

scribed field of labor he first selected, though the changes of more than fifty years were constantly opening more inviting fields for the exercise of his talents. It is doubtful, however, if he could have been more useful in any other field.

In 1837 he married Miss A. M. Bennett, who was born in Massachusetts in Jan., 1787, and came to Cayuga County with her brother in 1814. Miss Bennett, immediately after coming to this County gave her attention to teaching, and was for several years previous to her marriage principal of a select school for young ladies, which she conducted first in Auburn, and afterwards at the foot of Owasco Lake, to which locality her father's family had removed. She still survives her husband in excellent health and with mental faculties unimpaired, though in her 93d year. She is strongly attached to her friends, with whom she loves to mingle and converse.

Dr. Clary was blessed with seven children, five sons and two daughters, five of whom, four sons and one daughter, survived his death at Throopsville, in May, 1863.

The following extract from an obituary of Dr. Clary, published in the *New York Observer*, sufficiently indicates his excellent qualities of head and heart :

"Dr. Clary connected himself early with the First Presbyterian Church in Auburn, and for many years was one of its ruling elders. By an arrangement in that Church which commits a certain number of families to the oversight of each member of the Session, he shared with the pastor that spiritual care of that portion of the congregation residing in Throopsville. He was very faithful to his charge, beloved of his brethren, and of good report with all. Rarely was he absent from the sanctuary, though he resided some three miles distant. His extensive practice as physician never seemed to interfere with the punctual and diligent discharge of all the duties of a Christian in the church and in the family.

"He had clear views of doctrines, and a most conscientious regard for all the great interests of Christ's kingdom.

"He took a deep interest in the struggle now going on in the land, [the war of the rebellion,] and preserved a calm and loyal confidence in its issue. He had been at his place at church as usual on the Sabbath, visited patients for whom he felt much solicitude in the after part of the day, when he was seized with violent fever, and died the early part of the following week. He pronounced calmly upon his own case, and quietly awaited the result.

"His death was precious in our sight, as it no doubt was in the sight of the Lord. He was greatly sustained by the grace in which he had so long trusted. The promises, to use his own expression, all clustered around him, and the good

man left us, glorifying Christ in his death not less than in his life.

"His remains were followed to the grave by a large concourse of people who sincerely mourned his departure. It was a most impressive scene and a very appropriate tribute of respect to his memory."

JONAS WHITE.

Among the old and prominent residents of Auburn was ex-Mayor JONAS WHITE. He resided here over half a century, twenty-eight years of which he conducted leading hotels, including the American, now the St. James, the old Exchange Hotel and the Gaylord House, having also been clerk for his brother-in-law, Ira Curtis, when the latter was proprietor of the old Exchange Hotel. He was therefore well-known to all our citizens, and universally respected for his frankness and urbanity, and the uniform consistency and purity of his life and character. Few of our residents had more or warmer friends. He died November 20th, 1876, aged sixty-three years.

CHAPTER XXXI.

TOWN OF STERLING.

STERLING, named from Lord William Alexander Sterling, of Revolutionary memory, lies upon Lake Ontario, in the extreme north part of the County, and is bounded north by the lake, south by the town of Victory, east by Oswego county, and west by Wayne county.

The surface is rolling and inclines slightly toward the north. The highest elevations, in the south, are from 200 to 300 feet above the lake. Big Bluff, on the lake shore, rises somewhat abruptly from 100 to 200 feet above the surface of the lake. The streams are Little Sodus Creek and its branches, flowing north through the central part to Little Sodus Bay, and the headwaters of Cartright Creek, in the south-west part, emptying into Blind Sodus Bay. Little Sodus Bay is about two miles long and one mile wide, and is one of the best natural harbors on the south shore of the lake. A swamp, covering several hundred acres, extends along the lake shore, east of the bay, and another lies on the south border of the town.

HON. GEORGE I. POST.

HON. GEORGE I. Post, son of John G. Post, was born in the town of Fleming, in this County, April 2d, 1826. His ancestors were descendants of four nationalities,—German, Hollander, Scotch and English. His great-grandfather, Christopher Post, came from New Jersey in 1796, and took up a large tract of very valuable land on the west shore of Owasco Lake, and the farms, into which it was afterwards divided, are still occupied by his descendants, and are among the most fertile and productive lands in the County. Their occupants have always been men of honorable character, substantial and thrifty.*

The subject of this sketch received such early instruction as the public schools of the time afforded; was brought up in habits of industry, and subjected to the wholesome discipline of farm-life, thus developing his naturally vigorous constitution, and rendering him capable of enduring, with impunity, great physical and mental labor. His public school education was supplemented by that of private schools and by attendance at the Lima Seminary. At the age of seventeen he engaged in teaching. At twenty-one he married Miss Esther C. Wyckoff, daughter of Peter Wyckoff, and bought, and for eight years cultivated a farm, engaging also in land surveying. A friend and intelligent advocate of popular education, he was called to the superintendency of the schools of his town.

His mental aspirations were not fully satisfied with the routine of farm-life.

He engaged in a thorough course of general reading, and his retentive memory grasped and held the facts thus brought to his knowledge. Procuring elementary law books, he began at home their study, not with a view to making law his profession, but for personal culture. The study pleased him, and he continued it. In 1854 he entered the law office of George Rathbun, and afterwards that of Porter, Allen & Beardsley, and was admitted to the bar in 1855.

In 1857 he went to Kansas on a tour of observation, as president of an organization, whose object was the promotion of the settlement of that territory. While there he saw the efforts of pro-slavery men to retain control of the region and the violent measures to which they resorted to drive out the Free-state immigrants. He was threatened with mob-violence, and his impressions of the barbarities of slavery were deepened by observation and personal experience.

Having taken up his residence in Auburn in 1855, he represented the Third Ward in the Common Council in 1858-'59, and was Chairman of the Board in the laborious and difficult work of revising the charter of the city.

In 1859 he was elected District Attorney, holding the position for three years. That year he commenced his long and eventful railroad career in behalf of the Lake Ontario, Auburn & New York Railroad Company, work on whose road was suspended for want of means to prosecute it. He procured an extension of the charter, by which the corporate rights of the Company were continued, and was indefatigable in his efforts, through the press and in public meetings, to secure the construction of the road, devoting thereto, it is believed, more time than any other friend of the enterprise. He abandoned it only when there was no hope of success, when he transferred his energies to the construction of the Southern Central Railroad.

In the Fall of 1862 he was elected Member of Assembly from the first district, and was a participant in the three weeks' struggle for the organization of the House. Mr. Seymour was then Governor. The darkest clouds of the Rebellion were hovering over us, and intense and bitter party feeling actuated the Members. The famous tie of 64 and 64 was maintained for weeks, and when 65 and 63 were reached, filibustering and anarchy interposed. The vote was finally reached, and the House duly organized.

During this session, Mr. Post made an elaborate speech, in review of the Governor's message, especially criticising his war-policy and that of his advocates, in the course of which he said:—

"We must have war or disunion, that is the issue. Is peace desirable at such a price? God forbid! Peace at the price of disunion? No! never! never! never! Better perish than submit to disunion. War is the only way to peace. Let us then have war upon war principles; war until treason is discomfited; * * * war until the union is completely restored."

Of this speech the correspondent of the *New York World*, a political opponent, thus wrote:—

"Mr. Post made a vigorous speech last evening in favor of the policy of the President. Mr. Post is strong and earnest, and the President ought to be a grateful man, that he has friends so bold."

In the general legislation of the body, to which his time and energies were assiduously devoted, he was a close and careful participant.

At the close of his legislative term he renewed the railroad agitation, and in the Fall of 1865 called a public convention to consider the question of organizing a Company to construct the Southern Central Railroad, for which he had drawn Articles of Association. The result of his efforts was the organization of the Company and the building of the road. Mr. Post was one of the Directors, and the Secretary of the Company on its organization, and subsequently in turn Vice-President and President thereof. He resigned the latter position in the Spring of 1872. He had the merited honor of driving the last spike on the completion of the road in 1871. From 1859 to 1871 he devoted himself to the enterprise, in public meetings, reports in the legislature, and wherever the interests of the road could be promoted, by an active interest in its behalf.

In the Autumn of 1867 he took an active and a leading part in the organization of a company to construct a railroad from Oswego to Lewiston, 145 miles in length, entitled the Lake Ontario Shore Road, which is completed and in successful operation. Of that Company he was a Director, and a member for four years of the Executive Committee, of which he was the Chairman for two years. He was also for two years the legal advisor of the Company; during which time the legal and financial condition of the road were firmly established.

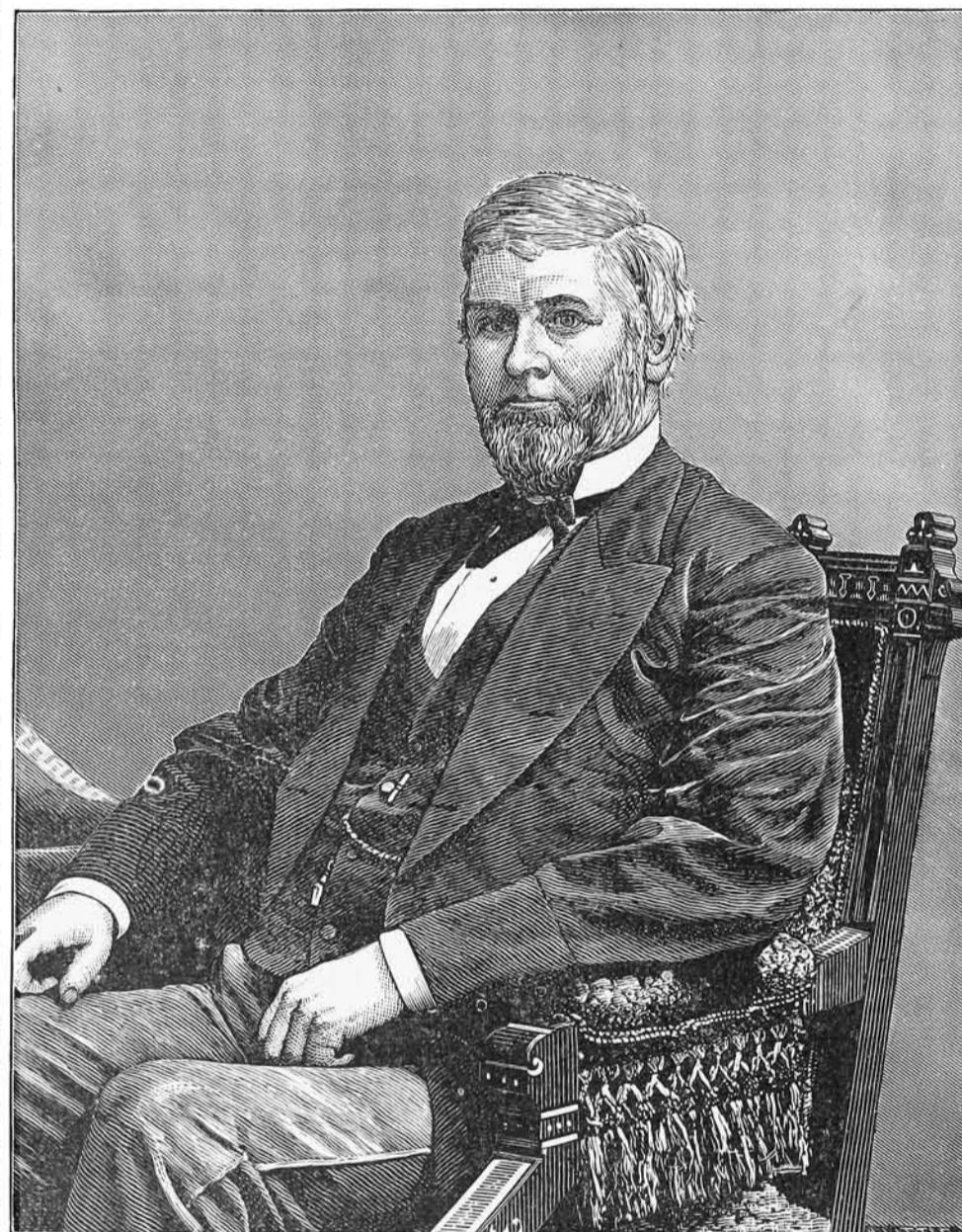
Mr. Post represented this district in the Convention which nominated Gen. Grant for the second term, in 1872. In the Autumn of 1875, he was again elected to the Assembly, and took his seat on the first day of January following. He was placed on the important Committees of Ways and Means, General Laws, and Privileges and Elections, of the latter of which he was Chairman. During this session he drafted and secured the passage of the act which placed the State Reformatory at Elmira under a Board of Managers, consisting of Louis D. Pilsbury, a thorough expert in the management of penal institutions; Sinclair Tousey, one of the committee for investigating the prisons of the State; Rufus H. King, a talented and honorable lawyer; and William C. Wey, an eminent physician,—thus combining in the Board just the variety of talent to secure the most intelligent and upright administration. This was the first important step in prison reform. The managers were non-partisan and served without pay.

The prisons of the State, at that time, had become notorious leechers upon the public treasury, demanding large annual appropriations to meet their deficiencies. Mr. Post, during this session, devoted himself to a careful consideration of the important and engrossing question of prison reform. As he had, by the unanimous assent of the Assembly and nearly so of the Senate, secured a Board of Managers of the Elmira Reformatory of rare and admitted fitness, so he sought to place each of the prisons under the care of similar Boards of Managers, and supported his proposition by a carefully prepared argument. The result of the discussion was the appointment of a commission to minutely investigate the prisons of the State and report the result.

Mr. Post was elected to the Assembly, for the third time,

in the Fall of 1876. As he represented a district in which was located one of the most important State prisons, he was made the Chairman of the Committee on that subject, and continued on those of "Ways and Means," and "General Laws." As Chairman of the Committee on Prisons, he prepared the legislation necessary to give effect to the constitutional changes in their official management, and which have already resulted in an annual saving to the State of nearly \$500,000. Mr. Post was a leading Member of the Assembly, in which he was recognized as a power. All his public undertakings were actuated by an exalted sense of justice. He was a clear, consistent worker, frank and above-board, voting on all occasions with a boldness evinced only by independent men.

