composed of Daniel W. Burdick, Henry A. St. John, Jared T. Newman, Francis M. Rites, Walter McCormick, Professor Charles L. Crandall, and Charles E. Treman, which was to investigate and recommend to the common council methods to protect the community from further inundations. This committee convinced itself, and ultimately the citizens of Ithaca, that drainage must be handled separately from the problem of a sewage system.

The floods again drew the attention of state authorities to the Montezuma Marshes at the foot of Cayuga Lake. Dr. George A. Soper of the state board of health in 1903 made

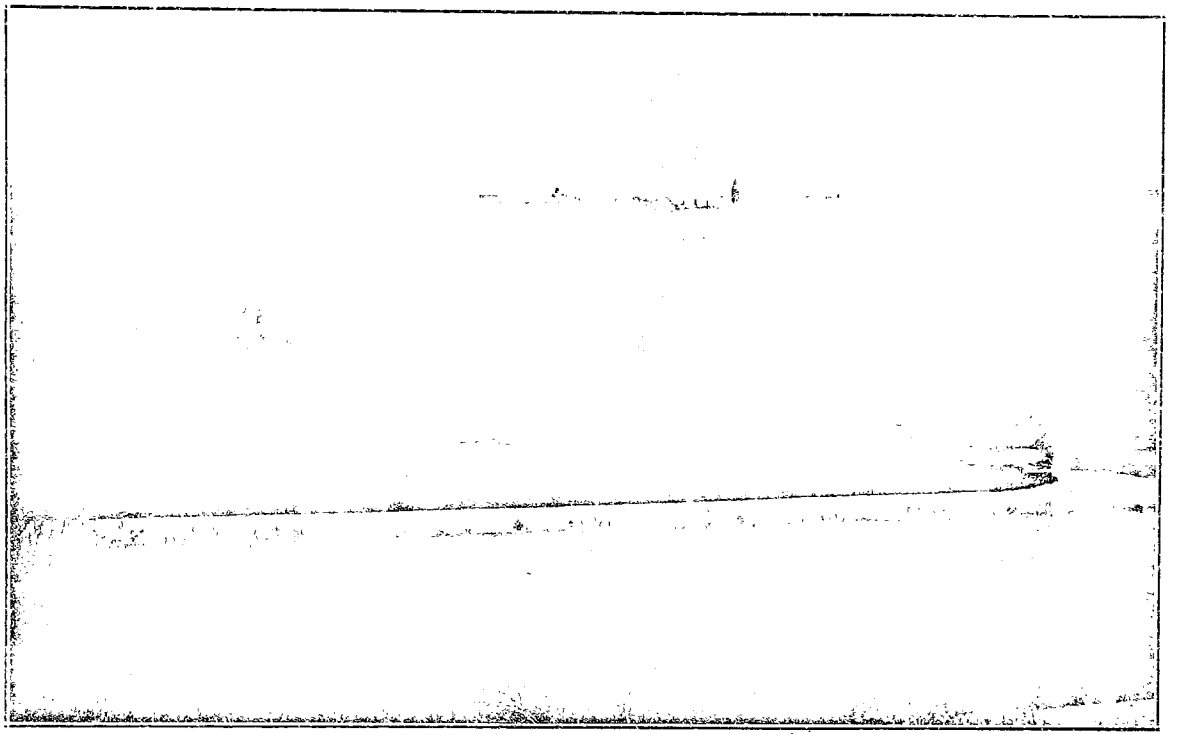
[1] See page 80.

a special study of them and his findings corroborated the contentions of those Ithacans who believed that an improvement of the Seneca River would relieve the flood danger at Ithaca. Meanwhile, an unexpected solution to the difficulty was developing.

The state had determined to construct a new Barge Canal approximately along the route of the old Erie Canal.[1] Most Ithacans, discouraged by the decline of canal commerce on the Inlet, felt little enthusiasm for the new project. But a few saw in it an opportunity to secure the needed improvement of the Seneca River. The Business Men's Association[2] authorized the appointment of a special "Committee of Twenty-five" for the purpose of making the Cayuga Lake outlet and the rest of the Cayuga and Seneca Canal a part of the Barge Canal system. Neither was included in the original state plan. Comprehensive data were collected concerning the amount of lake traffic, the local flood menace and its effect upon health conditions, and the variation of the lake level. On May 10, 1904, the committee reported its conclusions to the association. Exactly one year later its findings were submitted to the governor of the state by a special committee of twenty-seven Ithacans who went to Albany for the purpose. They were supported by representatives from other cities and villages in the Finger Lakes Region. As if to reinforce their argument the last serious Ithaca flood occurred in the following month.

On June 21, 1905, the waters of Six Mile Creek rushed down upon the city, carrying away dams and bridges, breaking water mains, filling many dwelling houses with water

[1] See page 42.
[2] See pages 165–168.



EAST HILL, BARGE CANAL HARBOR IN FOREGROUND *Photograph by J. P. Troy*

up to the second floor, and destroying property valued at more than $100,000. Citizens were rescued from flooded sections by firemen who commandeered small boats for the purpose. Many families were rendered destitute.

A survey of the branch canal route was authorized in 1905. The legislature of 1909 passed a referendum for an appropriation of $7,000,000 to improve the Cayuga and Seneca Canal and make it a part of the Barge Canal system. The voters approved the expenditure and the way was cleared for the solution of Ithaca's drainage problem.

The common council did its part to eliminate the possibility of floods by establishing in 1906 a creeks, drainage, and parks commission. The city issued bonds to the amount of $100,000 and levied a special tax of $60,000. A state appropriation of $125,000 was enlisted. With these funds the commission widened and deepened the Cayuga Inlet; diked the upper channel of Six Mile Creek and deepened it considerably; and built embankments along Fall and lower Six Mile Creeks.

The low swing-bridges that spanned the Inlet at State, Seneca, and Buffalo Streets were removed and the present stationary bridges substituted for them. Soon thereafter, in connection with the development of the Inlet as a part of the Barge Canal system, the state relinquished to city control that part of the channel south of the Buffalo Street bridge and straightened the course of the waterway north of that point. Thus freshets are confined in their passage to the lake. Since these changes were made no floods have endangered life and property in this valley. When the state cut a new channel for the Inlet, much of the swamp area along the stream was filled. With the menace of malaria removed, the residential section of Ithaca was ex-

tended all the way to Stewart, formerly Renwick, Park. The average health of the community has greatly improved.

Since 1908 all of these public improvements have been centered under the management of a board of public works. The paving commission completed its appointed term in 1902 and for six years street improvements were directed by the common council. The board of public works is now in charge of paving, the sewer system, the water supply, parks, drainage, and creeks, cemeteries, street lighting, and garbage disposal. It institutes condemnation proceedings, issues building permits, awards contracts for public improvements, supervises snow removal, and accounts to the common council for its expenditures.

The board operates on a carefully considered program. Every summer more of the streets are reconditioned and made passable for motorists. A new impounding water reservoir with a capacity of 300,000,000 gallons was built in 1912 on Six Mile Creek, above the reservoir established by the old water works company. At the same time a new pumping station was built at Van Natta's Dam. The old South Hill reservoir was then abandoned. A silt catching basin is being constructed on Six Mile Creek, upstream from the new reservoir.

Since the establishment of the board of public works, the local park system has been much improved. Washington Park, bounded by Park Place, Buffalo, Washington and Court Streets, was filled in and developed in 1908. Renwick Park was purchased by the city in 1921 during the mayoralty of Edwin C. Stewart. Mayor Stewart died before he had completed his term. By his will he left $100,000 to the Ithaca City Hospital and approximately $150,000 for the development of the park which now bears

his name. The Renwick Park and Traffic Association had leased the park to Wharton, Inc., to be used for a motion picture studio in 1915.[1] The old park buildings, the pavilions, and piers were badly run down. The lawns were overgrown with weeds, the grass was uncut, and the landscape was disfigured with ugly shacks and dilapidated moving picture sets. Herman Bergholtz, the original owner and builder, was given the task of restoration, and Stewart Park is more beautiful and more extensively patronized than ever before.

A demand on the part of citizens that more thought be given to the development of the city took form in January, 1923, when Mayor Louis P Smith was authorized by the common council to appoint a citizens committee "to consider and formulate plans for a comprehensive program of permanent improvements." The first city planning committee was composed of William M. Driscoll, John Reamer, Charles E. Treman, Francis J. Seery, Liberty Hyde Bailey, Rodney G. Robinson and Arthur N. Gibb. The committee engaged Russell VanNest Black to make city planning studies. A zoning system for the city was formulated and adopted. The city planning committee functioned for three years without official status. This condition was remedied in February, 1926, when the council created the city planning commission under the state law. This commission is also the zoning commission.

The automobile traffic of recent years has made necessary a much more extensive street lighting system. The board of public works has contracted with the gas and electric corporation for more than six hundred street lights, including eighty modern boulevard fixtures which first

[1] See pages 162, 163.

lighted the business district in 1916. Recently a traffic signal system has been purchased, one set of signals for each of the intersections of State Street with Cayuga, Tioga, and Aurora Streets and one set for the crossing of Tioga and Seneca Streets.

Since the beginning of its municipal development in the 'eighties, the population of Ithaca has doubled.[1] Its territory has extended north to Cayuga Lake. Its residential district now includes the Village of Cayuga Heights and all of that part of East Hill surrounding Cornell University. Southeast of the campus, what was formerly the farm of Solomon Bryant is now covered with homes. On South Hill and West Hill new buildings are constantly being erected.

The community is alive to every current innovation in the field of municipal works and an efficient city government endeavors to make such improvements available to the citizens. Much of the valley or downtown section of the city may be reached by trolley car and a like service is rendered on East Hill. Electricity, gas, and telephone service are distributed in an efficient manner. All in all, Ithaca is a good place in which to live.

[1] National Census, 1880 9,105
National Census, 1890 11,079
State Census, 1892 12,460
National Census, 1900 13,136
State Census, 1905 14,615
National Census, 1910 14,802
State Census, 1915 16,750
National Census, 1920 17,004
State Census, 1925 18,948

CHAPTER VIII

INDUSTRIAL MATURITY

THE development of public utilities and the municipal government had in part resulted from and had subsequently been accelerated by the city's graduation into its industrial maturity. The commercial life of the community began to change at about the time that the new charter was adopted. The new era was a part of a national period of industrial centralization and expansion.

Throughout the country large enterprises, equipped with facilities for mass production, were absorbing smaller concerns. Individuals who operated small plants with limited capital were unable to compete with the vast organizations of unlimited resources that were at that time developing.

The Ithaca plants were too diversified in character to make such amalgamations possible. As was seen in Chapter VI, local nineteenth century manufacturers, one after another, closed their shops and found other employment. Ithaca's industrial salvation had to come from outside, and that was what occurred. Well equipped or strongly capitalized organizations came to the city from elsewhere and built up the enduring institutions that now contribute to the local wealth. Not every enterprise that came to Ithaca survived. In some cases the project was not suited to the environment. In other instances the human factor essential to success was lacking.

The change in local industry is clearly indicated in the *Census Reports of Manufactures*. In 1890 eighty manufacturing concerns were enumerated, reporting a total annual output of $1,786,000. In 1919, when the population was almost double that of 1890, the number of manufacturing establishments had dropped to seventy-two, but the value of the products had grown to $9,935,000. Statistics for 1926 would indicate still more centralization, for some of the smaller factories have ceased operations within the past five years.

The first of the existent large manufacturing enterprises to be established was the Ithaca Gun Company, founded in February, 1883. W. Henry Baker, an inventor and gun manufacturer in Lisle, N. Y., interested LeRoy H. Smith and George Livermore of that village in his work. At that time between 170,000 and 200,000 shotguns were being imported into the United States annually, and these three men believed that some of this market could be cared for by domestic manufacturers.

Accordingly, a partnership was formed with James E. Van Natta and Dwight McIntyre of Ithaca and property was purchased above the Ithaca Manufacturing Works site on Fall Creek Gorge. A wooden building was erected and the production of guns began on a small scale. The business prospered, and a brick annex to the original plant was built in 1890. Two years later another brick section was necessary. A thirty-foot addition was added in 1901, and in 1918 the present main building was completed.

Early in the gun company's history, the maximum production of the plant was 3,100 guns per year. At the present time 52,000 are manufactured in this factory annually, more than one-half of the double hammerless

guns sold in America. The company has absorbed several rival plants, including the Syracuse Arms Company, the LeFever Arms Company, the Union Fire Arms Company, and the Wilkes-Barre Gun Company. The employees of this firm now average about 350 in number. The McIntyre and Baker interests were purchased by the Livermore and Smith families, actively represented by George Livermore, Louis P. Smith, Claude H. Smith, and Paul Smith Livermore, who incorporated the company in 1902.

Ithacans, in the new era, have found in the Cayuga Lake Valley an immense wealth buried beneath the soil. The local salt industry, which has developed entirely within the last quarter of a century, brings each year to the community millions of dollars and offers employment to hundreds of men.

The presence of a salt vein below the foundations of this village had been suspected for one hundred years. When the first settlers came to this valley they saw Indians carrying hot salt to and from their villages, but they were never able to learn how this valuable commodity was obtained. On August 11, 1810, DeWitt Clinton wrote:

"It is said that there are salt (licks) in this country, and one near this place. . . . This is probably a link in the chain of fossil salt, extending from Salina to Louisiana, like the main range of the Alleghany Mountains." [1]

Between 1817 and 1820 a Mr. Torry had sunk two shafts near the remains of the Tutelo Indian village in the Inlet Valley but had found no salt. Another attempt in the same locality was made in 1864, but without success.

Meanwhile the salt springs of Syracuse had yielded a great wealth to that city, and later at Warsaw modern salt

[1] W. W. Campbell, *Life and Writings of DeWitt Clinton*, p. 163.

wells had been developed. Some of the operators at the Warsaw plants visited Ithaca in the 'seventies and were convinced that salt veins could be found at this site. On May 20, 1887, Charles White, Bradford Almy, B. F. Slocum, George W. Frost, Franklin C. Cornell, and George E. Priest incorporated the Ithaca Test Well Company to sink test shafts. A pure vein of salt was discovered one and one-half miles south of the lake and 2,244 feet below the surface. Other borings were at once made, and one-half mile north of the first well, Jesse Johnston located a vein 500 feet in thickness.

The salt manufacturers at Warsaw were at once interested. It occurred to them that north of the village, along the lake shore, the water needed in the manufacturing process would be available and the lake would be an excellent shipping route. Royal V. Lamberson, John A. Clute, Warren W. Clute, and Luther B. VanKirk came to Ithaca from Warsaw and bored a test well west of Ludlowville, eight miles from Ithaca, in 1890. Salt was found at a depth of about 2,000 feet. Mr. Lamberson and his associates then incorporated the Cayuga Lake Salt Company, capitalized at $50,000, and soon were operating a manufacturing plant.

A second Warsaw group arrived in Ithaca in 1893 and drilled to salt on Third Street. This plant was known as the Ithaca Salt Works. Production was carried on by its founders for five years, after which they sold out to the newly formed National Salt Company.[1] The latter corporation had been formed by a consolidation of the Ludlowville,

[1] The old Ithaca Salt Works is now used for the manufacture of bags to supply the International Salt Company at Ludlowville. For some years it was operated by the Ames Bag Machine Company, but it is again under control of the Ludlowville concern.

