

became the pastor in March, 1821, and remained thirteen years. In 1821 and 1822 revivals were enjoyed, sixteen being added in the former and eleven in the latter year.

From 1822 to 1829 darkness and gloom rested upon the church. During those seven years only one baptism occurred. In 1829 they awoke from their lethargy, and a revival was commenced which culminated in 1831, in which year one hundred and seven were added to the membership. Elder Tallman closed his labors in May, 1834, and was immediately succeeded by S. Knapp. In this and the preceding year the doctrines of the Campbellites made sad inroads in their membership, thirty-four having been excluded for espousing them.

Though the early part of Elder Knapp's pastorate was full of discouragements, the latter portion was not without compensating encouragements. In 1835 a season of revival was begun which continued with increased fervor during that and the two succeeding years, and resulted in the addition of one hundred and sixty-six to their membership. Elder Knapp closed his labors with them in March, 1838, and was succeeded the next month by J. W. Spoor, who remained till July, 1840. During his pastorate fifty-five were added to the church by baptism.

S. Wilkins became their pastor in July, 1840, remaining till October, 1842. In the second year of his pastorate thirty-five members were added. C. VanLoon succeeded Elder Wilkins and remained one year. J. Woodward assumed the pastoral care in October, 1843, and during the second year of his pastorate a revival was experienced and forty-five added to their number. He was succeeded in January, 1846, by George W. Mead, the first three years of whose pastorate "were seasons of declension," resulting from agitation of questions connected with the anti-slavery cause. A large number were dismissed and a new church formed. In the fall of 1849 a reconciliation was effected and was followed by a revival, which resulted in adding sixty-one by baptism. Elder Mead closed his labors in January, 1850, and was succeeded by A. Angier, who commenced his labors the first Sabbath in April of that year. His resignation was accepted March 12th, 1853.

W. D. Hedden, of Rochester University, commenced his labors with them May 9th, 1853. He

received a call June 5th, 1853, which he accepted June 12th, 1853. He was ordained October 13th, 1853, and remained till early in 1855, in June of which year he was succeeded by Stephen Wilkins. B. F. Garfield became pastor January 13th, 1856, and was dismissed December 4th, 1858. During the first year of his pastorate sixteen were added by baptism. December 18th, 1858, D. E. Holmes was invited to preach, at \$8.00 per Sabbath, till a minister could be got. January 19th, 1859, and some weeks thereafter, Elder A. Wilkins preached. In this year thirty-two were added by baptism. J. S. Webber was the pastor April 9th, 1859. July 29th, 1860, he preached his farewell sermon and became an agent of the Bible Union. A call was extended to Elder I. Wilkinson, of Port Byron, March 9th, 1861. He remained till April 9th, 1864. Andrew Lindsay commenced his labors April 24th, 1864, and after preaching a few Sabbaths he accepted an invitation to serve as pastor. The second year of his pastorate fifteen were added by baptism. His resignation, to take effect April 1st, 1869, was accepted February 7th, 1869. W. L. Goodspeed was the pastor April 9th, 1870; and Rev. J. D. Smith, February 11th, 1871, the latter of whom is the present pastor. A Mr. Townsend preached for them the December and January previous to Elder Smith's coming. In the second year of Elder Smith's pastorate a revival was experienced and thirty added to the membership by baptism.

March 10th, 1877, the church was reorganized under the new State law of May 13th, 1876, and the present name was adopted. The present membership is 144; and the attendance at Sabbath school, about 125. Their church edifice was erected in 1829, and was enlarged, moved and the galleries taken out in 1857. A session room has since been added and other repairs made. Four churches have been formed by members dismissed from this, viz: Hannibal, First Lysander, Victory and Ira.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND SOCIETY OF MERIDIAN was organized February 2d, 1836, as the *First Presbyterian Church and Society of Cato*, (the name having been changed April 22d, 1867,) with the following named members: Abner Hollister and wife, Chas. Hoyt and wife, Nehemiah Hoyt and wife, Lewis Hoyt and wife, Clark Hoyt and wife, Madison E. Hollister and wife, Alonzo



[Photo by Squyer & Wright.]