During the Winter of 1877 was organized the Boston, Hoosac Tunnel & Western Railroad, in which Mr. Post took a lively interest, and is one of the Directors of the Company. This is the last and most important railroad enterprise in which he has been engaged. He may with propriety be denominated the "Railroad-builder," for he has devoted thereto twenty of the prime years of his life. Physically, Mr. Post is large, being over six feet in height, and finely formed. He is remarkably vigorous, and ceaselessly active. He is indomitably persevering; a great lover of liberty of thought, speech and action; and candid almost to bluntness. He is honorable in a high degree. He is hopeful, expectant and buoyant. In politics he is a Republican. He has three sons and two daughters: Jane Elizabeth Hawes, T. Benton, Henry C., Cora W. and George I., Jr.



[Photo by Squyer & Wright.]

Geo I Post

* Six male descendants bearing the family name are now settled in that locality, occupying and cultivating over seven hundred acres.

The underlying rocks are the Medina sandstone, which covers the northern half of the town, and the Oneida conglomerate and the series of the Clinton group, in the south part. An interesting locality showing the super-position of these rocks is at Bentley's quarry, on the road from Martville to Hannibalville, where the red sandstone and the Clinton group are within a few feet of each other, having a gray sandstone intervening, intermixed with the green shale of that group. The junction between the red and gray sandstone is concealed by drift, &c. The two former have been quarried for building stone.*

The red sandstone is well exposed in the bottom of the creek at Sterling Center, and in its sides, extending along the creek a mile south, the mass exposed being twenty-five feet thick. It appears again in the road near the place formerly owned by Robert Hume, about two and one-half miles from Sterling Center, and four from Martville; also at the quarry between Martville and Hannibalville, where it is of two kinds, the hard and variegated, which shows the diagonal structure, and the more coarse and friable, of a darker color. The red sandstone is geologically the lowest rock of New York which contains brine springs of sufficient purity and quantity to be manufactured into salt. From this fact and its red color it was for a long time confounded with the red shale of the Onondaga salt group. At Sterling Center a brine spring rises by the side of the creek, through a fissure in the sandstone; another exists a mile further south, and a third near Little Sodus Bay. The salt from all these springs was said to have had a sharper taste than common salt, owing probably to a more soluble muriate with an earthy base.

Conglomerate appears at Bentley's quarry and at the farm formerly owned by Robert Hume, both previously referred to. In the former locality it is a light greenish-gray, fine-grained sandstone, in places mottled with green shale, and in a few places with reddish purple spots of ferruginous shale. It was quarried for the mill at Martville, the thickness excavated being four or five feet. The latter locality was opened for Wolcott furnace.

* The Medina sandstone is much used for under-pinnings of houses and farm buildings. It has been observed that hogs are very fond of licking it whenever they have access to it, that it causes them to foam at the mouth, and renders it difficult to fatten them. Franklin B. Hough, A. M., M. D., *Gazetteer of the State of New York, 1872.*

The Clinton group, so well characterized by its iron ore beds and its marine plants, rests upon the conglomerate. At Bentley's quarry it appears on the top of the sandstone, which corresponds with the Oneida conglomerate, showing a series of their grayish-green sandstone and shale, the former containing numerous fucoids and other forms, with the *Clinton lingula*, besides some other fossils, the mass exposed being about ten feet thick. It appears again on the creek, extending from the village of Martville to the mill about half a mile below. At the village are seen alternations of shale and calcareous shale, the latter somewhat solid. The whole is fossiliferous, the *Clinton retepora* being abundant. Here was found a specimen of the *Niagara delthyris*, and, in the green shale of the higher part of the group, a nearly complete specimen of the *Calyptene Clintonii*. At the mill, in the bed of the creek, rising for about eight feet in the bank, is a yellow-green shale. It contains some fossils among which is the *Broad agnotis*, and an *Avicula* yet unnamed; above which are thin layers of limestone composed entirely of *Shining Orthis*, (*Orthis nitens*.) This mass is covered with about fifteen feet of alluvion, at the bottom of which were fragments of light-colored hard limestone with ore adhering to it, showing that a deposit exists in the vicinity.

Lenticular clay iron ore, also called argillaceous exists on the land of Peter Van Petten, a little south of Hume's quarry, and a little west of Sterling Station, from which latter place considerable quantities of ore have been taken.

This ore consists of lenticular or flattened grains of various sizes, which apparently have been made to cohere by the pressure applied to the mass. It frequently contains joints or disks of the encrinite, and fragments of other organic remains. Its usual color is brownish-red, its powder being more red. It is very friable, soils the fingers, has but little lustre, and is often studded with minute grains of iron pyrites. All the samples examined effervesce freely in acids, which is probably due to the admixture of carbonate of lime. By some its formation is ascribed to the decomposition of carbonate of iron; and by others to that of iron pyrites. The infiltration of water, acting in a slow and imperceptible manner, is supposed to be the cause which has produced this decomposed form of the ore. It yields

an iron which is highly valued for various purposes, especially for castings ; and when mixed with other ores, it greatly improves their quality.*

The soil is a sandy and gravelly loam, and in some places is stony and difficult to cultivate. We noticed a good deal of sorrel growing in various localities in the town.

The town has an area of 26,748 acres"; of which 18,343 are improved ; 5,017, woodland ; and 3,388, otherwise unimproved.

The population in 1875 was 3,042 ; of whom 2,668 were native ; 374, foreign ; 3,038, white ; 4, colored ; and 605, owners of land.†

The Southern Central R. R. crosses the town diagonally from south to north, its northern terminus being at Little Sodus Bay. The Lake Ontario Shore R. R. crosses it in the northern part from east to west.

STERLING CENTER.

Sterling Center, (Sterling p. o.,) is situated on Little Sodus Creek, in the central part of the town, and is two miles north-east of Sterling Junction, and one mile east of Sterling Valley station on the L. O. S. R. R. It has a population of 237, and contains three churches, (Baptist, M. E. and Reformed Presb.,) a union school, three stores, one hotel, one grist-mill, one tannery, a furnace, three blacksmith shops, a harness shop, tin shop and shoe shop.

Wm. Byer, who keeps a general stock of merchandise, commenced business in Sterling Center, about thirteen years since, in company with James D. Church and Nicholas Byer, under the firm name of Byer, Church & Co. About three years thereafter he bought the interest of his partners, and has since conducted the business alone. The building he occupies was erected in 1848, by John P. Hunter, who opened a general store at that date, and failed ten years after. It stood idle till about 1863, when Plumb & Duel opened it. They sold out in the spring of 1865 to Wm. Byer.

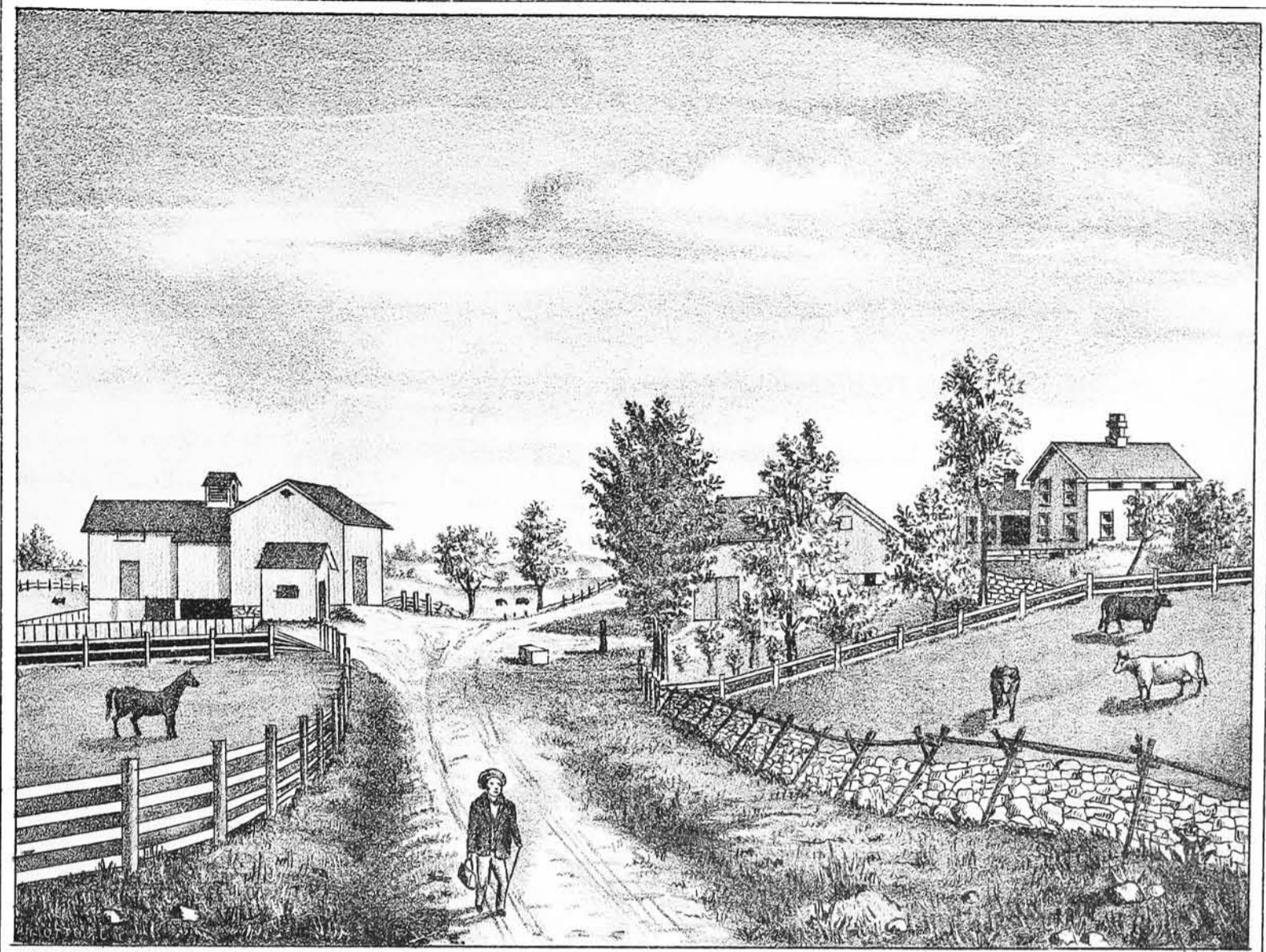
James Green occupies the store built by Samuel Crawford about fifty years ago. Crawford put in a stock of goods and kept it till about 1832, when he rented the store to William Graham &

Co.; Bonesteel, of Oswego, Graham's partner, furnishing the goods. After two years it was again kept by Crawford, who, in the fall of 1835, sold his stock to John Gilchrist, who had formerly been his clerk, and who took in as partner Franklin Southwick. About a year after, John Hunter bought a portion of the stock and kept the store some two years, when a Mr. Jenkins, for whom Hunter had acted as clerk in Penn Yan, became associated with him. About 1840, Wm. Bruce became a partner with Hunter. About 1837 Crawford died, and the store went into the hands of his father-in-law, Liva Peck, who sold it to Wm. Kevill about 1848. At this time Hunter built the store now occupied by Wm. Byer, and moved into it. The store now occupied by Mr. Green was used some eighteen months as a dwelling, after which he and Wm. Kevill used it for a boot and shoe store. In the spring of 1852, it was occupied by Wm. Longley as a general store. Longley, being the postmaster at that time, kept the post-office there. About two years after he sold to his brother Freeman, who removed the goods to the store now occupied by J. B. Chappell. About 1854 James Green, Wm. McKnight and James D. Church, (Green having previously bought the building,) put in a general stock and continued about two years, when Church sold his interest to the remaining partners. About a year later McKnight sold to Green, who still carries on the business.

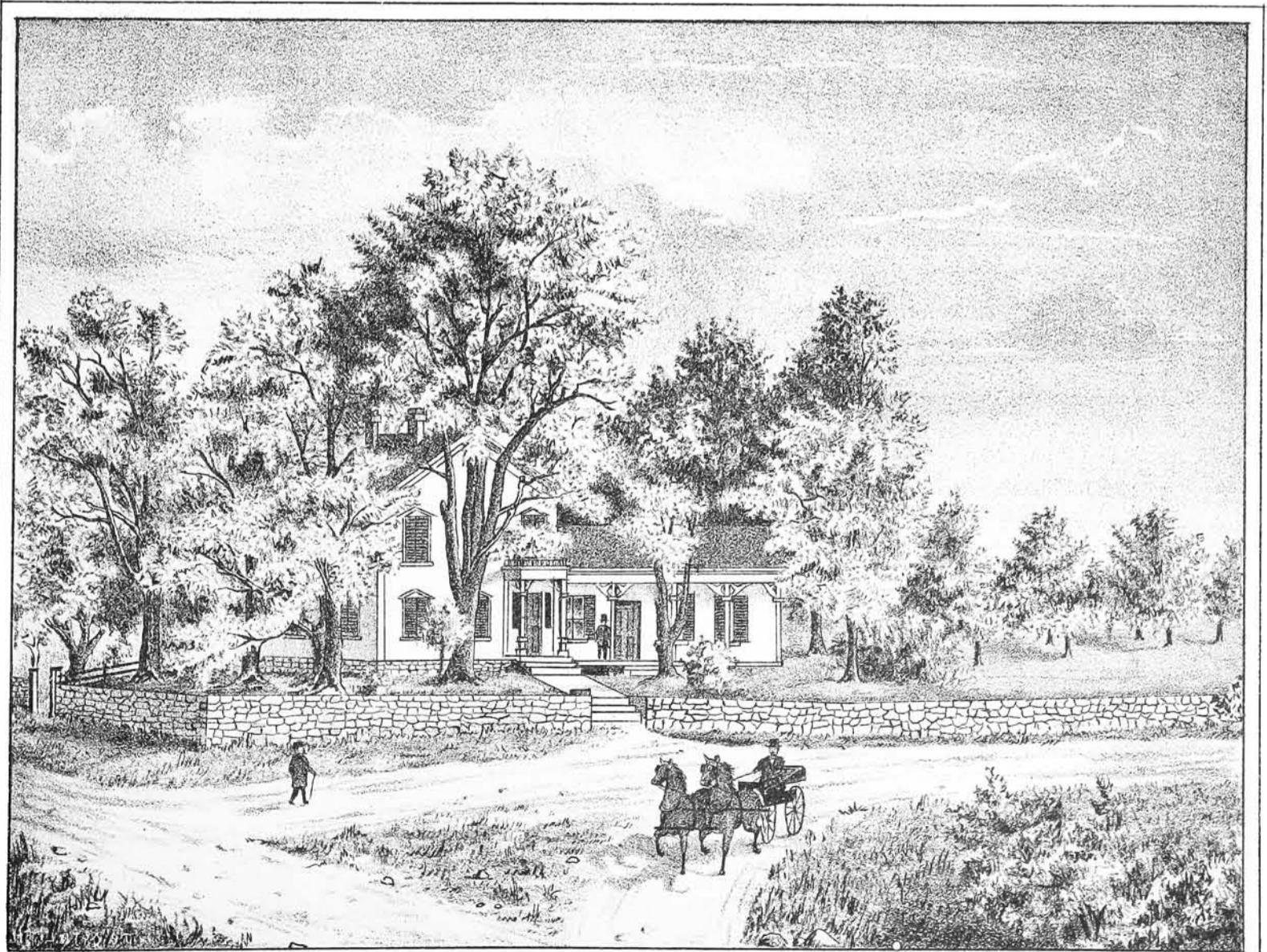
In 1839, there being then but one store in the village, the citizens formed a stock company, with a capital of about \$400, the shares being \$25 each, and built the store now occupied by J. B. Chappell. It was finished in the spring of 1840, and sold to Chas. Comstock, brother of Judge Geo. F. Comstock, of Syracuse, who put in a general stock of goods. In 1847, he sold it to Luther and Wm. Longley, who occupied it together about five years, when they dissolved, Wm. opening a store where James Green now is. About 1853 or '4, Freeman Longley, from Adams, Mass., a brother of Wm. Longley, bought out Luther Longley, his cousin. Wm. Longley made an assignment, his stock eventually coming into the hands of his brother Freeman, who removed them to his own store, the one now occupied by J. B. Chappell. Wm. Wood, a brother-in-law of Freeman Longley, subsequently became his partner, the two continuing the business two

*Natural History of New York.—Lardner Vanuxem, *Geology*; Jas. C. Beck, *Mineralogy*; James Hall, *Paleontology*; E. Emmons, *Agriculture*.