Warsaw, and Watkins companies. Financial difficulties in 1900 caused it to go into receivership.

Shortly thereafter the salt plant at Ludlowville was purchased by E. L. Fuller of Scranton, Pennsylvania, who owned salt mines in the Middle West and had also gained control of the Warsaw and Watkins plants and the Retsof Rock Salt Mine near Warsaw. These interests were combined as the International Salt Company, which has since sold its western properties, but continues to operate in New York State.

After the failure of the National Company, Mr. Lamberson interested Edward G. and Clarence Wyckoff, Charles J. Rumsey, and H. C. Mandeville of Elmira, in a project to erect another "block" near Renwick Park; and on September 17, 1900, the Remington Salt Company, named after the typewriter company which had yielded the Wyckoff fortune, was incorporated. The Remington plant burned in the fall of 1917 but was promptly rebuilt.

At Myers, south of the International plant, the Cayuga Rock Salt Company mines and markets the mineral in solid form for packing iced products and for other purposes. This plant had its origin on July 10, 1916, when John A. Clute and Howard and Fordyce A. Cobb of Ithaca incorporated the Rock Salt Corporation. An inferior grade of salt was found at a depth of about 1,500 feet and the corporation ended a short and rather unsuccessful career in 1920.

In 1921 a group of Harrisburg capitalists leased the plant and renovated the mine. Production at the old level was resumed in 1922 and continued for two years. The management encountered the same difficulty that had discouraged its predecessors. "To make a commercial product, it was necessary to discard about one-third of the product

mined."[1] In August, 1924, a new shaft was driven and at a depth of 1,925 feet a 99.19 percent pure salt bed was located. The old mine was abandoned and at present 100,000 tons are being produced annually from the lower bed.

The International Salt Company wells produce approximately 400 tons of salt per day. The Remington Company produces 200 tons per day. The rock salt daily production reaches approximately 400 tons. Thus at peak seasons 1,000 tons of salt are shipped on the Cayuga Lake division of the Lehigh Valley on a single train. About 200 men are employed at Ludlowville, 125 at Myers, and from 90 to 100 at the Remington plant.

At Myers natural resources have been utilized to establish another industry that contributes to the prosperity of Ithaca. The region is rich in Kelley limestone, shales, and gypsum, the chief components of Portland cement. This fact was first recognized in October, 1900, by Marcus E. Calkins, Charles E. Treman, LeRoy H. Smith, George Livermore, Robert H. Treman, and Mynderse Van Cleef, all of Ithaca, Charles Pratt of New Milford, Pennsylvania, and Charles E. Lee of Binghamton, who incorporated the Cayuga Lake Cement Company.

The concern operated a plant at Portland Point until July 10, 1915, when the corporation was dissolved and the property sold to the J. G. White Management Corporation of New York City. These owners in turn sold to the Cayuga Operating Company, a subsidiary of the Pennsylvania Cement Company, several years later and the plant continues under that management today.

The original cement plant was operated by steam. The

[1] "Know Ithaca: The Cayuga Rock Salt Company," in *Ithaca Journal-News*, July 21, 1926.

J. G. White Company installed electricity and rebuilt the factory. The production in 1915 was from 800 to 1,000 barrels daily. A year later this had doubled. At present the daily production is near to 3,000 barrels, the value per year exceeding $2,225,000. Originally 90 men were employed. Under the White management this force was increased to 200. The cement company now employs 250 men and 20 women.

Overlooking the city, on South Hill, stands Ithaca's largest group of industries, an imposing testimonial to the fact that large scale manufacturing projects can succeed in this community. The Morse industries were founded here only a little more than two decades ago and they now employ more than 1,600 wage earners.

The first Morse enterprises in Ithaca were a machine shop, a cabinet shop, a tow-press mill, and an oil mill operated for many years by Ben Morse north of Williams Street, below Eddy's cotton factory. The mills were subsequently abandoned and the Morse family moved to the Middle West. Everett F. Morse, a son of Ben Morse, came to his father's former home to attend Cornell University. After graduation the young man obtained employment with C. P. Gregg, who operated the Gregg Iron Works in Trumansburg. While thus employed, he invented a cart spring for the then popular two wheeled cart and with his younger brother, Frank, he formed the Morse Spring Company, leasing a part of the Gregg plant to manufacture this product. When carts became less popular, the two manufactured a rocker joint chain for bicycles under the E. F. Morse patents.

They incorporated in 1898 as the Morse Chain Company and when fire destroyed all of the Gregg plant except one

building they purchased the latter. The decline in the popularity of the bicycle, which occurred in the 'nineties, made it necessary to manufacture a new product in order to continue operation. Accordingly, Frank L. Morse patented a high speed power transmission chain, the great demand for which soon taxed the capacity of the Trumansburg plant and led the company to purchase nine acres above the Lackawanna tracks on South Hill in Ithaca. The construction of a new four-story factory was at once begun. In July, 1906, operations ceased at Trumansburg.

The development of the Morse chain as an automobile part made possible much of the expansion that subsequently took place in this industry. The company placed offices throughout the United States and prior to the war established three plants in Europe, two of which are still operating. The old South Hill reservoir and other adjoining property were purchased by the Morse Chain Company in 1916, increasing the total acreage to 108 acres.

The second of the Morse industries, the Thomas-Morse Aircraft Corporation, came to Ithaca as a separate enterprise in 1914. In the fall of that year, unsuccessful efforts having been made to persuade Glenn Curtiss of Hammondsport to locate an airplane factory in this city, William T. Thomas, manager of the Thomas Brothers Aeroplane Company and the Thomas Aviation School at Bath, New York, was invited to move his industries to Ithaca.

Property on Brindley Street was purchased from the Cornell Incubator Company, a Wyckoff enterprise, and operations were begun on December 12, 1914. The Thomas Brothers Motor Company and the Thomas Aeromotor Company were incorporated in Ithaca on April 21 and June 25, 1915, respectively. Before the enterprise was six

months old, one hundred men were working day and night in the production of aircraft for the warring nations of Europe. A large tract of land west of the Inlet was leased by the common council for ten years to the Thomas Brothers as an aviation ground.

Frank L. Morse became interested in the aircraft concern and on January 31, 1917, he formed the Thomas-Morse Aircraft Corporation with William T. Thomas, Jerome Fried, Ebenezer T. Turner, and David B. Perry. All of the stock in this corporation was later acquired by the Morse Chain Company. Shops had just been transferred to the Morse property on South Hill when on April 6, 1917, the United States declared war on Germany. At once the entire Morse organization was turned to production for the national government. But the time the armistice was declared, more than 2,000 employes were at work in the production of chains and aircraft.

Since the war the airplane production has, of course, fallen off, but in its place the Peters-Morse Manufacturing Company, organized in 1919, produces a commercial adding machine which has come to serve a world market. Another Morse enterprise was created in 1923 when Professor John A. Barr, formerly of Cornell University and subsequently connected with the Remington Typewriter Company, was asked to participate in the formation of the Barr-Morse Company. The latter organization, until recently, was devoted exclusively to experimentation with mechanical office devices, including a multiplying machine and an improved typewriter which is now being marketed. The latest Morse industry is the Poole Manufacturing Company, which manufactures an electric clock operated by a dry battery. At present the Morse industries employ about

1,600 workers in eight buildings and utilize a floor space of over 13 acres.

Among the other local factories, the sign works of the Stanford-Crowell Company is the largest. This concern was founded in 1879 by O. R. Stanford, who rented the third floor of George Small's planing mill at Green and Tioga Streets. The time to inaugurate such an industry was auspicious, inasmuch as in the 'seventies and early 'eighties outdoor advertising was becoming popular throughout the country. Stanford's business increased so rapidly that larger quarters were soon needed. He moved to the Bates Building, now occupied by the Booth Hyomei Company.

William H. Crowell, who was a traveling representative of the firm, was taken into partnership by Mr. Stanford in 1893. Seven years later they moved to the factory built by the Ithaca Organ and Piano Company on West State Street, near the Lehigh Valley Railroad Station. The production has continued to increase. The distribution force, which numbered three men in 1883, now includes thirty traveling salesmen. About seventy-five wage earners are employed in the plant.

The late Edward G. Wyckoff brought into the industrial life of the city a number of enterprises, only two of which continued here after his retirement. One of these is the Remington Salt Company and the other the Booth Hyomei Company, which occupies the building vacated in 1900 by Stanford and Crowell. The firm was founded in the early 'nineties by R. T. Booth, an Ithacan who traveled in all parts of the world as a temperance lecturer. While in Australia he discovered a formula for use in the treatment of diseases of the respiratory system. Eucalyptus was its chief component.

Mr. Booth brought the medicine back to New York City with him, and obtaining the backing of Captain William O. Wyckoff, who was then in business in the metropolis, he began to manufacture the product under the name Hyomei. After the death of Captain Wyckoff in 1895, his sons, Edward G. and Clarence F. Wyckoff, purchased Mr. Booth's interest in the firm and shortly thereafter moved the industry to Ithaca. In 1906 the Hyomei Company was moved to Buffalo, but since 1916 it has been back in Ithaca operating in its present headquarters and managed by Clarence F. Wyckoff. At rush seasons this factory will employ as many as eighty-five workers; but during periods when the national health average is normal, about twelve employees are sufficient for the company's needs.

Formerly existent Wyckoff enterprises were the Cornell Incubator Company, the Wyckoff Lumber and Manufacturing Company, and the Ithaca Wall Paper Mills. The incubator factory, incorporated on December 11, 1900, was an outgrowth of Edward G. Wyckoff's large chicken farm on West Hill, where many new varieties of chickens were bred. The building on Brindley Street, in which Thomas later manufactured aircraft, was occupied by the incubator and the lumber companies. The latter, incorporated on May 9, 1906, supplied materials for the incubators, built portable houses, and marketed lumber to consumers. Both firms were sold out in 1909, the incubator business being absorbed by a Buffalo plant and the production of portable houses being continued on a limited scale by Professor John T. Parson of Cornell University. The Ithaca Wall Paper Mills was incorporated on June 18, 1900, and operated successfully for several years. The factory was badly damaged by flood and thereafter discontinued.

Prior to America's entrance into the World War, the manufacture of bricks was conducted at East Ithaca by the Ithaca Brick and Tile Company. When this concern was incorporated by Isaac K. Bernstein and some associates in the fall of 1915, there had been a small brick yard near the upper Lehigh Station for some years. Three buildings were erected by the new concern and about forty men employed. In 1918, when Mr. Bernstein, who was in charge of operations, moved to the Middle West, the property was sold. Operations at the plant were subsequently discontinued by the new owners.

Located in the center of a rich farming country, Ithaca has for some years supplied milk to the New York and Pennsylvania markets. The Ithaca Condensed Milk and Cream Company, incorporated on August 7, 1913, purchased a building on West Clinton Street that was formerly used by the city as a pumping station. Clarence Brigham and Albert Schlotzhauer, the chief stockholders, equipped the plant with needed machinery. The business grew when large contracts were made with the Hires Condensed Milk Company of Philadelphia which later purchased the plant. The Nestle Milk Company bought out Hires and ran the plant until after the war. The building was leased in 1925 to the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association which has been assembling, pasteurizing, and shipping fluid milk from this plant for about one year. They will soon move their equipment to a new building recently erected on West Cascadilla Street.

There are several smaller factories now located in this city that may be expected to contribute increasingly to the local prosperity. The Clarence E. Head shirt factory, which has distributed its product nationally for many

years, was founded in 1899. It employs twenty-five workers and has recently moved into new quarters on East Seneca Street, in the heart of the city. The H. J. Bool Company, founded in 1870, has for twenty-five years served a national market with office furniture. The concern operates a factory at Forest Home. Another company, known as the Electric Door Corporation, began in 1925 to manufacture and sell a newly patented garage door, invented by Robert V. Morse.

Paper is still manufactured in Ithaca. The industry, it will be recalled, dates back to the Eddy and Matthewson plant located on Fall Creek in 1818. The Mack and Andrus interests had operated the upper and lower mills until the former was sold, in 1887, to Enz and Miller, an Ithaca stationery concern. The mill afterwards came into the possession of Isador Rocker, an Ithaca merchant, who leased it to Walter Bass and Moran Parsons, New England paper manufacturers. Some years later the property was owned by the Brown Paper Mill Company. It was reduced to ashes in a spectacular fire that burned all through the night of September 1, 1925.

The lower mill, built in 1852, is now operated by the Read Paper Company. The successors to Mack and Andrus sold it to the Ithaca Paper Company, of which S. H. Laney was proprietor. Laney sold it to M. H. Arnot who in turn transferred it to the Elmira Stamping and Paper Company, incorporated in 1892. Subsequent owners were: the Vernon Brothers of New York City, who acquired it in 1898; E. P. Ricker of Poland Springs, Maine; the Empire Paper Company, a Maine corporation; the Empire Paper Company of Middletown, Ohio; and finally in 1926, the Read Paper Company which now owns the plant. It is in opera-

tion day and night, and manufactures over $300,000 worth of tissue paper annually, for use by carpet manufacturers in New York, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts.

There was an industry in Ithaca only a few years ago, that added a new spice to the life of the community and served to advertise the city in a unique manner. In 1914 Theodore and Leopold Wharton established the Wharton Studios, Inc., at Renwick Park and moving pictures were manufactured at the lake shore for a period of over five years. Curiously enough, it was the presence of Cornell University that first drew the Whartons to the city at Lake Cayuga. The company was filming a picture of college life entitled *Dear Old Girl of Mine*, starring Francis X. Bushman and Beverly Bayne, then the idols of the moving picture public. Attracted by the possibilities of this valley for film production, Wharton, Inc., leased the park from the Renwick Park and Traffic Association and in the spring of 1915 remodeled it for studio purposes.

During the years that followed, screen folks were frequently to be seen on the streets of this city. Many of the actors and actresses were gifted artists, known throughout the world. Lionel Barrymore, Pearl White, Creighton Hale, and Arnold Daly starred in a Wharton serial, *The Exploits of Elaine*, filmed in 1916. This picture was followed by *The Mysteries of Myra*, in which Howard Estabrook and Jean Sother played leading parts.

The lot was then sub-leased to the International Film Service, Inc., to feature Olive Thomas, Grace Darling, Warner Oland, and Harry Fox in the *Beatrice Fairfax* series. When these pictures were completed, the Metro Film Corporation and the Norma Talmadge Corporation jointly sub-leased the Renwick Studio. The Metro came

to Ithaca at the request of Mr. Bushman and Miss Bayne, who wished to make *The Adopted Son* in the Wharton studio. Miss Talmadge played the leading part in *The Secret of the Storm Country,* a story of life about Cayuga Lake.

When the United States entered the war, several "propaganda" pictures were filmed in Ithaca. The *Patria* series was produced by the Whartons and starred Irene Castle and Milton Sills. In *The Eagle's Eye,* another war picture, the leading roles were played by King Baggot and Marguerite Snow. *In the Air,* starring the American aviator Lieutenant Bert Hall, was also filmed at Renwick.

Other pictures produced in Ithaca included *The Black Stork,* in which Elsie Esmond and Hamilton Reville featured, *The Great White Trail,* in which Doris Kenyon starred, and *The Crusher,* in which Derwent Hall Caine, son of the novelist, had the leading role. When the Wharton lease expired, the corporation joined the movement of film producers to the Pacific Coast.