## 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 meagre 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 carrier, 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 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, 1843.



Taylor and wife, Barber Allen and wife, Lucius M. Hollister, Abraham Kells, Nancy A. Bradt, Eliza Jenkins, Sophronia Furman, Miranda Palmer and Daniel C. Mc Clenten and wife. It is an emanation from the Church at Ira, (which was organized July 8th, 1807, by Rev. Francis Pomeroy,) and Rev. Wm. U. Benedict, who was then the pastor of that Church, acted as a supply for this for three years. January 5th, 1839, Henry Boyington became a permanent supply, with a salary of \$400, and remained three years. January 1st, 1842, James T. Hough, M. D., became the permanent supply and remained four and a half years. In August, 1847, Wm. G. Hubbard, a licentiate, became a supply, under the patronage of the Presbytery, and remained one and a half years.

He was succeeded in March, 1849, by Simon S. Goss, the first pastor, who was ordained and installed February 19th, 1850, with a salary of \$500, which was increased two years after by the use of a parsonage. He was dismissed May 7th, 1862, on account of ill health.

The second pastor was Samuel B. Sherrill, who commenced his labors in the summer of 1862, and was ordained and installed pastor February, 14th, 1863, with a salary of \$600 and parsonage. He was dismissed February 3d, 1868. He was succeeded by Wallace B. Lucas, the present pastor, who commenced his labors in the spring of 1869, and was ordained and installed pastor September 26th, 1869, with a salary of \$900 and parsonage.

For the first four years they worshiped in the village school-house. In the summer of 1839, the present fine, substantial brick structure was erected at a cost of \$3,685.60, the site having been given by Judge Hollister. It was dedicated in December of that year. In the summer of 1854, it was enlarged and a tower erected at a cost of \$2,000. In 1872-'3, it was repaired, enlarged, a session room built over the vestibule, a new tower erected on the corner, and the inside entirely remodeled, at a cost of \$6,690.32. Since then the pastor's study, a dining room and library have been fitted up at various times. In June, 1876, a \$1,000 pipe organ was put in.

The Church has enjoyed several interesting revivals. In 1840, 26 were added; 24 in 1844; 38, in 1857; 29, in 1859; 12, in 1866; 26, in 1872; 14, in 1874; and 23, in 1878. The pres-

ent membership is 188; the attendance at Sabbath school, about 150.

SOCIETIES.—*Meridian Lodge No. 142 of the Ancient Order of the United Workingmen* was organized with twenty members, the present number, March 26th, 1878. The first and present officers are D. L. Spoor, P. M. W.; G. O. Burk, M. W.; O. S. Dudley, G. F.; James Tackney, O.; C. L. Hickok, Rdr.; F. M. Hunting, F.; C. A. Bloomfield, R.; Jno. Bell, G.; W. S. Cornell, I. W.; Jacob Strickland, O. W. Meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month at their rooms in the Lawrence Block. It is the second lodge of the kind in the County, the first being at Union Springs. The chief object of the society is to secure to its membership the benefits of life insurance at the minimum cost. It has also charitable and social aims.

#### CATO.

Cato is an enterprising village of five hundred inhabitants, situated in the north-west part, lying partly in this town and partly in Ira. It is on the S. C. R. R., eight miles north of Weedsport, and is the natural center for shipments on that road of a large section of fertile country, abounding in fruit, grain and other products. The business at this station is said to exceed that at Weedsport on the same road. There is a sharp competition among its merchants for a village of its size, and it exhibits corresponding activity. It has many of the elements of an attractive village. It contains three churches, (Reformed, Campbellite and R. C.,) a union school, four stores, three cigar shops, a steam saw and grist-mill combined, a foundry and machine shop, two cabinet shops, of which D. J. Acker & Son and Joseph Girard are proprietors, two shoe shops, of which J. R. Allen and Wm. C. Rose are proprietors, two carriage shops, kept by Frank Brown and Wm. Devoe, three blacksmith shops, kept by Harvey Root, P. P. Brown and Frederick Kitner, two milliner shops, kept by Mrs. Margaret Dutton and Mrs. Nettie Morey, two hotels, and two barber shops, kept by A. J. Munroe and David Vine.