†Census of 1875.



RESIDENCE OF HUGH DUGAN STERLING CAYUGA CO. N.Y.



RESIDENCE OF JAMES C. HUNTER STERLING VALLEY CAYUGA CO. N.Y.

or three years, when they sold the goods at auction and the building to J. B. Chappell. Wood returned to Albany, whence he came, and Freeman Longley removed to Wisconsin.

The *Cayuga House*, Ethan Allen proprietor, was built in 1833, by Samuel Crawford, and was first occupied as a hotel about 1838, by Samuel Beattie, having been used previously as a dwelling. It was the first hotel in the village. Beattie kept it three or four years, and was succeeded by several individuals who kept it only for a short period. In 1876, Jno. C. Shaw, uncle of the present proprietor, bought the property and put it in good condition.

The grist-mill, owned by Edwin Clark, and run by James Mizen, was built in 1813, by a man named Ireland, whose sons, though not practical millers, managed it several years. He built a saw-mill about the same time. The grist-mill and some three acres of land were bought by Samuel Crawford, who operated it several years, and in 1835 gave it a thorough over-hauling and put in new gearing. Soon after it passed into the hands of Liva Peck, and others. Edwin Clark is the present proprietor. It contains three runs of stones. The saw-mill and 225 acres of land were bought by Asa Cary from Vermont, who came into the town in 1831, and whose son Nathaniel C. Cary, now resides here. Edwin Sanford, now owns it, and has converted it into a shop for cutting out stuff for cabinet ware.

The creek, which furnishes the motive power for all the manufacturing establishments in the village, except the foundry, has a fall of ten and one-half feet, but the supply is not constant of late years.

The tannery which is owned and operated by Wemple Halliday, was built in 1859, by John Halliday, father of Wemple, on the site of one built in 1832, by Vilas, White & Co., and burned about 1852.

The foundry owned by Nathaniel C. Cary and Alex. C. Sturgis, was built about 1846, by Wm. Kirk and A. C. Sturgis, who, in 1848, finding it too small for their business, erected an addition. About 1861, Kirk sold his interest to Sylvanus Ferris, who, about 1864, sold to Nathaniel C. Cary. It has since been conducted by Sturgis & Cary. Plows and cultivators are the principal articles manufactured. The works are operated by steam.

FAIR HAVEN.

Fair Haven (p. o.) is situated in the northwest corner of the town, on Little Sodus Bay, and is the northern terminus of the S. C. R. R. It contains two churches, (M. E. and Reformed,) a district school, two hotels, eight stores, two saw-mills, a planing-mill, brick-yard and a population of about 700. The village extends the whole length of the Bay and to some distance above it. It is prosperous, and new enterprises are being rapidly undertaken. The gently sloping shores of the Bay, which is a pretty sheet of water, presents many fine sites for residences.

The *Barrus House* was built in 1875, by Giles C. Barrus, who had previously, for about six years, kept a hotel at the head of the Bay, in a building now in a dilapidated condition and used as a dwelling-house, and erected about fifty years since by Abijah Hunt, who kept in it for a good many years the first hotel in Fair Haven. Hunt was succeeded by Emer S. Sayles, who kept it four or five years, when Benj. S. Patty followed him and kept it a like period, being succeeded by James M. Crozier. Thos. Harsha kept it afterwards for five or six years, until it came into the hands of Giles C. Barrus. Barrus, who was from Hannibal, kept the present house till his death in the winter of 1877-'78, when he was succeeded by his son, Giles F. Barrus, the present proprietor.

The *Meyers House*, a fine large hotel, situated at the "Point," was opened in the spring of 1873, by R. J. Meyers, the present proprietor.

Mrs. Jane Hitchcock opened a hotel just east of the old Hunt hotel, which she kept a good many years, till her death during the war.

The first store at Fair Haven was started by Garrison Taylor, about 1825, in the building he now occupies, on Lake street.

Seth Turner was next to Taylor. He opened a store about twenty years ago in the building subsequently used as a hotel, at the head of the Bay. He kept it some three or four years, when he went west. David Cole and a Mr. Oakes succeeded him, but neither of them continued long.

Isaac Turner and Rufus S. Welch then opened a store near where the brick block of Mendell & Hitchcock now stands. After a short time Turner went out and Welch continued it alone, but only for a short time.

Oscar F. Miller was the next merchant. He opened the store he now occupies.

Robinson & Mendell opened a store in the east part of the village about 1873. They separated in the spring of 1877, Robinson opening the grocery store in the east end of the Mendell & Hitchcock block, which was built in the fall and winter of 1876, and Mendell a stock of ready made clothing and boots and shoes, in the store in the west end of the same block. Both are still in the business.

J. B. Chappell & Son opened the central store in the Mendell & Hitchcock block in the spring of 1877, and still carry on business there.

Isaac P. Welch opened the grocery store he now occupies in the spring of 1878.

E. E. Austin and Geo. B. Knapp, under the firm name of E. E. Austin & Co., opened their store of general groceries and ship supplies, at the Point, in the spring of 1878.

The steam planing-mill, owned and operated by Knapp & Hemingway, was built by Post, Knapp & Hemingway, in 1872. It is 70 by 50 feet, two stories high, and is capable of planing 20,000 feet of lumber per day. The motive power is furnished by a fifty-five-horse-power engine. Connected with the mill property is a dock, on the Bay, 528 feet in length. The annual sales are about 2,000,000 feet of lumber. In the spring of 1875, the senior partner, Mr. Post, withdrew, his interest being bought by the remaining members.

The first saw-mill in Fair Haven was built by Seth Turner, some twenty-five years since, who sold it after three or four years. It has passed through several hands, and is now owned by Mrs. Bottsford, whose husband acquired possession of it some four years since.

R. S. Welch built the saw-mill now owned by him about four years ago.

Both mills are located at the head of the Bay.

Jacob Hemingway and Wm. Van Hoesen commenced the manufacture of brick a little south of the village, on the line of the railroad, in the spring of 1877. They give employment to eight or ten men, and make 15,000 per day.

Floyd Kelsey, of Auburn, was the first to make brick in this locality. He commenced about 1856, and continued four or five years. Nothing more was done till about four years ago, when David Lester, now of Oswego, manufactured for

about one year. The works then remained idle till operations were resumed by the present proprietors.

Messrs. Reed & Conger built an ice-house of large capacity at the Point in the winter of 1877-'78.

C. W. Austin and the S. C. R. R. are jointly building a steam transfer elevator at the Point, with a storage capacity of 30,000 bushels, and a transfer capacity of 3,000 bushels per hour.

Peo & Rice are engaged in shipping foreign fish, and are doing an extensive business. Seventy-five tons of fish were entered at this port in 1877, when several parties were engaged in the business.

Several coal companies are doing business at this place, viz: Moser, Hoole & Co., organized in April, 1878, with headquarters at Buffalo; the Lehigh Valley Coal Co.; the Butler Colliery Co., with headquarters at Elmira; Wheeler & Co., with headquarters at Oswego; for all of which C. W. Austin is shipping agent; and E. M. Ford, with headquarters in Oswego, for whom C. L. Bloodgood is shipping agent. The railroad company have a coal trestle at the Point, with a stock capacity of 45,000 tons, and a pocket capacity of 1,300 tons. They also own the steam tug *E. P. Ross*, which is named after the president of the road.

The following statistics showing the magnitude of the business done at this port were kindly furnished by Mr. George P. Knapp, Deputy Collector of Customs of Fair Haven: The receipts at this office from June 30th to December 4th, 1877, were \$24,000; and from March 20th to June 8th, 1878, \$729. There were received and forwarded during the year 1877, 140,000 bushels of barley, 1,500,000 feet of lumber, 75 tons of fish, 2,000,000 lath, 1,000 cords cedar posts, 3,000 tons of iron ore, and 65,000 tons of coal. From April 11th to December 4th, 1877, the number of vessels coming into the port was 360, with an aggregate tonnage of 68,516 tons.

Little Sodus Harbor is naturally a good one, and has been improved by the general government and the residents of the place. In 1828 Congress appropriated \$400 for making a survey and examination of the southern shore of Lake Ontario, between Genesee and Oswego rivers, with a view to the improvement of the most accessible and commodious harbors on the frontier.

Capt. T. W. Maurice, Corps of Engineers, was placed in charge of the survey, and commenced work in October, 1828. His report, submitted in January, 1829, adjudged Little Sodus to be of secondary importance, but recommended its improvement and submitted a plan therefor.

The entrance to the bay was closed, except at two narrow openings, by a gravelly beach, out of water. The plan proposed to make this beach answer the purpose of a breakwater, to construct two channel piers, each 290 yards long, and close one of the openings by a dike 130 yards long, the whole work to be done at an estimated cost of \$32,327.59.

A resurvey was made in 1845, when the entrance was found to be in about the same condition as in 1828. With this exception, nothing was done till 1852, when the first appropriation of \$10,000 was made; but the beach which crossed the entrance and formed the basis of the plan had been swept away since 1845, thus necessitating a new project. Another survey was made in 1853, and it was decided to build piers from the crown of the bar to deep water, and to connect the south ends with the adjacent shores by rip-rap. Work was begun in 1854, and suspended in 1858 for want of funds. In 1858, the people locally interested formed a company, known as the "Ontario Bay Harbor Improvement Company." It proposed to aid the general government in improving the harbor, and had on hand \$6,000 in money and materials, with which to build, under the supervision of the engineer in charge, 300 feet of pier. It is presumed that this was carried out, for in 1866, 284 feet of pier was still in existence, although a portion of the outer end had evidently been destroyed. Nothing further was done till 1866, when Congress made a further appropriation.

The following appropriations have been made for the improvement of this harbor:

In 1852, there was appropriated----\$	10,000.00
In 1866, " " "	33,840.41
In 1867, " " "	50,000.00
In 1870, " " "	5,000.00
In 1871, '2, '3 and '4, in each \$15,000	60,000.00
In 1875, there was appropriated----	10,000.00
In 1876, " " "	5,000.00

The total appropriations to date are, \$173,840.41

At the close of the year ending June 30th,

1877, there had been constructed of the west pier 1,070 feet; of the west breakwater 500 feet; of the east pier 512 feet; and of the east breakwater 780 feet. The only work remaining to be done under the original scheme of improvement is the connection of the inner end of the east pier with the shore. The unexpended balance of appropriations available for that purpose was \$5,856.57.

Revenue collected during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1877-----\$	3,154.68
Value of imports-----	22,544.00
Value of exports-----	86,111.00
Number of vessels cleared-----	226
Their tonnage, tons-----	18,258
Number of vessels entered-----	213
Their tonnage, tons-----	13,417

The harbor is lighted by a fixed white light of the fourth order, placed near the head of the west pier. A vessel drawing twelve feet can enter the harbor and go up to the coal docks of the S. C. R. R.*

The first physician to locate permanently at Fair Haven was Dr. Crounce, who practiced a good many years. He removed to Guilderland, Albany county, some twenty years ago. The next was Byron Dewitt, who came about 1850 and practiced till about 1859, when he removed to Sterling Center, and subsequently to Oswego, where he is now practicing. Truman F. Brinkerhoff succeeded Dewitt and remained several years. He moved to Fulton some fifteen years ago, and subsequently to Auburn, where he is now practicing. Some ten years elapsed, during which there was no physician here. Dr. R. S. Fields came in 1873 and remained about a year. He was succeeded by Dr. Oliver Bloomfield, the present physician, who came about 1875.

Dr. Marsh came to the village in the spring of 1878.

The first lawyer was A. R. Willey, who was born in the town of Victory, and moved into this town some forty years ago. He was admitted to the bar about twenty years ago, and is still practicing in the village.

Geo. I. Post, a native of Fleming, in this County, who came into the town from Auburn some sixteen years since and has acquired distinction in his profession, is living at the Point. He was elected District Attorney in

*Annual Reports of the Chief of Engineers, U. S. A., for 1876 and '77.

TOWN OF STERLING.

November, 1859, and was Member of Assembly in 1863, 1876 and 1877.

Thomas C. Bridges, ex-Supervisor of the Town of Sterling, was born in the eastern part of the town, and in the spring of 1878 moved into the village, where he is reading law with Mr. Post.