All moving pictures filmed by the Whartons during their stay in Renwick Park bore a large monogram "Ithaca, New York," which served to advertise the community widely. The moving picture studios attracted many visitors who were anxious to see their film favorites in person. And citizens of Ithaca will never forget the times between 1916 and 1919 when they played "extra" parts in the "movies."

The city now has four banks and a savings and loan association. The Tompkins County National Bank and the Ithaca Savings Bank have already been mentioned. The last of these has changed its location. It opened business in the rear of a drug store on East State Street, operated from 1878 to 1888 in the brick dwelling, first owned by David Woodcock and later by Ex-Governor Alonzo B.

Cornell, on the southwest corner of Tioga and Seneca Streets. In May, 1887, the bank erected a four story quasi-Romanesque style bank and office building on that site. Fire badly damaged this structure on December 23, 1921, and it was torn down to make place for Ithaca's most imposing downtown building, five stories in height, with banking quarters downstairs and offices above.

Trust companies, which function to promote large business enterprises and have also come to take the place of individual trustees, began about 1890 to grow in number. The Ithacans kept up with the trend in banking procedure by organizing the Ithaca Trust Company, incorporated on May 7, 1891. Franklin C. Cornell, Francis M. Finch, Frederick J. Whiton, William H. Storms, Mynderse Van Cleef, Charles F. Blood, Albert H. Esty, Elias Treman, Lafayette Treman, Samuel B. Turner, Charles E. Van Cleef, John C. Gauntlett, Levi Kenney, William H. Sage, David B. Stewart, Charles M. Williams, and Emmons L. Williams, were its organizers. It occupies a modern building next door to the Savings Bank.

The Ithaca Savings and Loan Association was incorporated on May 17, 1915, by W. J. Reed, Harry C. Baldwin, Fred C. Barr, S. L. Howell, C. Tracey Stagg, Dr. R. M. Vose, E. G. Wyckoff, Virgil D. Morse, Joseph F. Hickey, H. G. Stutz, Charles E. Westervelt, Jacob Broich, and F. P. Burns. In lending money to persons of limited means for the erection of homes, the Savings and Loan Association has acted as a stimulus to the rapid growth of Ithaca.

It is not within the province of this book to relate the history of hundreds of local concerns that supply the needs of Ithaca and its immediate environment. To write of all the retail merchants, the jobbers, the wholesale houses, the

contractors, and the professional men who serve the community would be to make an expanded directory and thus inadvertently to enter the realms of advertising. Suffice it to say that Ithaca is justly proud of them all; and that their development has paralleled the growth of local educational institutions and manufacturing industries.

In the new era there has come a realization of the fact that business men can group together and stimulate as well as exercise an effective control over the development of a community. The prosperous condition of local industry has in part been caused by the several associations created by the merchants and manufacturers. New industries have been brought to the city, a high level of business ethics has been maintained among the merchants, and a new cordiality has been created, both between the various industries and between town and gown.

The movement began on September 3, 1896, at a meeting of merchants called by Francis M. Bush, C. C. Platt, H. H. Angel, Edwin Gillette, Ben J. Rich, George Small, Eugene N. Corbin, Robert H. Treman, and Jacob Rothschild. These men reported that "in nearly every enterprising city there is either a Board of Trade or Business Men's Association organized to benefit the business interests of the city, and there seems to be abundant evidence of the necessity for such an organization in this city." The association was organized and Francis M. Bush was made its first president.[1]

[1] The presidents of the Ithaca Business Men's Association were:

Francis M. Bush	1896–1901	Charles C. Howell	1908–1909
Daniel W. Burdick	1901–1904	James A. McKinney	1910–1911
Edwin Gillette	1904–1905	Henry C. Carpenter	1912–1913
George H. Baker	1906–1907	James B. Taylor	1914
		Charles E. Westervelt	1915

While at first the Business Men's Association concerned itself largely with the problems of retail merchandising, including store hours and credits, it later fostered the completion of many public works. It was a committee created by this organization that in 1905 obtained state help in solving Ithaca's flood menace.

The Business Men's Association early in its career organized a Civic Association which aimed to "create an interest among the citizens at large in the administration of our city business and maintain a bureau that will at all times be posted in the progress of city affairs . . . and to consider all things looking toward the civic betterment of our city, both in the administration of its affairs from a governmental standpoint and from the standpoint of health and general attractiveness."

On February 5, 1914, the association sponsored the organization of an Ithaca Industrial Commission, the duties of which were "the improvement of facilities for transportation, the promotion and development of commercial, industrial, and other interests of the city and the diffusion of information concerning the opportunities which are offered in Ithaca for the establishment of manufactories, and other enterprises." Jacob Rothschild was chairman, and John W. Dwight, Charles E. Treman, Paul S. Livermore, Henry G. Carpenter, Paul S. Millspaugh, Charles W. Gay, George S. Tarbell, and James B. Taylor were members. Colonel Charles A. Simmons was appointed secretary. During its short career the commission brought to Ithaca the Ithaca Condensed Milk and Cream Company, the Thomas Brothers Aeroplane Company, and the Delmadge Glove Company, a small concern that was unsuccessful.

In January, 1916, there was created a Board of Commerce which, since March 11 of that year, has done the work of the Industrial Commission, the Business Men's Association and the Civic Association. It has been known since February 16, 1925, as the Chamber of Commerce.[1]

The Ithaca Board of Commerce had only one year to continue its efforts for civic improvement before all of its resources were called upon to aid the government in the World War. Its offices were headquarters for the Liberty Loan Committees, the Tompkins County War Chest, and other war activities for two years.

Space is not available for adequate presentation of the accomplishments of this organization. It employs a permanent secretary and maintains an attractive suite of rooms in the Savings Bank Building. Its work is divided into "those activities which have to do with the welfare of the community as a whole; . . . those which affect business directly; . . . and organization activities which have to do with the building and maintenance of the Chamber." [2]

During the ten years of its existence this organization has either taken the leadership or rendered substantial aid to a number of projects which today hold an important place in the life of the city. The location of the State Home of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows northwest of the city and of the Empire State School of Printing in the city are two of the outstanding accomplishments.

[1] The presidents of this organization have been:

Jacob Rothschild	1916–1917	John Reamer	1921
Joseph F. Hickey	1918	William M. Driscoll	1922–1924
Louis P. Smith	1919–1920	Fred H. Atwater	1925
		Ernest D. Button	1926

[2] *Report of the Secretary*, Ithaca Chamber of Commerce, for the fiscal year 1925–1926.

The Ithaca Chamber of Commerce has been an active member of the Finger Lakes Association, a regional chamber of commerce organized in 1919 for the general advancement of the section of New York State surrounding Ithaca. It has also fostered the development of public parks in the city and vicinity. Leadership in this work has been furnished by Robert H. Treman, who gave to the city a tract of land in Six Mile Creek Gorge for park development and later presented the State of New York with his holdings in the gorges of Enfield Falls and Buttermilk Falls. Mr. Treman has also interested Cornell University in the care of the gorges of Cascadilla and Fall Creeks, with the result that funds have been recently given for this purpose by Colonel Henry W. Sackett of New York City.

Most of the work of the Chamber of Commerce is of a cooperative character. The creation of the city planning committee and its successor, the city planning commission, has been due largely to the continued efforts of the Chamber of Commerce to develop public sentiment for a program of public improvements.

Another line of cooperative effort has been with the officials of Cornell University. Many matters which affect both the University and city life have been satisfactorily adjusted as a result of conferences arranged by the Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber of Commerce offices are used by several organizations. The Ithaca Automobile Club maintains its headquarters there and the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce acts as secretary of the club. The Ithaca Community Chest, which was formed under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, also has offices there. Many associations dealing with community problems hold their

STATE STREET EAST OF CAYUGA STREET *Photograph by J. P. Troy*

business meetings in the assembly room of the Chamber of Commerce. The organization also is active in bringing conventions to Ithaca.

In its direct service to local industry the Chamber has created a Merchants' Bureau, which endeavors to popularize Ithaca as a trading center for this section of the Finger Lakes Region by conducting Dollar and Suburban Days. It has also arranged uniform closing hours for business places. A Credit Association has been organized to make possible the exchange of credit information between merchants. Another committee protects firms from indiscriminate charity, advertising, or other solicitations. The Chamber endeavors to "encourage established and proven concerns to locate here." In addition to the committees mentioned there are numerous others that deal with special problems as they arise.

Other associations of business men that meet at regular intervals for luncheon aim to foster the civic and industrial interests of the city. The oldest of these clubs in Ithaca is Rotary, which held its first meeting in 1914. Edward G. Wyckoff had visited the Syracuse Rotary Club, and, impressed with the possibilities of such an association, he called together a group of his friends to organize one in Ithaca. Application was made to the international headquarters for a charter, but the request was refused because at that time no Rotary Clubs were accepted in cities of less than 25,000 population. Vigorous efforts to have an exception made were rewarded two years later when the Ithaca group was chartered as Rotary Club No. 166 on June 1, 1915. The enrollment now numbers 194 active and twelve honorary members. The presidents of Rotary have been:

Edward G. Wyckoff	1914	Martin W. Sampson	1920
John S. Shearer	1914	William H. Morrison	1921
Louis C. Bement	1915	Romeyn Berry	1922
Rev. E. A. George	1916	Dr. Fred B. Howe	1923
Benton S. Monroe	1917	Dr. Albert H. Sharpe	1924
Louis D. Neill	1918	Louis P. Smith	1925
Clarence F. Wyckoff	1919	R. Warren Sailor	1926

In the modern business world the marketing of merchandise has come to involve special problems which are best solved by cooperation between competing merchants. It is to the advantage of the public and the dealers alike that standards of truthfulness be established in advertising; that the most efficient methods of display and presentation be employed in the marketing of goods; and that the most economical use of publicity space is achieved.

To those ends Harry J. VanValkenburg gathered together a group of local citizens on May 19, 1923, to form an Ithaca Advertising Club. A charter was obtained from the Advertising Clubs of the World and the organization has met regularly since that time. An educational committee has conducted classes during the winter season in the technique of advertising, and authorities in the field have been brought to Ithaca to address members of the club at the regular meetings. Another committee is vigilant in protecting the public against inaccuracy in advertising. Since the formation of the club, the following men have been its presiding officers:

Harry J. Van Valkenburg	1923	Bristow Adams	1925
James E. VanNatta	1924	Ross W. Kellogg	1926

Believing that there was a place in Ithaca for another organization like Rotary, a group of younger representatives from each vocation obtained a charter on May 27, 1924, for an Exchange Club. This association, now numbering fifty-five members, epitomizes its aims in the slogan

"Unity for Service." Its presidents have been the following:

Wester W. Baker	1924	John D. Kinney	1925
Sidney P. Howell	1925	Leslie Townsend	1926

From an industrial point of view Ithaca has never had a more prosperous or hopeful era than the present. The city is comparatively free from the deplorable friction between employers and wage earners that characterizes industry throughout the country. The number of wage earners in factories has more than doubled in the last decade, but the total wages are almost four times those paid in 1914.[1]

Although no effort has been made by local factory owners to prevent the establishment of labor unions among their workers, manufacturing industry is generally non-union. In the Morse group, the Ithaca Gun Company, and the salt and cement plants, which employ the larger number of wage earners, cordial relationships exist between employers and employees. The Ithaca Gun Company, which is the oldest of these institutions, has a number of men in its organization that have worked there since the 'eighties.

The Morse Industries have built a service building on the site of the old reservoir. The top floor includes a large ball room and a special emergency first-aid room. A nurse is in constant attendance. The second floor is a cafeteria. The main floor is occupied by a cooperative store. In the basement is equipment for games and other amusements. An employees' association, which includes practically every

[1]

Year	*Av. No. of Wage Earners*	*Wages*
1904	873	$ 424,000
1909	873	439,000
1914	815	559,000
1919	1690	1,889,000

United States Census, 1920.

man and woman in the Morse shops, elects a board of managers which operates this building. The association publishes a monthly magazine and promotes social, athletic and educational activities among its members. A part of the membership dues are used to provide sick and accident insurance. The chain company furnishes group life insurance free of charge to any employee after he has been with the company for a period of three months.

Many of the trades outside of the large factories are organized into labor unions. The first of these was the Cigar Makers Local No. 12, which was chartered in 1873, later disbanded, and then reinstated as Local No. 21. The masons organized in 1883, the painters and carpenters in 1890, the plumbers and steamfitters in 1893, the musicians in 1901, and the electricians in 1922. Other local unions are the typographical, the street railway employees, the railway clerks, the sheet metal workers, and the barbers. A central labor union was formed in 1896, but not all of the locals belong to it. All of the groups listed above are affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, which in addition has a considerable membership in various trades which have not organized locals in Ithaca.

There is no cause to believe that the present prosperity will not continue to increase in years to come. For transportation, the city is now served by the Lehigh Valley and Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroads.

The "Short Line" [1] was built in 1909 by Albert H. Flint and some New York City associates. It was the only one of six different short railways then planned that materialized. In the first decade of the twentieth century a wave of popular enthusiasm for interurban electric roads struck

[1] The New York, Auburn, and Lansing Railroad.

Ithaca and projects were incorporated to build to Cortland, Elmira, Seneca Falls, Ludlowville, and Owego.

An Auburn line had been projected as early as 1903. Sherman Collins of Ithaca and a group of citizens of Poplar Ridge incorporated the Auburn and Ithaca Electric Railway Company. This was reorganized on June 16, 1905, as the Auburn and Ithaca Traction Company, which received a franchise from the common council to enter the city on Cayuga Street in spite of bitter opposition which arose from the street railways company. But Mr. Flint had purchased the street railway and was laying plans for the New York, Auburn and Lansing Railroad Company and so the Collins line was never built. After the Flint receivership in 1912[1] the new owners operated the "Short Line" as the Central New York Southern Railroad. The tracks were torn up after the receivership in 1924.

There still remains the possibility of re-developing Ithaca as an inland port. Shipping by boat over the old Erie Canal came to an end in the 'nineties. The Lackawanna Railroad built through to Buffalo in the late 'eighties, and in 1892, when the Lehigh Valley built the last link of its trunk line from New York City to Buffalo and shipped freight over the Seneca Lake branch, the movement of merchandise on Cayuga Lake became negligible.

Not many years later passenger traffic on the lake also became a memory. By 1890 the through railroad lines to the west carried all of the rush traffic. But there was still a paying traffic of pleasure tourists on the *Frontenac* and the *T. D. Wilcox*. Captain Wilcox died in 1875 and the steamboat lines passed through various hands into the possession of M. P. Brown and son of Syracuse, New York.

[1] See page 171.

When the business demanded it the Browns operated on the lake other boats that they brought from elsewhere. Among these were the *Mohawk,* the *Iroquois,* the *Demong,* and the *Comanche.*

On July 27, 1907, occurred the great tragedy in the history of Cayuga Lake navigation, the burning of the *Frontenac.* The boat, carrying seventy passengers, was proceeding north in Aurora Bay about a thousand feet off shore when fire was discovered around the smoke stack. A high wind counteracted all attempts to extinguish the flames. Although 800 life preservers were on board, the confusion of the passengers resulted in the loss of eight lives. The ship was destroyed to its water line.

