

He was the last pastor the church had, the pulpit having since been supplied by students from Auburn Theological Seminary. The church has about thirty members; with an attendance at Sabbath school of about forty.

#### WESTBURY.

Westbury is an attractive little village, evincing a fair degree of business enterprise, and is picturesquely situated on Red Creek, on the west line of the town, lying partly in Victory and partly in Wayne county. It is three miles north-west of Victory, from whence it receives a daily mail by stage. It contains two churches (M. E. and Christian,) a district school, one store, one hotel, of which Aaron Kirk has been proprietor about five years, a tannery, grist-mill, two blacksmith shops, of which Daniel Shaver and James Ferguson are the proprietors, a carriage shop, of which James Shaver is proprietor, and a cooper shop, of which Samuel Lefavor, who is also postmaster, is proprietor. It has a population of about 200.

The first settlers at Westbury were William and Jacob Burghduff, brothers, about 1806. The former died there in his ninety-seventh year, some three years since. A family by the name of Hyde, from Scipio, settled there about 1808. Joseph and Daniel Rumsey and William and Daniel Griswold, from Herkimer county, settled a little south-east of Westbury, in 1811.

**MERCHANTS.**—The present merchants in Westbury are A. P. Crowell and W. D. Campbell, who commenced business in 1867, under the firm name of Crowell & Campbell.

**MANUFACTURERS.**—The manufacturing establishments in Westbury consist of a tannery and grist-mill. The tannery was started in November, 1877, by Nichols and Hines, (H. E. Nichols and S. S. Hines, the former of whom died July 2d, 1878.) The building was erected the previous summer. Its dimensions are 80 by 46 feet, with an engine room 26 by 30 feet added. Its capacity is 6,000 sides per annum. It gives employment to four men. The motive power is furnished by a thirty-five horse-power engine. The grist-mill came into the possession of H. E. Nichols, (now deceased,) about eleven years ago. It contains two run of stones. The motive power is furnished by the engine in the tannery, with which it is connected by means of a shaft.

**THE M. E. CHURCH OF WESTBURY** was organized with about forty members, about 1816. Their house of worship was erected about 1838. It underwent extensive repairs about 1867, at which time it was rededicated. The pastors of this Church have been the same as have ministered to the Church at Victory, both Churches being on one charge. The present pastor is Rev. Nelson Sutton, who resides at Victory. The present number of members is about forty; and the attendance at Sabbath School about thirty.

**THE WESTBURY CHRISTIAN CHURCH** was organized January 27th, 1843, by Rev. W. T. Caton, the first pastor. Among the first members were William Burghduff and Betsey, his wife, Adams Dow, Josiah Burghduff, John W. Tator, Rufus Moore, Melissa Daniels, and Adam Shaver. They erected a house of worship in 1843, but it stood only about a year, when it was destroyed by fire. Their present house was built in 1845. The present pastor is Rev. Stephen Devoe, who resides at Red Creek. The Church has ninety-eight members. The attendance at Sabbath School is about forty.

#### NORTH VICTORY.

North Victory (p. o.) is situated on Little Sodus Creek, near the north border of the town, and contains a grist-mill, owned by Sebastian Stumm, a small saw-mill, a wagon shop, of which William Baker is proprietor, a blacksmith shop, and about 60 inhabitants.

The first settlement at North Victory was made in 1812, by Conrad Phrozone, from Newburgh, N. Y. He located on the creek, at Stumm's mill, on the site of which he built a grist-mill, which was the first one in the town.

**MANUFACTURERS.**—On Little Sodus Creek, about a mile north-east of Victory, is a saw-mill, operated by a ten feet fall of water, which came into the possession of William Cooling, in the spring of 1878.

On lot 63, in the south-west part of the town, is a steam saw-mill owned by VanGilder, Nichols & Co., who have operated it about three years.

On Red Creek, about a mile above Westbury, is a saw-mill, owned by Jacob Switzer, who has operated it some eight or ten years.

About a mile north of Westbury, on a small branch of Red Creek, is a saw-mill, which has been operated by E. L. Sabins for three years.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

## HOMER LOCKWOOD.

Notably among the prominent early settlers of Northern Cayuga was HOMER LOCKWOOD, who settled in Victory (then Cato) in 1817. Homer Lockwood, whose father was a Revolutionary patriot, was born in Brookfield, Conn., November 7th, 1793, and Sally Benedict, his wife, was born October 27th, 1795, in Ridgefield, Conn. They were united in marriage October 2d, 1816, and the year following moved to Victory and settled upon the farm they subsequently lived upon for over half a century.

Northern Cayuga was then mostly a wilderness and the latter part of the three weeks' journey from New England, by wagon, was over corduroy roads, and many miles were traveled with only marked trees to guide them.

Long years of the most arduous, patient toil, resulted in their ability to purchase additional tracts of land until the "Lockwood farm" was known as one of the most extensive in that part. Mr. Lockwood never had a taste for public or political preferment, yet was always foremost in matters pertaining to the social and educational welfare of the community. He was founder of the first school-house in the town and of the first academy, and actively promoted the temperance reforms under the old Washingtonian society, and was founder of the first Methodist Episcopal Church in that region. He was a positive man, and never hesitated to champion the cause of right.

Mr. and Mrs. Lockwood celebrated their golden wedding October 2d., 1866, surrounded by their three children then living, twelve grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Homer Lockwood, although infirm in limb, yet vigorous in body, lived to the age of eighty-two, and died February 12th, 1875. Mrs. Lockwood lived to her eighty-second year, and died August 24th, 1877.

The Lockwood family traces its ancestry directly back to Rev. Richard Lockwood, Rector of Dingby, county of Northampton, Eng., in 1530.

Ephraim Lockwood, a descendant of Richard, settled in Norwalk, Conn., in 1650, from which family the subject of this sketch descended.

## CHAPTER XXXIII.

## TOWN OF IRA.

**I**RA is the north-east corner town of the County, and is bounded on the north by Oswego county, on the east by Oswego and Onon-

daga counties, on the south by Cato, and on the west by Victory. It was formed from Cato, March 16th, 1821; and a portion in the south-east corner was reannexed to that town in 1824.

The surface is rolling, the summits of the ridges rising seventy to seventy-five feet above the valleys, and 225 to 275 feet above the level of Lake Ontario. It is poorly watered, the only streams being small creeks and brooks, which possess very little commercial importance. There is very little waste land, as the town contains neither marsh nor swamp and only one very small pond, in the west part.

It is underlaid by the rocks of the Niagara group, in the limestone of which several quarries have been opened. The most important one is that known as Fox's kiln, at Fox's Corners, about a mile west of Ira, which has been in use for fifty years. The lime is of excellent quality, though not perfectly white. Another quarry is opened on the farm of Jarius Palmer, about a mile southwest of Ira; and a third on the farm of Stephen Pierce. In all three, lime is obtained at the north end of the ridges.

The soil in the south part partakes of the excellent character of that in Cato, while in the central and northern parts it is lighter and less productive, being largely intermixed with sand and gravel. In the north is a cold sandy soil.

The Southern Central R. R. enters the town about a mile and a half east of the west line, and leaves it about two miles south of the north line.

The first settlements were made in 1800, in which year David and Eleazer Stockwell, brothers, came in from Whitehall and located on lot 58, about a mile north of the south line, David, on the farm owned by Dewitt C. Pulsipher, and Eleazer, on the farm on which his son Augustus now lives. Both died on the farms then taken up. They were brothers of Andrew Stockwell, who settled the same year in Cato. David Stockwell kept the first inn in 1800; and his daughter Polly, who was born in April, 1802, was the first child born in the town. Eleazer Stockwell and Margaret Noble, contracted the first marriage March 7th, 1802. Wm. Patterson and Henry Conrad, Germans, came the same year and settled on lot 32, about three-fourths of a mile west of Ira. Conrad's farm joined Patterson's on the south. Both died there.

In 1802 the settlements were augmented by Daniel Parker, from Marcellus ; John C. Barnes and his sons, from Sempronius ; Edward Wood, from Sennett ; and Rev. Michael Burge. Parker settled on lot 69, where Abiah Cook now lives, his farm extending to the south line of the town. In his log house much of the business of the town was transacted at an early day. He died on the old homestead, which is still held by the family, his daughter being Abiah Cook's mother. Barnes settled on lot 70, on the farm now owned by Eleazer F. Jaynes, where he died about 1837. His sons were Amos, John, Luther, Zadoc and Silas, all of whom are dead. The latter two died during the epidemic about 1811. Silas settled on the same lot with his father, and Zadoc on lot 83, on the west part of Isaac R. Merritt's farm. The death of the wife of Silas Barnes, in 1802, was the first in the town. Norton C. Barnes, a son of Luther, is living in Cato. Wood settled on lot 89. Burge drew lot 22 as a soldier's claim and settled on it. He was great-grandfather of David H. Marvin, who now resides on lot 24.

Jacob Labertaux, from Pennsylvania, came in May, 1803, and settled about a mile north of Cato. He moved west with his family, which was large, about 1830. Archibald and Charles Green, brothers, settled the same year, (1803,) on lot 70, the former on the farm now owned by Jacob Deforest, and the latter on the farm now owned by Harry Clark. Both removed to Sennett about 1820.

Abraham Willey and his son-in-law, Eli Matson, came in from East Haddam, Conn., in 1804, and settled on lot 23, Willey on the farm of Heman Benton, (whose father, Dr. Allen Benton, of Cato, married Willey's daughter,) where he died and is buried, in the family burying ground. Matson returned and brought in his family the following year, and settled a little north of Willey, on the opposite side of the road, where he kept a small store and where he died. His son, Eli S. Matson, was then about nine years old, and afterwards made the first settlement on lot 24, on which Augustine Matson, son of the latter, was born and now resides. Henry Ferris came in with his sons Augustus and Thatcher, and the family of the former, from Galway, Saratoga county, in the fall of 1804, and moved in his family in the spring of 1805. He took up 450 acres and built his log cabin where the house of

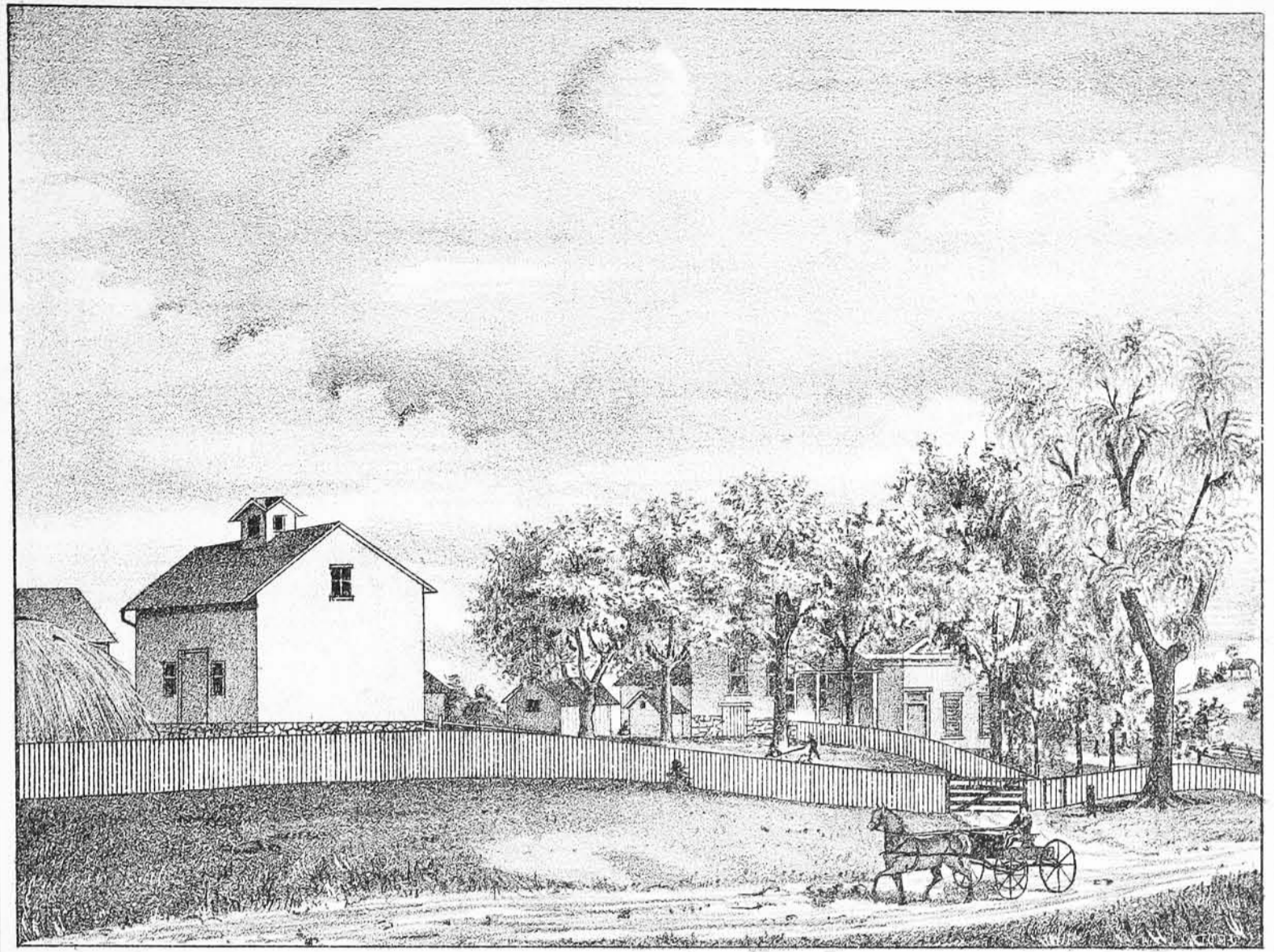
his son, Harry Ferris, now stands, and where he died in 1808. His daughter Zipperah, (now Mrs. Luther Barnes,) is living in Auburn. Two sons are also living, Harry, aged eighty-nine years, on the old homestead, and James Harvey, who was born here, in Rose, Wayne county,

Thomas Barnes, from Washington county, settled at Ira Corners in 1805. Dr. John W. Squyers, the first physician, settled on the farm owned by Harvey Ferris, about a mile north of Meridian, as early as 1805, in which year he taught the first school. He was a natural genius, highly educated, but much addicted to the use of intoxicants. He was the first physician in the County north of the river, and had no equal as such in that country. He had a large and lucrative practice, which, in consequence of his bibitory habits, was gradually monopolized by others of less ability. He died at Plainville, in Lysander, some thirty-five years ago.