STERLING VALLEY.

Sterling Valley, (p. o.,) locally known as *Pelham*, is situated on the north branch of Little Sodus Creek, one and one-third miles north of Sterling Valley station. It contains one church (United Presbyterian), a district school, one store, a flouring and grist-mill, two blacksmith shops, two saw-mills, a shoe shop, tailor shop, wagon shop, and a population of 107.

John Hunter, John Cochran and James C. Hunter opened a store in 1859, under the firm name of John Hunter & Co., in the building built by John Cooper and previously occupied by him as a tavern. In 1862 John Cochran sold his interest to the Hunters, and in 1863, James Hunter sold his interest to his brother John, by whom the business was carried on alone till 1867, when James C. Hunter again acquired a half interest, and the firm became and has since remained James C. Hunter & Co. The post-office is in the store, and James C. Hunter has been postmaster since 1861.

A. Allen and Andrew Daggert, proprietors of the grist-mill, commenced the milling business here about four years since, under the firm name of A. Allen & Co. The mill was built in 1869, by William Stevenson, who sold it to the present proprietors. It stands on the site of the original mill built here by John Cooper, and is the third mill on that site, two having been burned. It contains three run of stones. The motive power is furnished by water from the creek, which has a fall here of fourteen feet.

MARTVILLE.

Martville (p. o.) is situated in the southeast part of the town on Little Sodus Creek, and on the S. C. R. R. It contains two churches, (M. E. and Adventist, only one society having a building,) a district school, a hotel, (kept by Norton S. Snyder,) one store, a saw-mill, a grist-mill and saw-mill combined, a tannery, (which is not in operation,) three blacksmith shops, one wagon shop; a shoe shop, and 124 inhabitants.

The first store in Martville was opened by Robert L. Lay, about 1825, in the hotel now kept by Norton Snyder. He remained about three years, and was succeeded by Daniel McGilvrey, who remained about a year. A Mr. Lyon next kept it a year or two, when William Hawley rented the building and put in a stock of goods. Hawley continued about six years, and was succeeded by Benjamin Conger & Son, who bought the building and stock, and sold to Snyder, Conger & Reed, who then owned the mill property. The store was discontinued when they sold the mill property, but Hough, who bought that property, opened a store, which he continued till he disposed of the mill property, when it was closed out.

Lay also opened an ashery, the first one here, and about two years later he opened the first tavern in the house where George A. Desbrough now lives. Hough started a distillery at the time he owned the mill property. It was burned after being in operation about five years. A distillery was in operation about 1828, kept by Nathaniel Watts, and stood where Hiram C. Curtis' garden is.

Floyd F. Allen opened a general store in 1872, in the building erected about 1861 or '62, by Miles Allen, who died a few years after, and was succeeded in the business by his son Charles, who carried it on about two years, till his death. Stiles Allen, his brother, succeeded him, but remained only a few weeks, when the property came into the hands of Miles' widow, now Mrs. Norton Snyder, who conducted the store about a year, when she sold to the present occupant, who is a nephew of Miles.

Miles Allen commenced business about 1855, in the store erected by Abram Van Auken, some few years previous. Van Auken rented the store to a Mr. Comstock, who carried on business about two years, when he sold his stock to Stephen Tilford, who, about 1855, moved the goods to Sterling Valley.

The tannery at Martville, owned by Hiram C. Curtis, was built about 1849, a previous one in the same locality, of small capacity, having been pulled down by reason of decay.

The grist-mill and saw-mill stands on the site of one built in 1823, by Chauncey Hickock and Timothy Austin, from Marcellus, who were the first to settle on the site of Martville, in that

year. In 1840 it was burned, and in 1841 William C. Hough erected the present structure. The grist-mill is built of stone, is 30 by 40 feet, four and one-half stories high, and contains two runs of stones. The saw-mill is a wooden addition, built at the same time. Charles N. Ross now owns and leases the mill to George A. Desbrough, the present occupant, for a term of five years. The creek, which furnishes the motive power, has, at this point, a fall of eleven feet.

A man named Colton, started a carding and cloth-dressing mill about 1828. Josiah Bidwell started similar works on the site of Barnes' saw-mill. About 1835, he built a new mill on the opposite side of the creek and sold to Amasa P. Hart about 1840. Lot Lannson and Ira A. Pease followed for five or six years, when they sold to Alvah Lund, who took the building down and sold the machinery.

The first physician in Martville was Dr. Uriah Beder, who came to the village about 1826. The present physicians are W. M. Wells and Wm. Kyle.

STERLING JUNCTION,

Sterling Junction, (p. o.) in the north-west part of the town, about one and three-fourths miles south of Fair Haven, at the junction of the S. C. R. R. and L. O. S. R. R., contains a store, owned by Frank German, and established by him some five years since, and a storehouse, erected in 1874, by Allison J. Albring and Floyd H. Kevill, produce dealers. Both Albring and Kevill are employed by the two railroad companies, the latter as station agent.

NORTH STERLING,

North Sterling, in the south-east part of the town, on the old State road, is a hamlet containing a district school, a small store, kept by Wm. Pasells, a hotel, blacksmith shop, and two or three houses.

STERLING VALLEY STATION,

Also known as Crockett's Station, is on the line of the L. O. S. R. R., in the north-east part of the town.

THE FIRST SETTLEMENT in Sterling was made at the Valley, by Peter Dumas, a Frenchman, who came to this County with LaFayette and served

through the Revolution. He drew lot 13, and settled on its south-west corner in 1805. The Dumas' family were in destitute circumstances, and so severely did they feel the rigor of pinching want, that their son, Ezra, who was convalescing from a fever and had recovered his appetite, died of starvation, while members of the family were absent in search of food. This death, which occurred July 21st, 1806, was the first in the town. Dumas died in the town in 1825. His sons Peter, John, Nathan and Jasper, resided in the town many years. Peter, the eldest, lost four children, all he then had, under peculiarly distressing circumstances. While he and his wife had gone to his father's one Sunday evening to milk for his mother, who was sick, their house caught fire, and it, together with their four children, were consumed. Descendants of the family still reside in the town.

Captain Andrew Rassmusen settled the same year near the lake, in the north-east part of the town. He was killed on board an American vessel on Lake Ontario in 1812. His wife died in the town many years ago. His children were Andrew, who died in the town some ten years ago; William, who removed to Michigan after a residence here of many years; and Mary, now Mrs. John Ireland, who is living with her son in the north-east part of the town.

A family named Hoppins settled in the south-west part of the town in this or the following year, and many of their descendants still live in the town. Isaac M. Hoppins, who was born March 16th, 1807, was the first white child born in the town. He is still living about one and one-half miles north-west of Martville. He is the father of Hoppins recently tried for murder in this County and acquitted.

Francis DeCamp settled near Martville in 1806. He was a bachelor, and his sister Nancy, who came with him, kept house for him. Both have long since passed away.

William Devine settled on the farm now occupied by Augustus Green, near the center of the north border of the town, in 1807. He had a large family, none of whom are living in the town. Joseph Devine, brother of William, settled adjoining him the same time. He, too, had a large family, but they, like William's, mostly removed to the west at an early day. Nathan Wilmot settled on the farm now occupied by Joshua Cosbut, in the north central part, and

Jehial Parks in the same locality, in 1807. Wilmett and his wife died in the town at an early day. Nathan, his son, removed west soon after his father's death. Parks bought fifty acres on lot 26, about 1820, and lived there for many years. He afterwards went west, with his family, which was quite numerous, and there died.

Jacob Wilsey, from Saratoga county, settled in the north-west corner of the town, in 1808.

John Cooper, John Dusenberry, Curtis Stoddard and John McFarland and his sons, William, Robert, James and Thomas, came in from Washington county, in 1810. Cooper settled at the Valley, which was for many years known as Cooper's Mills, from the saw and grist-mills built there by him. It is not certain in what year these mills were erected, as authorities differ, but there is no doubt that these were the first mills of their kind built in the town. Both were burned. Cooper built the house now occupied by James Hunter & Co. as a store. It stands near the site of his first log hut, in which, the same year, he opened a tavern, which was the first in the town. This old cabin contained but one room, which answered the purpose of kitchen, bar-room, dining-room and family sitting-room, sleeping-room and parlor; but many of the early settlers enjoyed its rude accommodations while their own homes were being built. William and George Cooper, brothers of John, settled, the former on the farm now owned by Mr. Fry, and the latter, from Saratoga county, in 1812, on the opposite side of the road, a little west of him, on the farm now occupied by Frank Duel. The Coopers have numerous descendants living in the town. Dusenberry settled at what is known as Galey's corners, and died in the town. Stoddard, who was an Englishman, settled in the east part, where Thomas Manning now lives. He removed long since to Ohio. The McFarlands settled on lot 27. John died in the town, about 1813, of typhoid fever. William is living in Illinois. Robert, who served in the militia in the war of 1812, was drowned in Nine Mile Creek, a little west of Oswego, while returning home with his company. The water in the Creek was high and the current strong. Thomas Vaughn, also a resident of this town, was drowned while trying to rescue him. James removed to Illinois, where he died in the winter of 1876. Thomas is living about half a mile south of Sterling Center.

Of McFarland's daughters, who came with him, Margaret, afterwards Mrs. Alexander Beattie; Nellie, afterwards Mrs. Samuel Stevenson; Isabel, afterwards Mrs. Charles Crawford and later Mrs. Charles Williams; and Jane, afterwards Mrs. John Daniels; all are dead.

John and Matthew Harsha also came from Washington county in 1810, and settled at Martville. John died in Oswego, to which place his children removed; and Matthew removed to Michigan, where he died. The marriage of Matthew Harsha to Charity Turner, was the first marriage celebrated in the town.

Joseph Bunnell and John Turner, from Long Island, settled in 1811, the former a little west of Peter Dumas, and the latter at Fair Haven. Turner traded his possessions in L. I. for a farm of 140 acres in Sterling, in 1804, and induced his son, Isaac, who was then becoming of age to accompany the family in making the settlement. They came on in February, on the ice from a point one and one-half miles west of Sterling Valley, where the road terminated, and where they stopped several days with an acquaintance who had preceded them. The family found shelter from the bleak winds in a shanty with bark roof and split floor which had been erected on the premises by squatters. At this time a family named Ramsdell resided at the head of the Bay; and Peter Simmons' family and two others named Myers and Wiltsey, on the shore of the lake in the vicinity. All were squatters, and subsisted mostly on fish and wild game, both of which were abundant.

The nearest grist-mill was at Oswego, and the most convenient route by water, as there were no public highways, nothing but paths through the woods along lines of blazed trees. Ofttimes the settlers would get out of provisions, the rough waters of the lake making it too perilous to attempt to reach Oswego in their white-wood canoes. While returning from one of these journeys to Oswego, Isaac Turner was overtaken by a storm, which compelled him to pull his canoe and grist to the shore and make his way home on foot. When he reached home he was taken sick, and the next day his father and younger brother set out to recover the cargo. When they reached the locality where it was stored they observed several deer, which, taking alarm, plunged into the lake, were pursued and four captured. They



JAMES H. IRWIN.



MRS. JAMES H. IRWIN.

JAMES H. IRWIN.

Among the large land owners and prominent agriculturists of the town of Sterling, Mr. Irwin occupies a conspicuous place. His father, James G. Irwin, was born in Washington county, in 1790. In the year 1817, he moved to the county of Oswego, and settled on one hundred acres of Government land, on lot No. 30, in Oswego town.

His wife, Mary White, who was also a native of Washington county, accompanied him to Oswego county, and shared with him the trials and privations of pioneer life. He was a soldier in the war of 1812-'14, and died upon the old homestead, March 6th, 1863. His widow still survives him. To them twelve children were born, six of whom are still living.

JAMES H. IRWIN was the third child of James G. and Mary Irwin. He was born March 25th, 1820, and passed his childhood with his parents in Oswego county. In 1845, he married Miss

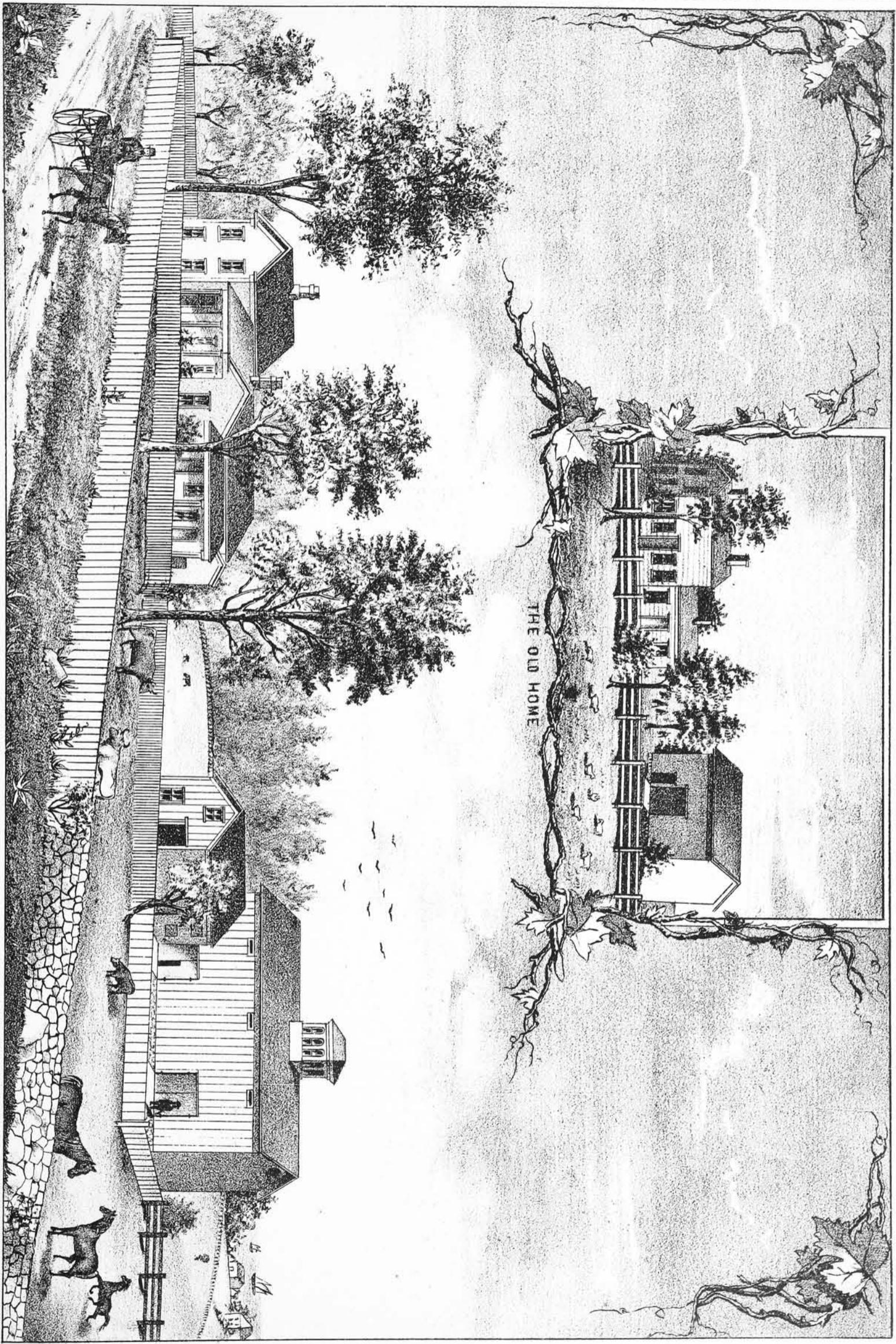
Mary Ann Armstrong, daughter of Robert and Rebecca Armstrong, natives of Washington county. Mr. Armstrong died at DeKalb, Illinois, in 1872. Mrs. Armstrong is still living at the advanced age of 76 years.