For a few years longer the other Brown boats plied the lake with decreasing frequency, but the development of automobiling gradually eliminated the last of this waning traffic and after the summer of 1912 no boats were run to Cayuga.

Before automobiles became so numerous a few small steamers served summer cottagers as far north as Crowbar Point. These craft also suffered in popularity when "horseless carriages" succeeded to their business. During the last few years the *Colonel J. H. Horton* was the only survivor of this little fleet, and it burned on April 15, 1925. During the summer of 1926 cottagers were served by a small steamer, *The Augusta,* which made morning and evening trips along the west shore.

In spite of the development of railroads and automobiles it remains a fact that the cheapest way of shipping heavy, non-perishable merchandise is by water. This truth was recognized in 1903 when the people of New York State voted to spend $101,000,000 for the construction of the

Barge Canal, which followed in a general way the route of its predecessor, "the great waterway." As was outlined in Chapter VII,[1] Ithaca became a port on the Barge Canal, but in recent years very little water-borne freight has moved through the city.

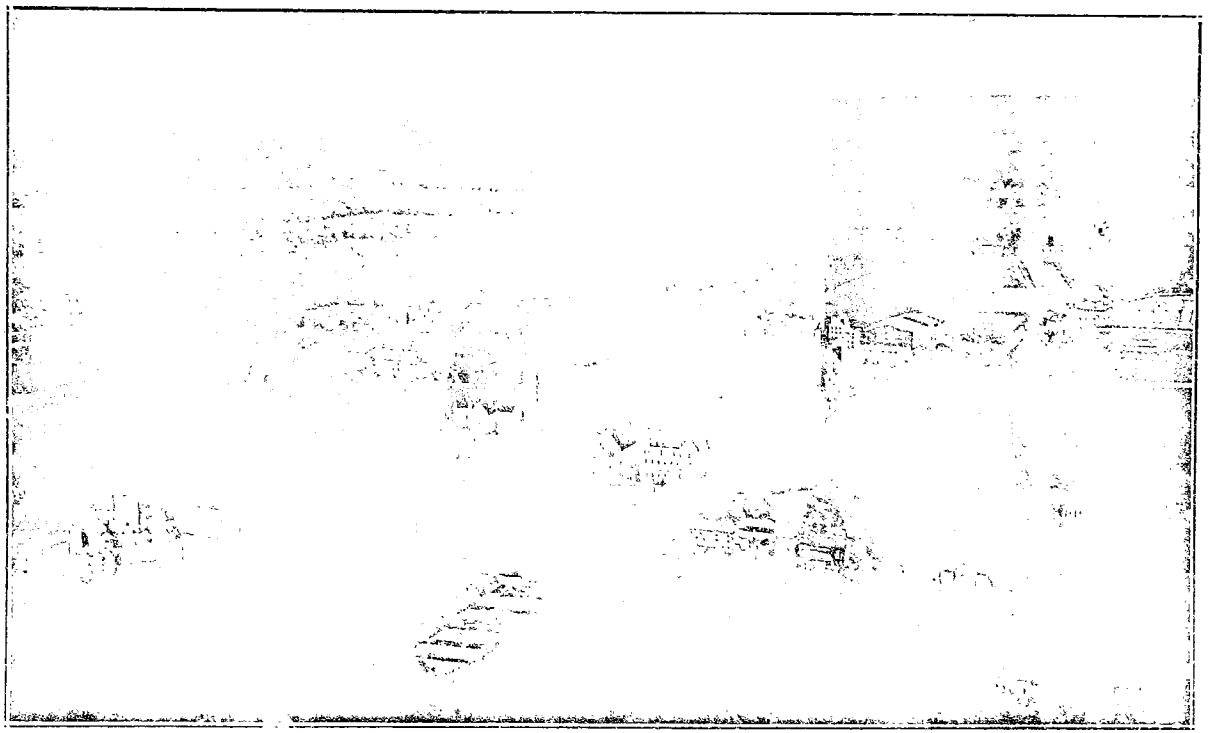
This is partly due to the fact that warehouses and factories have largely been located along the railroad routes and shippers have not wished to pay for a land transfer at the end of the water journey. Then too, the railroad companies have not been favorable to the development of the canal system.

The New York State Waterways Association, Chambers of Commerce, and many other organizations, are doing everything within their power to remove these obstacles to the use of the Barge Canal. Efforts are still being made to persuade the legislature to erect coal tipples at Ithaca and Watkins. It is hoped by the proponents of this measure that coal will again be routed from the mining districts in Pennsylvania via the Lehigh Valley or Lackawanna Railroads to the port of Ithaca for shipment by barges to cities on the Barge Canal and the Great Lakes. Whether this dream can ever be realized no one yet knows.

But the era of Ithaca's dependence on the waterway trade for her prosperity has long since ended. Nature has endowed the region with rich deposits of salt and lime, which are being developed. A great industry has come to flourish on South Hill. Another utilizes the water power at Fall Creek Gorge. A large public utilities corporation gives employment to hundreds of office workers. Dozens of smaller concerns are adding goodly shares to the local wealth.

[1] See pages 144, 145.

Cornell is one of the most significant factors contributing to the commercial prosperity of the city. The University employs hundreds of men and women. Facilities for retail trade are much larger than are required by the resident population, due to the presence of nearly 6,000 students. Finally, and above all, an alert citizenry is conscious of the unlimited possibilities in this place; and it will not rest upon past achievements. The future is full of promise.



AEROPLANE VIEW OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY *Photograph by J. P. Troy*

CHAPTER IX

TOWARD HARMONY

AS populations grow, certain conditions hostile to the happiness and harmony of a community are likely to develop. This is true, first, because as persons from other environments with other standards of living and other points of view come into the group, the number of social adjustments multiplies; or second, because as populations increase, their densities grow with a corresponding rapidity, and diseases, poverty, and maladjustment become more likely. The growth of social consciousness throughout the United States in the latter half of the nineteenth century stimulated the rapid development of agencies for eliminating, reducing, or preventing such inharmonious elements in community life.

The first lack of social harmony in Ithaca's history resulted from its early source of wealth, the canal traffic. During a large part of the last century incoming canal boats brought in an uneducated, indigent class of individuals who generally would stay in port for a short period and then move on. This traffic left a sediment of population that remained through the winters and later made Ithaca their permanent home. Their ranks were added to by the canal boat builders, who were left without employment when the canal trade disappeared. These men and women "squatted" along the shores of the Inlet or on the west shore of Cayuga Lake, and for many years formed a separate community.

A low average of intelligence, morals, and health was prevalent in the "Silent City" as this community was later known, but these conditions would not have concerned Ithacans at that time except that the residents in that section were without regular employment and in the winter months often dependent upon charity; and for the fact that they were living on rented property for which they did not make payments, or on land on which they had no rights at all. Also there was the danger that undesirable citizens would filter from their ranks into the larger community.

Statistics compiled in the atypical class at the High School building in 1920 conclusively showed that the "squatter" village has left to modern Ithaca a heritage of social pathology; indigent, shiftless, alcoholic, criminal, or degenerate adults with mentally deficient children. Family history charts show that seven of these canal folk—two men five generations ago, three men four generations ago, and two sisters three generations ago—were the progenitors of forty-seven mentally retarded and defective children enrolled in the public schools between 1916 and 1920.

When the state straightened the Inlet and deepened the channel for barge use, the land along its banks was filled in and most of the squatter families were forced to move. Some of them, in new environments, became respectable and desirable citizens. Many of them now live in the first ward and still demand the attention of the social agencies.

The squatter folk have been a unique problem to Ithaca and other communities situated along the inland waterways. In addition, although because of the non-industrial character Ithaca's proportion of foreign born is relatively low, like most American cities it has been faced with the task of assimilating alien immigrants who came from

abroad to avail themselves of the opportunities offered in this less densely populated country. Their illiteracy, ignorance of the customs and traditions of America, and customary low standard of living have created another series of problems for the social agencies.

Ithaca's proportion of foreign born population is three and one-half percent lower than the average for the United States and only about one-third of the state average.[1] At the time of the census of 1920, the Irish and Italian Ithacans were about equal in number, each group forming slightly over 17 percent of the total number of foreign born. The English, Hungarian, Canadian, and German born residents in the order named were next most numerous. It is interesting to note that in the new century the number of immigrants from south European countries has greatly increased, while those born in the northern part of Europe have steadily decreased in number.[2]

[1] U. S. Census of 1920: Ithaca 2,600 foreign born whites, 9.5 percent of population. In New York State the foreign born are 27.2 percent of population. In the United States they are 13 percent of population.

[2] Number from each country per 1,000 foreign born residing in Ithaca.

	State Census			*National Census*	
	1855	1865	1875	1910	1920
Ireland	582	673	614	266	175
Italy	....	....	....	112	171
Hungary	....	....	....	125	115
England	207	206	223	86	120
Canada	23	41	66	95	108
Germany	42	33	66	70	50
Russia	..	..	....	42	38
Poland	....	..	....	....	26
Greece	....	....	....	11	20
Scotland	29	29	28	22	19
Others	117	26	3	171	158
Total	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

Recent statistics seem to show that most of the persons dependent on charity for subsistence in this city are American born. Eighty-four percent of those that receive relief from the commissioner of charities are natives.[1] Most of these have been on the dependent list for many years. Only a small number of the foreign born require more than temporary benevolence.

The immigrant population, however, is benefiting from Ithaca's settlement houses and her educational agencies. While Ithaca is an unusually literate city,[2] the census of 1920 showed that ten percent of the foreign born citizens could not read or write. The educational work of the schools and social agencies is significantly reducing that proportion.

In the earliest period of Ithaca's history there was little need for social service. In the days of the Yaples, Dumonds, Hinepaws, and the McDowells the settlement was very much like a large family. Among pioneers whose ambition to better their condition had led them into the wilderness, destitution was unlikely. When a man met with misfortune; if his crops were ruined or illness prevented him from working, his neighbors would help him until better days were at hand.

Throughout the world agencies to care for the needy are a comparatively recent development. During the Christian era, until the nineteenth century, the burden of charity lay upon the churches and wealthy individuals. No agencies, except the English poor houses were established to prevent poverty or to analyze its causes.

[1] Compiled from the report of the Commissioner of Charities for 1924.

[2] Census of 1920. In Ithaca 1.4 percent of the population was illiterate as compared with 5.4 percent in the state as a whole.

The dispensation of charity in Ithaca first centered in the churches, some of which were founded before the village was incorporated. The ministers of the several sects have always been provided with funds by their congregations to aid needy members. Prior to the Civil War these gifts probably constituted the bulk of local charity.

Ten years after Tompkins County was organized, the board of supervisors in 1827 appropriated funds to establish a county poor house. A county superintendent of the poor was appointed and placed in charge of a wooden building which was built in 1829, six miles northwest of Ithaca. In 1892 the "county house," as this institution is now called, supplanted the original structure. It is a brick building and accommodates sixty-five persons.[1] Many changes have been made in the mode of conducting the institution. At first married individuals lived together and dependent families were increased by the birth of children. In recent years the women have been placed in a separate building and only one child has been born there in the past fourteen years. As a result of state legislation insane dependents are no longer brought to the farm but are sent to the State Hospital at Willard.

Some years after the establishment of the poor house, the village of Ithaca appointed an overseer of the poor who aided needy individuals with funds provided by the board of trustees. By the city charter of 1908 this officer became the commissioner of charities, appointed by the mayor for a term of two years and allowed funds in the common council budget for his work. Temporary cases are now cared for by the Family Welfare Society, and the city commis-

[1] In September, 1926, the residents included 18 women and 42 men.

sioner is limiting disbursements to the permanent dependents. This department of the city government maintains Ithacans in out of town institutions such as the County House, the State Hospital, homes for children, and the Hudson Home for Girls.

The first secular agency to care for Ithaca's unfortunates was the Ladies' Union Benevolent Society. A group of charitably inclined women met in 1869 at the Cornell Library Building and agreed that a home was needed for homeless women. A house was rented by the society on the site of the present Parochial School and four or five women were cared for.

The society incorporated in 1870 and was given an endowment of $10,000 by special act of the legislature. Six years after incorporation, Mrs. Jane P. McGraw presented it with the present attractive three-story home on South Aurora Street where fourteen women now reside. As there is always a waiting list for entrance to the home, residential space is available only to elderly women who have no close kin to care for them. The youngest resident in 1925 was sixty-five years of age, and the oldest was ninety. This is not by any means an institution for indigent persons and far from pauperizes its residents. From the beginning at the Seneca Street house, the women paid one dollar a week for room and board. The present system provides for a minimum admission fee which has advanced by rapid stages from $100 to $500. The entrant is also required to turn over to the society her property.

While a certain discipline is maintained among the residents by the authorities at the home, it is on the whole a very pleasant place at which to live. The women sew, read, or write; call on or receive friends; and provided that

or unfit to care for them. She felt that widowed or deserted women, or men, who were endeavoring to support themselves often were unable to watch over and properly care for their progeny. Such adults could pay a limited share of the cost of caring for their children at the home. The city missionary made this suggestion in the fall of 1885 to Edward S. Esty, who called a meeting of the Ladies' Union Benevolent Society and presented it with two lots and buildings that he owned on West Seneca Street. Thus was established the Children's Home, later incorporated on January 20, 1889, as a separate institution in order that it might receive bequests for its specific purposes. In 1909 the old Esty houses were replaced by the present brick building, in which about twenty-four boys and girls can be cared for. They are far from being institutionalized, and in general are as happy a group of youngsters as one can imagine. They range from four to fifteen years of age. The older ones attend the public schools while the younger play with the abundant toys that generous Ithacans always give to them. The only work required of these boys and girls, excepting attendance to their studies on the part of those at school, is to help in maintaining the cleanliness and neatness of their home, to dust, or sweep, as they would probably have to do if they lived with their parents.

The children are medically examined upon entrance to the home. A fund, raised in memory of Elizabeth Beebe, insures the best possible care for these youngsters when they become ill. No mental defectives are admitted; in fact, the little ones at the Children's Home maintain a notably high scholastic average in the public schools.

Mrs. Beebe's own work was first supplemented in 1891 when, on December 4, a group of citizens met at the rooms

of the Women's Christian Temperance Union to organize the Associated Charities. Their purposes were "to prevent children from growing up as paupers; to encourage thrift, self-dependence, and industry through friendly intercourse, advice, and sympathy, and to help the poor to help themselves; and to raise the needy above the need of relief, prevent begging and imposition, and diminish pauperism.

"To accomplish these purposes it is designed: to provide that the case of each applicant for the relief shall be thoroughly investigated, the results of such investigations to be placed at the disposal of all social agencies and churches; to obtain employment (for the applicant) if possible, if not to obtain assistance, (and) to make all relief dependent on good conduct." [1]

It is not clear how long this organization survived. Minutes have been found that record its activities up to May 31, 1899. It is evident from these that Mrs. Beebe herself was a member of the organization and that the latter included a number of volunteer workers who were assigned to specified districts of the city and did visiting welfare work. Each group of district workers elected a representative to a central council and they with ex-officio representatives from the other agencies and churches directed the work.

The sale of "Penny Provident Fund" stamps, which resembled the modern Tuberculosis Association Seals, helped to support the organization. In 1893 its name became "The Charitable Organization Society." In the minutes of January 23, 1899, seventeen cases were reported in detail to the council. Begging was apparently the most prevalent evil that the society was endeavoring to combat.