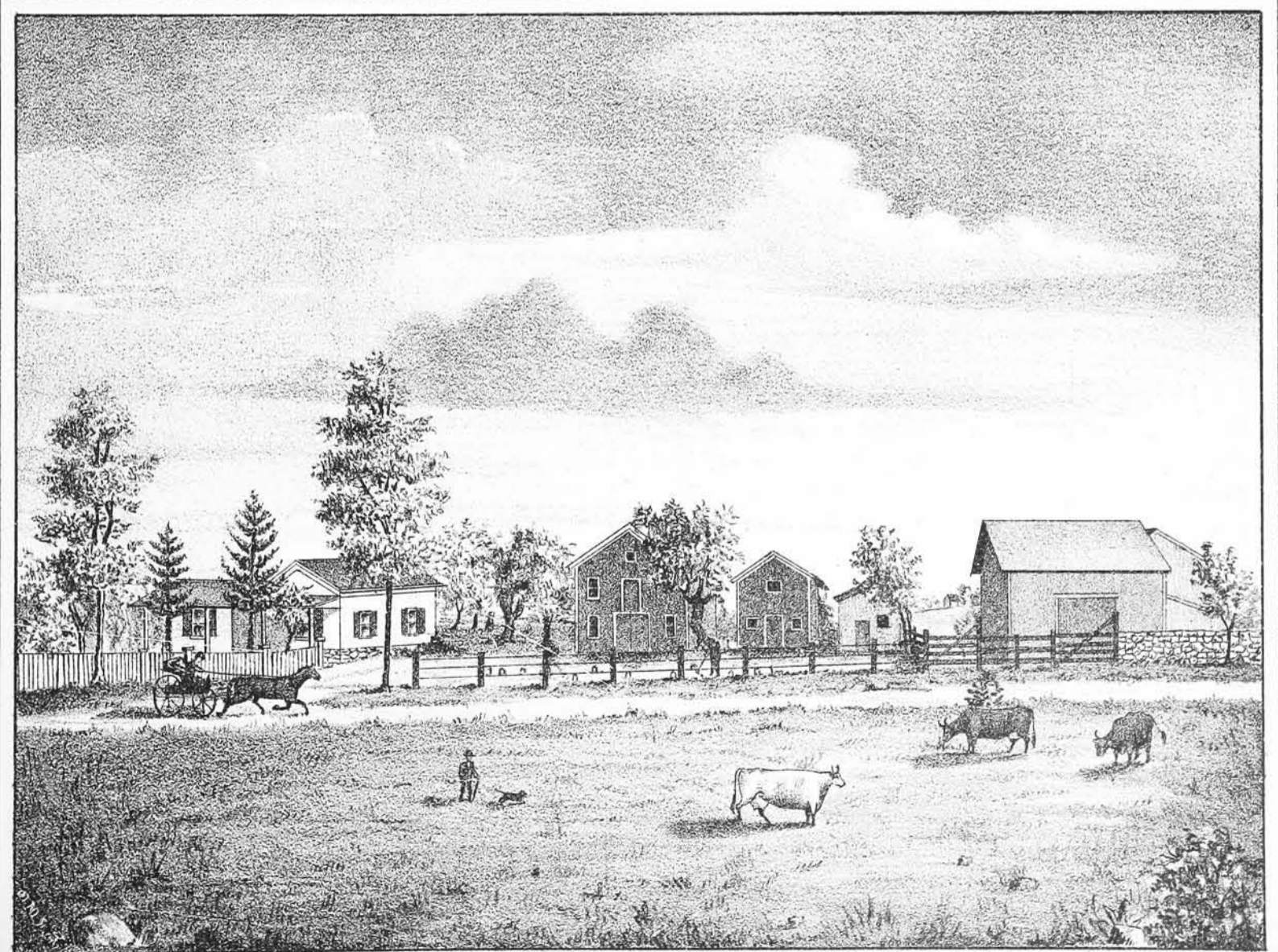
Luther, Samuel and Israel Phelps, brothers, came in from Galway, Saratoga county, in 1806. Luther settled on the farm owned by the widow of James Smith, where he remained only about a year, when he removed to Ira, to the place on which his son, John Phelps, now lives, and where he died in November, 1867. Chauncey Phelps, another son, lives a little east of that village. Samuel settled on the farm owned by James Slocum ; and Israel, in Ira, where he built the present hotel about fifty-seven years ago, and where he, in company with his brother Samuel, opened the first store, in 1813. Samuel Phelps, Jr., and Dwight Phelps, son of Israel, are living, the latter a mile west and the other three-fourths of a mile south-west of Ira. Stephen Pierce settled at Ira about 1806 and died in the house in which his grandson Chas. Pierce now lives. Daniel and Ezekiel Cogswell, brothers, from Galway, settled about 1806 ; Ezekiel, on the farm owned by Addison Everts, and Daniel adjoining him, about one and one-fourth miles north-west of Ira.

Heman West, from Washington county, settled on the farm now owned by S. M. Brown, in the south part, on the line of Cato about 1806 or '7. He took up one hundred acres, which he sold after three years on account of sickness from fever and ague, one-half to Abel Pasko and the other half to a man named Shivers, and removed to Cazenovia. He came with his family, con-





RESIDENCE OF ROBERT JOHNSON TOWN OF IRA CAYUGA CO. N.Y.



RESIDENCE OF JOHN UPCRAFT STERLING CAYUGA CO. N.Y.

"LAKESIDE FARM"



sisting of his wife Zeruah and five children, all of whom are dead. Three children subsequently born are living, Abel, at Meridian, where he has been engaged in mercantile pursuits since 1837; Charles, at Watertown, N. Y., where he is engaged in the sash and blind business; and Hannah, widow of Wm. Locklin, at Potsdam, N. Y. About this time, or perhaps a little earlier, Abram Sturge came in with his family and settled about a mile north-west of Ira, where his sons Abram and Samuel died. John, another son, lived a little farther north, where he also died. Parmenus Sprague came in about the same time and settled on a farm adjoining Sturge's.

John Hooker, a boon companion of Dr. John Jakway, who came in from Vermont, about 1809 and settled at Cato, came in about a year before the latter, from the same locality, where they had been associates of Ethan Allen, and settled at Cato, on the Ira side of the line. He lived there about thirty years, till his death. His son John is living near Victory. Hooker built the first grist-mill in the town of Ira, in 1818. A portion of the old mill still stands just east of and adjoining the buildings of the Cato Milling Company, near the depot in Cato, a portion of it having been torn away to accommodate the latter buildings. That which remains is used as a store-room by the present company, except in the east end of the upper part, in which a cabinet-shop was recently started by Joseph Girard.

William DeForest, a German, came in from Albany county, at an early day, soon after Daniel Parker's settlement, and located about a mile east of Cato, on the farm now owned by Harriet Bartlett, widow of Rev. Gamaliel S. Bartlett, where he died about 1843. None of his children are living, but several of his grandchildren are. His sons were John, Martin and Jacob. Three of John's sons are living, viz.: Jacob and William, on the farm adjoining on the north of that on which their grandfather settled, and Martin, in Oswego. Three of Martin's sons are living, viz.: William, at Meacham's Corners, one mile east of Meridian, David, near Ira Station, and Martin, in Michigan. Jacob's children are William I. and Henry, who live on adjoining farms in Victory.

Jarius Palmer, from Galway, settled about 1810, about a mile south-west of Ira, adjoining the farm of Dwight Phelps, where he lived till his death about four years ago, and where his

wife Sally still lives, hale and active, though ninety-two years old.

The first town meeting was held at the house of Israel Phelps, April 3d, 1821, and the following named officers were then elected: Thatcher I. Ferris, *Supervisor*; Allen Benton, *Clerk*; Chauncey Smith, Henry Perine and Luther Barnes, *Assessors*; Ezekiel O. Cogswell, Jonathan Hurd and Wm. Townsend, *Commissioners of Highways*; Abraham Willey and Wm. T. Shearman, *Poor Masters*; Ezekiel O. Cogswell, *Collector*; Lemuel Austin, Oliver Stone, Erastus Strong and Benj. Conger, *Constables*; Chauncey Smith, Israel Phelps and Henry Perine, *Commissioners of Schools*; Ebenezer Wilcox, Erastus Strong and Wm. H. Noble, *Inspectors of Schools*; Augustus F. Ferris and Wm. H. Noble, *Commissioners of Gospel and School Lands*; Augustus F. Ferris, *Pound Keeper*.

The present town officers are:

*Supervisor*—Daniel H. Taber.

*Clerk*—George Terpening.

*Justices*—Robert W. Cole, Frank Terpening, Henry VanDusen, George B. Andrews.

*Assessors*—Ezra Baker, E. F. Jaynes, O. A. Foote.

*Commissioner of Highways*—E. D. Crowninshield.

*Overseers of the Poor*—Henry S. Hunt, William Bradt.

*Inspectors of Election*—Wilson E. Palmer, Elbert C. Phelps, Wm. A. Wormuth.

*Collector*—Charles Ferris.

*Constables*—Emory J. Sweet, John Harris, A. O. Thayer, A. L. Thayer, Luman C. Goodrich.

*Commissioners of Excise*—James Terpening, Jacob DeForest, E. R. Foxon.

The population of the town in 1875 was 2,064; of whom 1,889 were native; 175 foreign; 2,060 white; and 4 colored. Its area is 21,156 acres; of which 17,134 are improved; 3,026 woodland; and 996 unimproved.

#### CATO.

Cato, on the south line, lies partly in this town and partly in Cato, in connection with which town it is noted. Here and at Meridian, in the north edge of Cato, the principal business of the town centers.

## IRA CENTER.

Ira Center is a post village of some 150 inhabitants, pleasantly situated a little north-west of the center of the town, about two miles east of Ira Station and five miles north-east of Cato. It contains one church, (Baptist,) a district school, one hotel, (which was built by Israel Phelps about fifty-seven years ago, and is kept by Peter Van Auken, who bought the property of John Wiggins and W. W. Hooker in April, 1878,) a cheese factory, two blacksmith shops, kept by John B. Smith and Hiram Cossett, one carriage shop, kept by Michael Burk, three shoe shops, kept by G. L. M. Arnold, Selden D. Heath and D. T. Cook, a harness shop, kept by G. W. Shaw, a milliner shop, kept by Mrs. H. L. Downs, and a tin shop, kept by James McDonald.

The first settlement was made in 1805, by Thomas Barnes. The Phelpses settled here and in the vicinity the following year and have ever since been prominently identified with its growth. Stephen Pierce settled here about the same time.

MERCHANTS.—The first merchants at Ira Center were Samuel and Israel Phelps, who opened a store in 1813, where the Terpening Brothers' store now stands. Elijah S. Everts and Billings Clapp, uncle of E. D. Clapp, of Auburn, bought out the Phelpses about 1823, and kept a store for several years. Andrus P. Preston bought Clapp's interest, and subsequently that of Everts, but he kept the store only a short time.

William, Jonas, John and Strang Titus, under the firm name of Titus Brothers, opened a store a little before Everts and Preston changed, and did business several years. Jonas died in the south; William went to Locke, and Strang, to Oswego; and John continued the business, taking in Dr. Allen Benton as partner. They built and kept a distillery, which burned down after a short time, and dissolved, Titus selling out to Calvin Phelps, who kept the store three or four years, and then closed out and went west.

Campbell & Hollister opened a store where the post-office now is, which was taken, about 1836 or '7, by Henry R. Garlock, from Auburn, who kept it about six years and returned to Auburn.

David S. Kellogg and Norman McCausey opened a third store about 1838, which they kept

some two or three years, when McCausey died, and Kellogg took in as partner Alpheus G. Noble. They kept it about four years, when Col. Levi Lewis bought Kellogg's interest, and kept it in company with Noble about two years, when they sold out the goods. Charles Garlock, son of Henry R. Garlock, came in from Auburn and opened a store about 1844, which he kept about a year, when he returned to Auburn. For a short time there was no store.

About 1846 Phillips & Lusk, from Fulton, opened a store, which stood on the site of the one kept by Wiggins Bros., which they kept till the spring of 1849. This same spring Judah Pierce, from Cortland, opened a store and kept it four or five years, when T. West Titus, son of William Titus, bought him out, and after a year removed the goods to Hannibal Center. Soon after Ingham & Suydam, from the town of Cato, opened a branch store from the store of William Smith Ingham at Meridian, and kept it till it burned, about two years after. The same fall Henry R. Garlock moved a stock of goods kept by Edgar Ingham at Westbury, and sold them for Samuel Phelps in the store now occupied by the Terpenings, which had been vacant some years.

About this time, or soon after, S. M. Downs and Chandler M. Cogswell bought that stock and moved it to the house now occupied by D. T. Cook, the postmaster. After a short time Downs bought out Cogswell, and moved the goods to a building which stood on the lot now owned by Mrs. George W. Miller. Downs, the same year, bought the store now occupied by the Terpening Brothers, which still belongs to his estate, and kept a store there till about 1860, when he sold to David VanDusen, who at the opening of the war, resold to Downs, and went into the army, where he was killed. Downs continued in business till his death in the spring of 1876. About 1867 he admitted to partnership his son, H. L. Downs, who carried on the business about a year after his father's death, when, in April, 1877, he sold the stock to J. A. & G. Terpening, who are still engaged in the business.

Immediately after selling to Downs & Cogswell, Garlock filled up the store he had occupied with new goods, which he moved about a year later to the store occupied by Wiggins Bros., which was built by Samuel Phelps, Jr., about



1856. After two or three years he sold his goods to John McMaster, from Cato, who kept the store a short time, till the war broke out, when he sold out and went into the army. When McMaster went out, Hiram J. Wood and Ryland Alden put in a stock of goods. Alden sold his interest to Wood, who removed the goods to Conquest.

Lyndon Wooster, from Hannibalville, opened a store in 1867, which he kept only a short time, till 1868. Follett & Andrews put in a stock of goods soon after, and after about two years Andrews sold his interest to James Follett, who continued till May, 1878, when he moved his goods out, and John and George Wiggins, the former from Victory and the latter from Syracuse, commenced business, under the name of Wiggins Bros.

POSTMASTERS.—The post-office at Ira Center was established in 1824, but we were unable to learn the name of the first postmaster. The second was Elijah S. Everts, who held the office sixteen years. Dr. Jno. Thompson held the office from 1841-'5. The next was Joseph Earl, who was appointed under Polk's administration, and held the office four years. The next was Benj. M. Ells, who was succeeded by Samuel Phelps, the latter of whom held the office but a short time. Wm. Cogswell was appointed in 1853, and held the office two years. He was succeeded by Lewis L. Suydam, who held it only two or three months, when Wm. Cogswell was again appointed. He was succeeded in 1857, by H. B. Kenyon, who held the office three years, when Wm. H. Palmer received the appointment, but held it only some six months, when he resigned, and Simeon M. Downs was appointed. He was succeeded by Lyndon Wooster, and he by Chauncy Phelps, who was appointed in 1872, and resigned in 1873.

He was succeeded by James Follett, who held the office till the spring of 1878, when Darius T. Cook, the present incumbent, was appointed.