The same year of his marriage, Mr. Irwin removed to Sterling and settled on lot No. 5, where he has since resided.

Mr. and Mrs. Irwin have had nine children, named in the order of their ages as follows: Mary B., (deceased,) born March 17th, 1846; Emerson S., born June 14th, 1847; Alice A., born October 28th, 1850; Emerette, born May 9th, 1856; George A., (deceased,) born June 18th, 1858; Jane E., born March 15th, 1860; William D., born November 15th, 1862; Robert B., born November 8th, 1864; Clara L., born November 17th, 1866.

On another page of this work may be seen a view of Mr. Irwin's home.

RESIDENCE OF JAS. H. IRWIN. STERLING N.Y.



were thus able to take home with their grist a bountiful cargo of venison. Isaac was a soldier in the war of 1812. He has filled nearly every town office; and seen nearly every improvement which the last sixty years have produced.

Benjamin Clark taught the first school in 1812.

June 19th, 1812, the town was set off from Cato. The first town records are lost; hence we are unable to learn the names of the first officers.

Town officers elected at the Spring election of 1879:

Supervisor—E. Randolph Robinson.

Town Clerk—Daniel C. Sanford.

Justice of the Peace—James C. Irwin.

Assessors—L. Nathan Calvert, Hersen J. Lewis, to fill vacancy.

Overseers of the Poor—Harman Van Petten, George A. Cleaveland.

Commissioner of Highways—Orville E. Curtis.

Collector—William Stevens.

Inspectors of Elections—Shelden D. Cole, Isaac Borst, Frank Jones, appointed to fill vacancy.

Constables—Christopher Huntley, Wm. Butler, Ira Ward, Edward Floyd Snyder and H. J. Coalman.

Game Constable—Lewis Tebedo.

Town Board Justices of the Peace—Wm. Kevill, A. S. Douglass, James C. Irwin.

John Ingersoll, from Scipio, came in 1812, and settled where James Bennett now lives. Silas and Elijah Marsh and a man named Bothel were among the first settlers at Fair Haven. Bothel kept a small tavern there a good many years.

William Miller, Samuel Stewart and Alexander McFadden, from Argyle, Washington county, and Benjamin Lyons came in 1815. Miller came in the fall, and settled in the south-west corner of lot 26. He is now dead. Stewart also came in the fall, and settled on lot 27. He subsequently removed to Michigan, where he died. Lyons settled on the State road from Oswego to Fair Haven. He has numerous descendants living in the town. McFadden settled on lot 26, a little southwest of Sterling Center. He brought with him his wife, Jane, and seven children, viz: William who died on the old homestead in 1834; Mary S., who is living with her brother, John H., in Sterling Center; Margaret, afterward Mrs. Daniel Hoy, with whom she removed to Mis-

souri, and on whose death she returned here, and subsequently became Mrs. Robert Hume, and who died in the town May 5th, 1869; Jane, who is also living with John H.; Sarah, the widow of William Calvert, with whom she removed to Cortland county, where she now lives; and Alexander, who is now living in Lexington City, Missouri. Thomas McFadden, who was born after the family moved into the town, is living in Michigan.

Hugh McFadden and Robert M. Stewart, from Argyle, Washington Co., came in the spring of 1816. McFadden was a brother of Alexander and John W. McFadden. He settled on a farm adjoining that of Alexander's, and died in the town several years since. Stewart came on foot, arriving in the town on the 7th of May, and settled on twenty acres, on lot 27, near the center of the town. He was the first blacksmith in the town. His shop was about a mile east of Sterling Center. He busied himself at farming when not employed in the shop. He was a noted hunter.

John Winchell was a blacksmith at Fair Haven at an early day. He was fond of fishing and spent much time at that when not engaged in his shop. Joshua Barnes located on the creek below the bridge crossing the creek on the State road. He used to fish for salmon while his wife rowed their log canoe.

Big Bluff was, at an early day, a great cattle run in the summer, and was the scene of the destruction of a good many cattle. Its elevation secured it a breeze which attracted the cattle to the edge, whence they were frequently precipitated below from the caving of the embankment, which was then almost perpendicular. About 1820, an ox belonging to a Mr. Eno, who was an early settler upon the shore, was precipitated over the bluff and lodged on a ledge about half way down. It remained there several days before being discovered. It was rescued alive by means of ropes, which served to guide it and prevent its falling while making the steep descent.

When the first settlers came the marshy tract bordering the lake was covered with cranberry bushes, and the fruit was gathered in large quantities and marketed at Oswego and Onondaga Hollow. A few years later they were killed by a rise in the water which covered all that tract. The water has receded somewhat, but the tract

is subject to frequent inundation from the back-ing of the lake water.

THE ASSOCIATED REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, the first church in the town, was organized at Sterling Valley in 1817 or '18, in the old log tavern kept by John Cooper, the most prominent ones then connected with it being David McFarland and Samuel King, Elders, and John and George Cooper, John and Hugh McFadden and Isaac Turner. Their church edifice was built in 1828, and an addition built to it some two years since. The first settled pastor was Rev. David Curry, who maintained pastoral relations with the Church for fifty years, and died in the town a short time since, having previously given up the ministry. He was succeeded by Rev. John Edgar, who remained about ten years, and gave place to the present pastor, Rev. Mr. Hume, who entered upon his duties about two years since. The Church is in a prosperous condition and has a membership of 150. It has a flourishing Sunday school, with an attendance of about 125.

THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STERLING CENTER, was organized about 1820, with some thirty members, among whom were Alex. McCrea, Alex. McFadden, John Scott, Robt. M. Stewart, James Erwin, Thos. Cox, Samuel King and Andrew Galey. The organization was effected in a school-house which stood where the Methodist church now stands. The first meetings were held in 1815, in a school-house in Sterling Valley, and were conducted by Revs. Alex. Milligan, Cannon and others. Even after the organization the meetings were held in the valley for many years. Their first house of worship was built in 1828. It is now owned by "Big" Smith, and used as a dwelling-house. In 1851, the present house in Sterling Center was erected, at a cost of \$1,600. It will seat 250 persons. The first settled pastor was Rev. Wm. L. Roberts, who previously supplied the pulpit at an early day. He was succeeded by Rev. Matthew Wilkin in 1856, having served a faithful pastorate of thirty years. He removed to Ohio, where he died. Wilkin remained about twelve years, and was succeeded by Rev. Samuel R. Gilbreath, who remained only a year and a half, when he was appointed missionary to Assyria, where he died. The present pastor, Rev. J T. Allen, succeeded him in the fall of 1876. The

society numbers seventy; and the attendance at Sabbath-school is about seventy-five.

THE M. E. CHURCH OF MARTVILLE was organized about 1830, and built their house of worship about 1842. The latter was torn down in 1875 with a view to rebuilding, but no building has yet been erected. Meetings are held in the school-house. The present pastor lives in Bethel, in the town of Ira.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH OF STERLING, at Sterling Center, was organized October 2d, 1841, in the school-house in Sterling Center. A society known by the above name was organized several years previously, at the house of Joseph Bunnell, one and one-half miles north-east of the Center, and a few years thereafter their place of meeting was changed to the town of Hannibal, after which it took the name of that town.

Forty-one members were dismissed from the church in Hannibal to form this. The first pastor was Rev. T. H. Green, who perfected the organization. During the first year of the existence of the society twenty-five were added to its membership by baptism, ten by letter, and one by experience. The building of their church edi-fice was commenced in the spring of 1842, but owing to pecuniary embarrassments and the loss by fire of a quantity of lumber, which was a serious hindrance, it was not completed till 1845, the first meeting being held in it on the first Sabbath in April of that year. In January, 1845, the pas-tor was assisted by Revs. I. Lawton and D. Foot, in a series of revival meetings, which re-sulted in the addition of eleven by baptism and fifteen by letter. Elder Green closed his labors with the church May 26th, 1850, and was im-mediately succeeded by Rev. A. R. Palmer, who was granted a letter of dismission July 5th, 1851. During the remaining half of 1851, the church was ministered to by Elders M. Shaw, Plumb, Green and I. R. Nesbit, the latter from Roch-ester University. The pulpit was afterwards filled for a short time by Elder Peevit, who ten-dered his resignation March 6th, 1852. June 6th, 1852, a call was extended to Elder G. A. Ames, and September 12th, 1852, he commenced his labors among them. He was succeeded April 5th, 1856, by Elder Ira Dudley; and in August, 1858, by Rev. Samuel Smith. Septem-ber 17th, 1859, a call was extended to Rev. Thomas H. Green; and in October, 1864, to



Edas Steintz

Rev. J. P. Simmons, the latter of whom maintained pastoral relations with them fourteen years. He left in the spring of 1878, and his place has not yet been filled. The present membership is eighty; and the attendance at Sabbath school, about thirty.

THE FIRST M. E. CHURCH, at Sterling Center, was organized in 1856, with about thirty members, among whom were John N. Smith, Isaac M. Hoppin and family, and Mrs. Rhoda Duel. Previous to this, an organization had existed and fallen into decay, and meetings were held by circuit preachers during a period of several years. Rev. David B. Smith, father of Gary Smith, was one of the early preachers. Their house of worship was erected in 1860, at a cost of about \$2,000, and will seat about three hundred persons. Previous to the building of the church, meetings were held in the school-house; and, during one summer, by invitation of the Baptists, in the church of that society. At its organization, the church became an appointment on the Fair Haven charge. It 1869 it separated from that charge, and attached to itself Martville as a second appointment. It then first became known as Sterling charge. In 1872, Martville was detached, since which time the church has stood alone. Following is a list of the pastors since the organization in 1856, with the year in which they came to the charge: Hiram Woodruff, 1856; Samuel Salisbury, 1858; E. W. Pierce, 1860; —— Paddock, 1862; O. C. Lathrop, 1863; J. Barns, 1864; F. A. O'Farrell, 1866; D. Stone, 1868; A. Miller, 1869; R. O. Beebe, 1870; P. T. Hughston, 1871; R. Houghton, 1873; Z. Wilcox, 1876; George P. Avery, the present one, 1877. In 1869, during the pastorate of Allen Miller, but under the evangelical labors of D. W. Thurston, of Syracuse, and H. Giles, a remarkable revival occurred in this church, which resulted in the conversion of about a hundred and in adding sixty to the membership.

THE ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH,¹ at Martville, was organized August 17th, 1873, with sixty-seven members, among whom were A. H. Dunbar, John Tappan, D. R. Childs, Wm. H. Barr, S. Stum, S. H. Bradford, Oliver Blanchard, George Timeson, S. D. Crofoot, Nelson Palmer, Orin Barnes and Elkany Baker, and as the result of a series of a meetings, during a period of

six weeks, held in a tent, and conducted by Elders M. R. Miles and B. P. Stevens, who attracted large numbers, some from great distances, and expounded the doctrines peculiar to this denomination, which "were new and strange to many who listened," and with such effect as to convert between thirty and forty individuals. In 1875 they built their church edifice, at a cost of \$2,300, and dedicated it Aug. 15th of that year, the sermon being preached by W. J. Hobbs, of Honeoye Falls, N. Y. Elder M. R. Miles was called to the pastorate in 1874, and served them that and the two succeeding years. In 1877, Elder James E. Wells, of Ontario, N. Y., accepted a call from this Church, and served them with such acceptance as to be chosen pastor in 1878. The membership June 15th, 1878, was ninety. There is a large and interesting Sunday school, of which James Barnes has been superintendent for a number of years. The attendance at the school is eighty-six. Communion is observed once a quarter. The form of government is Congregational.

A little distance from Sterling are Kevill's grist, cider and shingle-mills and apple-jelly factory, all of which were built and are owned and conducted by William Kevill. The grist-mill was built in 1851, contains three run of stones, and has a capacity of 200 bushels per day. The cider-mill was built in 1861, contains three presses, and expresses the juice usually from 10,000 to 15,000 bushels of apples per season. The shingle-mill was also built the latter year. It contains one self-setting machine, with a capacity of 5,000 shingles per day, and is in operation only about four months in the year. All three are propelled by water. The jelly factory has a capacity of 400 pounds of jelly per day. This is a new industry, having been established here in 1870, and is developing into a large business. The jellies manufactured from apples are reputed to be superior to all others.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

JAMES HUNTER.

JAMES HUNTER was born in Ireland in 1796. His early youth was passed on his father's farm,

where he acquired the habits of industry that marked his subsequent life. His educational advantages were somewhat limited, but being attentive and studious he obtained a good common education. Ambitious to acquire a competency he left his native land at the age of nineteen and sailed for America. He found a home in Baltimore, Md., where he learned the stone-cutter's trade. He advanced rapidly in his business and became ere long foreman for a prominent firm. In 1826 he married Miss Isabella Crockett. This union resulted happily, and to them were born five children, four of whom are living. In 1838 he came with his family to Sterling, where he purchased a farm on lot No. 8. There he spent the balance of his life and died November 4th, 1851. He was an honest and useful member of society, and his children and friends still cherish his memory. His wife still survives him at the good old age of eighty years.