Settlement at Cato was commenced in 1805, by Platt Titus, who remained only two or three years. The first permanent settler was Dr. John Jakway, who came from Vermont, in com-

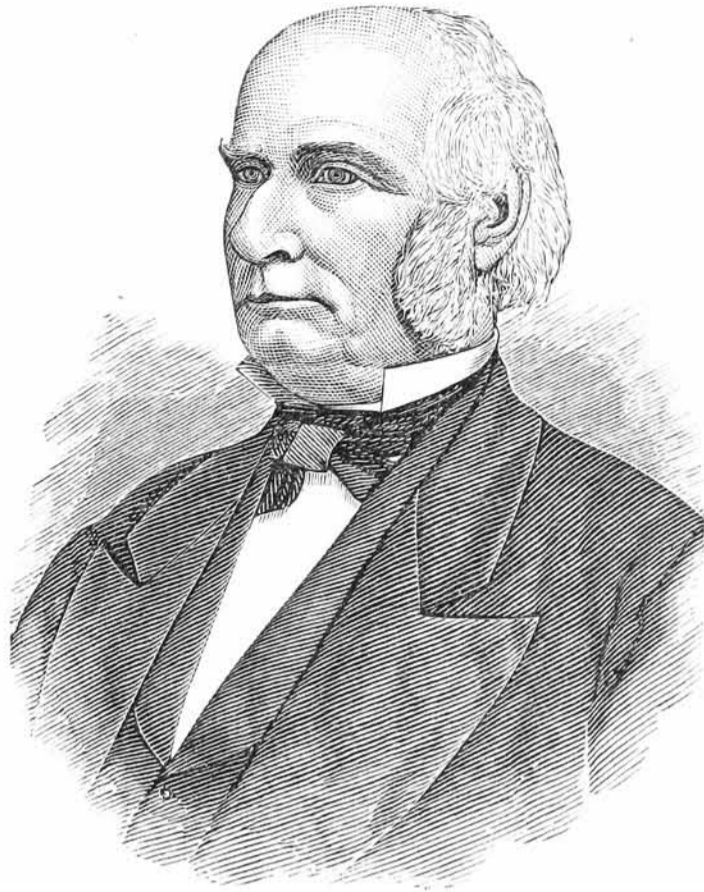
pany with John Hooker, the latter of whom settled in the Ira side of the village. They came about 1809, and were preceded by some squatters, whose improvements Jakway bought. The village was long known as Jakway's Corners, a name it derived from the fact of Jakway's settlement there.

**MERCHANTS.**—The first merchants at Cato are supposed to have been Andrus P. Preston and Augustus Ferris, who kept a store about 1820, which they continued till about 1842, when they closed out, Preston removing to Red Creek, and Ferris remaining in Ira till his death about 1848. Benj. B. Conger opened a store about 1830. About 1834 Samuel Hale became a partner with him and continued about three years, when David R. Conger, a son of Benjamin, was admitted to partnership, and the business was conducted by them about five years, when they sold to — Moore and Reuben P. Conger, who did business about three years. Benj. B. and Reuben P. Conger then formed a partnership, which continued about four years. Dr. John Jakway opened a store about 1838, which he kept some seven or eight years, when he sold his stock to Wm. H. Nobles, who kept a store four or five years. Theophilus Daniels opened a store about 1840, and kept it about three years. David Cook and David R. Conger kept a store about two years, and sold to Gilbert & Green, who kept it about a year. Wm. Fields bought their stock and kept store about a year. A union store was started about 1855, which was run about a year. Evarts & Darratt bought their stock and continued about two years. Knapp, Barrett & Co., opened a large store in 1856 and failed in 1860. H. M. Wright bought their stock and continued till 1868. Hunter Bros. opened a store in 1870, and were burned out in 1876. David Mack opened a store about 1845 and kept it about ten years, when he sold his stock to G. A. Benedict, who did business till about 1866. J. M. Dutton & Co. opened a store in 1865. After some three or four years Mark Wright bought Dutton's interest, and the business was conducted by Turner & Wright till about 1875, when J. W. Hapeman bought Wright's interest. Hapeman sold in February, 1877, to M. M. Hunter, and the business is still conducted by Turner & Hunter. In 1866, Geo. R. Rich built a store, which was occupied by his son Jno. E. Rich till January 9th, 1869, when he was burned out. A. C. Bartlett kept a store