PHYSICIANS.—The first physician at Ira Center, was Jno. Thompson, who practiced from 1825 to 1850, when he removed to Racine, Wis. He studied with Dr. Allen Benton, who lived two miles east. Wm. O. Luce bought out Thompson and practiced a few years, when he sold to W. W. D. Parsons and went to Elbridge. Parsons remained two or three years and removed to Fultonville. James D. Benton succeeded

him about 1859, and after a year or two he sold to Azariah Judson and went into the army. Judson remained but a short time and was succeeded by David Monroe, who practiced here from 1865 to 1874. D. O. Blood, the present physician, immediately succeeded Monroe. He belongs to the allopathic school of medicine.

LAWYERS.—The only lawyer who has favored the Center with his residence is Geo. W. Miller, the present practitioner, who commenced in the spring of 1850, having lived in the town from boyhood.

MANUFACTURERS.—The only manufacturing establishment at Ira Center is *The Ira Cheese and Butter Factory*, which was incorporated February 23d, 1870, with a capital of \$3,000. The first trustees, as named in the charter, were: Levi Wormuth, William Foot, Chauncy Phelps, Henry Brackett and Simeon M. Downs. They chose the following named officers: Levi Wormuth, *President*; William Foot, *Vice-President*; Simeon W. Downs, *Secretary*; and Chauncy Phelps, *Treasurer*. The present trustees and officers are Levi Wormuth, *President*; Irvin Squires, *Vice-President*; John Tallmage, John Phelps, and Chauncy Phelps, the latter of whom is *Secretary and Treasurer*.

The building is 26 by 100 feet, with an engine room 14 by 16 feet. It was erected in 1870. Seven cheese of fifty-eight pounds each are made daily.

CHURCHES.—The first church at Ira Center, and the first one in the town was Congregational in denomination, and was organized July 7th, 1807, by Rev. Francis Pomeroy. Rev. Silas Barnes was the first pastor. This church is not now in existence.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH OF IRA was organized in March, 1836, with forty-three members, most of whom were dismissed from the church in Cato. Elder Ira Dudley became their pastor at or soon after their organization. Their numbers were nearly doubled during the first year of their existence, and during this year they commenced the erection of a house of worship, which was opened in 1837. In the latter year their first general revival was experienced, by which eighty-three were added by baptism and letter. Elder Dudley's pastorate covered a period of two years. He was succeeded by William H. Delano, aliterate, who entered upon his labors in 1838,



and was afterwards ordained pastor. During the second year of his pastorate a revival was enjoyed, by which thirteen were added to their number. Delano continued to serve them till 1840, when he was succeeded by H. G. Degolyer, who remained one year, and was succeeded by M. Waters, who remained a like period. J. S. Everingham succeeded to the pastorate in 1843, and remained till 1847.

During the period from 1840 to 1847, the church was sorely rent by divisions caused by the discussions of questions connected with the political actions of their pastors and other members, and their number was reduced from one hundred and forty-three to twenty-two. But in January, 1847, these difficulties were healed by the assistance of a council convened for that purpose, and in the spring of that year the labors of Henry B. Kenyon were secured and retained till 1849.

In their letter to the association in 1849, they write :

“ Since we last represented ourselves we have enjoyed the labors of H. B. Kenyon a part of the time, and for the last three months the labors of Elder E. Robbins. We are now destitute of a pastor, and most earnestly desire the prayers of brethren that we may be kept from dishonoring the cause of Christ. We are at peace among ourselves.”

Elder Kenyon again became their pastor in 1850, and died June 28th, 1851. The pulpit was supplied till 1852, in which year Judson Davis was called and served them eight years. In 1854 repairs were made on the church and a bell was bought. Elder Fuller succeeded to the pastorate in 1859, and served them one year, resigning the charge January 1st, 1860. He was followed by Elder Wiggins, who served them two years, till 1862, when Elder H. B. Garfield was called and remained a like period, having baptized twelve and admitted two by letter. Elder Phillips was the pastor in 1864. He was succeeded in 1865 by Elder Greene, who continued his labors with them until 1869.

During the year 1870 their house of worship was repaired, and a new organ bought. The pulpit was supplied by different pastors. In 1871 Elder Ira Dudley was called to the pastorate. He served them most of the time for four years. Elder Cross served them either as pastor or sup-

ply in 1874; and from that time till November 2d, 1877, when the present pastor, Rev. C. F. Whitcomb, of Syracuse, was called, the pulpit was supplied by Revs. M. Hewitt, Mallory, Robinson, Smith, Tollman and others.

In the winter of 1878, under the charge of the present pastor, a revival was experienced by which a large number were converted and nine added to the membership by baptism. The present number of members is 43.

#### BETHEL CORNERS.

Bethel Corners (p. o.) is a hamlet of about seventy-five inhabitants, in the north-west corner of the town. It contains a church, (M. E.) but no business establishments, neither store, nor hotel. There was formerly a small tannery in operation here, but it was discontinued some six years ago. It was built about fifty years ago by Samuel Andrews, who run it some ten years, when he sold it to his son, George B. Andrews, who still owns it. The capital invested in raw material never exceeded \$1,000, but considerable tanning was done on shares.

The first settler at Bethel Corners was Daniel Thomas. The next was Samuel Andrews, whose son, Geo. B. Andrews, still lives there.

MERCHANTS.—The first store at Bethel Corners was started by Harrison Pollay, about fifteen years ago. He continued it about three years and rented it to Chauncey Stewart, who kept it about a year. It was next kept by John DeForest, who bought it and after about a year sold it to Thomas D. Wands, who kept it about six months and sold to Mason Andrews, who built a larger store, which was burned about four months after. Newton G. Phelps opened a store in 1871, and in 1872 he built a new store. He did business here in all five years. He rented the building and sold his stock to John W. Guider, who kept store about a year, when he sold his goods to a man in Auburn, who removed them to that place. There has been no store kept here since.

POSTMASTERS.—The first post-master at Bethel Corners was Edwin C. Holcomb, who held the office some six or eight years. He was succeeded about ten years ago by George B. Andrews, who still holds the office and distributes the mail in his house.

BETHEL M. E. CHURCH, at Bethel Corners, was

organized in 1828, by Rev. Geo. W. Densmore, with nine members, viz: Samuel Andrews, and Margaret his wife, Lois Andrews, his mother, Geo. B. Andrews, his son, Eliza Andrews, his daughter, Mrs. Maria Follett, Mrs. Abram Williams, and — Kinney and wife, of whom only Geo. B. Andrews and Maria Follett are living. Revs. Geo. W. Densmore and W. Ninde were the first pastors on this circuit, for two years. The present pastor is Olin Webster, who commenced his labors October 1st, 1877. Their church edifice was built about twenty-six years ago. The present membership is about seventy; and the attendance at Sabbath school, about twenty.

#### IRA STATION.

Ira Station, on the S. C. R. R., is on the west line, two miles west of Ira Center. There is nothing here but the depot.

MANUFACTURES.—One-half mile west of Ira Center is a saw-mill, owned by W. H. Carr and James Follett, and built in 1848, by Samuel Phelps, Jr., and Samuel Sturge. In 1870, new machinery was put in and a stave machine added. The motive power is furnished by a thirty-six horse-power engine. Its capacity is 5,000 feet of lumber per day.

In the south part of the town, about midway on the road between Cato and Meridian, is a cheese-factory owned by Abial Cook. It was started by a stock company about six years ago and run by them about two years, when it came into the hands of Abial Cook, who was the principal stock-holder. Three cheese only are made per day.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

### GEORGE R. RICH.

GEORGE R. RICH is the sixth child of John and Sarah (Eastman) Rich, who were natives of Connecticut, both of whom were born about the year 1778. His father was a farmer, and brick-maker by trade. In 1802, his parents moved from Connecticut, and settled in Fort Ann, Washington county, N. Y., where his father resided until his death, which occurred in 1821.

George R. was born in Fort Ann, in 1809, and in the year 1834, came with his mother to Ira, Cayuga County, where, in 1869, she passed from earthly life at the advanced age of ninety-one years.

The subject of this brief sketch had but a few advantages for an early education. He worked for neighboring farmers by the day and month during the summers, and attended the district schools winters, until he was eighteen years of age. He followed farming, and employed his leisure time in preparing himself for his profession, that of the law, until the year 1843, but he was admitted to practice in the County courts in 1842. In 1843 he went into the office of Judge Humphries, at that time one of the ablest jurists in the State, where he studied until 1848. He was admitted to practice in all the courts that year, and has been concerned in the adjustment of many intricate suits which called into requisition great powers of mind, and the exercise of superior judgment.

Few have passed through the vicissitudes attending a long practice of the profession with more honor, and given more general satisfaction to both plaintiff and defendant. Being of an iron constitution he still retains much of that buoyancy of spirit which characterized his youthful days.

In 1859 he was appointed by Gov. Morgan, Loan Commissioner for the County of Cayuga, which office he held for about eight years.

He has by rigid economy and close application to his business accumulated a competency which will tend to smooth life's rugged pathway down through old age. His house has ever been an asylum for the needy who were thought worthy, and no one was ever turned away empty. In politics Mr. Rich was a Democrat in his earlier life, but after the formation of the Republican party he voted with and worked for the interests of the latter till the nomination of Horace Greeley in 1872, since which time he has voted for the "best man" in his judgment, at every election, regardless of party. For many years he was a member and a liberal supporter of the Baptist church, but now attends the Disciples' church.

On the 23d of April, 1834, he was joined in marriage to Margaret Ann (Wood) Wallace, daughter of Ruloff and Maria (Van Alstine) Wood, of Montgomery county. Her mother is yet living and is a member of Mr. Rich's family. Her age is 87 years.

They have raised a large family of children, of whom they have reason to feel proud, and have given them a good education, at the same time instilling in their minds the value of industry and economy. Their names are here given in the order of their births; Frank, now a prominent and successful attorney at Cato, N. Y., who was born February 3d, 1835, and married Frances

W. Petty, June 15th, 1859; Letitia, who was born September 28th, 1836, married Stephen Olmsted, October 28th, 1855, and died September 6th, 1869; Margaret A., who was born October 30th, 1838, and married Doctor James Benton, November 10th, 1853; George A., who was born November 15th, 1841, and married Julia Tucker March 21st, 1865; Mary C., who was born February 26th, 1844, and married Arthur W. Tucker October 18th, 1864; John E., who was born July 18th, 1846, and married Mary Flagler, August 10th, 1867; Gratie, who was born February 11th, 1849, and died September 25th, 1850; Charles L., who was born July 26th, 1852, and died April 14th, 1855; Charles, who was born June 17th, 1857, and is now preparing himself for the law with his brother Frank.

### ROBERT JOHNSON.

ROBERT JOHNSON is the third son of Edward Johnson, a native of Grimsby, England, who came to America and settled on lot 45, in the town of Ira, Cayuga County, in the year 1816. Edward Johnson was a cabinet maker by trade, but followed farming in this country. He married Ann Clayton, in England, about the year 1796. There were born to them twelve children. He died April 9th, 1843, aged 71 years, and his wife died July 1st, 1855, in her 84th year.

Robert came with his father to this country. He was left in Albany, when the family were on their way to Cayuga County, and there he worked at his trade of brass moulder for about six months. He then went to his father's in Ira, going the entire distance on foot. He worked with his father on the farm about three years, then went to Philadelphia, Pa., where he was employed about one year by his brother, the late Lawrence Johnson, Esq., who was an extensive type manufacturer. He returned to the home of his father and remained there, employed on the farm, until 1829. On the 1st of January, 1829, he was married to Mary M. Earl, daughter of Reuben and Susan (Cary) Earl. For eight years after their marriage they lived in a house on his father's farm. He then purchased ninety acres of land on lot 31, and has added by purchase from time to time until his farm now contains 165 acres.

They had two children. The elder, Charlotte, was born October 14th, 1829. This daughter, from the age of ten years, was an invalid till her death, which occurred November 3d, 1877.

The second child, Lucy S., was born December 8th, 1841. She was united in marriage with C. Walcott Burritt, January 20th, 1863.

Mr. Johnson has been Overseer of the Poor in his town, and held the office of Excise Commissioner for twelve years. He has settled many estates.

In politics he is a staunch Republican.

Robert Johnson Burritt, son of C. W. and Lucy Burritt, was born May 20th, 1874.

### JOHN TURNER KNAPP.

JOHN TURNER KNAPP is the second child of Uz and Abigail (Sherman) Knapp. His father was born in Vermont and his mother in Connecticut. They moved from Vermont and settled in the town of Moreau, Saratoga county, N. Y., about the year 1797. They remained there, his father following the trade of shoemaker, until 1810, when they removed further west, to the town of Cato, Cayuga County. His father here was engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes and leather until his death, which occurred in the year 1816, one year after the death of his wife, in 1815. There were born to them five children, viz.: Sallie, John T., Abigail, Betsey and Mary, all of whom are now dead, except John T., who was born May 19th, 1802, in the town of Moreau, Saratoga county, and came with his parents to Cato. As soon as his strength would permit he was put into service in his father's tannery grinding bark, and when not employed in that capacity he was engaged in fitting boots and shoes, and at the time of his father's death, being only fourteen years old, he was so skillful as to be able to make and finish a pair of boots or shoes in a manner nearly equal to that of some of the best workmen in his father's employ.

The facilities for obtaining an education were meager in those times and young Knapp was able to attend school only during the winter months, which he did with the exception of one year, up to 1816, about eighteen months all told. After his father's death he lived with his half brother for about two years, working summers at his trade and going to school winters. In the year 1818, being anxious to finish his trade of tanner and currier, he went to Oswego and engaged with Shopley & Card, with whom he remained a little more than one year.