JOHN HUNTER.

JOHN HUNTER is the oldest child of the late James Hunter and was born in Baltimore, Md., in the year 1828. In 1830, he came with his father to Sterling, where, during his youth, he was employed through the summer months, while his winters were passed in the district schools in a faithful effort to obtain an education. He was not permitted after the age of 18 to continue his studies in school.

The demand for barrels in this fruit-growing country seemed to open to him the cooper trade, and for two years after he had reached the age of 20, he was engaged in that business. When 22 years old he returned to his native State and was for one year occupied as a stone cutter in a soap-stone quarry.

In the summer of 1850, Mr. Hunter was employed on the Orange and Alexandria railroad, in the capacity of foreman, thus commencing his career on public works, which he has carried on so extensively in after years. After one year's service on the O. & A. Railroad he went to Fauquier county, Va., where he accepted a similar position on the famous Manassas Gap Railroad. In 1852 Mr. Hunter made a contract (his first,) with the last named road, for constructing a certain distance and was engaged on that road as contractor till the spring of 1858. He then returned to Sterling, where he has since resided.

Soon after his return he purchased the flouring and saw-mills, at Sterling Valley, which he operated till quite recently, carrying on at the same time an extensive lumber business. In 1859 he built the store at Sterling Valley. After the war of the Rebellion his brother, James, became

his partner in the mercantile business. The firm of John Hunter & Co. is widely and favorably known, their house being one of the most prominent in their section of the County.

In 1871, Mr. Hunter contracted for the grading and masonry on about seven miles of the Lake Ontario Shore Railroad. Since that time he has built, and laid the track on about 70 miles of that road, now a part of the Rome & Watertown Railroad.

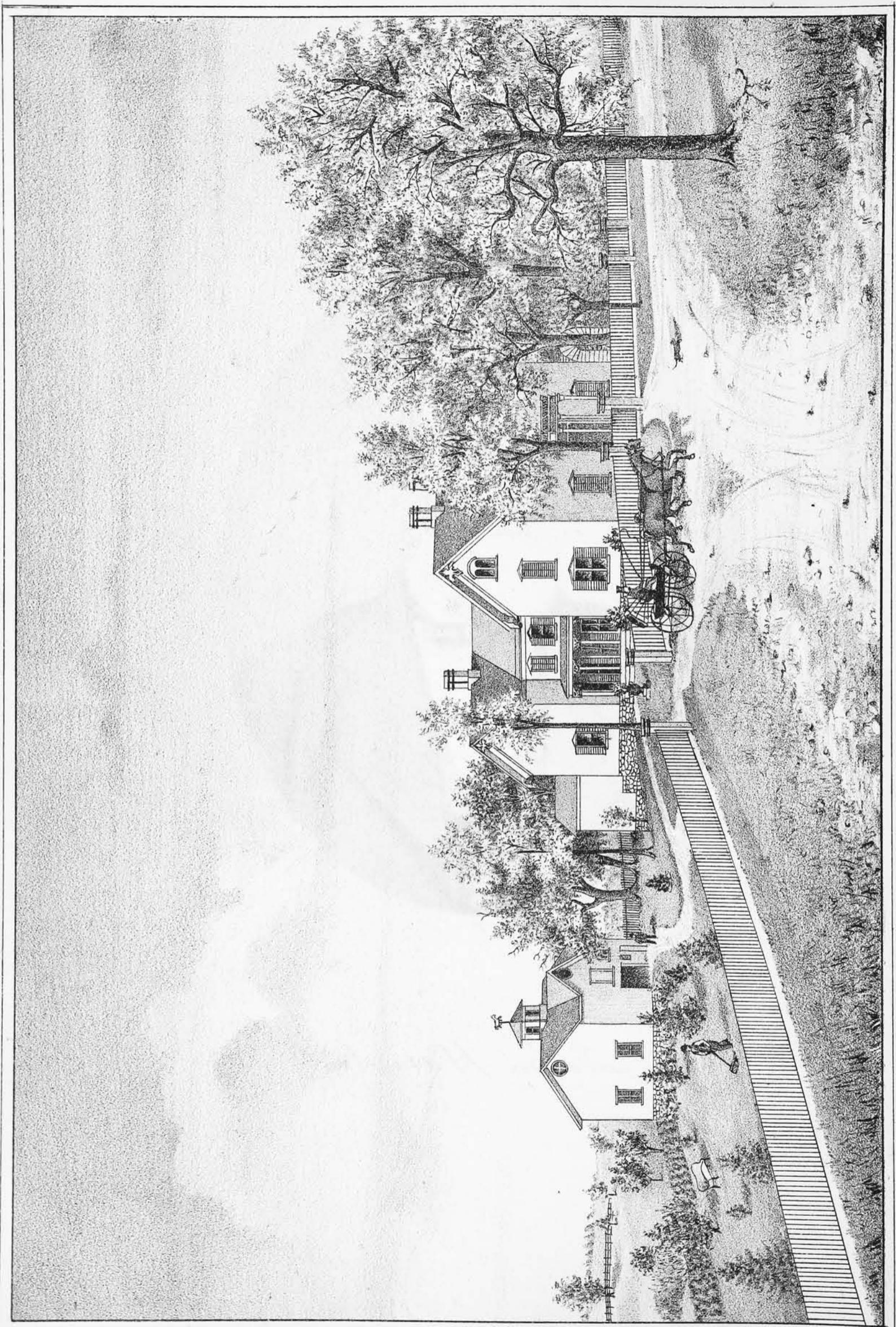
In 1873 he did the grading and masonry on 38 miles of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad. He also built the Railroad bridge over the Oswego river at Oswego, N. Y., and the tunnel through the Park in that city. Mr. Hunter was one of the contractors for grading and building the locks on sections 8 and 9 on the Welland Canal enlargement. This work was commenced in 1874 and completed in 1878. He had also a half interest in the contract for enlarging the Lachine Canal. At the present writing (September, 1878,) Mr. Hunter is engaged on his largest and most difficult contract, the widening and deepening of the new canal at Port Colborne, the building of the new entrance lock and race-way at that place, and the building of a new aqueduct across the Chippewa River, which is the most extensive and difficult work on the Welland Canal enlargement. The estimated cost of the work on the two sections, is nearly one and a half million dollars.

Mr. Hunter was united in marriage to Miss Mary Conrad, April 10, 1855. To them eight children have been born. All are living but one.

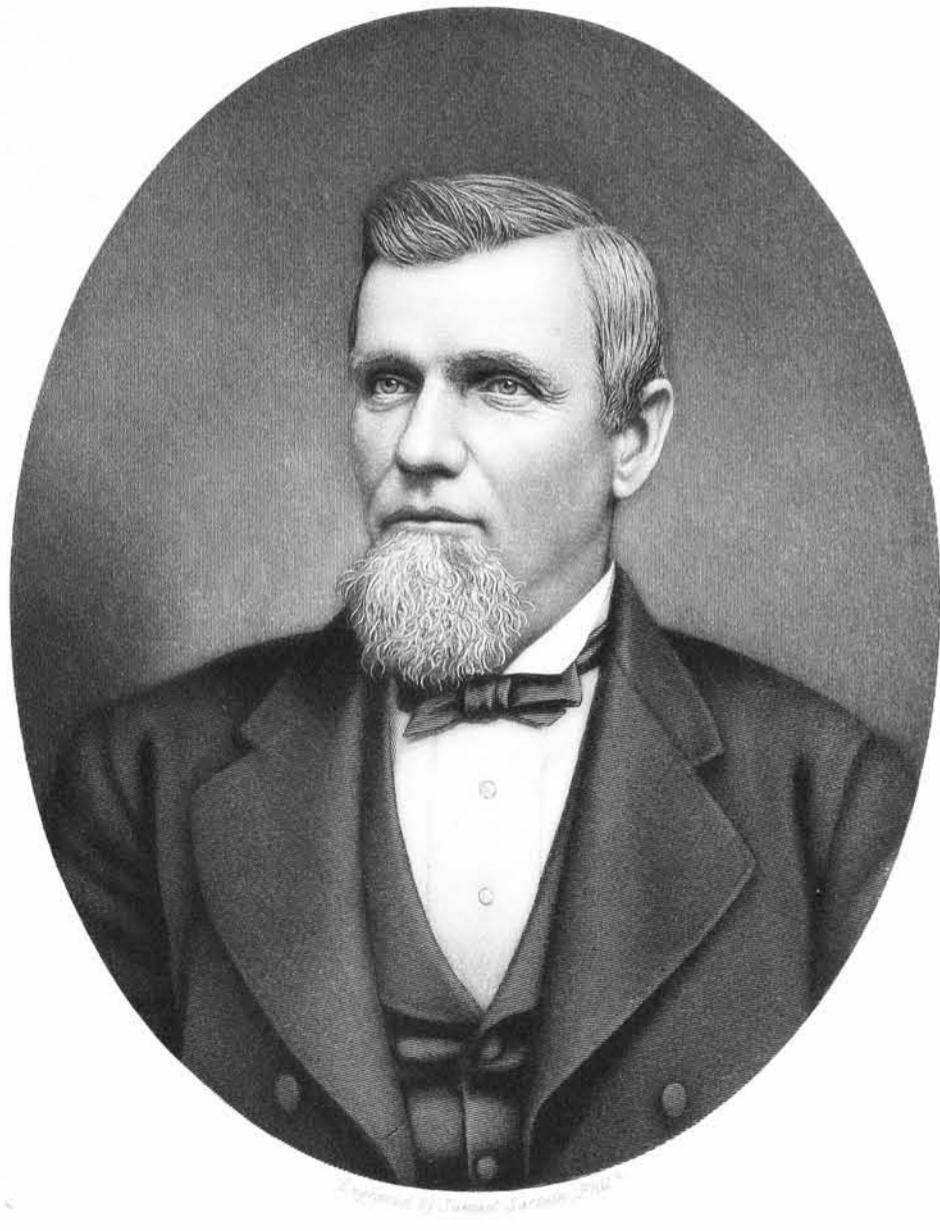
For twenty years Mr. Hunter has been a member of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, in which, for 18 years, he has been a ruling elder. A view of his beautiful home, together with a steel portrait of himself, appears in this work.

THOMAS HUNTER.

THOMAS HUNTER, the fourth child of James Hunter, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, the 11th of September, 1834. He came to Cayuga with his parents in 1838, and lived at home with them until after his father's death. He attended the district school winters till the age of twelve years, and from that time to the age of nineteen his attendance at school amounted to ninety-three days. In 1852 Mr. Hunter went to Virginia and worked on the Manassas Gap Railroad for his brother John, who was a contractor on that line, for one dollar a day. In the fall of 1853 he returned to Sterling and attended school during the winter and went back to Virginia in spring of 1854. He remained there till June, 1857, when he again returned to Sterling, and, in connection with his brother John, bought the



RESIDENCE OF JOHN HUNTER, STERLING VALLEY, N.Y.



Engraved by J. Sartain 1861

John Hunter

grist and saw-mill at Sterling Valley. He took charge of and run the mills till Sept., 1860, when he went back to Virginia, where he remained until the war broke out in 1861, working for his uncle, who was a contractor on the Manassas Gap Railroad. Hostilities put a stop to further work on that road and Mr. Hunter, like many other northern men, was virtually a prisoner during the first few weeks of the war. He was called by the rebel authorities before the court to take the oath of allegiance to the Confederate States of America. He obeyed the summons, but declined to take the oath. He was also enrolled in the State militia and ordered to muster, which he refused to do. On the morning of the 8th of August he started for the Potomac river with a view to escaping through the rebel lines, and in the vicinity of Lovettsville, Virginia, he was so fortunate as to meet Captain T. J. Kennedy, of Auburn, N. Y., in command of a detachment of the 19th N. Y. Volunteers, which was raised in Cayuga County. Mr. Hunter reached Sterling with seven and a half dollars and the clothes on his back, which comprised his earthly possessions. From that time he dates his *start* in life. After about one year's rest in Sterling he enlisted as a private in the 110th N. Y. Volunteers, company "F," the 7th day of August, 1862. He was commissioned 2d lieutenant the 10th of September, 1862, and promoted to captain the 19th of April, 1864. In 1864 his regiment was ordered to garrison Fort Jefferson at Dry Tortugas, and Captain Hunter was detached and sent to St. Vincent Island, Florida. While there he organized a regiment of Union refugees and deserters from the rebel army, which was known as the 2d Florida cavalry.

Mr. Hunter remained with his regiment until it was mustered out of service on the 30th day of August, 1865. He then came again to Sterling, where he was engaged with his brother John in the lumbering business until 1871.

In the last named year he, in company with his brother John, took a contract to grade a portion of the road bed of the Southern Central Railroad. They also contracted for the grading, masonry and bridge building of five miles of the Lake Ontario Shore Railroad. In 1872, they built about the same distance. In 1873, they contracted with the N. Y. C. & H. R. R. Company, for grading and masonry for the third and fourth tracks of that line between Syracuse and Clyde, a distance of thirty-five miles. In 1874, they built the R. & W. R. R., from Ontario to Charlotte, entire distance eighteen miles. In 1875 and 1876, they built on the same road from Kendall to Lewiston, sixty-five miles. The same year they built the substructure of the railroad bridge over the Oswego river. In 1877, they did the track laying and ballasting of the Syracuse, Geneva & Corning Railroad. In Sep-

tember, 1877, they took the contract for the enlargement of sections 27 and 35 of the Welland Ship Canal in Canada, which includes the building of the aqueduct across the Chippewa River and the lift lock from the river to the canal, also the guard lock at the Lake Erie end. This contract includes a large amount of rock and earth excavation. The total estimated cost of these two sections is one and a half millions of dollars.

In the year 1867, Mr. Hunter married Margaret Ann Duguid. She is the daughter of Alexander and Maria Duguid. Her father is a native of Schenectady county, and her mother of Washington county. Mrs. Hunter was born in 1841, August 31st. They have had four children, all of whom are living.

In politics Mr. Hunter is a staunch Republican, and takes a deep and lively interest in the affairs of his town and county. He is not a member of any religious organization, but attends the Reformed Presbyterian church.