[1] *Minutes* of the "Associated Charities," December 4, 1891.

The secretary told of a beggar woman who, in addition to her public activities, was receiving money from five sources: her husband, her son, the overseer of the poor, the church, and a well-to-do individual. Mention was made of the prevalence of begging on the University campus.

Another agency supplemented the palliative aspects of Mrs. Beebe's work early in 1892 when the Salvation Army established a corps in Ithaca. The aim of this organization, to "reach those whom none else cared to reach," is fulfilled by visiting workers who aid families financially, and lead them to a higher plane of existence, physical and spiritual. The corps is composed of volunteers from the ranks of those who have been aided, and two salaried officers. The latter are required to devote eighteen hours a week to visitation work. The Salvation Army headquarters was moved about periodically for many years until 1921 when the New York Telephone Company cut over to the old Federal Telephone Company exchange on Tioga Street and sold its State Street building to the corps at a very moderate price.

In Ithaca's modern era those who labor for social harmony have come to recognize that their greatest hope of success lies in preventive rather than in palliative efforts. Benevolence has been increasingly vested in agencies which endeavor to guide youth toward good citizenship, and to so adjust social relationships that many of the causes of poverty may be eliminated, crime may be shunned, and the work of the palliative agencies may decrease.

The first special agency which directed its efforts along these lines-aimed at preventing the development of a criminal class. It was known as the Society for the Prevention of Crime, and was organized in 1880 by George

More recently students of social science have tried to grapple with social work. They have largely conducted their preventive work at neighborhood settlement houses, on the principle that with primary groups, the family and the neighborhood, more can be accomplished than with groups artificially created. One of the best known of these centers is Hull House in Chicago, founded in 1889 and for many years headed by Miss Jane Addams.

The first Ithaca settlement house modeled after the Chicago institution was established on the west side by the Social Service League, organized in June, 1904. The leader of this movement was Professor Frank A. Fetter of the department of economics at Cornell University. With his associates he aimed "to establish and maintain a settlement and center for social and educational work and to cooperate with all agencies, making for economic and social righteousness." [1]

A building formerly used as a granary was rented on West State Street, near the Lackawanna Station. Various clubs and organizations which had existed among the people of that section of the city were moved from temporary quarters to the West Side House, as the settlement came to be called.

The Social Service League was incorporated in May, 1906, and purchased the property on which West Side House was located and the building which it occupied. The present attractive settlement building at the corner of Cliff and West Buffalo Streets was given in 1916 by Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Turner. The site was the gift of the Misses Augusta, Ella, and Charlotte Williams. A little later the

[1] *Report of the Social Service League of Ithaca*, October, 1907, page 1.

old property was sold and a partial endowment has been added by members and friends of the league. In the words of Miss Ada Powell, whose diligent and kindly service to the Inlet people has won their love and deep appreciation, the purpose of West Side House has been "to be a good neighbor."

That object has been creditably achieved. Community centers can do more for youth than they can for older people, whose habits are established, and the fact that all of the children's clubs in the First Ward, the Little Giants, boys between five and ten years of age, the Imperials, Peerless Club, and Central Tigers, clubs for older boys, Tattlers, Brownies and Bluebirds, societies of girls, as well as the Boy and Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls, make West Side House their headquarters, indicates the success of Miss Powell's efforts.

The adults, too, make the settlement house their social center and attend clubs, classes, and dances. A gymnasium, an extensive library, a large kitchen in which cooking is taught, commodious living rooms and several club rooms, besides quarters for the head worker and her staff are provided in the building.

The movement of immigrant residents to that part of Ithaca which was formerly swamp land, north of the old channel of Six Mile Creek, resulted in the establishment on Third Street by the Social Service League of a second settlement building known as North Side House. There, too, club activities are conducted and baby clinics are held at regular intervals.

While the Social Service League had established a district settlement house in the part of Ithaca, where it was most needed and the Y. M. C. A. had built a social center

for young men, for many years no special center was made available for women. Believing that the welfare of the young members of their sex was of primary importance in the betterment of their community, four women's clubs, the Political Study Club, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Woman's Club, and the Campus Club united in January, 1910, into a federation to consider the possibility of establishing a center analogous to the Christian Association building. They were unable at first to accomplish their purpose. Instead, for some years they turned their efforts toward procuring a rest room for out-of-town people. The Business Men's Association, 1915, provided such a room and until the new Chamber of Commerce headquarters were opened the women of the federation personally supervised it.

The organization did not forget its original purpose, however, and in December, 1920, the membership had so increased that they were able to purchase the Winton house at the northwest corner of Seneca and Cayuga Streets, which they opened on January 1, 1921, as the Women's Community Building. The main purpose served by this building is to provide at a nominal rent quarters for self-supporting girls, who are offered the privilege of preparing their own meals in an adequate kitchen and laundering their own clothes. In addition to its residential use it is employed as a center for women's social activities.

The Young Women's Community Club, which makes this its headquarters, includes about sixty members over eighteen years of age. It has been a very helpful factor in the philanthropic work of the city and has been of significant benefit in maintaining a high standard of citizenship among its members.

Other girls' clubs which meet at the Community Building are: an organization for girls under fifteen years of age, which is led by members of the Young Women's Christian Association at Cornell University; an organization of young Jewish women fifteen years of age and older; and scouting and campfire groups for younger girls. Under the auspices of the Community Building management a group of business girls is associated as a gymnasium class which, by special arrangement, uses the Y. M. C. A. swimming pool once a week. There are classes which meet at the building to study foreign languages and others which study music.

Young women may use the extensive library of the Community Building. They may obtain aid from a limited employment listing service operated by the management. Another very much appreciated organization maintained at the building is a confidential loan committee which advances money to girls needing temporary aid.

The Federation of Women's Clubs, which established and sponsors the building, now includes thirty-nine groups. They are: the Woman's Club, Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Campus Club, Child Study Club, League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, Women's Auxiliary of American Legion, Women's Union of Baptist Church, Ladies' Aid Tabernacle Baptist Church, Philathea Class Tabernacle Baptist Church, Cornell Dames, Catholic Ladies' Aid, Women's Union Congregational Church, Cornell Woman's Club, Council of Jewish Women, Craftsmen's Ladies' Aid, St. John's Guild Episcopal Church, Girl Scout Council, Graduate Nurses' Association, Young Women's Hospital Aid, Ithaca Home Bureau, Daughters of Veterans (Julia Dent Grant Tent), Ladies'

Aid of the First Methodist Church, Loyal Daughters of the First Methodist Church, Ladies' Aid State Street, Methodist Church, Ernestine Circle Presbyterian Church, Catholic Daughters of America (Court Santa Maria), Auxiliary No. 12, Sons of Veterans, South Hill Parent Teachers' Association, Teachers' Club, Woman's Alliance Unitarian Church, Ladies' Auxiliary Veterans of Foreign Wars, Wellesley Club, White Shrine Association, Women's Benefit Association, Young Women's Community Club, and the Zonta Club.

This large organization, which has become something of a woman's "chamber of commerce," performs many civic services. The presidents of this Federation have been:

Mrs. F. A. Mangang.. 1910–1914	Mrs. M. E. Calkins..... 1918–1920
Mrs. V. D. Morse..... 1914–1916	Mrs. K. M. Wiegand.... 1920–1921
Mrs. F. E. Bates..... 1916–1918	Mrs. Frank Thilly..... 1921–1925

Mrs. F. E. Bates..... 1925–

The leading organizations to elevate the standards of younger boys and girls have been the local council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of America, and the Campfire Girls. The first of these was instituted in the spring of 1914 when Ernest D. Button and J. P. Porter were commissioned as scoutmaster and assistant scoutmaster respectively of Troop Number 1. Another troop led by Professor M. N. Ogden, was soon organized. The United States' entrance into the war in 1917 gave the scouts a multitude of opportunities to serve their country, and their meritorious achievements in the sale of liberty loan bonds and war saving stamps, and in other campaigns brought Ithaca boys into the public eye.[1]

[1] Scout G. Schuyler Tarbell of Ithaca won the boy's national championship for selling war savings stamps and was highly praised by President Woodrow Wilson.

After the war, in 1919, many of Ithaca's leading citizens rewarded the creditable showing of the Boy Scouts by interesting themselves in scout affairs. An executive board for local troops was formed and Colonel Frank A. Barton of the Reserve Officers Training Corps at Cornell University was elected its president. William L. Burns was vice-president, Clarence D. Tarbell, treasurer, and the directors were C. D. Bostwick, W. H. Morrison, James A. Causer, Louis P. Smith, Louis A. Fuertes, Clarence F. Wyckoff, George A. Works, Ross W. Kellogg, and Charles H. Newman.

A summer camp was established for the scout organizations in 1922 and named after the first president of the executive board. Fifty boys attended Camp Barton the first summer, eighty-five in 1923, one hundred in 1924, and one hundred and twenty five in 1925. The group under the local Boy Scout executive council at present numbers more than three hundred boys and is organized into fourteen troops, including one at Freeville (the George Junior Republic troop), one at Trumansburg, one at Inlet Valley, and one at Groton. Other troops meet at the old Armory of Cornell University, the West Side House, the Presbyterian Church, the First Methodist Episcopal Church, the State Street M. E. Church, the High School, the Congregational Church, the Baptist Church, the St. John School, and at the Forest Home Schoolhouse.

Two organizations of young girls, the Campfire Girls and Girl Scouts, correspond to the Boy Scouts. The former was founded in 1910 by Miss Eugenia Van Cleef and the first troop met at the Presbyterian Church. Another troop was organized at the Unitarian Church. In 1919 each group formed a junior attached organization known

as the Blue Birds and the membership has now reached a total of about one hundred girls.

The Girl Scouts were first organized in June, 1919, sponsored by the Ithaca Zonta Club. Mrs. W. A. Stocking was made the first commissioner. There are now about two hundred and fifty-seven registered girl scouts and ninety-one "Brownies," members of a junior organization corresponding to the "Blue Birds." The girl scout work has its headquarters in the Community Building.

In the spring of 1922, the Federation of Women's Clubs rented a farm about twenty miles north of Ithaca on the west shore of Cayuga Lake near the resort known as Sheldrake and has since given the use of it each summer to Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls during alternate two-week periods. In the fall of 1926 Professor and Mrs. Ernest T. Paine presented their land on Crowbar Point to the Girl Scouts for a permanent camp, known as "Camp Anne Botsford Comstock." The work of these groups at camp or during the winter very much resembles that of the Boy Scouts and is designed to make the members better citizens and more capable women. Business training, art, nature study, child care, domestic science, and other useful studies are pursued by members of both groups. The activities of the Campfire Girls include more symbolistic ceremonies than those of the scouts, but otherwise, the organizations are very much alike.

Governmental cooperation in preventing the growth of criminal or the indigent classes by checking such tendencies in children was first inaugurated in 1912 when the Federation of Women's Clubs succeeded in obtaining the appointment of Mrs. Katherine H. Shaw as Ithaca's first policewoman.

twenty-five formal cases each year and a great many more disposed of without formal proceedings, only a very small number of commitments to institutions have been found necessary.

Frequently indigency or criminality is traceable to ill health, which is in itself a social evil and hostile to the harmony of a community. The agencies established to prevent or remedy illness are, therefore, very important in welfare work. It may be recalled that Ithaca's first board of health was established in August, 1831.[1]

A few cases of smallpox in the village had alarmed the trustees, who voted a sum of money for the vaccination of citizens and established a board whose duty it was "to examine and report all nuisances." Derrick B. Stockholm, Jacob Terry, and Edward T. Porter were appointed to that body.

The following year on June 22 the State of New York passed one of the earliest health laws in the United States, requiring that every incorporated village should have a board of health, and three days later Ithaca's board was increased to seven members, William Collins, Luther Gere, Jeremiah S. Beebe, David Woodcock, Henry T. Woodward, John James Speed, and Ancel St. John. The provisions of the law required a health officer, also, and Dr. John Stevens was appointed for that purpose. Thereafter, until the city charter was adopted, boards and health officers continued to be appointed, but except for the enforcement of quarantines and an occasional sanitary measure, little in the way of preventive hygiene was accomplished.

After the establishment of the city government the health officers, although not heeded, made extensive recom-

[1] See page 60.

mendations to the common council. Ithaca's most frequent preventable causes of death were typhoid fever and malaria, the former occurring because of the privies on the banks of Six Mile Creek which was the source of Ithaca's water. Malaria was due to the swampy conditions of the mosquito-ridden flats in the northern part of town.

Then in 1903, during a period of less than three months, thirteen hundred and fifty patients suffered from typhoid fever.[1] An appeal by the health commissioner brought to Ithaca Dr. F. C. Curtis of Albany, who spent a day investigating the situation, blamed the water supply, and advised Ithacans to boil their drinking water. But the epidemic continued to spread. Dr. Daniel Lewis, state commissioner of health, came to the city and urged wide spread disinfection. On March 4 the state department sent Dr. George Soper of New York City to take charge of the situation.

Dr. Soper quickly organized the citizens and the officials to combat the epidemic; an intensive campaign against it was raged and they were rewarded with success. At the request of the Ithaca board of health, Dr. Soper stayed on until September as an expert adviser to the board of health. After the epidemic the citizens and council generally heeded the health officer. During Dr. Soper's stay unprecedented advances were made in local hygiene. About 1,300 privies were cleaned and disinfected; over 900 well water analyses were made; and more than thirty per cent of the wells were condemned; dairies and other sources of food supply were inspected and standards were firmly established. New methods of street cleaning and refuse disposal were inaugurated. A thorough house

[1] See pages 135, 136.

cleaning was conducted everywhere in early spring. Back yards, alleys, and vacant lots were cleaned up. Sanitary ordinances that had been practically disregarded were again strictly enforced. The first steps were taken toward the elimination of malarial swamp conditions. Concerning typhoid, Dr. Soper wrote: [1]

"It is doubtful if typhoid fever will ever gain a foothold in the city again."

That prediction was somewhat optimistic. While the energetic work of the health department and the improvement of water filtration eliminated the disease from running water, residual typhoid in stationary sources of water resulted in an average of thirty-nine cases each year for the following decade.

In 1914 Ithaca's social agencies, together with the city government, the Business Men's Association, the Federation of Women's Clubs, the Central Labor Union, and officials of Cornell University, arranged with the department of surveys and exhibits of the Russell Sage Foundation for a survey of health and housing conditions in the city. Among the most important results of this work were the location and condemnation of still existent polluted wells and privies. Since that time the death rate from typhoid fever has been reduced from sixteen per hundred thousand population [2] to a negligible figure.[3]

[1] George A. Soper, "The Epidemic of Typhoid Fever at Ithaca, New York," *Journal of the New England Waterworks Association*, Vol. XVIII, No. 4, p. 448.

[2] Franz Schneider, Jr., *A Survey of the Public Health Situation*, Ithaca, New York, 1915.

[3] The United States Census of 1920 listed the typhoid death rate in Ithaca as 5.8 per 100,000 population. Later vital statistics of the New York State Department of Health show this figure to be constantly decreasing.