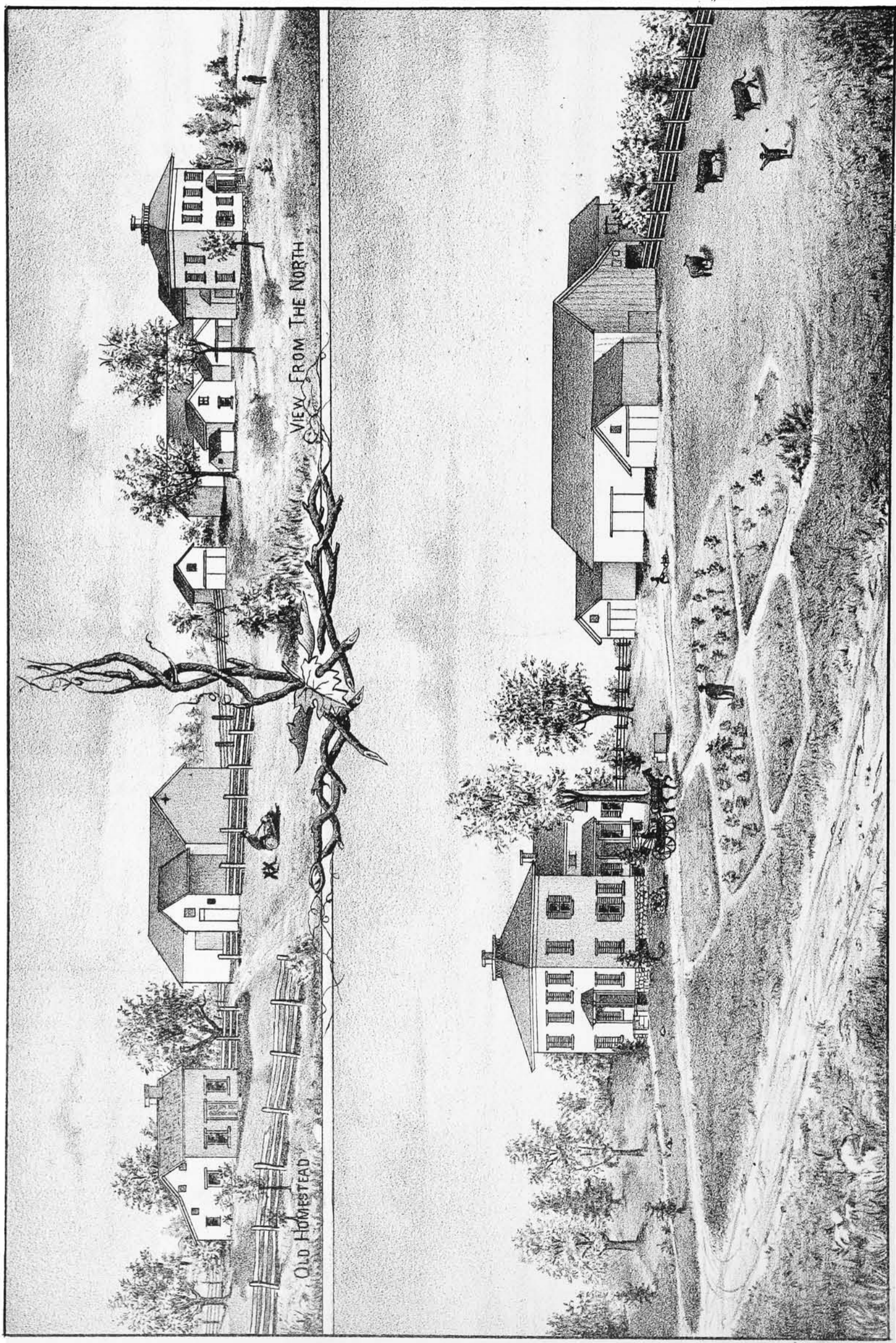
In 1820 he went to what was then Cato, now Victory, Cayuga County, and was engaged there from that time until 1854, in the manufacture of leather, boots and shoes and lumber, owning and operating a steam saw-mill, and carrying on a general country store.

In 1853 he was elected sheriff of the County. Owing to the sudden death of Sheriff Fancher, Mr. Knapp was appointed December 7th, 1853, by Governor Seymour to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Fancher, and moved to Auburn and took possession of the County building on the first of January, 1854.

In the spring of 1858 Mr. Knapp moved to the village of Cato, where he now resides, and







VIEW FROM THE NORTH

OLD HOMESTEAD

RESIDENCE OF C.B. SPRAGUE, IRA, GAYUGA Co. N.Y.



engaged in farming, which business he has followed up to the present time.

In politics Mr. Knapp was a Free Soil Democrat until the adoption of the Buffalo Platform by the followers of Martin Van Buren, and upon the formation of the Republican party he joined its ranks and has ever been an earnest supporter of its principles and objects. During the late war he was a special detective for two years, having received his appointment from the Provost-Marshal-General. About this time he was appointed by Governor Seymour to the position of recruiting agent for the station at Auburn.

Mr. Knapp has also held other offices of trust and responsibility, among which may be named that of postmaster at Victory for fifteen years, and Justice of the Peace for the same length of time and at the same place.

In 1823 he was joined in marriage to Theoda, daughter of John and Theoda (Hunt) Newcomb, of Cayuga County. She was born in Lebanon, now Columbia, Conn., in 1805. She died February 19th, 1874. She was a pure-minded, large-hearted, Christian woman, with malice towards none and charity for all, and loved and honored by all who enjoyed the favor of her acquaintance. There have been born to them ten children, named in the order of their birth: Submit Jerusha, born March 20th, 1824, died December 19th, 1840; John N., born November 3d, 1826; Lovinia Eliza, born May 26th, 1828, died February 26th, 1829; James G., born November 26th, 1830; Edward N., born September 6th, 1832, who was a Captain in 52d Illinois infantry, and killed at the battle of Shiloh April 7th, 1862; Harriette E., born March 25th, 1835, died January 28th, 1861, wife of Dr. Henry Parker; Charles H., born January 12th, 1837; Theoda Abigail, born August 10th, 1838; Dwight B., born April 12th, 1840, died December 16th, 1840; George P., born March 4th, 1842.

### C. BURTON SPRAGUE.

C. BURTON SPRAGUE was born in Ira November 5th, 1830. He is the youngest child of Parmenas and Christina Sprague. His father was born in Saratoga county October 16th, 1781. His father was married three times. His first wife, Rebecca Nobles, was born February 19th, 1787. They married February 14th, 1804. She died December 2d, 1807. By this wife he had three daughters.

His second wife, Mary A. Potter, was born July 4th, 1787; married April 30th, 1809. She died October 9th, 1828. By her he had seven children—five girls and two boys. His third wife, Christina, was born November 12th, 1796. They were married December 17th, 1829. She

died November 13th, 1873. The subject of this sketch is the result of this union. His father came to this County about the year 1806, and settled on lot 20 in the town of Ira. He purchased 100 acres of land and resided upon it until his death, which occurred June 11th, 1871; at the advanced age of nearly ninety years.

C. B. Sprague lived at home with his father until he was seventeen years old; then worked out two years by the month. He attended the district school till he was fourteen, and after that time had no schooling except three terms that he attended in the Academy at Red Creek, Wayne county, when he was twenty years of age. He then taught school two winters. After that he worked land on shares and burned lime. Then he purchased the old homestead of his brother, at that time containing forty-eight acres of land, and in addition to that fifty acres adjoining. He has added from time to time by purchase till now his farm contains 146 acres. He is still residing on that place.

October 16th, 1853, he married Miss Elizabeth D. Campbell, daughter of William and Polly Campbell, of the village of Cato. There have been born to them four children, three of whom are living, as follows: Emma L., born January 9th, 1855; Clara E., born January 31st, 1859; and Willie Burt, born February 5th, 1869. In politics Mr. Sprague is a staunch Republican. He is a member of the Baptist church in Ira, was clerk of that church for many years, and for eleven years was the Superintendent of its Sunday school. Mr. Sprague has been successful in life, notwithstanding that for many years he has been afflicted with a partial failure of his eye sight. He is a self-made man, and all that he is or has in this world he owes to his own energy and talents. A view of his beautiful home may be seen on another page of this work.

### CHAPTER XXXIV.

#### TOWN OF CONQUEST.

CONQUEST lies upon the west border of the County, north of the center, and is bounded on the north by Victory, on the east by Cato, on the south by Seneca River, and on the west by Wayne county. It is the south-west quarter of the township of Cato, or No. 3 of the Military Tract, from which it was erected March 16th, 1821. Its name commemorates the victory achieved by those who favored a division of the town of Cato over those who opposed it.

The surface is gently rolling, being broken by low ridges extending from north to south. It has considerable waste land, in the swamps and marshes which extend along the river forming the southern boundary, and along the course of a small stream which runs through the town from north to south a little west of the center. Duck Lake, in the north-west part, is about a mile in diameter. It is fed by springs within and upon its border, having no inlet, and contains an abundance of fish, principally bass. Six thousand trout were introduced into it in the spring of 1878.

It is underlaid by red shale, which, from the depth of alluvium and soil, is exposed in but few places. A deposit of gypsum four feet in thickness exists on Howland's Island, nearly forty feet below the level of Seneca River. The soil consists of a sandy and gravelly loam, intermixed with clay, interspersed with tracts of rich and fertile arable and grass lands.

The population of the town in 1875 was 1,727; of whom 1,607 were native, 120 foreign, 1,723 white, and 4 colored.

The town covers an area of 22,369 acres; of which 15,895 are improved, 3,831 woodlands, and 2,643 otherwise unimproved.

The first settlements in the town were made in 1800, by George Snyder, a Revolutionary soldier and a bachelor, from Schoharie county, and Israel Wolverton, from Tompkins county, the former of whom settled on lot 37, where he died some fifty years ago, and the latter, on lot 4, where he died some fifty-five years ago. Amos Wolverton, a son of the latter, who was born in 1803, was the first child born in the town.

Further settlements were made in 1802 by James Perkins and his sons Gilbert, Ira, Jeremiah, who was a surveyor, and John, from Onondaga county, on lot 3. In 1840 James Perkins built the first frame house, which was torn down twenty-two years ago, and stood on the site of the house now owned by Chauncey McDaniels. Caroline, a daughter of John Perkins, (now Mrs. Chauncey McDaniels,) is the only descendant of the Perkinses now living in the town. James Perkins died November 22d, 1813, aged seventy years, and Tryphena, his wife, January 26th, 1828, aged seventy-three years. Gilbert, who contracted the first marriage with Betsey Snyder, died July 3d, 1824, aged forty-seven; and John, who taught the first school at Con-

quest Center in 1807, and who was a captain in the war of 1812, being stationed at Sacketts Harbor, was born August 21st, 1774, and died January 17th, 1828. Ephraim Wetherell, from Tompkins county, settled on lot 4 in 1802, and the following year he opened the first tavern. It was built of logs and stood on the farm now occupied by David Anthony, two miles south of Conquest Center. He died February 23d, 1849, aged seventy-six. Theophilus and Clement B. Emerson also settled this year, the former on lot 27, and the latter on lot 15. The Emersons were brothers. They took up a tract of land and went to Galen, in Wayne county, and chopped wood for the salt works there to earn money to pay for it. Both died in the town, the former November 14th, 1863, aged eighty-six, and the latter, who was born March 1st, 1785, July 28th, 1849. Lewis and Richard Emerson, sons of Theophilus, are living in the town. The children of Clement B. Emerson, moved to Michigan some thirty years ago.

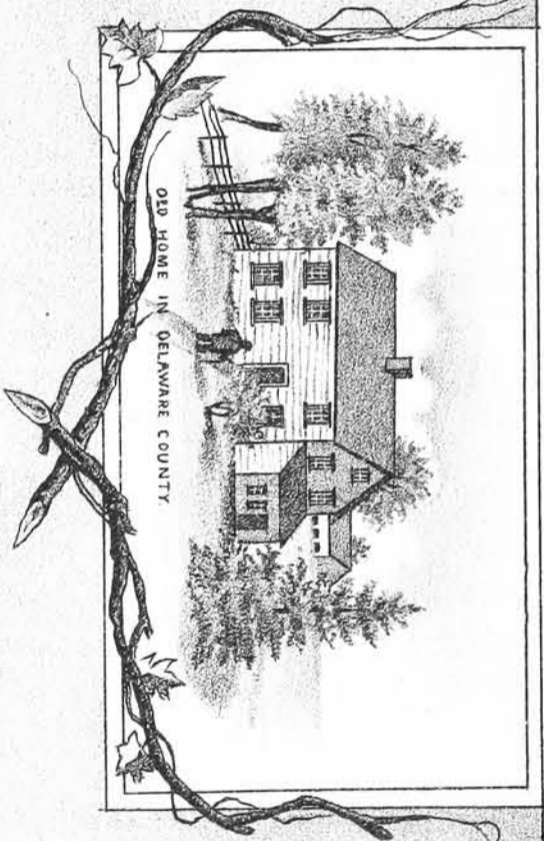
In 1805 Dijar Wilcox, from Saratoga county, settled on lot 74; and Wm. McCollam and John Crowell, from Newburgh, on lot 77, about two and one-fourth miles north of the Center. Crowell located where his son Jacob now lives. He erected the first saw-mill, about sixty years ago, on Duck Lake outlet. It was a small affair, and never did much, the outlet affording but a slight fall. William Crowell, a brother of John, and brother-in-law of McCollam, settled on lot 77 in 1807. McCollam died January 22d, 1855, aged eighty-one, John Crowell died February 26th, 1831, aged forty-eight; and William, February 24th, 1842, aged sixty-nine.

Wm. and Philander Phinney, and their father, all of whom were blacksmiths, came from Saratoga county in 1812, and settled at Conquest Center. James Bennett, a German, from N. J., settled about half a mile north of Conquest Center the same year.

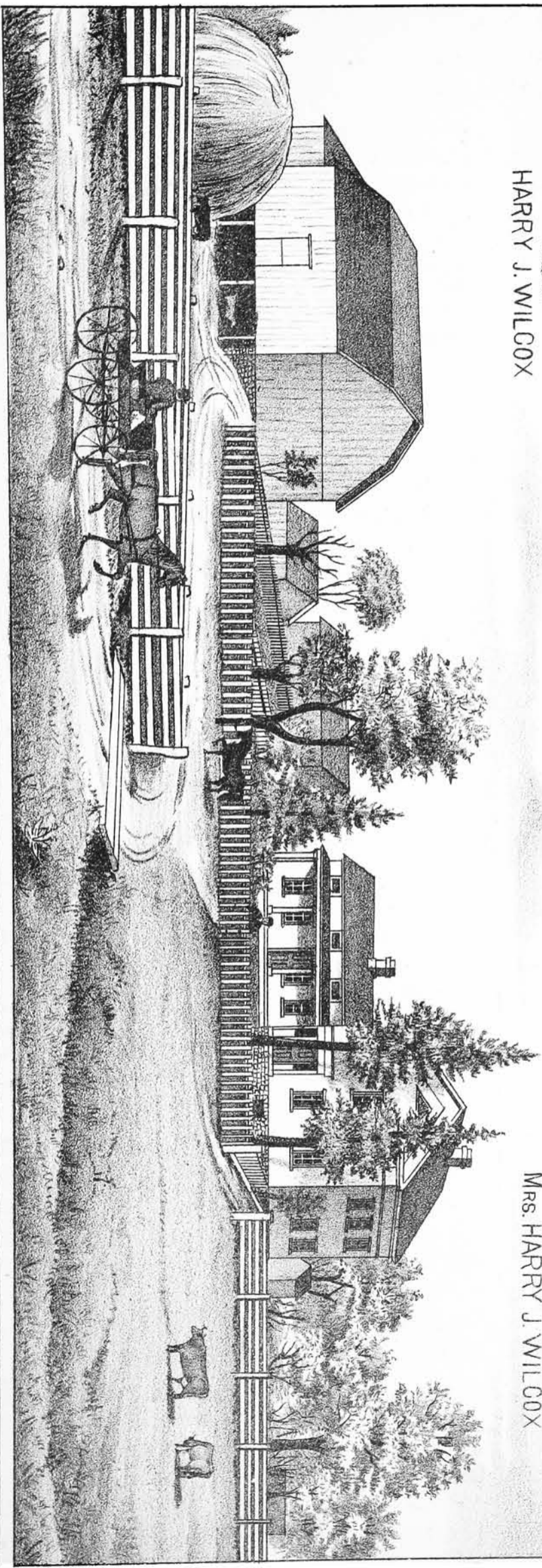
John and Philip Snyder, brothers of George Snyder, came in from Schoharie county about 1815, and settled about midway between Conquest Center and Spring Lake, on the farm now owned by Henry Moore. Philip brought in his family, consisting of his wife and seven children, only two of the latter of whom, viz: William and Margaret, are now living in the town, diagonally opposite where their father settled.