from 1860-'5. Hapeman & Hunt opened a hardware store about 1865, and in 1868 they sold to S. J. Chase, who, in 1870, admitted Henry S. Hunt to partnership. In April, 1878, R. W. Cole bought the interest of Mr. Hunt, who opened, the same month, the store he now keeps. S. J. Chase and R. W. Cole still carry on the business, under the firm name of Chase & Cole. T. Jorolemon, general merchant, commenced in the spring of 1874, the business in which he is now engaged.

**POSTMASTERS.**—The first postmaster at Cato was Augustus F. Ferris, who was followed by Andrus P. Preston, William H. Noble, Judge Humphreys, Reuben P. Conger, George H. Carr, E. G. Allen, Amos Bartlett, George P. Knapp, Elias Richards, R. W. Cole, John E. Rich, Lewis Donius, J. W. Hapeman and S. J. Chase, the latter of whom, the present incumbent, received the appointment in 1870.

**PHYSICIANS.**—The first physician at Cato was John Jakway, who practiced till his death in 1844. The next was John Hoxie, who practiced with Jakway till 1833. Ezra Parker came in from Fort Ann, Washington county, about 1833, and practiced with Jakway some ten years, when he removed to Wisconsin. Robert T. Paine came in from Washington county about 1835 and practiced about fourteen years, when he removed to Jordan, where he died. J. B. R. Martin, from Victory, studied with Paine, and practiced from about 1842 till his death, about 1852. Dr. Hedger, from Cato, practiced with Martin about two years and then moved west. A. J. Brewster, from Jefferson county, came about 1850 and practiced till 1875, when he removed to Syracuse, where he is now practicing. Dr. Ogden succeeded Martin and remained one year, when he went west. Lucius Hooker, allopath, came in from Victory about 1855, and is still practicing here. James D. Benton came in from Ira Corners in 1865 and practiced till 1874, when he removed to Syracuse, where he is now practicing. Frank Murphy, from Wayne county, came in 1876 and practiced about six months, when he removed to Yates county. C. A. Groat, from Wayne county, came in 1876, and is still practicing here. He belongs to the allopathic school of medicine. E. S. Everts, homeopath, came from Auburn in the spring of 1878, and is still practicing here.



[Photo by Squyer & Wright.]

## 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 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 Humphreys, 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 Governor 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 Greely 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 Dr. 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.



**BENCH AND BAR.**—The first lawyer in Cato was George R. Rich, who came in from Fort Ann, Washington county, in 1832, and commenced the practice of law in 1840. He was admitted to practice in the County Court in 1845, and in the Supreme Court in 1848. Geo. Humphreys, from Auburn, commenced practicing here in 1844, and with him Rich finished his studies. Humphreys was elected County Judge in November, 1851, when he removed to Auburn. Rich is still practicing here. Frank Rich, son of George R. Rich, commenced practice in 1855, in which year he was admitted to the bar. Stephen Olmsted, son-in-law of George R. Rich, commenced practice in 1863, at which time he was admitted to the bar. Both the latter are practicing here.

**MANUFACTURES.**—The Cato Milling Company, (D. J. Lamson, R. L. Whiting and E. D. Crowninshield,) commenced business in 1876. Slate Crowninshield erected the buildings in 1874, and carried on the business until the present proprietors took possession. The works consist of a grist-mill and saw-mill, connected, both being operated by the same motive power, which is supplied by a sixty-five horse-power engine. The grist-mill is a custom mill and contains three run of stones. The saw-mill contains one large and three small circular saws, for the manufacture of lumber, staves and heading. Its capacity is 5,000 feet of lumber per day, and 50,000 staves per annum. The capital invested is \$20,000, and the number of men employed, six.