Mr. Hunter is preëminently a self-made man. Beginning life with only his natural resources and the limited education afforded by the district schools of his town for his capital, he has worked himself up step by step to an altitude in business attained by but few in a generation. He is a man of quick perception and strong convictions, frank and fearless in their expression, and energetic in their execution. He possesses strong common sense, and uncommon sagacity in business; ever ready to meet and strong to overcome the difficulties in the way of self-made men. He is a good neighbor and warm friend, and has, in the fullest, the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens.

WILLIAM IRWIN.

WILLIAM IRWIN, father of Sophia Jewett, James C. Irwin, George B. Irwin, Esther E. and Minnie E. Irwin, was born in Washington county, March 3d, 1799. He came to the town of Sterling in 1816. He took up sixty acres of land on lot No. 3. He was married in 1833 to Betsey Irwin, who was also a native of Washington county, where she was born in 1812. She came to this county in the year of her marriage.

Mr. Irwin died May 8th, 1876. His wife is still living with her son, James C. Irwin.

HUGH DUGAN.

HUGH DUGAN, son of John and Margaret Dugan, was born in Ireland in 1841. He came to this country with his parents in 1849. The family settled in Sterling, where the father died in 1863.

Hugh became a farmer at an early age, and by close application to business finds himself, while comparatively young, the owner of one of the most productive farms in the town of Sterling, consisting of 102 acres. A view of his residence is shown on another page.

JOHN IRELAND.

JOHN IRELAND, a native of the State of Pennsylvania, was born in 1793, and came to Sterling, Cayuga County, in 1814. He died in 1868. His wife, Polly Rasmussen, was born in Genesee county, in 1796, and came to this town about the year 1815. They were married in 1816, and have had six children, four boys and two girls, William, Andrew, John, Joseph, Catharine and Margaret Jane. Mrs. Ireland is still living, wonderfully active for one of her years.

PETER VAN PETTEN.

PETER VAN PETTEN was born in Washington county in 1797. He came to this County in 1824 and settled on lot No. 34, in the town of Sterling. In 1820 he married Miss Catherine Myers, a native of Albany county, where she was born in 1803. Eleven children were born to them, nine of whom are still living. Mrs. Van Petten died November 3d, 1877. Mr. Van Petten is still living with his son George.

JACOB VAN PETTEN.

JACOB VAN PETTEN is the oldest child of Nicholas N. and Mary A. Van Petten. His father was a native of New York State and was born June 3d, 1800. He came to the town of Sterling in 1817. He married Miss Mary Grinnell, of Albany county, who was born May 14th, 1809. Mr. Van Petten was for many years a much esteemed citizen of this town, and died July 9th, 1876. His aged wife still survives him.

Jacob Van Petten was born in the town of Sterling, August 25th, 1828. His youth was passed at home in working on his father's farm during the summers, and attending the district school winters. At the age of 21 or 22 he left home and began life for himself, working for the two years following a farm "on shares." After that he spent another year at home. Then he was employed by the contractors on the Southern Central Railroad as foreman, during the year 1853. From that time to the present Mr. Van Petten has been exclusively engaged in agri-

cultural pursuits. The spring of 1855 he purchased 48 acres of land, on lot number 67, town of Sterling. He has from time to time added to his original purchase until now his farm lands comprise 360 acres. October 25th, 1855, he married Miss Margaret A., daughter of William and Maria Follett. To them four children were born. His wife died May 13th, 1863. Mr. Van Petten lost his wife and three children, all within two years. October 4th, 1863, he was united in marriage to his present wife, Miss Nancy J., daughter of Ashley and Julia A. Bowen, of the town of Ira, Cayuga County.

In politics Mr. Van Petten is an earnest Republican. Three times has he been elected supervisor of the town, serving during the years 1871-'2-'3. He has often served his town and party on committees and in other capacities.

He is in every sense a self-made man and has, by his own unaided efforts, risen to the prominent and influential position he holds in society. An engraving of his beautiful home adorns this work.

JOHN UPCRAFT.

The town of Sterling can boast of few, if any, farms so well improved as Lake View farm. Those who knew the place twenty-one years ago would not recognize it to-day. It has changed from a neglected, dilapidated place to, perhaps, the model farm of the town. Its present owner, John Upcraft, Esq., was born in Norfolk county, England, in 1830. He was the third child of Henry Upcraft. He came with his father to this country in 1840, and located in the city of Oswego, where for three years he was employed by the late F. T. Carrington and Myron Pardee. He left their employ and was a lumberman for the next three years. Then for a long period (18 years) he was engaged in mercantile business and farming, for Fitzhugh and Littlejohn.

In March, 1858, he purchased Lake View farm, consisting of over one hundred acres, on lot No. 3.

December, 1854, Mr. Upcraft was joined in marriage to Elizabeth Read. Their union was of short duration. Mrs. Upcraft died in June of the following year. He was again married in October, 1856, to Annie E. Briggs, daughter of Jeremiah and Mary Briggs. Mrs. Upcraft was born in Glens Falls, N. Y., in 1832.

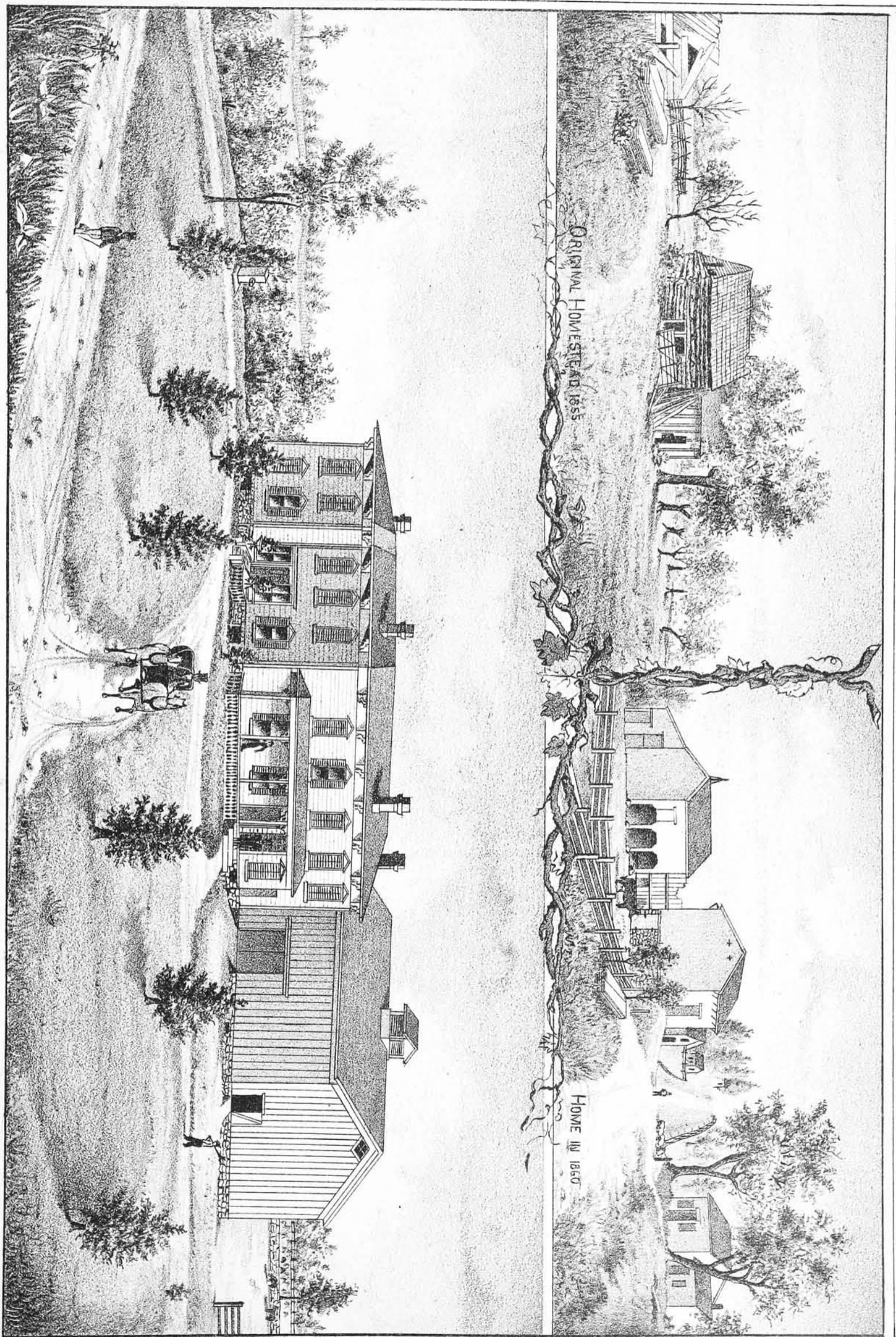
On another page of this work we show a view of Mr. Upcraft's buildings.

RALPH HEWETT.

RALPH HEWETT, a native of Northumberland county, England, was born October 16th, 1800,

RESIDENCE OF JACOB VANPETTEN, STERLING, CAYUGA Co. N.Y.

BUILT 1877



and came to Cayuga County in 1823. He settled on lot No. 8 in the town of Sterling. Mr. Hewett was married four times, as follows:— His first wife was Mary Scott, who died in 1834; the second was Rebecca McCoy, who died in 1844; the third, Jane McCoy, who died in 1846; his present wife, Lydia Redfield, was born in Connecticut, in 1800. Mr. Hewett is a highly respected citizen of this town, and is passing the evening of his days with his son, Walter S. Hewett, Esq.

THOMAS ANDREWS.

THOMAS ANDREWS, father of John and Joseph Andrews, of this town, was born in Ireland, in 1786, and died in 1862. He emigrated to this country and settled on lot No. 13, in Sterling, in 1806. His wife, Jane, was born in Ireland, in 1801. They were married in 1818. They were the parents of four children, three of whom are living. Mrs. Andrews is still living with her son John.

WILLIAM COOPER.

WILLIAM COOPER was born in Ireland in 1777. He came to this country in 1804. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and was in the battle of Oswego. He died in 1843. He married Sarah Craig, who was born in Washington county in 1783, and died in 1871. They were the parents of seven children.

CORNELIUS ACKERSON.

CORNELIUS ACKERSON was born in Rockland Co., N. Y., in 1756. He was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, in which he served seven years, three months and eight days, with the rank of Lieutenant. He was on two occasions taken prisoner by the English. At the close of the war, for his valuable services, the government granted him five hundred acres of land situated in the present town of Sterling, on which he moved with his family in 1815. After an eventful life he died in 1845. Many of his descendants are residents of this town.

JOHN SCOTT.

JOHN SCOTT, father of Mr. Henry Scott, of this town, was born in Northumberland county, England, in 1775. He was by trade a carpenter and joiner. He came to America in 1811; settled in Sterling, Cayuga County, in 1814; and

died in 1860. The day after the battle of Oswego, which occurred in 1815, Mr. Scott visited the battle field and assisted in the burial of the dead. His second wife was Hannah Spottswood, who was born in Northumberland county in 1768, and came with her husband to this County, where she died in 1853. By this marriage there were three children. His first wife, by whom he had four children, died in England.

Mr. Scott has three children living, Jas. Scott, of Grand Rapids, Michigan; Dr. R. B. Scott, of Oswego, N. Y.; and Henry Scott, of this town.

CHAPTER XXXII.

TOWN OF VICTORY.

VICTORY lies upon the west border, in the north part of the County, and is bounded on the north by Sterling, on the east by Ira, on the south by Conquest, and on the west by Wayne Co. It is the north-west quarter of the old military town of Cato, from which it was formed March 16th, 1821. Its name, like that of Conquest, which town was organized at the same time, originates from the victory achieved by those who favored a division of the town of Cato over those who opposed it.

The surface is gently undulating, the highest points being scarcely fifty feet above the general level. It is watered by the head-waters of Red and Little Sodus Creeks, the former of which lies in the west part, while the latter flows north through the town a little east of the center. They furnish but a very limited water power. There is a swamp in the south-west part which covers several hundred acres. There is less waste land in this town and Ira, the two northern, than in Cato and Conquest, the two southern towns of the old township of Cato; there is also less good land. The soil is a sandy and gravelly loam, mostly the latter.

The underlying rocks are the red shale and blue limestone of the Niagara group, which, although covered deep with drift, are seen in several parts of the town. Quarries have been opened in the limestone, and considerable improvement is shown in the quality and thickness of the calcareous portion of the rock as compared with the mass further south. This rock is of

great importance to all this section of country, as it furnishes not only building stone, but also lime suitable for all the purposes to which that article is usually applied, except where a very white lime is required. The quarry of Mr. Doud, about two miles north of Victory, where four or five feet are taken out for lime, which has a little dark-blue shale between the layers, is of great interest, as affording more fossils, such as *Becostated orthis*, a *columnaria* also, and an *avicula*, as well as a slender *encrinite* not yet specifically named.*

The Southern Central R. R. crosses the north-east corner of the town, but has no station within its limits.

The population of the town in 1,875 was 1,944; of whom 1,853 were native; 91, foreign; 1,943, white; and 1, colored.

The town covers an area of 21,234 acres; of which 16,085 are improved; 4,641, woodlands; and 508, otherwise unimproved.

Settlement was commenced in 1800, on lot 65, in the south part, by John McNeal, from Montgomery county, and John Martin, from Ireland; the former of whom located about a mile south of Victory, on the farm now owned by Edward Merritt, where he died the same year, his death being the first in the town. None of his descendants are living in the town. Martin located on the farm now owned by Smith Wood, on a tract of fifty acres, twenty-five acres of which was given him to induce settlement, the remaining twenty-five having been given him by his wife's father. His daughter Jane, (afterwards Mrs. Samuel Wood and mother of Smith Wood,) who was born in 1804, was the first child born in the town. She died on the farm about eight years since. Her husband died in Ira, in the fall of 1877. Samuel Martin, brother of John, also from Ireland, located a few years afterwards in the north part of the town, where he died some fifteen years ago.

Elisha Granger settled with his family in 1802, in the south-east corner, on lot 67. His son Gideon is now living at Westbury, and John, another son, in Michigan.

A Mr. Scouten, a soldier of the Revolution, took up as a soldier's claim lot 14, on which he settled prior to 1806; but he remained only four or five years.