HARRY J. WILCOX



MRS. HARRY J. WILCOX



RESIDENCE OF H. J. WILCOX, CONQUEST, CAYUGA Co. N. Y.



In 1817, Samuel Campbell settled on lot 78, where his son, Samuel B. Campbell, now lives; Philo Collins, father of Myron Collins, on lot 4, and five years thereafter removed to the farm on which he lived and died; and Daniel Wolford, a native of Albany, came at the age of two years, and is now living on lot 79 in this town.

Hiram J. Lake, a surveyor, was born in Litchfield county, Conn., in 1818, and in 1822 moved to Conquest, where he is now living on lot 90. L. H. Ballard moved into the town of Mentz in 1822, and was assessor there six years. He removed to Conquest, where he was justice of the peace eleven years and supervisor three years. He was supervisor in Victory one year, and justice of the peace three years.

TOWN OFFICERS.—The first town meeting of Conquest was held at the house of I. V. R. Perkins, pursuant to an act of the Legislature, passed March 16th, 1821, and the following named officers were elected: William Crowell, *Supervisor*; I. V. R. Perkins, *Clerk*; Joseph I. Chase, Theophilus Emerson and Ephraim Wetherell, *Assessors*; Isaiah Cortright, *Collector*; William McCollam, Theophilus Emerson and I. V. R. Perkins, *Commissioners of Highways*; Theophilus Emerson, *Overseer of the Poor*; Ephraim Wetherell and Enos Wetherell, *Constables*; Isaiah Cortright and Benjamin Osgood, *Commissioners of Common Schools*; Samuel Campbell, I. V. R. Perkins, Joseph I. Chase and Josiah Houghton, *Inspectors of Common Schools*; and Benoni Harris, William Crowell and Theophilus Emerson, *Commissioners of Gospel and School Lands*.

The town officers in 1878 were: Matthew Hunter, *Supervisor*; William H. Slack, *Clerk*; P. D. Blass, *Assessor*; Grover Lane, *Commissioner*; William Thomas, *Town Auditor*; R. Hutchins and Samuel Townsend, *Overseers of the Poor*; George W. Fuller, Henry S. Wendover, John H. Blakeman, George Presho and Willie Winnegar, *Constables*; Alfred P. Thompson, *Game Constable*; George Parsell, H. C. Slack, Matthias Huffman and W. B. Priddy, *Justices*.

#### CONQUEST CENTER.

Conquest Center (Conquest p. o.) is situated about the center of the town, six miles north-west of Port Byron, with which it is connected by daily stage, and five miles south-west of Cato, on the Southern Central R. R. It contains two

churches, (M. E. and Protestant Methodist,) one district school, one hotel, (of which Lawrence J. Lindsley, from Ira, became proprietor May 1st, 1878,) two stores, one wagon shop, (of which John VanAuken is proprietor,) and one blacksmith shop, of which George Parsell and Henry Blakeman are proprietors. It has a population of seventy-five or eighty.

The first settlement in this locality was made in 1802, by James Perkins and his four sons, as previously stated. It is pleasantly situated, and is surrounded by a country sufficiently fertile to render a generous return for the care and energy of the husbandman. It lies in the midst of an industrious and thrifty community of farmers, to whom the practical and really useful are held of greater importance than the ornate or the beautiful.

MERCHANTS.—The first merchant at Conquest Center was Jonathan P. Davis, who opened a store in 1824, but remained only three years. He was succeeded by Seth Sheldon, who bought his stock of goods, and who, in the winter of 1826, started an ashery on the lot owned by Sarah A. Cook. Sheldon was born in the east part of the County, near the line between Brutus and Senett, whence he came to this town. He likewise kept the store only about three years. The third merchant was Albert Crane, who remained some twelve years; and next after him was Asahel Mundy, who remained two or three years and removed to Seneca Falls. Henry J. Wilcox and — Worthington bought out Mundy in 1845, and dissolved partnership and discontinued, in 1847.

David Horton started a second store in 1844. In 1849 he sold his store and goods to Enos Wetherell, who continued about two years, when he sold to Joseph Gifford, who removed the store and goods about a mile and a half south of the village. Gifford was a blacksmith, and his wife tended the store. After four or five years he removed to the west part of the State, and the store, which was subsequently converted into a dwelling, stood till the spring of 1878. Wm. C. Hardenbergh was the next merchant in the village. He was succeeded by Henry Follett, A. P. Crowell, and George Stone. The latter died after three or four years, after which his wife carried on the business till burned out some ten years ago. A store was kept after this by a Mr.



Shedd, from an eastern county in this State, by Peter Hood, and by Abraham Van Pelt, neither of whom remained long. Van Pelt sold to David C. Horton, who continued six years, and in the spring of 1877, sold to the present occupants, Velie Mead and Frank E. Davis, who keep a general stock such as is usually kept in a country store. Horton removed to Michigan.

About a year ago Henry J. Lake opened a small grocery, which he still keeps.

There is no manufacturing establishment in the village; but about half a mile north is a saw-mill owned by Eugene Olmstead, who moved in from Mentz, his native town, and has carried on the business some eight or ten years. The first mill in this locality was built by Henry Switzer some fifty years ago. It was the second saw-mill in the town, and stood near the site of the present one:

PHYSICIANS.—The first physician in Conquest Center was Dr. Nathan Wood, who joined the County Medical Society August 4th, 1808, and practiced here a good many years. He died October 6th, 1824, aged forty-two years. After Wood's death John Jakway, who resided at Cato, practiced here, making the circuit on horse-back. For several years there was no resident physician here. Alvah Randall, from Massachusetts, commenced the practice of medicine here fifty-one years ago, and remained ten or twelve years. He was succeeded by Eleazer R. Palmer, from the eastern part of this State, about 1839, January 3d of which year he joined the County Medical Society. He died here January 28th, 1852, aged forty-one years. His widow still lives here. He was succeeded by his brother-in-law, George Washington Reynolds, the present and only physician in the village, who studied medicine with Dr. Palmer, and joined the County Medical Society January 17th, 1867.

POSTMASTERS.—The first post-master was Benjamin Osgood; the present one is Dr. Geo. W. Reynolds.

HOTELS.—The present hotel was built by Isaiah Cortright fifty-two years ago. Cortright kept the hotel a number of years, and was the first hotel-keeper in the village.

CHURCHES.—One of the first preachers in this locality was Manonah Harris, who settled near Conquest Center about sixty years ago, long before there was any church organized here. He

used to go on a circuit with his saddle bags, in one of which he carried his Bible, and in the other such things as he needed on the journey.

THE PROTESTANT METHODIST CHURCH, at Conquest Center, was organized about 1831, by Rev. Joshua Beebe, who was the first settled pastor. Prominent among the first members were, David Horton, Timothy and Martin Beebe, brothers of Joshua, the pastor, Amasa T. and Burt Currier, brothers, John S. Horton and wife, Paulina, and James and Simon Haley. For the first two years meetings were held in the school-house. At the expiration of that time their church edifice, the one now in use, was built by David Horton, who furnished and drew all the timber, had it hewed, and supplied all the money used in its construction. It cost about \$1,600, which sum was mostly reimbursed to Mr. Horton. It was repaired at an expense of some \$200 about twelve years ago. Mr. Beebe continued the pastorate about eight or ten years. The present pastor is Rev. John Forbes, who has performed the duties of that office a little less than a year. The present membership of the church is about one hundred; the attendance at Sabbath School, about forty.

THE M. E. CHURCH, at Conquest Center, was organized about 1843 or '44, by Rev. H. Madison. John Hamilton and Jacob Struble were among the first members. The first pastor was Rev. William Castle, who remained two years. Other pastors of this church were, Revs. Alden, Peleg Barker, Marcius Rowe, D. E. Davis, Isaac Harris, ——— Phillips, William J. Mills, Richard Clark, Calvin Connell, and the present one William N. Sharp. Their church was built about twenty-five years ago. It is now undergoing extensive repairs, which will cost about \$1,800. The present number of members is about ninety, and the attendance at Sabbath School, about fifty.

The Society met with the Protestant Methodists, as a Union Church, until some misunderstanding arose, which resulted in a separation and the building of the present church.

#### SPRING LAKE.

Spring Lake (p. o.) was formerly known as *Pineville*, which name it derived from the pine forests which, at an early day, covered the locality, pine being the principal timber in this immediate



RESIDENCE OF ESTHER HARRIS, CONQUEST CENTER, CAYUGA CO. N.Y.



RESIDENCE OF ROBERT E. WILCOX, CONQUEST CENTER, CAYUGA CO. N.Y.



section when the first settlements were made. The name was changed in the spring of 1874, when the post-office was established here. It is an attractive little village of ninety-five inhabitants, pleasantly situated on Duck Lake outlet, which is, however, of little hydraulic importance. It contains one church, (Prot. Meth.,) one hotel, (the Spring Lake House, which was built about 1851, by Hiram Worden, who kept it about nineteen months, and has been kept for fourteen years by his nephew, George K. Worden, the present proprietor, who bought the property of Alfred Disbrow,) one store, two blacksmith shops, (kept by Jacob White and Daniel Palmer,) two pump factories, one tin shop, (kept by Frank Garity and David Wickham,) and one milliner shop, which is kept by Miss Allie Reynolds.

**MERCHANTS.**—The present merchant at Spring Lake is D. E. White, who came in from Rensselaer county, and has kept the store about twelve years. He is also the postmaster, an office he has held for four years, having been appointed when the post-office was established here.

**PHYSICIANS.**—The first physician was Dr. Wm. Thomas, who came from Butler Center in the spring of 1849, and has since practiced here. He belongs to the botanic school of medicine. The only other physician is Charles S. Stocking, an allopath, who came from Red Creek about ten years ago.

**MANUFACTURERS.**—There are two establishments for the manufacture of wooden section pumps. One is owned by Henry Curren, who came in from Port Bay, north of Wolcott, about twenty-eight years ago, and has been engaged in the business about twenty years; the other by Frank Garity, who has been engaged in the business about twelve years.

**THE PROTESTANT METHODIST CHURCH,** at Spring Lake, was organized in 1853, by Rev. Nathan R. Swift, the first pastor. Some of the first members were Charles Frost and wife, Peter Thompson and wife, Jacob White, Archibald Forbes and wife, and Timothy Beebe. Swift served a pastorate of two or three years, and was succeeded by Revs. James Smith, — Ballou, Ira H. Hogans and — Ellis. Swift again became the pastor, remaining this time five years, and was succeeded by his brother Philip,

the present pastor, five years ago. Their house of worship was built in 1855, and in 1875 it was moved back, enlarged and remodeled, nothing but the old frame being used, at an expense of \$3,800. It will seat about 300 persons. The present number of members is 140. The attendance at Sabbath school is about 100.

**SPRING LAKE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY** was organized in December, 1877. Edson H. Marvin was elected *President*; Henry Curren, *Vice-President*; and Wm. Thomas, *Secretary*. It has a membership of 120; but does not hold regular meetings.

Among the early settlers at Spring Lake was Jason Goodell, who owned at one time about seventy-five acres of the village site. He is now living in the north part of the town.

“**THE PEPPER MILL.**”—In the south-east corner of the town is a hamlet, which is locally known as *The Pepper Mill*. Theophilus Emerson, one of the first settlers, and probably the first in that locality, built a small grist-mill there at a very early day, and ground corn in small quantities for the settlers. This mill, which is still standing on the farm now owned by Lewis Emerson, a son of Theophilus, was built in 1810, and was the first grist-mill erected in the town. It was and is still known as *The Pepper Mill*, a name derived, says one authority, from its diminutive size, and by another, from the fact that at first a store was kept in it. Previous to the erection of this mill the settlers carried their grists to Springport, the journey being made by way of Seneca River and Cayuga Lake, and occupying four days. A canoe capable of holding sixty bushels of grain, was constructed by their joint efforts, and in this the grists of the whole neighborhood were conveyed. “In 1813, John Filkins took a load of wheat to Albany, and was obliged to sell the wheat and one horse to defray the expenses of the journey.”\*

Among the first settlers in this locality were families named Slayton and Lucas, descendants of both of which are now living in the town.

There is in the locality known as *The Pepper Mill*, a Christian church, a small store, owned by Wm. S. Freer, two blacksmith shops, owned by Leonard Rickard and — Beach, a wagon shop, owned by Wm. Wilson, and some fifty inhabitants.

\* *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Cayuga County, 1868.*



## HOWLAND'S ISLAND.

HOWLAND'S ISLAND, in Seneca River, has the general form of a parallelogram, is nine and a half miles in circumference and contains between 3,000 and 4,000 acres, one-third of which is swampy and submerged during high water. It derives its name from Humphrey Howland, who acquired the title to it by buying soldiers' scrip for nominal sums, and took possession of it about 1823-'4. Previous to Howland's connection with it, it was known as Walnut or Hickory Island, and was occupied and improved by families of *squatters* named Stone, Spiller, Hyde, Butterfield, Campbell, Herrick, Woodward, Phaddock, Harris and Springstead, there being two families by the latter name. They had established themselves as a colony and built houses and a school-house, supposing that no one owned the island. They were forced to yield to Howland's superior claims, and, though each was paid something for the improvements made by him, they relinquished with reluctance the possessions which years of privation and toil had secured, and which they had fondly hoped to leave as a heritage to their families. Harris, who was a minister, preached, taught school, did the cobbling, and made himself the useful man of the island.

"In 1804 the job of clearing four hundred acres of land was let to \* \* \* John A. Taylor, Crandall, Giles, Adam Cuykendall, Z. Wackman, James Hamilton, Jonathan Vaughn, Martin Harker, Daniel Walling and his father Jeremiah Walling, two Mc Wetheys and Daniel Size. These men took the job by contract, clearing from ten to fifty acres each. This was a great enterprise for this part of the country at that time, but the echoing click of a hundred axes told that the island, instead of being a haunt for game, must soon be covered with fields of waving grain. The next year found the work of clearing off well done. Great elms and maples and mighty oaks had been felled and piled in windrows; none were spared for any purpose. The whole mass was as dry as tinder and a sufficient number of men were employed to fire it at one time. During the day the smoke was seen for fifty miles around, and at night the blaze lit up the country for the same distance. The sight was magnificent and grand beyond description. The heat was so intense that men and cattle were driven into the swamps and into the river even, and it ruined fields of green oats a great distance away.