The furnace and machine shop, of which E. Q. Dutton is proprietor, was built in 1850, by Bradford Cook, on the site of one erected in 1832, by John Rich. In 1875 Mr. Dutton built an addition for the purpose of adding to his business the manufacture of stoves, but that branch was discontinued after about a year. He is now engaged in the manufacture of agricultural implements, the chief article of manufacture being the "Easy Draft" Plow. Three men and a capital of about \$10,000, are employed. It is operated by steam.

Curtis & Harris, (Chas. H. Curtis and Walter N. Harris,) commenced the manufacture of cigars in January, 1867. They give employment to seven persons and make about 15,000 cigars per month.

James B. Hunter commenced the manufacture

of cigars February 21st, 1877, in company with D. S. Coates, whose interest he bought April 1st, 1878. He gives employment to ten persons and makes 35,000 cigars per month.

Adelbert P. Rich commenced the manufacture of cigars July 18th, 1878. He employs at present only two persons.

**HOTELS.**—The *Central Hotel* was built by Cornelius Acker, the present proprietor, in 1866, on the site of one built by David Chittenden in 1861 and burned in the spring of 1865.

The *Railroad House* is kept by Elias Quackenbush, who bought it of Willard Sturge, proprietor of the *Willard House*, Weedsport, in 1867. The main part of the building was erected in 1810, by Abner Hollister. The addition was built by John Jakway fifty or more years ago.

**SCHOOLS.**—The school in Cato is a graded union school, with three departments. The teachers are Wm. Hopkins, principal, Miss Ella Saunders and Mrs. Kate Vanaernum. The school building, which is an unusually fine brick structure for a village of its size, was erected in 1876.

**THE REFORMED CHURCH**, at Cato, was organized about 1831. Wm. DeForest, Isaac VanDorn, — DeLamater, John Wood and Jacob and Martin DeForest were among the first members. Rev. — DeForest was their first pastor. He remained with them about two years. Rev. — Hoffman was the second pastor. His pastoral labors covered a period of twenty years. The third pastor was Rev. — Knight, who remained about three years. Thomas Watson became the pastor about 1859, and remained till about 1866. He was followed by Revs. Swick, Wilson and VanDorn, each of whom remained a year. Their present pastor, Dr. Wells, came in 1876. Their first house of worship was erected about 1833. It is now used as a tenement house. The present house was bought about 1859, of the Methodist Society, by whom it was built about 1849. The present membership is about thirty-five; the attendance at Sabbath school, about fifty.

**THE CHURCH OF CHRIST**, (or Campbellite,) at Cato, was organized about 1848, by Rev. John Bartlett, who was formerly a Baptist minister, and was their first pastor. His pastorate covered a period of about eight years. O. C. Petty, the second pastor, remained about two years. The



third pastor was Milton Shepard, who preached about four years and died in Ira. He was succeeded by — Robinson, who remained one year, when John Bartlett served them a second term of two years. The next pastor was Webster O. Moon, who remained two years. Dr. Allen Benton, though not ordained, supplied the pulpit about four years. G. S. Bartlett, son of John Bartlett, succeeded Benton and remained one year. A. B. Chamberlain, the present pastor, entered upon his duties in 1876. Their church was built at the time of their organization. A session room and baptistry were added in 1874, and the church was frescoed, newly cushioned and painted. The present membership is about one hundred; the attendance at Sabbath school, about fifty. Among the first members were Bradford Cook, Allen Benton, Silas Kellogg, Joseph Spoor, Amos Bartlett, Jno. Barnes, Allen Green, Kingsley Stevens, Caleb Everts, Zaccheus Barnes, Othniel Clapp and Abijah Daratt.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, (R. C.), at Cato, was organized about 1863. Martin Cusick, Cornelius and Patrick Mehan, James Murphy, John Merigan, Michael Clune and Thomas Fitzgerald were among the first members. Father Donahue is the present pastor. Their house of worship was built in 1874. The number of members is about sixty.