Patrick Murphy, from Ireland, settled in February, 1806, on lot 54, where Samuel Murphy, his grandson, now lives. Two other grandchildren, Patrick and Jane, are living in Butler, Wayne county; and a third, Sarah, (now Mrs. Wm. Root,) in Cato.

Matthias Vanderhuyden, from Troy, Rensselaer county, settled in 1810, on lot 67, where his daughter Louisa (now Mrs. Elihu Knapp,) lives, and where he died in April, 1876, aged ninety-five years. Wm. Hager, Vanderhuyden's stepson, and Pamelia, his daughter, afterwards Mrs. Peter Cooper, came in with him. The former is living, at the age of eighty-two, on the farm he took up in 1823, about two miles south-east of Victory. Pamelia died in the town in 1841. Asahel Carter from Vermont, also came in 1810, and settled on lot 66, on the farm now owned by Hamilton Emerick. He took up twenty-five acres. In 1817 he moved to the farm now owned by John Wood, on the south line of the town, where he died some twenty years ago. His daughter, Polly, (the widow of Henry Wood,) is now living with her son John. Lucretia, (now Mrs. Worden Eastwood,) another daughter of Carter's, is living in Conquest. His other children, John and three or four daughters, are living in the west. Abram Scott, from Vermont, came in with his family, (consisting of his wife Hannah, and two sons, Charles Y. and Abram,) in the spring of 1810, and took up fifty acres, in the south-west corner of lot 54, where Philo Camp now lives, about a mile south-east of Victory. His son Abram is now living, aged eighty-four, with his son, Geo. C. Scott.

John and Daniel Rumsey and William and Daniel Griswold, from Herkimer county, settled on lot 25, a little south-east of Westbury, in 1811. All are dead. Benjamin, son of Daniel Rumsey, is living with Stephen Holt, about a mile west of Victory. The rest of the family moved west.

Jacob W. and Martin DeForest, from Washington county, settled on lot 43, in the east part, in 1812. Conrad Phrozine, from Newburgh, settled the same year on lot 4, at North Victory, on the creek at Stumm's mills, on the site of which he built the first grist-mill in the town. About 1820, John Hooker put up a still, saw-mill and grist-mill, about a mile south-east of Victory, on the farm now owned by John Hapman, which,

* *Natural History of New York, Geology, 3d Dist.*, by Lardner Vanuxem.

with the exception of the grist-mill, are believed to have been the first of their kind in the town. Further settlements were made this year (1812,) by Ephraim Smith, from Saratoga county; Silas Kellogg, from Brutus; Ebenezer Bird, from Onondaga county; and Chauncey and Simon Lathrop, from Sennett. Smith settled on the farm now owned by Philo Camp. His son Ephraim is living in Victory. Two daughters, viz: Mary Ann and Charlotte, are living, the former (now Mrs. John Cooper) in Conquest, and the latter (now Mrs. Luman Derby) in the village of Cato. Kellogg settled on lot 39, in the west part of the town, and removed at an early day to Ira, where he died, and where his son now lives. Ebenezer Bird settled on lot 27, about a mile north of Victory, where he died. His son, Daniel, owns a part of the farm on which he settled. The Lathrops settled at Victory, and opened a store there. A man named Needham settled at an early day about a mile east of Victory, on the farm now owned by James P. Root. He died here, and his sons sold out and moved off.

The present town officers are the following:

Supervisor—Edward Allanson.

Town Clerk—Irving H. Knapp.

Justices of the Peace—William R. Fleming, Russel Dutcher, Charles Dedrick, Joseph Raynor.

Assessors—Edwin Bacon, D. S. Woodford, Andrew Bennett.

Overseers of Poor—Samuel Murphy, Daniel Pinkney.

Inspectors of Election—Robert Cox, Corydon Doud, William T. Benedict.

Collector—A. B. Sabins.

Constables—A. B. Sabins, George Bamford, George Corkner, James Beesmer, Walter Follett.

VICTORY VILLAGE.

Victory is situated a little south of the center of the town, and is distant six miles north-west of Cato on the Southern Central R. R., with which it is connected by daily stage. It contains three churches, (M. E., Baptist and Presbyterian,) a district school, five stores, two blacksmith shops, (Wm. Taylor and —— Smith, proprietors,) a harness shop, kept by Wm. R. Fleming, a shoe shop, kept by A. B. Wetherby, a hotel, kept by

Hulbert Daratt, and has a population of about 150.

The first settlement in the village is believed to have been made about 1806, by James Gregory, who settled where his daughter Sally, (now Mrs. Philander Cutten) lives, and opened soon after the first tavern, which was built of logs, and stood near the site of Abijah Hager's store. A man by the name of Moffitt was one of the first settlers at the village, but in what year we are unable to determine. He sold out about 1809 and removed to Throop, where he died. Manasseh French came in from Scipio, but in what year is uncertain. Abram Scott, who came into town with his father in the spring of 1810, says French was keeping a store here at that time, which was doubtless the first one in the town. French also kept an ashery at the village, which stood near where David Woodford's house stands. The store stood opposite to it. French remained till about 1815.

MERCHANTS.—The first merchant at Victory was Manasseh French, as early as 1810. He opened a store opposite where David Woodford's house stands, and kept it till about 1815. In 1812 a second store was opened by Chauncey and Simon Lathrop, brothers, who came in from Sennett. They separated after a few years and kept stores on opposite sides of the streets. Chauncey failed after five or six years and removed from the town. Simon also failed about 1838. He moved west, where he died at an advanced age.

A small drug store was opened here about 1830, by James Gager, who failed after a year or two and returned his goods to his creditors. He is now living in Iowa.

In 1832, William Hager and John T. Knapp opened a store, which they kept in company some eighteen years. At the expiration of that time Knapp sold his interest to his partner, who conducted the business alone till about 1868, when his son, Abijah B. Hager, was admitted to partnership, with a half interest. Two or three years later Mr. Hager, who was becoming too infirm for active business, sold his remaining half interest to his son, who still carries on the business.

Several merchants kept stores for short periods, but failed. Among them were Mr. McCabe, Southwick, Walter Thayer, who was in

partnership with Simon Lathrop a short time before the latter's failure, and Fred. Thompson.

In 1875, a disastrous fire occurred in the village and destroyed the four stores, the only ones then in it. They were kept by Abijah B. Hager, Harvey Harris & Ellis W. Hager, David Woodford, and Fred. Thompson.

The present merchants, in addition to H. B. Hager, are Harris & Knapp, (Harvey S. Harris and Irving H. Knapp,) who commenced business in December, 1875, both having previously resided in the town; J. D. Woodford, who bought out his father, D. S. Woodford, in the spring of 1877; J. W. Chamberlain & Co., (Celia L. Chamberlain,) the former of whom came in from Wayne county, where he lived a number of years, and commenced business May 7th, 1878; and William A. Hager, a native of Victory, who commenced business September 15th, 1876.

POSTMASTERS.—The present postmaster is Addison B. Wetherby, who has held the office since 1860, having received the appointment under the administration of President Lincoln. He was preceded by Walter H. Sayre, who held the office about eight years. Mr. Wetherby was born in this town, his father having moved in from Sennett in 1819. In 1854, he commenced the boot and shoe business, in which he is still engaged, the post-office being kept in his shoe shop.

PHYSICIANS.—The first physician in this locality was a Dr. Squires, who was settled at Meridian, in Cato. Lucius Hooker was the first resident physician, and the first one in the town. Dr. Waite was another early physician. The present physician is Charles A. Fisher, who was born in this locality and has practiced here about six years.

THE M. E. CHURCH OF VICTORY was organized in 1813, by Rev. Zenas Jones, the first pastor. Prominent among the first members were Joseph Rumsey, Daniel Griswold, James McCready, Platt Wilson, William Hamilton, John Hamilton and William Thompson. We have been unable to learn the names of the pastors of this church previous to 1844, with the exception of the first. In 1844 and '45, Revs. J. Hall and A. Robbins were the pastors of this Society; from 1845 to '46, Revs. B. Phillips, and B. Nichols; to 1847, B. Nichols; to 1852 and '53, Cyrus Phillips; to 1854, P. W. Barber; to 1855, Allen Castle and D. B. Smith; to 1858, J. Smedley; to 1859, M.

Thrasher; to 1860, O. C. Lathrop; to 1861 and '62, R. L. Fraser; to 1864 and '66, S. O. Barnes; to 1867, David Stone; to 1868, R. D. Phillips; to 1871, J. De Larme; to 1873, Henry Meeker; to 1875, Orin Switzer. The present pastor, Rev. Nelson Sutton, came in the fall of 1876.

Their meetings were held in the school-house till about 1820, when the first church edifice was erected. It stood about a mile west of the village. Their present house of worship, which is located in the village, was built about 1850.

The Society numbers eighty-five members. The attendance at Sabbath school is about fifty.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH AT VICTORY was organized with fifteen members June 3d, 1818, as the *Second Baptist Church in Cato*, to which town Victory then belonged, and was admitted to the Cayuga Baptist Association in September of that year. The first pastor was Rev. Roswell Osburn, who was ordained subsequent to the organization, and continued his labors till 1825. The second pastor was Rev. John M. Bartlett, who entered upon the duties of his office in 1828. During the second year of his pastorate, the church enjoyed their first revival, as the fruits of which twenty-one were added to their number. This was followed in 1831 by another, as the result of which sixty-two were added to their number by baptism. The prosperity thus happily inaugurated was speedily checked by trials, from which they never entirely recovered, and which are thus referred to in their letters to the Association of 1834-5:

"For about three years past our progress has seemed retarded. Campbellism, that fell destroyer of heavenly bliss below, together with all its paralyzing effects and concomitant evils, has hung like a dark and lowering cloud about us. The love of many has waxed cold and the way of truth is evil spoken of, while the church has stood like a lamb shorn of its fleece, shivering in the northern blast." "We have been under the painful necessity of excluding some, who, to us, appear to follow the commandments of men, yet we know that our Heavenly Father is too wise to be mistaken, and too good to be unkind, therefore we submit and kiss his chastening rod and say 'Thy will be done.' "

The third pastor was Rev. John H. Dudley, who was ordained by a council convened for that purpose June 20th, 1834. In this year, the church, which had joined the Onondaga Association in 1825, again became a member of the

Cayuga Association. Mr. Dudley closed his labors with this church in 1836, and was succeeded by Rev. David McFarland, who was called to the pastorate in February, 1837, and was ordained on the 15th of June following. In their letter to the Association for this year occurs the following :

"Although we are not blessed, like most of our sister churches, with an abundance of this world's goods, yet, through the blessing of God and our own exertions, we have been enabled to sustain the administration of the word and ordinances, which have received the approbation of Heaven's High King. We now find that our place of worship is too strait for us, and have felt called on to make an extra effort to rent a room in the Academy building which is now being completed. Ours is a missionary field, and we doubtless have claims equal with many of our sister Churches, who receive aid from the Convention. But we feel no disposition to draw from, if we cannot largely aid in replenishing, an almost exhausted treasury."

The first and second years of Elder Mc Farland's ministry were greatly blessed.

"The Church seemed to emerge from its polar winter into the genial clime of Christian activity and union, and as the fruits of the two revivals enjoyed, 58 were added to their numbers. * * The Church thus aroused, became warmly engaged in the great moral enterprises of the day ; the temperance reformation, the Bible cause and other kindred causes being warmly supported by their influence and contributions."

Elder Mc Farland closed his labors with this Church in February, 1840, and was succeeded by Rev. Allen R. Beach, who remained about one year, and was succeeded by Rev. J. S. Everingham, who continued about a year, and was succeeded by J. C. Moore, a licentiate, who remained about two years. Under the labors of these pastors, two seasons of revivals were enjoyed, which resulted in the addition of about twenty-five to their number. Their next pastor was Rev. A. Haskell, who began his ministrations September 22d, 1846, and closed them May 7th, 1848. In 1845 they begun the erection of a house of worship which was finished June 24th, 1846. The society being small they were obliged to incur a debt, which somewhat crippled their action, but which was fully cancelled in 1850. Their house underwent somewhat extensive repairs about three years ago.

The next pastor was Rev. E. Marshall, who began his pastoral labors in 1849 and closed them

in the fall of 1850. Since then the following pastors have officiated, viz : Revs. Trow, David Mc Farland, John Everingham, the two latter during a second term, Lee, Thos. Siegfard and Collins, the latter of whom resides at Red Creek, and was obliged to close his labors with the Church on account of failing health, the present year. Previous to the erection of their house of worship the meetings of the Church were held in school-houses, and for several years in the house now occupied by Alonzo Woodford. The Church is at present without a pastor, meetings, or a Sabbath school. It is in a somewhat feeble condition, having only about twenty-five members.

During its existence the church has called six brethren to ordination, viz : Roswell Osburn, John M. Bartlett, John M. Dudley, David Mc Farland, —— Lee, and Thomas Siegfard.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORY was organized as the *Second Presbyterian Church of the town of Cato*, at the house of Thomas Coleman, November 30th, 1820, by Revs. Eastman and Dunning. Darius Chittenden and Annis, his wife, Thomas Coleman, Hannah, wife of Henry Quilhart, and the wives of Peter Van Pelt and Christopher Ostrander, were among the first members.

Their first pastor was Rev. Mr. Powell, who commenced his labors in 1827, and was succeeded in 1830 by Rev. Wm. Williams, who remained two years. The next pastor was Rev. Daniel Washburn, in 1835. The fourth was Rev. Daniel Waldo, during whose pastorate from 1841-'3, the first and present house of worship was erected. Rev. Lemuel Dada was the next pastor, in 1845. He was succeeded in 1847 by Rev. Ebenezer Everett ; by Rev. Edward Hall, in the winter of 1851-'2 ; by Rev. Levi Griswold, who assumed their pastoral care May 1st, 1852 ; and by Rev. Beufort Ladd, who commenced his labors in the fall of 1859 and continued them several years. At the close of his labors he settled in the village, where he died in March, 1877. Thomas Watson, who resided in Cato, and belonged to the Reformed church, next supplied the pulpit for three years. Rev. Ephraim Kellogg, who lived at Red Creek, became their pastor in 1871, but remained only one year. The next pastor was Rev. Ezra D. Shaw, who was installed in February, 1873, and remained two years, when he removed to Moravia, where he died in 1877.