"The first crop of grain on this four hundred acres told of the richness of the soil. Ten thousand

and bushels of wheat were taken from the first clearing the first season."\*

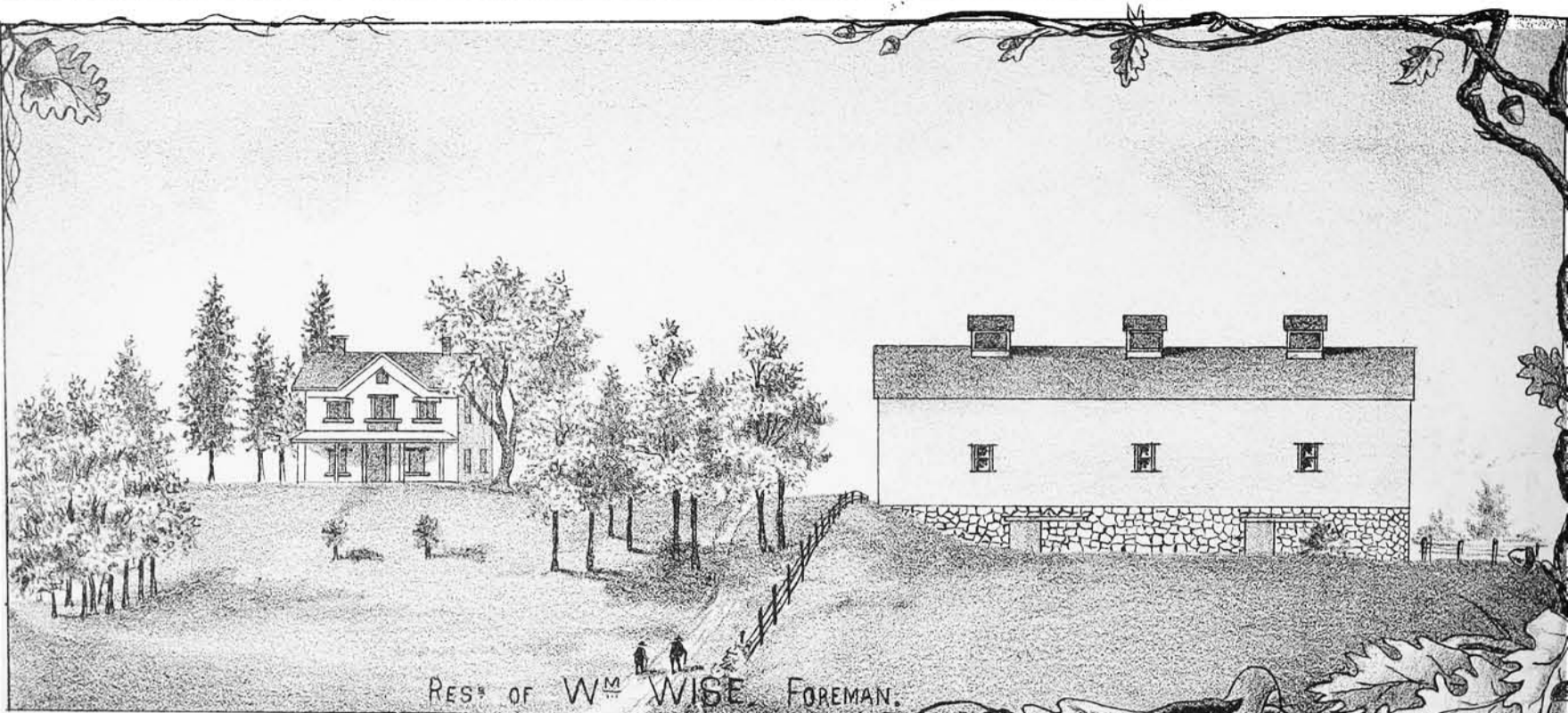
Mr. Howland was accustomed to entrust the care and management of the island to individuals, who farmed it on shares. The first manager was John Adams Taylor, now living at an advanced age near the south line of Mentz, who took charge of the island April 10th, 1826, and conducted its affairs with marked success. As Mr. Taylor was taking his share of the pigs home from the island, the scow, which was used in making the passage, struck a snag in the middle of the river and precipitated the whole cargo into the stream. The pigs finally made their way to the shore and after some difficulty were driven home. Taylor was succeeded the next year by Wm. Toll, a blacksmith, who lost his wife on the island by fever, and gave up the management at the end of the first year, without adding anything to his worldly store. Lincoln & Co., were the third managers, and their success was as marked as Toll's failure. Lincoln found and married a wife on the island, and is believed to have accumulated a handsome fortune, which enabled him to buy his farm in Conquest. They were followed by the Sheldon Bros., who were large, strong and energetic farmers, and who, during the six years they occupied the island, did handsomely both for themselves and principals. The management was next entrusted to John Wood, and the result under his supervision was as disastrous as that under the Sheldon Bros., was successful. On the death of Mr. Howland, his son, Penn Howland, came into possession of the island, and that, with hundreds of thousands of dollars besides, was soon squandered by improvidence and mismanagement.

The property was sold on mortgage in the spring of 1855, to Penn Howland's bondsman, Hiram Sibley, of Rochester, who leased it for a term of years to S. B. Fyler, with the privilege of purchasing it during that time for a given sum. Mr. Fyler commenced a thorough system of improvements. He took down over twenty miles of old and broken down fences; removed old hedges and dilapidated foundations; cleared, burned, plowed and planted waste lands which were overgrown with bushes and weeds; cut

\* From contributions to *The Port Byron Chronicle*, by the late Samuel Hayden, to which we are indebted for information relative to Howland's Island.





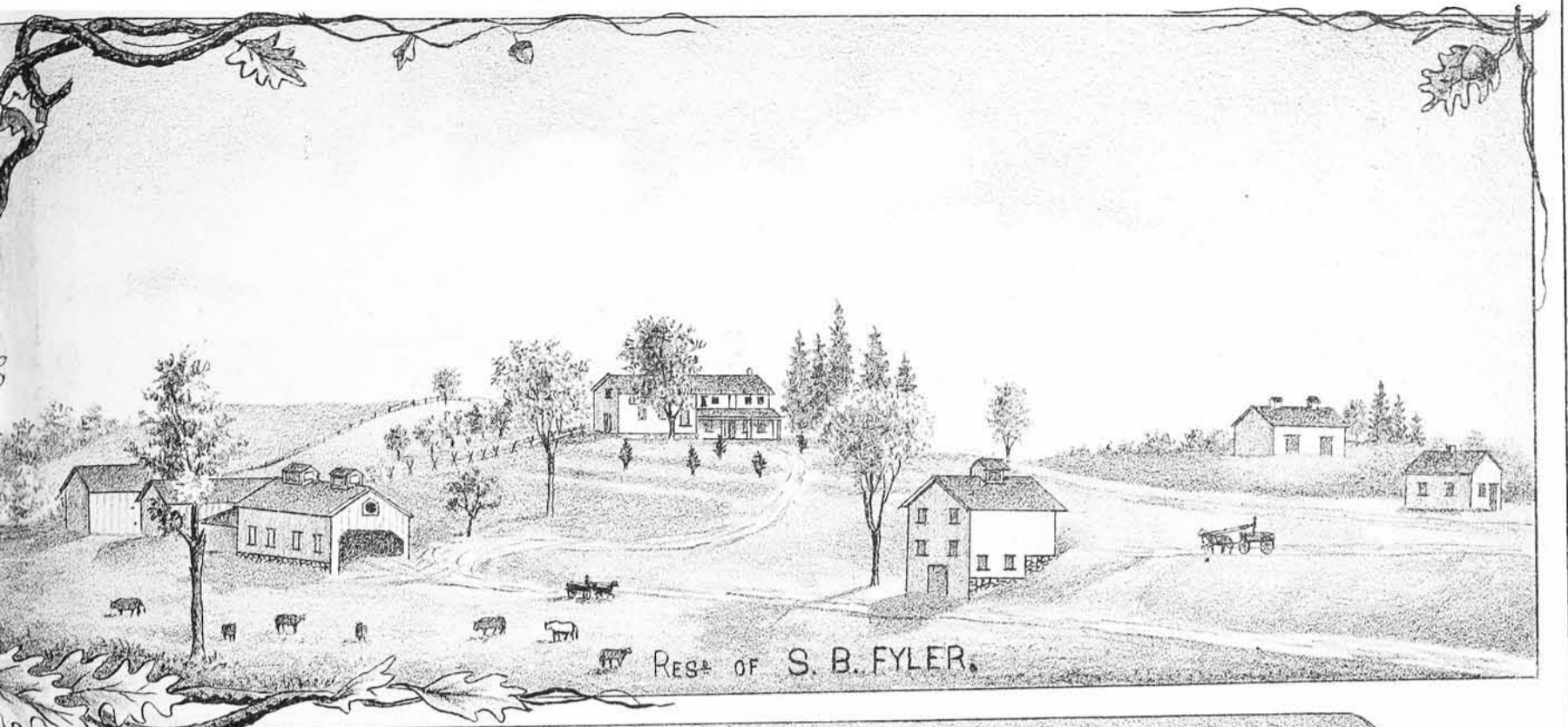


RES<sup>Y</sup> OF W<sup>M</sup> WISE FOREMAN.

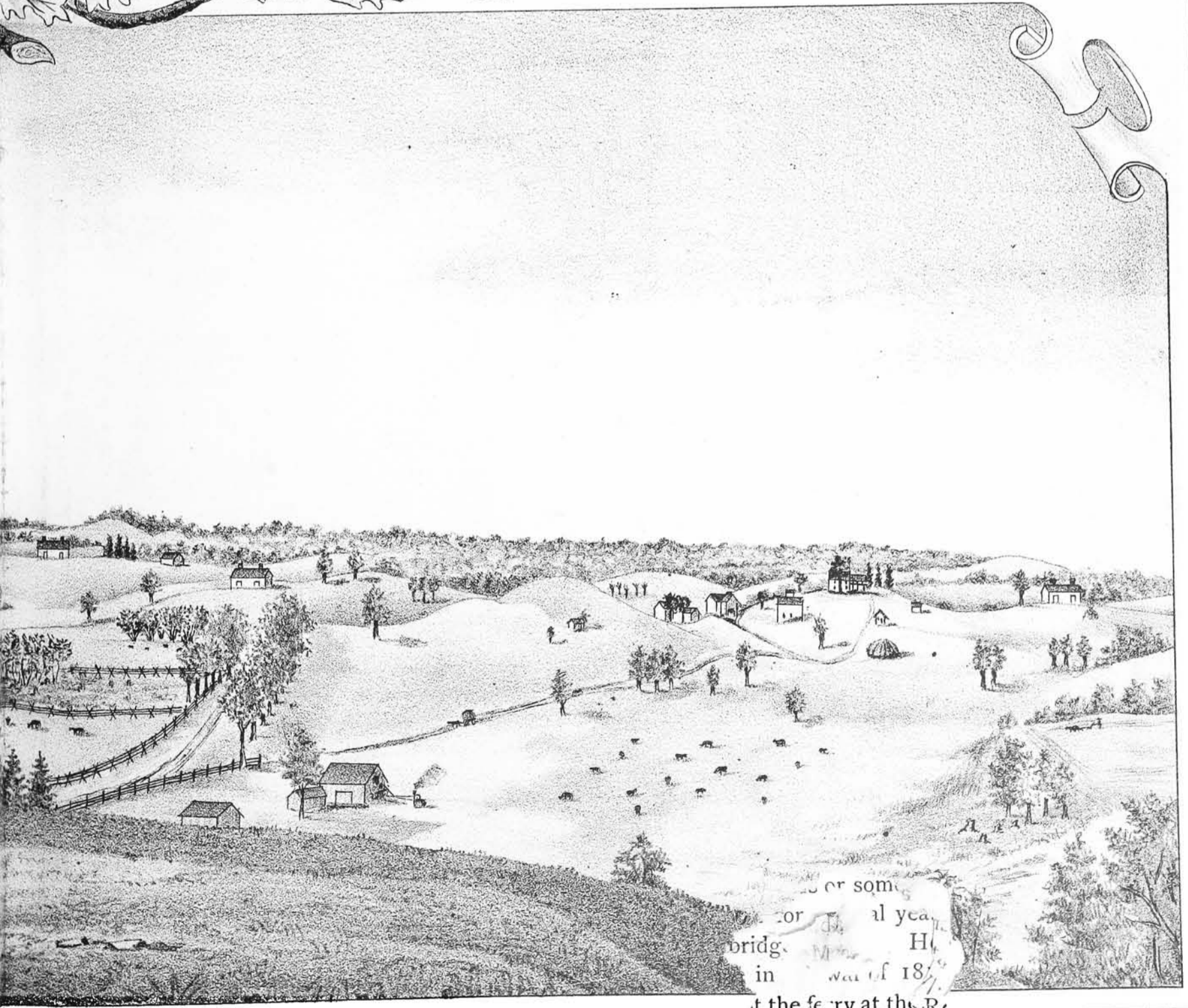


HOWLAND'S ISLAND, To





RES. OF S. B. FYLER.



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ditches over seven miles in length through the lowlands; built eight miles of new fence; and set maple trees on each side of the highway. At present there are six hundred acres more tillable land than when he commenced work on the island. He has built a grain barn capable of holding 24,000 bushels of grain; and within the last year has built a good sized farm house, eight hay barns, each eighty feet long; a horse barn and tool house, ninety-six feet long, and has repaired and painted such houses and barns as were worth repairing. He is now building a tenant-house. The last season he cut over 1,000 acres of grain and hay. He has cattle barns fitted up, and has at present 300 head of fat and store cattle, besides 125 spring calves.

If Mr. Fyler purchases this property, as he now contemplates doing, he purposes to divide it into farms of fifty or one hundred acres each and put them in the market.

The island lies lengthwise across the river. Its surface presents a somewhat singular conformation. With the exception of about one mile on the east side it is surrounded by a heavily timbered river bottom, varying from forty to one hundred rods in width, that upon one side being one or two feet higher than the opposite side. The south part of the island consists of eight hills, which spread out into inclined plains, separated by narrow intervals, and compose one-fourth of the hard land. These hills are similar in form, rising by a gentle inclination to about one-half of their height, then terminating abruptly and presenting a bold front to the north. Four are exactly 80 feet high; three others, about 100 feet; and the eighth some 12 feet higher than the latter. The remainder of the island consists of four ridges or table lands, which are separated from the hills by a narrow interval, and present the boldest front to the south. They are from one-fourth to one-third of a mile wide and one to one and one-half miles long, converging and uniting at the north and forming one general plain. The most easterly ridge is the highest and a line extended from it at an angle of two degrees touches the vertex of the other three. The hillsides are studded with boulders to a height of forty-two feet, but above that not a stone of any magnitude is found.

The soil is an exceedingly friable, sandy and gravelly loam, differing entirely with that of the

surrounding mainland, which is a stiff clay loam. The temperature of the island, from its insular position, is some degrees higher and vegetation some days earlier than in the surrounding towns.