An important part of the health department work is now that of the visiting trained nurse, who helps to spread knowledge of preventive hygiene, and counsels and aids in medical matters families that cannot afford private nurses. This work was begun in May, 1907, when a group of citizens organized a Visiting Nurse Association, which engaged Miss Charlotte Underhill to perform that service. An office was opened on State Street and medical examinations were given.

In 1921 the association was disbanded but for two years its work was continued under the commissioner of charities. On January 1, 1923, this responsibility was transferred to the board of health, which had opened a free dispensary at the corner of State and Cayuga Streets.

In Ithaca, as elsewhere, war has been waged with gratifying results against the spread of tuberculosis. The Ithaca Tuberculosis Association was organized in February, 1911, at a gathering of citizens at the Catholic parish hall after George J. Nelbach of the State Charities Aid Association had pointed out the need of such an organization. The Association at once moved to prevent the development of the disease in children by renting a farm at Esty's to care for a dozen children during the summer months and to strengthen their general physical condition. This farm, in 1915, was replaced by a new building, now known as the Cayuga Preventorium, which accommodates about thirty children. A county sanatorium for the treatment of tubercular patients was next obtained, an old hotel on the south side of Taughannock Gorge being purchased by the county and remodeled. This sanatorium, which is now known as the Tompkins County Tuberculosis Hospital, has a capacity of thirty patients.

The open air class for children in the public school system was fostered, and from its establishment in 1917 to 1920 financially supported, by the association. It also aids in the purchase of necessary equipment for tuberculosis clinics at the city dispensary.

The success of these agencies is attested to by the remarkable decline that has taken place in the death rate from that source. At the time of the health survey in 1914, an average of 98 per 100,000 citizens died annually from tuberculosis. The census of 1920 showed this figure to be down to 64 per 100,000 citizens. In 1925 the actual number of tubercular deaths in the city was only eight, the rate per 100,000 being slightly over 40.

Along with the preventive public health work described above, it was necessary also for Ithaca to provide a remedial agency. Up to the adoption of the city charter, there were no hospital facilities in the village. When dangerous contagious diseases were prevalent, isolation quarters were sometimes established. During the smallpox epidemic of 1831, the trustees paid Joseph Bourgoure a sum of money to prepare rooms for a "pest house." It is said that there were several small private hospitals in the later years of the village history.

The movement to establish a general hospital had its inception in the fall of 1888 when a number of prominent women met to consider the problem. They organized the Hospital Association on January 19, 1889, and in October of the next year they were presented with the Burt Mansion, a large wooden house on North Aurora Street at Cascadilla Creek. This gift, made by Edward S. Esty and members of his family, was accompanied by the beginning of an endowment fund.

The association soon found that an expansion of the plant was necessary, and a brick building for a contagious ward and a nurses' home was erected, chiefly through the generosity of the family of Josiah B. Williams. A brick annex provided with a new operating room was next built at the rear of the Burt House by gifts from Major D. W. Burdick and some associates.

In November, 1910, it was decided that a new specially constructed building was necessary, and the association with a citizens committee of one hundred and fifty, headed by Jacob Rothschild, set out to raise the necessary funds. Seventeen hundred subscriptions aggregating $130,000 were secured. As a result the Aurora Street property was sold and in 1911 construction was begun on the present hospital located on a four acre tract overlooking Six Mile Creek Gorge.

The property was enlarged in 1922 when adjacent land was purchased. The Walter L. Williams house, located thereon, was converted into a nurses' home. A year later another building for a heating plant and laundry was erected. The latest addition was an isolation ward for communicable diseases, built by the City of Ithaca, adjacent to the main hospital building.

The Ithaca hospital may fairly be considered as a monumental community achievement. It is in every way a modern institution and its facilities and equipment surpass those to be found in cities many times the size of Ithaca. There is still a need for further wards and private rooms in the building and for larger quarters for nurses, but its efficient management plans to fulfill these needs. The hospital was and still is "a private institution managed without profit, sustained by voluntary contributions and en-

downments, and by its fees, and open for the use of the public without distinction of sex, creed or color." [1]

The presidents of the Association since its establishment have been:

Mrs. Charles K. Adams	1889	Abram T. Kerr, M.D...	1911–1912
Charles A. Collin.....	1889–1891	Charles H. Hull.....	1912–1913
Clarence H. Esty.....	1891–1896	Everett F. Morse.....	1913
Albert H. Esty.....	1896–1897	Abram T. Kerr, M.D...	1913–1914
Jane L. Hardy.....	1897–1907	Thomas F. Crane.....	1914–1917
Daniel W. Burdick.....	1907–1910	Paul S. Livermore.....	1917–1920
Randolph Horton	1910-1911	Jacob Rothschild	1920–

To these men and women for their invaluable service and to the many who have generously endowed the hospital, Ithaca owes an incalculable debt. Jacob Rothschild has especially earned the appreciation of his fellow citizens for sixteen years of service which began with his chairmanship of the citizens' committee and continues with his presidency of the association.

The hospital has for many years conducted an affiliated school of nursing and in 1926 sixty young women were enjoying its advantages. For them, a new residental hall will be erected on the location of the old W. L. Williams house; and demonstration, class, and lecture rooms as well as a scientific laboratory have been set aside in the new wing of the main hospital. At present, the association is leasing three houses for the nursing staff and students.

Two societies which together include most of Ithaca's representative women have been organized to cooperate with the management of the hospital in providing needed equipment and services when they are desired. The first of these organizations is the Young Women's Hospital Aid, which grew out of a meeting of generous young women

[1] *Thirty-fourth Annual Report of the Ithaca City Hospital*, 1923, page 7.

held in 1913. Each year the Aid has held a Charity Ball, the proceeds from which have been invested in linens, apparatus, or furnishings for the hospital. Two hundred members are now on the rolls of the organization and meet bi-weekly to sew for hospital equipment and at regular intervals to entertain the nursing staff.

Eight years after the Young Women's Aid had been organized it was recognized that there was a need for still more volunteer assistance and at President Rothschild's request, Mrs. Edwin Stewart and a committee of ten associates organized the Women's Auxiliary which does not solicit funds for its work but prepares dressings, sews, cans fruit and vegetables, distributes Christmas gifts to hospital patients, and also entertains the nurses at regular intervals. The Auxiliary numbers in its membership about one hundred women.

The problem of caring for and so far as possible rehabilitating crippled children and adults, a problem which is at once the concern of health, philanthropic, and educational agencies, was partly met in 1920 when the Reconstruction Home for Infantile Paralysis was established. This institution grew out of a small convalescent hospital which was founded after the national poliomyelitis epidemic of 1916. The officers and contributors of the home purchased the Bostwick house on South Albany Street and established facilities for the after-care of twenty-seven of these patients.

Physio-therapy often makes it possible to restore the use of withered or paralyzed limbs and to straighten twisted and bent bodies. The education of such children and their social contacts are retarded unless some special agency is established to bring schooling to their bedsides

and bring them together in play and at work. These things are accomplished at the reconstruction home which is under the professional supervision of the state orthopedic surgeon.

As the number of agencies grew, it became increasingly apparent to thoughtful participants in Ithaca's social work that eventually the work must be centralized. It was seen that a clearing house of information about needy families or individuals was needed to avoid duplication in benevolence and preventive work and that a waste of time, money, and effort in the repeated solicitation of funds for different organizations could be avoided if the support of the agencies was included in a single annual contribution from each charitable citizen.

The old Associated Charities had made such centralization a part of its program but in the 'nineties the agencies were not ready for such an advance and the Charitable Organization Society, as it was later known, did not survive.

In the fall of 1912, under the leadership of the Reverend Henry P. Horton, a new Associated Charities was formed and again the intention of its organizers was to create "a center of inter-communication between the various churches and the charitable agencies in the city; to foster harmonious cooperation between them; and to check the evils of over-lapping relief (and) for this purpose to maintain a confidential Registration Bureau."[1]

The organization appointed "friendly visitors" to attend cases needing counsel and advice and to obtain adequate relief from the proper charities and charitable individuals. It was not to spend its own general funds but only to appropriate sums from a special fund for re-

[1] Constitution of the Associated Charities of Ithaca.

lief. While the Associated Charities met with some success, there was a smoldering resentment among the other workers, who believed that an undelegated authority had been usurped. In spite of that fact an approach was made toward efficient cooperation when the Associated Charities brought together a council of twelve representatives at a meeting held in October, 1918, and plans for monthly conferences were made. But the plan does not seem to have materialized and two years later the Associated Charities became the Family Welfare Society, which continues to maintain case records and a clearing house of information for other agencies, but which devotes its funds to temporary relief and the scientific case work among needy families. During the war this work was extended to Tompkins County residents outside of Ithaca by the Tompkins County Red Cross. This welfare work began with special relief to families of soldiers and later came to include all needy cases. The Family Welfare Society and Red Cross jointly occupy a building at Clinton and Geneva Streets, which was the gift of the Misses Augusta, Ella, and Charlotte Williams.

The present centralization of social agencies came as a result of the experience of Ithacans in war-time charity disbursements. Soon after the United States entered the great conflict it was seen that local quotas in the successive national "drives" for funds could be raised with maximum efficiency by a central committee and in December, 1917, the Tompkins County War Chest was organized for that purpose. Money was thus raised in Ithaca and neighboring communities for the Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A., the Knights of Columbus, the Hebrew Association, the War Camp Community Service, the Salvation Army, the United

War Work Campaign, the Armenian and Syrian Relief, the American Fund for French Wounded, the Belgian Relief, and the Jewish war sufferers. Other funds were appropriated to advertise the Liberty and Victory Loan bonds and the War Savings Stamps. After the soldiers had returned home the war chest ceased to function. The interest on a considerable sum was given to the hospital for the care of ex-service men and final appropriations were made to the American Legion Endowment Fund.[1]

Organized in 1921 at a meeting of prominent citizens, the Community Chest was at first planned not only to centralize contributions to local charities but to continue the disbursement of Ithaca contributions to national and international organizations. In the second campaign for funds it was decided to make the chest budget purely local, so it has remained. In the first campaign nearly $60,000 was raised and by the spring of 1922 most of the local organizations had given their pledges to solicit funds from no other sources without the consent of the budget and disbursements committee of the Community Chest.

In turn, the directors of the chest agreed to list in its annual budget the agencies subscribing to the above pledge and as far as possible provide for annual operating deficits. It was agreed that the chest could not pay off their existing deficits either wholly or in part, and that it could not finance expansions of plant or equipment, or the cost of new lines of work.

During the first five years of the chest maintenance about $55,000 has been contributed each year by an average

[1] See Walter F. Willcox, Ross W. Kellogg and E. C. Stewart, *Final Report of the Disbursements Committee* to the Executive Committee of the Tompkins County War Chest Association, *Ithaca Journal-News*, March 24, 1920.

of 3,000 subscribers. The sums pledged in the first four campaigns did not quite meet the quota, which has been approximately $65,000 each year, excepting 1922, when it was $7,000 higher.[1] With a more complete organization in the fall of 1925, the campaign was a complete success, nearly $69,000 being pledged for 1926 by 3,576 subscribers. Seventeen agencies have been listed on the budget, the funds having been apportioned to them as follows:

	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
Old Ladies' Home	$2,500	$1,500	$1,500	$1,500	$3,000
Reconstruction Home	5,000	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
Cayuga Preventorium	1,800	1,800	1,800	.....	2,500
Children's Home	2,100	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Memorial Hospital	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Young Women's Hospital Aid	750	750	750	750	750
Ithaca Tuberculosis Assn.	.....	4,250	4,250	4,250	4,200
Red Cross	4,500	8,500	8,500	7,000	7,100
Family Welfare Society	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	4,000
Salvation Army	2,750	2,683	2,683	2,661	2,787
Catholic Charities Aid	1,000	1,000	1,000	900	1,200
Young Men's Christian Assn.	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Women's Community Bldg.	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	4,000
Boy Scouts	4,250	4,150	4,150	4,150	4,600
Social Service League	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	3,500
Junior Girls' Work	1,500	1,500	1,500	.....	.....
Girl Scouts	.....	.....	.....	2,200	2,600
Totals	$49,650	$55,333	$55,333	$52,611	$60,937

The chest has met the operating deficits of the agencies and it has reduced the expenses of each one by eliminating duplicate campaign costs. But the most important outcome of this centralized solicitation has been the good will between social workers which has resulted. When competition for charitable donations between the various organi-

[1] The 1922 campaign fund included the fund for national and international appeals.

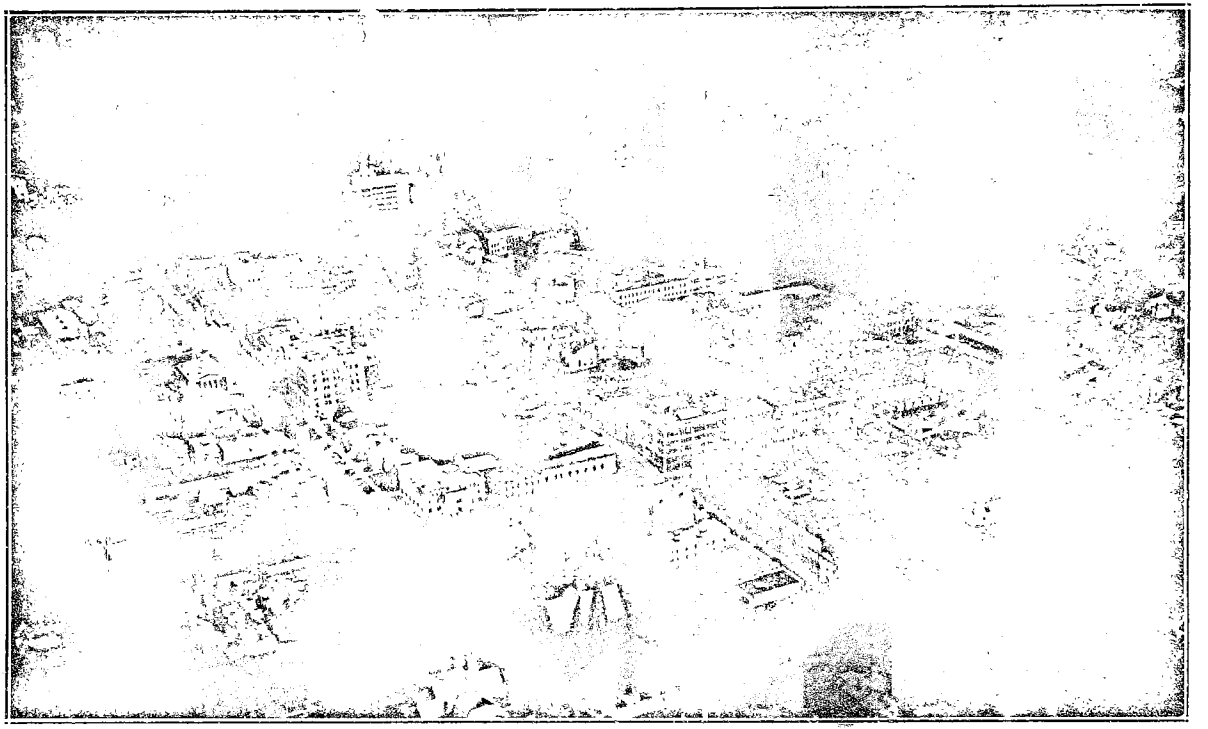
zations was eliminated, an important barrier to cooperation was removed. Consequently, the groups came more and more together in their work until in 1924 they organized the Council of Social Agencies.