Exactly in the center of the island is a circular basin covering an area of about fifty acres and lying about six feet above the river bottom.

From the hillsides and higher parts of the table lands issue springs, about a dozen in number, with such force as to indicate their connection with the waters of the southern lakes in the County, which, conducted and kept under by the impervious underlying strata of the intervening country, finds an outlet through the porous soil of the island.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

### HARRY JEFFERSON WILCOX.

HARRY JEFFERSON WILCOX was the third son of Mr. John Wilcox. He was born in Harpersfield, Delaware county, N. Y., March 3d, 1802. His father, who was born in Dover, Dutchess county, N. Y., February 7th, 1765, moved to Harpersfield in 1781, and purchased a farm of Mr. Alexander Harper, then an extensive land owner; but in the year 1840 he sold his farm and with his son Harry J., moved west and settled in Conquest, Cayuga County, N. Y. The following year Mr. John Wilcox died at the age of 76. His son, Mr. Harry J. Wilcox, has followed the occupation of a farmer from that time, taking the entire charge of his farm of 200 acres, until the year 1872. Since then he has spent much of his time in traveling west and south, which has afforded him the pleasure of witnessing the great growth of this nation during his life.

This gentleman has always taken an active interest in County and State enterprises. He is a Republican and strongly opposed to the oppression of any nation, always ready to contribute to the prosperity of our Union. He settled in this or some other place, accepted public office, and kept for several years. He married Miss Eliza Anson, daughter of Mr. H. Blenheim, Schoharie county, N. Y., in the fall of 1811. They have had six children, Robert, Henry, Ann, George, and Eliza. He kept the ferry at the mouth of the Schoharie river.



whom are now living, except Ann Eliza, who afterwards became the wife of Sylvester M. Young. Mr. Wilcox is now in his 77th year and enjoying good health. Mrs. Wilcox died August 18th, 1874.

## CHAPTER XXXV.

### TOWN OF CATO.

CATO lies upon the east border, north of the center of the County, and is bounded on the north by Ira, on the east by Onondaga county, on the west by Conquest, and on the south by Seneca River. It is the south-east quarter of the military township of Cato, (which comprised 143 lots of 600 acres each,) and was formed from Aurelius March 30th, 1802. At that time it comprised all that part of the County lying north of the river. Sterling was taken off June 19th, 1812; and Conquest, Ira and Victory, March 16th, 1821. The south-east corner lot of Ira was annexed in 1824, to compensate for the waste lands in Cato.

The surface is level in the south and gently rolling in the north, where the ridges, which extend north and south, rise about fifty feet above the valleys, and 150 to 200 feet above Lake Ontario. Cross Lake, upon the east border, is a shallow body of water, with low shores, about five miles long, through which Seneca River runs. Otter Lake is a shallow basin, with low, marshy shores, situated north of the center of the town. It is one and one-half miles long and three-fourths of a mile at its widest point. Parker's Pond, in the north-west part, is a rounded, shallow basin, about half a mile in diameter. It is gradually filling up each year. Its waters were lowered several feet when the improvements at Jack's Reefs were made in 1854-7. It is connected with Otter Lake, which empties into it, by Drew Creek, which is about half a mile long, and named from Darwin Drew, through whose farm it runs. The Pond is named from Daniel Parker, an early settler of Ira, and was locally known at a time when it was a "pork barrel," because of its abundance of fish. It empties into a small stream, having a fall of about half a foot in its course south-

of the town to Seneca River. All its waters are well stocked with fish.

In 1872, Hon. Ira D. Brown, then a Member of Assembly, secured an appropriation of \$5,000 to prosecute a boring for salt. A spot in the south edge of this town was selected, and a boring over 600 feet deep made the following year. A brine was obtained, which, according to an analysis made by Prof. J. J. Brown, of Syracuse University, exceeded in strength any obtained at Syracuse, but containing a greater percentage of impurities. Further work was prevented by the exhaustion of the appropriation.

The soil is a very productive alluvion, exceedingly fertile, and admirably adapted to all kinds of crops. This is one of the best agricultural towns in the County; but those who subdued its dense forests and drained its extensive marshes, filled with the decayed product of successive growths of vegetation, made terrible sacrifices in health to the noxious miasm arising therefrom. The malarial diseases then so prevalent in this locality caused many to abandon their improvements after a few years' settlement, and seek restoration to health in more favored localities, thus tending to retard somewhat the settlement of the town. These difficulties have, however, gradually disappeared, and, until the last two summers, have not been experienced for many years.

The Southern Central Railroad enters the town near the center of the south border and leaves it in the north-west part; and by its connection with the New York Central Railroad and Erie Canal at Weedsport and the Lake Ontario Shore Railroad at Sterling, opens up very accessible markets for its valuable pomonic and varied agricultural products.

The river is spanned within the limits of the town by three bridges, two of wood and one of iron. The latter, in the south-east corner, connects Cato and Elbridge, and was built in 1868, at a cost of about \$25,000, toward which Cayuga and Onondaga counties each contributed \$5,000, the remainder being paid in equal shares by the towns of Cato and Elbridge. It replaced a wooden bridge owned by the Cato and Jordan Plank Road Company, and abandoned by them in 1866. The wooden bridge in the south-west part was supported by the Plank Road Company, incorporated in 1848. Their charter having expired, the bridge became the property of the town.

The first settlement was made in 1800, by Samson Lawrence, who located on lot 32, on the farm latterly owned by Asa Crossman. Andrew Stockwell, from Whitehall, N. Y., also settled in 1800, about a mile and a half south-east of Meridian, on the farm now owned by Charles Bloomfield. His marriage with Sybil Root, June 4th, 1804, was the first in the town ; and their daughter Alvira, (who, in company with her mother, met with a tragic death about 1840, both being burned in the house of Chauncey Stockwell, a brother and son,) who was born May 4th, 1805, was the first white child born in that portion of Cayuga County lying north of Seneca River. His daughter Rebecca, who is living at Meridian, is the only survivor of the family.

In 1802, Joshua Chappell came with his wife, in company with John Watson, from Marcellus, and settled a half mile west of Cato village.

In May, 1803, settlements were made by Solomon Knapp, who located on lot 100, at Meacham's Corners, on the farm now occupied by William Cook, and by Alanson Sheldon on the same farm.

George Loveless and Abel Pasko settled in the south part of Meridian, in 1804. Solomon, a son of the former, is living about two miles south of that village, and Deacon Milton Pasko, a son of the latter, is living between Meridian and Cato.

Elihu Peck came from Pompey, in 1804, and settled on the farm now owned by Edgar Drew. His father, Captain Enoch Peck and his brother, Peter, also from Pompey, came in soon after. Enoch settled where Wm. Cook's house now stands, at Meacham's Corners. Peter, who was a bachelor and lived with his parents, took up a tract now owned by Isaac R. Merritt, in Ira. The Pecks sold to Joel Northrup, from Conn., and removed to Camillus, where their descendants are living. Northrup was wealthy and bought a large tract of land, covering a mile or more in extent. He brought in the first wagon in the town. He was a bachelor when he came, but married soon after to Clarissa Dudley, sister of Elder Ira Dudley, by whom he had three children. Northrup remained here till his death, about 1814.

Settlements were made in 1805, by Platt Titus, from Onondaga county, at Cato, where he was the first settler and felled the first tree ; by Jesse

Elwell and Abner Hollister, at Meridian ; and by families named Cerow and Abrams, the former four and a half miles south of Meridian, and the latter, on the river, at the middle bridge, where, that year and for a good many years thereafter, he kept a ferry. Titus remained only two or three years, when he removed to the Taber farm one-half mile north of Meridian, in Ira, where he remained till 1833, when he removed to Hannibal, where he died in April, 1862. Elwell settled where the Meridian House now stands, and where he built, and kept till his death during the epidemic of 1811, the first tavern, which was built of logs and covered with bark. He had a large family, all of whom are gone. His daughter Polly was the wife of Abner Hollister, who settled in the south part of Meridian, where Marcus Drew now lives. Hollister bought of A. C. Rice, of Onondaga county, for a nominal sum, a tract of about three hundred acres, known as "possession land," to which the title was for a long time in doubt. Hollister soon after went south, where he spent several years as overseer on a plantation and acquired considerable wealth. On his return he removed to Cato, where he built the first frame house about 1810, which now forms a part of the Railroad House in that village. Stephen Olcott settled on the farm now owned by Carter Hickok, as early as 1805, in which year he died, his death being the first in the town.

In 1807, Stephen Dudley, from Vermont, came with his family, consisting of seven sons and five daughters, and settled in the north-east part, on the farm now owned by his grandson J. Y. Dudley, son of Sardis Dudley, the latter of whom died on the old homestead in January, 1876. Stephen took up a State's hundred, of which he let his son Sardis have fifty, and to which both subsequently added. He died in 1827, at Hannibal, to which town he removed in 1824 or '25. Three sons and one daughter survive him, viz: Lyman; James; Ira, living at Meridian, who at present and for the past year has supplied the pulpit of the Baptist Church at Port Byron; and Rebecca, widow of Abner Loomis. Solomon Woodworth settled in this or some previous year, on the river, and kept for several years the ferry where the iron bridge was built. He was a captain and did service in the War of 1812. A man named Follett kept the ferry at the upper bridge at an early

day. His descendants live on the farm on which he settled.

Dr. John Jakway came in about 1809, from Vermont, where he was a *confrere* of Ethan Allen, of whose singularly rugged energy he largely partook. About 1812 he bought the improvements of Abner Hollister, at Cato, to which place he gave the name of Jakway's Corners, by which it was known for many years. He was the first permanent settler at that village. He was preceded by some squatters, among whom were John West and Barber Allen, whose improvements he also bought.

Jakway was a bachelor and a confirmed infidel, and a man of generous impulses and marked idiosyncrasies.

Johnson Hall came in from Conway, N. H., about 1810, and settled at Meridian, where he died about 1840.

After the war, in 1815, the settlements were more rapid and important. Among those who came in that year were Wm. Ingham, Parsons P. Meacham and Michael Ogiltsbie. Ingham was originally from Massachusetts, (but immediately from Skaneateles,) whence he came as land agent for Elisha Williams of Hudson, Columbia county, who owned large tracts of military lands in this and Onondaga counties. This connection with Williams, which continued till the latter's death, and his subsidiary mercantile business, brought him into intimate relations with the early settlers, and his sterling integrity left its indelible impress on the character of the persons who settled here. On coming here he opened a store at Meridian, on the site of Webster's store, on the corner of Main and Oswego streets, now belonging to the Morley estate. His son, Wm. Smith Ingham, succeeded him in the mercantile business in 1831. Two grandchildren, sons of the latter, are living, viz.: Edgar I., who is connected with a mercantile agency in Indiana, and Albert C., who was for several years connected with the State Department of Agriculture of Wisconsin and prepared several volumes emanating therefrom, and who is now living in Meridian, of which village he is the president. Meacham was also from Mass., and came in July, 1815. He is now living, aged eighty-three years, about a mile east of Meridian at what is known as Meacham's Corners. He joined the Baptist Church in Meridian in 1831, since which time he has acted as its

clerk. Ogiltsbie came in from New Jersey and settled where he now lives, about four and a half miles south-east of Meridian, opposite to where Samson Lawrence, the first settler, located. Eleazer Squires and a family named Spinning, both from New Jersey, settled about this year, (1815,) about a mile north of the iron bridge.

OFFICERS.—The first town officers were elected at a meeting held at the house of Israel Wolverton, March 1st, 1803, as follows: John C. Barnes, *Supervisor*; Alanson Sheldon, *Clerk*; Israel Wolverton, Archibald Green and Gilbert Jefferies, *Assessors*; Samuel Martin and Jacob Wiltsie, *Overseers of the Poor*; Ephraim Wetherell, Daniel Parker and Moses Farrand, *Commissioners of Highways*; James Perkins, Zadock Barnes and Gilbert Perkins, *Pound Keepers*; William Patterson and Samson Lawrence, *Fence Viewers*; Theophilus Emerson, *Constable*; Edward Wood, *Constable and Collector*.

The town officers elected in 1879 are: David E. Hunter, *Supervisor*; Chauncey Olmsted, *Town Clerk*; Charles Cowell, *Justice of the Peace*; Daniel Sleight, *Assessor*; Jas. L. Roades, *Commissioner of Highways*; Chauncey Olmsted and Leonard Mills, *Overseers of the Poor*; Eugene Deforest and I. W. Dudley, *Inspectors of Election*; David M. Mills, *Collector*; William S. Pearson, Theron C. Dudley, William H. Lockwood, George W. Woolford and George Cool, *Constables*; Charles Robinson, *Game Constable*.

The population of the town in 1875 was 2,095; of whom 1,900 were native; 195, foreign; 2,090, white; and 5, colored. The area is 20,488 acres; of which 15,854, were improved; 3,797, woodland; and 837, unimproved.

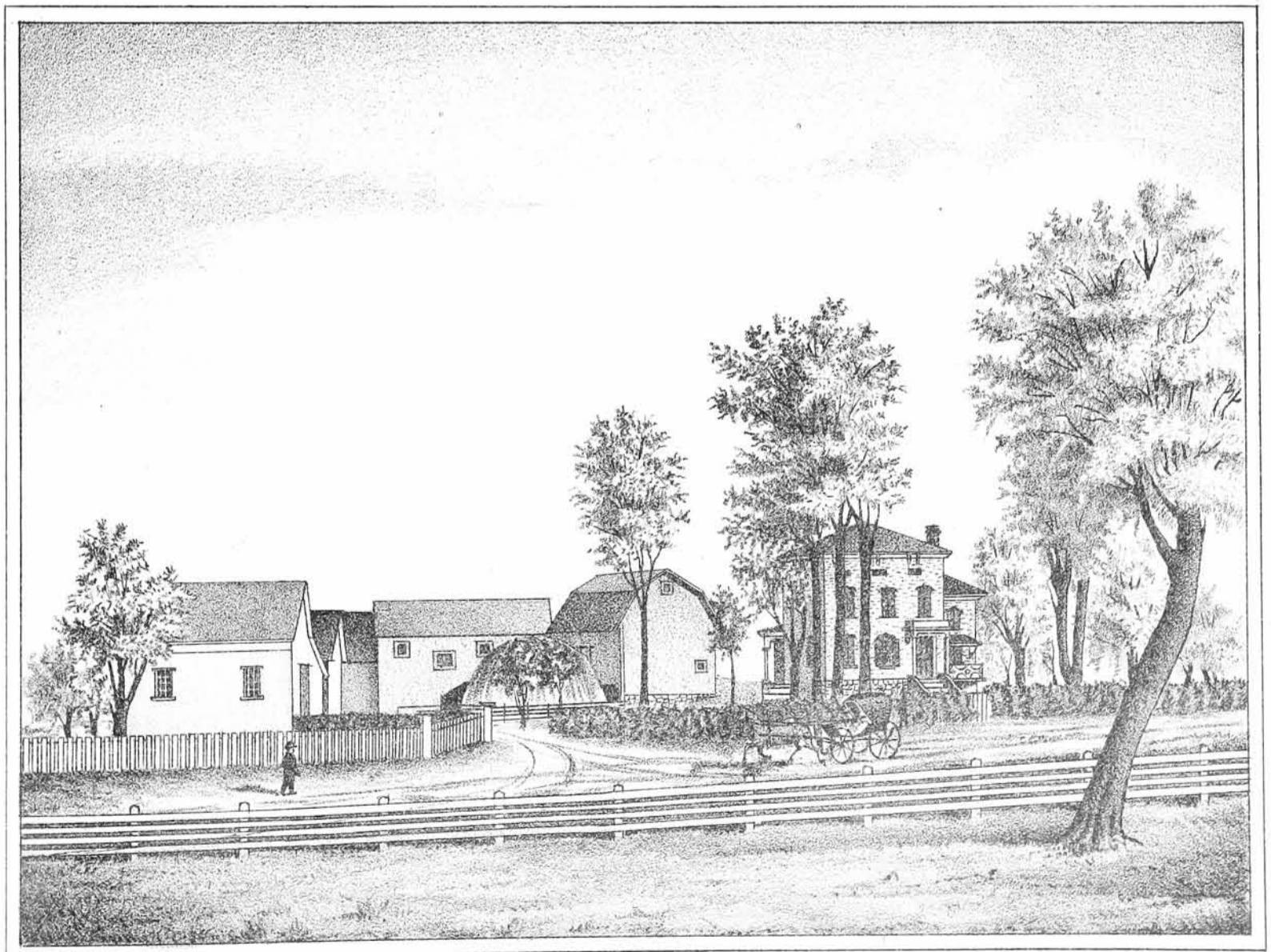
#### MERIDIAN.

Meridian is situated near the north line and is two miles east of Cato on the S. C. R. R., and eight miles north of Weedsport. It is a quiet, attractive and thrifty village of some 700 inhabitants, with nicely shaded streets and good walks. It was originally known as *Cato Four Corners*. The name was changed in 1849. It was incorporated October 17th, 1854, and the first election was held November 9th of that year, at the Eagle House, when William Smith Ingham, Jonathan Hoyt, Edwin E. Dudley, Chauncey Olmsted and William H. Coppennoll, were elected Trustees; James Hickok, M. D. Drew and



PHOTO BY SQUYER & WRIGHT ALBANY.

M. D. DREW.



RESIDENCE OF M. D. DREW, MERIDIAN, CAYUGA CO. N.Y.





Israel Phelps, Assessors; Victor M. Wheeler, Clerk; Charles Rockwell, Treasurer; and Elias Tator, Collector. A new charter was obtained March 11th, 1876, under which M. D. Drew was elected President; Abel West and John Seymour, Trustees for two years; Daniel M. Wilson, Trustee for one year; Cornelius Van Liew, Treasurer; and Albert G. Wheeler, Collector. Albert C. Ingham, the present president, was elected in 1877, and reelected in 1878. The other officers are, (1878): J. Sprague Morley, Oakley S. Dudley and Daniel M. Wilson, Trustees and Assessors; Isaac R. Merritt, Treasurer; and James Hickok, Collector.

Meridian contains two churches, (Baptist and Presbyterian,) a district school, two hotels, two general stores, two groceries, a hardware store and tin shop, two furniture and undertaking establishments, in one of which drugs and books are kept, one millinery store, (Mrs. Vinal,) two shoe stores, one shoe shop, kept by James Wyatt, a foundry and machine shop, a tannery and saw, shingle and stave mill combined, a job printing office, of which J. Sprague Morley, the village lawyer, is proprietor, three blacksmith shops, kept by P. H. Smith, Jacob Cramer and Putvin & March, the latter of whom have also a carriage shop, kept by S. M. Chittenden, two harness shops, kept by Horace Wilson and G. D. Gillett, and a store in which groceries and notions are kept by C. M. Hungerford.

The first settlement at Meridian was made about 1804, in which year George Loveless and Abel Pasko located in the south part. The following year Jesse Elwell and Abner Hollister settled in the village. Settlement progressed slowly till 1815, in which year William Ingham opened his store. After this and the removal of the obstacles to migration incident to the war of 1812, an industrious and thrifty class of people from the New England States and the eastern counties of this State were attracted here in considerable numbers by the great fertility of the soil in this locality. This influx created a demand for merchants and mechanics, and soon the nucleus of a village was established. In 1831, William Smith Ingham succeeded his father in the mercantile business and projected the establishment on a much larger scale. This store of Ingham's gave the first great impetus to the growth of Meridian. It was followed by the es-

tablishment of a saw-mill and the greatest activity in building enterprises it has ever experienced was then manifest. Its subsequent growth is largely attributable to the character of the men who have been engaged in business here, and the additions it has received from among the successful farmers of the locality, who in advanced life have exchanged the active duties of the farm for the social and other advantages of a quiet, orderly village. Its growth in the last ten years has been somewhat remarkable.

MERCHANTS.—Daniel M. Bristol, from Manlius, was the first merchant, not only in Meridian, but in the town of Cato. He opened a store in 1806 and kept it till 1808, when he failed and removed to the western part of the State. His store, which was a log structure, stood about where Abel West's store now stands. Samuel Woodford, from Manlius, was the second merchant. He opened a store about 1808, first occupying Bristol's store, and afterwards removing to the locality of Webster's store. In 1811, Woodford built the first grist-mill in the town, on the outlet of Otter Lake. William Ingham, as previously stated, opened a store in 1815, and kept it till 1831, when he was succeeded by his son, William Smith Ingham, who was the first prominent merchant in Meridian. The latter continued business till his failure, in 1857. He was associated during this time with James Hickok from 1836-'41, with D. E. Havens from 1839-'45, with David Emerick, his son-in-law, from 1845-'52, in which latter year the two admitted Chester Morley to partnership, and the business was conducted by them till their failure in 1857, under the firm name of Ingham, Emerick & Morley. In 1841, James Hickok, after dissolving his partnership with Mr. Ingham, formed a partnership with his brother, C. B. Hickok, under the firm name of J. & C. B. Hickok, and opened a general stock of goods. In 1848 he bought his brother's interest, and in 1865 changed his business to that of undertaker and dealer in furniture, books and drugs, which he still continues. James Hickok came into the town from Sterling in 1832, and was a clerk with Mr. Ingham till he entered into partnership with him. Madison E. Hollister did a mercantile business here from 1831-'33. The next merchant was a Mr. Huggins, from Madison county, who brought his goods in with him in 1836, and in

1837 sold to Abel West, who has since done business here. Mr. West was associated three years with William A. VanDorn. In April, 1876, Mr. West admitted his son, Adelbert M. West, to partnership, and the business is now conducted by Abel West & Son.

The other merchants now doing business in Meridian are C. Van Liew, dealer in groceries and hardware, who came in from Lysander in 1862; A. G. Wheeler, dealer in boots and shoes, a native of Washington county, who came from Utica in the spring of 1845, and commenced his present business in April, 1864; Jas. Tackney, dealer in boots and shoes, who came in 1865, on being discharged from the army, having previous to his enlistment lived in Syracuse, and who was associated as partner from 1868 to 1877 with John Seymour; Delevan L. Spoor, hardware dealer, who came in from Earlville in the spring of 1874; and J. E. Phippens, grocer, from Jordan, and T. J. Webster, general merchant, from Auburn, both of whom came in 1877.

**POSTMASTERS.**—The first postmaster at Meridian was Wm. Ingham, who was appointed in 1819, and held the office continuously till 1831, in which year he resigned. He was succeeded by his son, Wm. Smith Ingham, who held the office till the spring of 1849, when Abel West was appointed. In 1852, Wm. Smith Ingham again became postmaster and continued such till his resignation in 1856, in which year Edward H. Shoff received the appointment. In 1860 Abel West received a second appointment, and in 1868 he was succeeded by James Hickok, who filled the office till 1874, when Chester Morley, Jr., the present incumbent, was appointed.

**PHYSICIANS.**—The first physician at Meridian was John W. Squyers, who practiced till about 1830, when he removed to Plainville, where he died. The next was Jonathan Boyd, who came in from Massachusetts in 1831, and died in 1833. He was succeeded in 1833 by A. M. Parsons, who practiced till 1835, when he removed to Michigan. Jacob K. Drew was contemporary with Drs. Squyers and Boyd. He came in from Vermont and practiced here till his death. John Plant came in from Maine in 1833, and bought out Dr. Skinner. He removed after about four years to Pennsylvania. H. B. Wright came in 1841 or '42, and died here in 1844. James T.

Hough, Davis Conger and S. M. Brown, were contemporary with Dr. Wright. Hough practiced here till 1850, and Conger some six years. Brown, who was from the town of Ontario, Wayne Co., practiced here several years and is now living in Ira. Wm. O. Luce, from Auburn, but immediately from Ira, came about 1850, and removed to Elbridge about 1863, and subsequently to Auburn, where he now lives. E. L. Evarts came in from Ira about 1858, and moved to Buffalo about the year 1868. He is now practicing at Cato. E. P. Baker bought out Dr. Luce, and removed about five years ago to Aurora, where he now lives. Dr. Bartlett came in from the army in 1869, having previously resided in Wisconsin, and is still practicing here. He belongs to the homeopathic school. Lewis Tice, from Brockport, practiced here from 1858-'62. He removed to New York city and died there. E. S. Forman, allopath, came in from Sterling about five years ago and is still practicing there.

**MEMBERS OF THE BAR.**—The first lawyer at Meridian was Madison Young, who came from N. H., in 1843, and practiced here about ten years. James W. Bonta, a native of this town, practiced here about a year, about 1856, in Justices' court, but was never admitted to the bar. J. Sprague Morley, the present lawyer, came in with his father from Pompey, in March, 1832. He graduated from Hobart college in 1846, and practiced law at Jamesville, Onondaga county, in company with Isaac W. Brewster, from 1849 till November, 1853, when he commenced practice here.

**MANUFACTURERS.**—There are but three manufacturing establishments in Meridian.

Daniel W. Wilson, founder and machinist, is a native of Cato, and commenced business in 1866. In 1870, Chauncy L. Hickok became his partner, but remained only four years. The works were erected in 1833, by David Rockwell, and enlarged to their present size, with the exception of the upper story, about thirty-five years ago. The chief articles of manufacture are agricultural implements. The motive power is supplied by a twenty horse-power engine.

Titus & Alward, (Wm. Titus of Moravia and Chas. G. Alward, of Venice,) proprietors of the tannery and saw, feed, stave and shingle mill, all combined, bought the property of John Seymour, and commenced business January 1st, 1877. The

works were originally built for a grist-mill, in 1853, by a stock company, at a cost of \$10,000. In 1858, John Seymour bought it, and in 1860 he converted the grist-mill into a tannery. The saw-mill was built at the same time as the grist-mill. The motive power is furnished by a twenty-five horse-power engine. The capital invested is \$15,000. The works give employment to six men, and turn out 3,000 sides of leather and 500,000 feet of lumber per annum.

S. M. Chittenden came in from Plainville and opened his carriage works in 1876.

**HOTELS.**—The first hotel at Meridian was kept by Jesse Elwell, on the site of the Meridian House. About 1818 he sold to Abner Hollister, who that year built the lower portion of the front part of the present house. He closed it in 1830 and occupied it as a dwelling till his death March 14th, 1852, when it was sold to Wm. Smith Ingham, who rented it in 1853, to Lucius M. Hollister, son of Abner, who kept it as a temperance house one year. Chas. Austin kept it as a temperance house one year, and was succeeded by Isaac Upham and Benjamin Daratt, who bought the hotel of Ingham, and enlarged it to its present size. It subsequently became the property of Timby and Daratt, who, in 1860, sold it to the present occupant, Isaac R. Merritt, who had previously kept a hotel ten years in Victory. A second hotel, the Hunt House, was started by Solomon Loveless, who also kept a blacksmith shop. Gideon Acker bought it in 1840 and sold it after four or five years to his cousin, Cyrus Acker, who subsequently sold to another cousin, Abram Acker, by whom it was repaired and kept till about 1850, when it was again bought by Cyrus Acker, who sold it to Julius Whiting. Whiting sold it about 1858 to Lewis Van Auken, who rented it to Isaac Curtis, by whom it was kept five years, when D. D. Burchard bought it and kept it till about five years ago, when it was sold to satisfy a mortgage to Garrett Mowl, by whom it was sold in 1874 to the present proprietor, John A. Hunt, who came in the preceding year from Ira. This hotel was formerly known as the Eagle Hotel.

**THE FARMERS' JOINT STOCK INSURANCE COMPANY**, at Meridian, was organized in April, 1861, with a capital of \$50,000. The first officers were Robert Bloomfield, of Cato, president; Chauncey B. Laird of Elbridge, Daniel G. Smith of Lysan-

der, and Homer Lockwood of Victory, vice-presidents; Abel West of Meridian, secretary; and Cyrus Dudley of Meridian, treasurer. The company did a good business in the early part of its existence, but latterly much difficulty was experienced in collecting premiums. A sharp competition existed in the class of risks to which, by the terms of their charter, they were restricted, (viz: farm property,) and these, together with their cumbrous organization, rendered it impossible to continue business without suffering impairment of their capital. They therefore dissolved February 6th, 1877, at which time the officers were Henry Daboll of Memphis, president; Homer N. Lockwood of Auburn, David Sutfin and Jabez H. Norton of Lysander, vice-presidents; G. H. Lawrence of Meridian, secretary; and Marcus D. Drew of Meridian, treasurer. Following is an abstract of their report to the Insurance Department May 1st, 1878: Total premiums received to date, \$923,734; dividends declared since business was commenced, \$100,625; losses paid from date of organization, \$577,481.

**SCHOOLS.**—Although the school at Meridian is a district school, it is graded and furnishes excellent instruction. The principal is A. E. Ringee, who is assisted by Misses Franc Foote and S. E. Meacham, the latter of whom has taught in this school some twenty-five years, all the time in the primary department.

**THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AND SOCIETY OF MERIDIAN** was organized October 26th, 1810, with twenty-two members, but, owing to the loss of their early records, the names of the following only can be ascertained: D. Parker and wife, C. Green and wife, A. Pasko and wife, J. Root and wife, H. Ferris and wife, Nancy Carr and Seviah Flemman. Their first pastor was Rev. Daniel Palmer, who commenced his labors as a licentiate, but was afterwards ordained pastor, and remained with them four years. Their first revival occurred in 1812, in which year sixteen were added to their number, but it continued and increased in interest till ninety-two converts were added. B. Seamans, a licentiate, succeeded Palmer in 1815, and remained one year.

The Church was without a pastor from this time till the spring of 1820, when Orlando Mack settled with them. A revival immediately followed, but he was smitten with death in its midst, August 12th, 1820. Jeremy F. Tallman