The chief aim of this organization has been to increase the effectiveness of the agencies. President William A. Boyd reported to the council in April, 1925, that "from the nature of the work done by several of the cooperating organizations we were impressed with the fact that there is an overlapping of efforts in some branches of the work done by various charitable and welfare groups."

To meet this problem the council has arranged for a survey of Ithaca's social work to be made by Pierce Williams of the American Association for Community Organization in the fall of 1926. This survey, it is hoped, will yield information of which Ithacans will be proud; and at the same time will suggest changes of benefit to donors, workers, and recipients of charity.

Although special agencies have assumed much of the responsibility for benevolence in modern Ithaca, some of it each year continues to be provided by religious organizations through their ministers, their women's societies, or specially appointed administrators of charity funds. In addition to their direct charity the churches have always been primary factors in preventing social pathology by endeavoring to set high standards of citizenship toward which they have guided men, women, and children.

Church development was temporarily stopped by the panic of 1873 but resumed three years later when the Presbyterians enlarged the chapel which they had built in 1864. The latter was torn down in 1900 and replaced by the present beautiful structure at the old site.



AEROPLANE VIEW OF BUSINESS SECTION OF ITHACA

A year after the Presbyterian chapel had been enlarged, residents at Fall Creek built the Union Church on North Aurora Street, but this was subsequently discontinued. Another church in the northern section of the city is the Free Methodist on Tioga Street, erected in 1872. The members of the Seneca Street Methodist Episcopal Church found that they were badly in need of a new building, and on August 29, 1878, the cornerstone was laid for a State Street Methodist Episcopal Church, in which they are still worshiping.

The next two decades witnessed the construction of several new churches: Congregational, 1884; Tabernacle Baptist, 1886; First Baptist, 1892; Unitarian, 1893; and the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, 1896. The St. John's Episcopal Church building, erected in 1860, was enlarged in 1893 and its exterior entirely rebuilt.

Church construction was not resumed until more than ten years later when a new building was erected at Aurora and Court Streets for the First Methodist Church. The edifice was dedicated in January, 1909. The following year the First Church of Christ, Scientist, was erected in Cascadilla Park on University Avenue. Three years later the Lutherans rented a house on Dryden Road and conducted services until 1923 when they dedicated the first church to be established on East Hill, a handsome stone building on Oak Avenue. In the meantime St. John's Episcopal Church had been again enlarged and the Society of Friends had begun to meet regularly in Barnes Hall at Cornell University.

Both of the churches supported by the Negro race are well housed: St. James' African Methodist Episcopal Zion on Cleveland Avenue and the Calvary Baptist on North

Albany Street. Smaller church societies of more recent origin are the Christian and Missionary Alliance which meets on North Plain Street and the Pentecostal Church which has a house of worship on South Meadow Street.

The Temple Beth-El of Ithaca, a Jewish religious body, holds its meetings in a hall on South Tioga Street. It has purchased a lot at Tioga and Court Streets and is now raising funds for the erection of a temple.

Fraternal orders have had a place in the life of Ithaca since the earliest years of the village. The charters of two of the Masonic fraternities were granted before Ithaca was incorporated. Various branches of these orders have been established throughout the years until now there are thirteen lodges, clubs, and societies holding meetings in the new Masonic Temple at Cayuga and Seneca Streets which was dedicated in the fall of 1926.

The Ithaca Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, instituted in 1842, is the first of a number of allied fraternities which occupy the Odd Fellows Temple on North Cayuga Street opposite DeWitt Park. Cascadilla Lodge of the Knights of Pythias, another of the oldest fraternal orders in the city, was organized in 1873, and five years later Forest City Council, Royal Arcanum, was chartered.

The following fraternal orders have either erected clubhouses or purchased and remodeled buildings for their use: Ithaca Council, Knights of Columbus; Ithaca Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles; Ithaca Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; and Ithaca Lodge, Loyal Order of Moose. There are a number of other fraternal orders in the city, including several for the Negro citizens.

Since our soldiers returned from France, a new set of problems has confronted social workers. Many of Ithaca's

six hundred [1] ex-service men had been rendered unable to earn a livelihood at their former occupations. Others lost their positions during their absence. Ill health, poverty, and occasionally criminal tendencies were the results of the lost years in the life of America's youth.

The social agencies have been relieved by the American Legion of what would have been a tremendous responsibility. The local post was formed in 1919 when the national organization gave a post charter to the Tompkins County War Veterans' Association, which the men had established as soon as they donned civilian clothes. The present membership of the post is one hundred and fifty.

The Legion acts as a quick and efficient clearing house; guides the veteran to relief, whether it be hospitalization, compensation or vocational training, to national governmental agencies, which are usually so beset with complexities and legal processes that the average individual alone can make no headway with them. The Legion has also fostered bills in state and national legislation that, by means of the bonus, partially compensated ex-service men for the losses that they have suffered.

Thus, in her mature years, Ithaca has built up a system of agencies which aims first to prevent the development of crime, poverty, ill health, or other inharmonious elements in the community existence; and secondly, to palliate or relieve distress when it exists. The work has been increasingly centralized until overlapping and duplication of expense and effort have been reduced nearly to a minimum. The increase of efficiency will go on, as generosity is guided by scientific study of the situation. Such achievements as

[1] Between 1,200 and 1,500 men from Tompkins County were enrolled in the army. About one-half of these were Ithacans.

have characterized the development of Ithaca's social agencies could only have been accomplished with the advice of men who have studied the methods of modern charity. Cornell University has yielded the scientific help of such men as Professors Fetter, Jenks, Willcox, and many others. In philanthrophy, engineering, medicine, government, and in other fields town and gown working together have conquered.

CHAPTER X

TOWN AND GOWN

A REVIEW of trade and commerce demonstrates conclusively that Ithaca has found a place in the industrial life of the nation and that the city is enjoying a prosperous maturity. Surveys show that it has developed an extraordinary system of agencies designed to prevent or to remedy social evils. But a census of intellect yields the most interesting results.

The biennial biographical dictionary of notable men and women in America is the equivalent of a national census of achievement, and forms something of an index to intellect. In 1926 this little city of 19,000 persons was represented by one hundred and sixty-seven biographies in "Who's Who in America." For this wealth of citizens of worthy reputation Ithaca has, of course, mainly to thank Cornell University and the other educational institutions which have been located here. Notable men and women are thirty-six times more frequent in Ithaca than they are in the nation as a whole. In the United States the ratio is twenty-four persons in "Who's Who in America" per 100,000 population. Ithaca's ratio is at the rate of 869 per 100,000.

While Ithaca's population has doubled since 1890 her students have quadrupled.[1] This growth has been due in

[1] Cornell University registration

1880..... 463	1900.....2299	1920.....5668
1890.....1390	1910.....4412	1925.....5818

In addition to these, 1,200 students of the Ithaca Conservatory of Music and Affiliated Schools have entered into the life of the city.

a great measure to the expansion of the University and to the establishment of other institutions of learning.

So tremendous has been the development on East Hill that one who had known Ezra Cornell's farm in the early days of the University would have great difficulty in recognizing it as the same place. Then, the three original buildings, Morrill, McGraw, and White Halls, a temporary wooden structure that was later used as a chemistry laboratory, and Cascadilla Place were the only obstructions to that rural landscape. Little attention had been given to the improvement of the grounds, which were covered with clover and wild grass. Soggy paths were the forerunners of the present paved roads and walks.

So, too, has the atmosphere of the campus changed. The bearded students of the 'seventies and early 'eighties were a boisterous lot and indulged in pranks and games that the magnitude of the undergraduate body now prevents. A false fire alarm, an interclass battle in which one group would capture and secrete the leaders of another, or perhaps a disorderly rush downtown were common occurrences in those days. These affairs alarmed and distressed Ithacans, and it was difficult for them to understand such dissipation of young energy. Rushes and false alarms retarded the development of cordial relationships between town and gown. But such boisterousness became less and less possible as the University grew, following its policy to "meet and anticipate the intellectual wants of America." [1]

Andrew D. White had retired from the presidency of Cornell in 1885. He had nominated as his successor Pro-

[1] Address by Jacob Gould Schurman before the Cornell alumni of Buffalo, February 19, 1916. See Murray Poole, *A Story Historical of Cornell University*, p. 76.

fessor Charles Kendall Adams, whom he had known as professor of history at the University of Michigan. Under President Adams' administration in 1887, the study of law was added with Judge Douglass Boardman as first dean of the school.

Jacob Gould Schurman, since June, 1925, the United States ambassador to Germany, succeeded Charles Kendall Adams in 1892 as the president of Cornell University. The new executive, for six years, had been a professor in the Sage School of Philosophy and was well versed in Cornell affairs. It was during his administration that the University grew to its present proportions.

At the start, recognizing that there was a pressing need in New York State for scientific farmers and veterinarians and that Cornell was already rendering a great service in training them in its department of agriculture, he appealed for state aid in the development of these courses. President Schurman's appeal was answered early in 1893 when the state legislature voted to aid Cornell in the erection of a building for instruction in dairy husbandry. For that purpose was built what is now the north wing of Goldwin Smith Hall. In 1894 and 1895 more money was given for a state-owned veterinary medicine building, at the completion of which the New York State Veterinary College came into existence. The legislature of 1904 appropriated $250,000 for the establishment of the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell and two years later assumed permanent responsibility for its maintenance.[1]

[1] "The total of the appropriations made to the College by the legislature of New York State in 1925 is $1,625,230, a net increase of $95,670 over the total of last year." *Report of the Director in the College of Agriculture*, Cornell University official publications, 1925, Vol. 16, No. 18, p. 42.

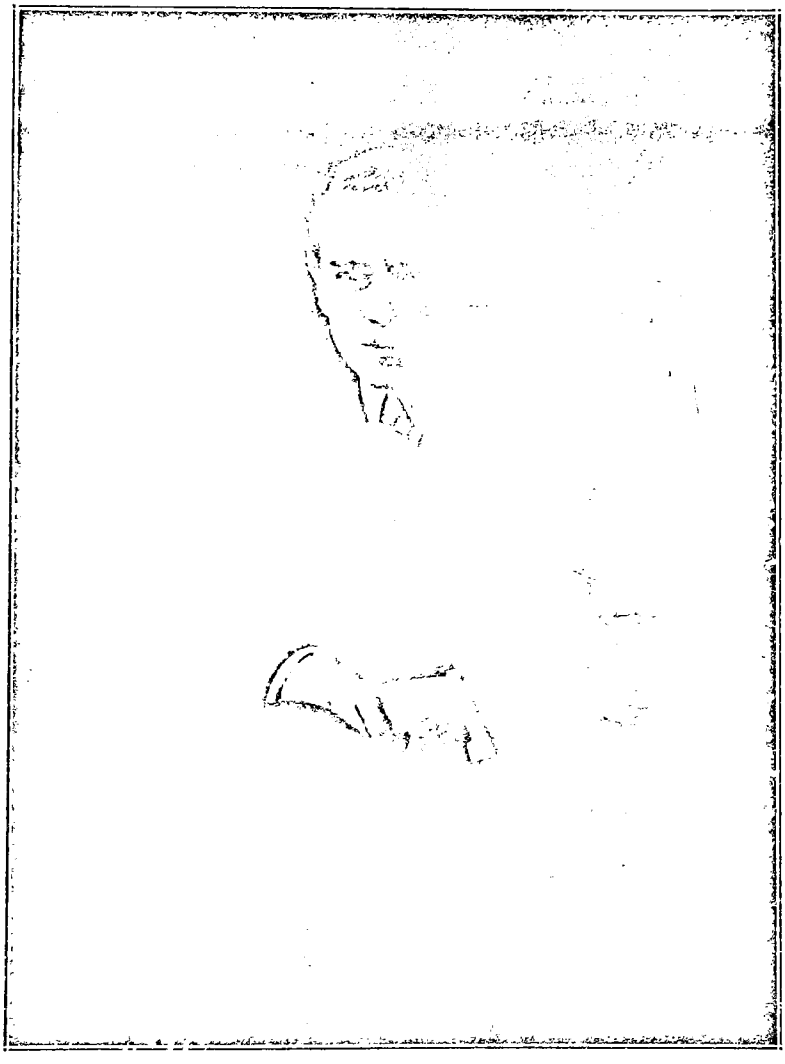
The latest addition to the group of separate colleges on the campus was the New York State College of Home Economics which was created by a legislative act signed by the governor on February 24, 1925. Home economics was formerly a course in the college of agriculture, but it was recognized that "The services rendered by the two colleges are so distinct as to require separate . . . agencies of administration." [1]

For five years, from 1898 to 1903, the New York State College of Forestry was a part of Cornell University but it was discontinued when a difference of opinion arose between college and state officials. In its place a department of forestry in the agricultural college has made notable contributions toward the American conservation program.

The founding of the state colleges of veterinary medicine and agriculture was followed by the introduction of medical instruction into Cornell's curriculum. Because proximity to large metropolitan hospitals offered indispensable clinical facilities, the main college buildings, given by Colonel Oliver H. Payne in 1898, were located in New York City. In order that an introduction to the medical sciences might be given at Ithaca, Dean Sage, a son of Henry W. Sage, made possible in 1901 the building of Stimson Hall. The medical profession at Ithaca has been frequently aided by members of the staff of the College of Medicine of which many of the city's physicians and surgeons are graduates.

The University had been divided, up to 1898, into departments, but with the establishment of the colleges of law, agriculture, veterinary medicine, medicine, and fores-

[1] *Report of the Director in the College of Agriculture*, Cornell University official publications, 1925, Vol. 16, No. 18, p. 43.



From Painting by Brauner

LIVINGSTON FARRAND

Fourth President of Cornell University

Much of Cornell's outstanding reputation is due to the unsurpassed position in its field of the College of Engineering. The first department of electrical engineering in any school was established at Cornell. The first electric generator and the first outdoor lighting system in America, built and set up at Ithaca by Cornell professors, has already been mentioned. [1]

A Cornell professor was responsible for the founding of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and was a pioneer in several developments in American manufacturing. He designed and manufactured the Straight Line engine and through his inventions of measuring machines of great accuracy, did much to raise the standards of accuracy in designing and manufacturing. The list of the past and present faculty members of this college is one of outstanding men. The leaders of twenty other engineering colleges are Cornellians. Five of the past presidents of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers either obtained their degrees at Cornell or have been members of the engineering college faculty.

In chemistry and physics Cornell has made pioneer contributions in such branches as chemical microscopy, X-rays as used in medicine, X-ray and ultra-violet absorption, and photometry and illumination. Cornell has trained more men listed by "American Men of Science" as the country's most eminent physicists, than any other university except Johns Hopkins, which is chiefly a graduate institution.

The College of Agriculture of the University leads the country in the quality of its teaching and its scientific additions to knowledge. It is represented by more graduates on

[1] See page 126.

the faculties of other colleges than is any other school of agriculture. In the teaching of home economics Cornell has led for twenty-five years, and today remains the pattern of such departments in other universities.

The department of psychology has trained many of the country's leading experimental psychologists. The College of Architecture was the first to realize that cultural as well as scientific education was necessary for architects, and was first to increase the undergraduate requirements to five years, a step which other universities have followed. According to a study made by the president of Miami College, the department of English ranks in the leading half dozen such departments in the country.

The College of Law has given to New York State ten or more Supreme Court judges, two judges of the Court of Claims, and many county judges, surrogates, and district attorneys. A former student and faculty member is an associate judge of the Court of Appeals of New York State, and the chief judge of that court is a graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The College of Medicine has made important contributions to the study of typhoid fever, diabetes and other glandular diseases, cancer, and diseases of the heart, kidneys, and arteries.

To the educational life of the country Cornell has contributed 5,000 teachers, having trained at least one outstanding member of the faculty of practically every ranking college. Presidents of twenty other colleges have come from Cornell.

All this has been made possible chiefly by the men who have made up Cornell's faculty. Of the 1,000 persons who comprise Professor Cattell's distinguished list of "Ameri-

can Men of Science" one-eighth have been or are now at Cornell. Of the 225 scientists who have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, nineteen, or nearly one-tenth of the total number, are past or present faculty members.

As a result of this development and growth of the University there have naturally arisen during the past half century a number of social institutions on East Hill, especially adapted to the needs of the student body. A Cornell Young Men's Christian Association to bring students into religious activities was formed in January, 1869, and held its meetings in Morrill Hall, where the registrar's office now is located. In the early 'eighties the organization became the Cornell University Christian Association which undertook the task of raising funds to build a social center. In 1887 Alfred S. Barnes, by a gift of $45,000, made possible the erection of Barnes Hall, a part of which since 1914 has been used by the Young Women's Christian Association.

Willard Straight, a member of the class of 1901, who died in France in 1918, left in his will a request to his widow to do such thing or things for Cornell as would make it a "more human place." His belief was not that Cornell was "inhuman" but that its increased size made more difficult the close personal relations among the students with each other and the students with the faculty, those relations which had to him been such an inspiration in his undergraduate days when the University was smaller. Mrs. Straight,[1] after consultation with most representative Cornell groups, decided that his request could best be fulfilled by giving to Cornell a student union building, where undergraduates

[1] Now Mrs. Leonard K. Elmhirst.

and faculty members might meet on a close and friendly basis impossible in the class rooms. To his estate she added a large sum of her own money, and gave to the University Willard Straight Hall, which was formally opened in November, 1925. Faculty and students are enthusiastically making use of the dining, recreational, and other facilities of the building.

From the beginning the problem of residential quarters for students has been a serious one. Some of the graduates have always lived in Cascadilla Place. As the University grew this building proved inadequate and the student body became widely scattered. Many of the students at the University in its early years roomed in the downtown section of Ithaca. It was not long, however, before the demand for rooms near the University brought about the erection of lodging houses and fraternity chapter houses. A growing sentiment that dormitories should be provided to enable the scattered students to come together and enjoy the opportunities of intimate association with their classmates, culminated in the donation to Cornell in 1914 and 1915, by George F. Baker, of Baker Tower and North and South Baker Halls. Founder's Hall was built later with funds raised from the alumni through the Cornellian Council. Comprehensive plans have been prepared for an extension of the group of men's dormitories on the plot of ground bounded by Stewart, University, and West Avenues. The plan was fostered for many years by George F. Boldt, a trustee of the University. Boldt Hall, the most recent addition to the dormitory group, was erected to his memory. Cornell's memorial to her 237 sons who died in the World War will take the form of two great towers connected by a colonnade south of the present dormitories.

It will be recalled that Sage College was opened as a residential hall for women in 1874. Notwithstanding the establishment of sorority houses in the following year, the quarters for women were also crowded and many were living in lodging houses when, in 1913, Mrs. Russell Sage solved the problem in part by giving Prudence Risley Hall.

A hospital for students was supplied in 1897 when, on the death of Henry W. Sage, his sons, Dean and William, presented the family mansion on State street to the University for an infirmary. In 1912 the accommodations were greatly enlarged by the construction of a modern annex.

A large auditorium, in which convocation of students, class day and commencement exercises, concerts, dramatic offerings, and other important functions are held, was built on the agriculture campus in 1912 and named after Dean Liberty Hyde Bailey, at one time director of the College of Agriculture.

No statistics, no chronological history, nothing that could be written or said would adequately describe the institution that overlooks Ithaca from East Hill. The principles of open-mindedness and tolerance which were the University's heritage from its founders, continue to underlie the policies of its administration. At the helm of the University today a wise and capable man, beloved by his faculty and by his students, and the entire alumni body, is guiding their alma mater toward a future worthy of her glorious traditions.

The non-resident population of Ithaca has come to include not only the students of the great University, but also those of a smaller but well known institution, the Ithaca Conservatory and Affiliated Schools. The Conserva-

tory was established in 1892 by W. Grant Egbert, who recognized a need for such an institution in this country and felt that Ithaca, because of the cultural advantages offered by Cornell University, was a desirable place for it.

As the Conservatory grew, its founder added to it schools of allied arts, the first being the Williams School of Expression and Dramatic Art in 1897. George C. Williams, director of this school, is now president of the Ithaca Conservatory and Affiliated Schools, which include the Ithaca Institution of Public School Music established in 1912, the Ithaca School of Physical Education in 1916, the Martin Institute of Speech Correction in 1918, and the Conway Military Band School in 1921.

From a modest beginning in a dwelling house nearly thirty-five years ago, the Conservatory and affiliated schools have had a steady growth. Today the main buildings, which include an administration building, studio, auditorium, and band school building, are on DeWitt Park with a gymnasium, five dormitories and two sorority houses nearby.

The Conservatory with its affiliated schools has been endeavoring to reach an endowment basis in order to meet state requirements for ranking as a University of Fine Arts. Its trustees hold options on property on South Hill which they hope to use as a second university campus. Academically the State Board of Regents has awarded the Conservatory the rating that it desires. One well known musical publication has said:

"There is no school in America that deserves more credit for bringing great teachers to America than the Ithaca Conservatory of Music. Foremost among them is Cesar Thomson, universally recognized as one of the fore-

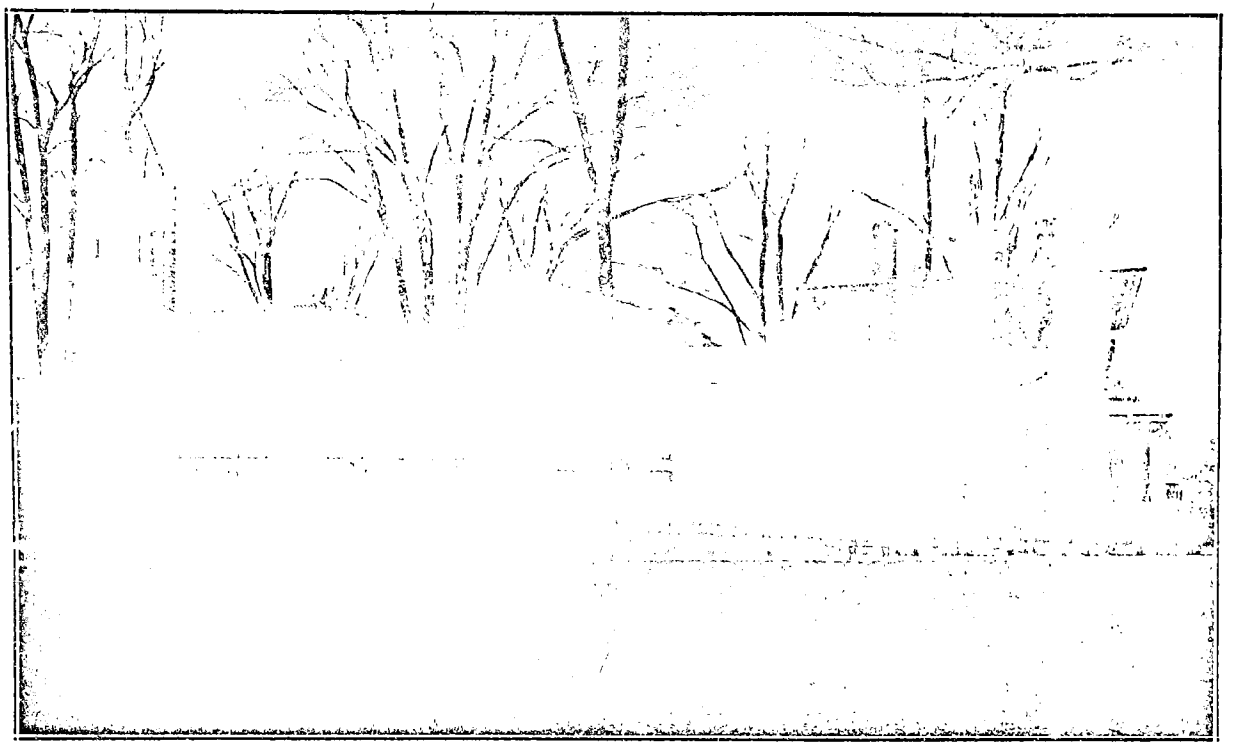
most violin virtuosos and pedagogues of the day. All Americans owe a debt of gratitude to those responsible for bringing him to this country."[1]

Ithaca's reputation as an educational center was a deciding factor in establishing another school in Ithaca in the spring of 1922. The publishers of the daily newspapers of New York State founded the Empire State School of Printing, to train prospective employes, and four years later the owners of New York City newspapers went a step further by establishing at Ithaca the Empire State School of Engraving. Both schools were organized and are directed by Ross W. Kellogg.

To a large extent the presence of these educational institutions explains the way in which Ithaca has developed in recent years. Reading back through these pages one cannot fail to remark on the number of Cornell professors and graduates who have led local advances in public utilities, commercial life, in social service, and even in industry. The educational institutions have had a marked effect on local thought. It was natural that this should be so. First, they have brought into the community men of note and distinction to lecture on the hill or to visit friends or relatives who were students. Among the visitors, for example, have been four presidents of the United States: Ulysses S. Grant, whose son Jesse was an undergraduate at Cornell; Rutherford B. Hayes, one of whose sons studied here; Grover Cleveland, whose wife graduated from Wells College at Aurora; and Theodore Roosevelt, who came to Ithaca several times on pleasure tours.

Secondly, the schools have had a marked influence on the viewpoint of Ithacans because of the heterogeneity of the

[1] *The Musical Observer*, February, 1925.



Photograph by Seth L. Sheldon

A CORNER OF DEWITT PARK—MAIN BUILDINGS OF CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

non-resident populations. New ideas are brought into this community every year by students from Maine and from Oregon, from Cuba and from China. The following table of geographical distribution in 1925 is interesting and demonstrates the wide range of sources from which Ithaca's foster children come:

	Cornell Univ.	Conservatory		Cornell Univ.	Conservatory		Cornell Univ.	Conservatory
Alabama	14	1	N. Hampshire	12	2	Bulgaria	1	
Alaska	1		New Jersey	394	8	Canada	26	3
Arizona	2	2	New York	3608	914	China	61	1
Arkansas	11	1	N. Carolina	17	4	Colombia	1	
California	31	1	N. Dakota	2		Cuba	9	
Colorado	16		Ohio	181	16	Denmark	1	
Connecticut	89	6	Oklahoma	10	3	Egypt	1	
Delaware	10	1	Oregon	3	1	England	2	
District of			Penna.	401	101	Esthonia	1	
Columbia	48	3	Philippines	17	1	France	3	
Florida	15		Porto Rico	21		Guatemala	1	
Georgia	24	2	Rhode Island	11	1	Holland	1	
Hawaii	11		S. Carolina	12		Iceland	1	
Idaho	8	1	S. Dakota	4	1	India	9	
Illinois	82	4	Tennessee	20	2	Japan	12	
Indiana	37	4	Texas	24	8	Mexico	5	
Iowa	14	2	Utah	8		Norway	3	
Kansas	9	1	Vermont	13	1	Peru	5	
Kentucky	24		Virginia	30	1	Russia	4	
Louisiana	5		Washington	12		Santo Domingo	1	
Maine	12	2	W. Virginia	11	5	Siam	2	
Maryland	42	1	Wisconsin	17		South Africa	5	
Massachusetts	97		Argentina	1		Spain	2	
Michigan	33		Armenia	3		Sweden	1	
Minnesota	13	3	Australia	3		Switzerland	1	
Mississippi	2		Belgium	1		Syria	1	
Missouri	24	2	Bermuda	1		Turkey	2	
Montana	8	3	Bolivia	1		Venezuela	1	
Nebraska	9		British W. I.	1				
Nevada	1		Brazil	4				

It is an interesting fact that the nation outside of the United States contributing the largest number of students is China. When the United States refused to accept an indemnity after the "Boxer" uprising of 1901, China set the sum aside as an educational fund to send its young men to the United States for an occidental education. Many of these students have been sent to Cornell. Among the Cornell graduates is Sao-Ke Alfred Sze of the class of 1901, now Chinese ambassador to the United States.

A third reason why the schools have exercised such a marked influence on the community is because their graduates form a high proportion of the local population. There are 1,500 graduates of the University in the city and also many alumni of the Conservatory.

When the University was young its faculty was composed of newcomers to the city. Their interest was naturally not in local affairs and there was no marked cordiality between town and gown. But in fifty years members of the administration have established homes here and have become active participants in the downtown activities. The local Rotary Club and other organizations are unusual because of the long list of nationally known names which is included in their membership. It is indeed helpful to have readily at hand to aid in the solution of problems that face the community, advice which is sought after from every quarter of the world.

The needs of a non-resident population of seven thousand individuals make it possible for nineteen thousand resident Ithacans to enjoy advantages undreamed of in other cities of this size. As an example, one has only to consider the number of theaters in the city. There is the Lyceum, which was built in 1893 and supplanted the old

Wilgus Opera House in the presentation of plays and vaudeville. During a long period leading artists of the stage played here each year.

As in most other communities, motion pictures were first shown in small five cent theaters, the largest of which was the "Happy Hour," formerly Library Hall. Later, the demands of the students for another moving picture house were answered when the Star Theater was built on Seneca Street in 1911. The Crescent Theater, built in 1915, was the next large moving picture house. The Strand Theater was opened on April 23, 1917, and three years later the three theater companies consolidated and sold the Star to the School of Physical Education of the Conservatory group. The Ithaca Theater Company, as the holding corporation is known, now owns the Lyceum as well as the other houses.

Ithacans enjoy the privilege each year of lectures by eminent visitors in every field of study, brought here by Cornell. Four or five times during the college seasons artists of international repute give concerts in Bailey Hall. The Cornell Dramatic Club presents to the public each week plays selected from the best in contemporary drama. The Conservatory brings to Ithaca stock company players to give dramatic productions and also makes it possible for Ithacans to hear eminent speakers and musicians.

For those who enjoy athletics, there are at the large new stadium varsity football games and track meets, baseball at Hoy Field, basketball in the Drill Hall, and the crew races on Lake Cayuga; not to mention the so-called "minor" sports of which there are always several in season.

The cordial friendships [1] which exist and the reciprocal

[1] Several years ago in an endowment campaign $40,000 was raised among Ithacans to aid Cornell.

courtesies which are extended between town and gown betoken a continued progress for the little city at the head of Lake Cayuga. Like any individual, each city has had its dreams of things that could not be. But who can say that they should have been? And so in Ithaca a new basis was sought on which to go forward. Having found its place in the life of the nation, it may dream new dreams of prosperity and happiness.

THE END

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