THE M. E. CHURCH, four miles south of Cato, was organized about 1820. Amos Cowell, John Mills, Frank Hunting, and James Rhodes were among the first members. Their church edifice, which is a brick structure, was erected about 1828. Some six or seven years ago it underwent extensive repairs. A steeple was added and the whole exterior remodeled. It is a neat, substantial building. Rev. Mr. Kinney is the pastor. The membership is about fifty. Its prosperity is mainly due to the interest taken in it by Mr. Cowell.

#### SOCIETIES.

CATO LODGE No. 141, F. AND A. M., at Cato, was organized June 11th, 1849. The charter officers were George H. Carr, Master; Pier Teller, Sr. Warden; Ansel Kimball, Jr. Warden. The present officers are Frank Rich, M.; Wm. S. Pearson, S. W.; Shepard Knowlton, J. W.; J. W. Hapeman, Secretary; A. W. Palmer, S. D.; I. L. Van Dorn, J. D.; Nelson

B. Knowlton, Tiler; Wm. Sidney, S. M. C.; W. B. Priddy, J. M. C.; S. J. Chase, Treasurer. Meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of each month, in their own hall, over the Central Hotel. The number of members is 112.

MANUFACTURES.—In the south-east corner of the town, at the iron bridge, is a saw-mill owned by John Busby and built by him in 1868. Connected with it is a cider-mill and jelly factory.

## CHAPTER XXXVI.

### TOWN OF MONTEZUMA.

MONTEZUMA\* is situated about the center of the west border of the county, and lies wholly within the angle formed by the great easterly bend of the Seneca River,† which forms its northern and western boundary. The town of Aurelius borders it on the south, and Mentz and Throop, on the east.

The surface is moderately uneven, the hills consisting chiefly of rounded eminences or low ridges, which generally terminate abruptly toward the north and lose themselves in the surrounding highlands towards the south. The steepest declivities are in the south part. Broad intervals of low, flat alluvial lands, many of which are subject to annual inundations during the spring freshets, exist in the northern and central parts. An extensive swamp, known as the Montezuma marshes‡ and “the paradise of musquitoes,”§ extends along the river. Immense quantities of flag, which grow from eight to twelve feet in length, are annually cut from these marshes and shipped to the eastern markets, where they are used for bottoming chairs and other purposes. This and the fisheries here during the season give employment to a considerable number of the inhabitants. Cattle are pastured upon these marshes, and we are told that so little exertion is required here to get such

\*Named probably from the Aztec Emperors of that name, the last of whom reigned at the time of the Spanish conquest.

†The aboriginal name of this river was *Tiohero*, or river of rushes. J suit map published in 1864.

‡Aboriginal name, *Squagonna*.

§*Geographical History of New York*, 1850, J. H. Mather and L. P. Brockett, M. D.

a subsistence as the poorer classes usually have to be content with, as to leave very few to be supported as paupers, a less number than in any other town in the County. Cayuga Brook, which flows in a north-westerly direction through the town a little north of the center, is the only considerable stream.

The underlying rocks are those of the Onondaga Salt Group, the red shale of which makes its appearance along the canal, about two and one-half miles west of Port Byron, where it is associated with the yellow and green varieties. It is also met with in the borings made for brine. This group contains all the gypsum masses of western New York, and furnishes all the salt water of the salines of the counties of Onondaga and Cayuga. The gypseous is the valuable deposit of Central New York, and the most important, not only on account of its plaster beds, but because it is only in this deposit that we have positive evidence that salt has existed in this group in a solid state.

"The great mass of the deposit consists of rather soft yellowish or drab and brownish colored shale and slate, both argillaceous and calcareous, and of argillaceous and calcareous slaty and more compact masses which are hard, a brownish color predominating. The whole is usually denominated gypseous marl; being earthy and indurated, slaty and compact. Some of the indurated and more solid kinds, when weathered, present a peculiar appearance like that of having been hacked by a cutting instrument, and with some regularity, owing to cracks or joints in two directions, giving a rhombic surface; which, by solution and wear taking place at the cracks, and those not being continuous and regular as to distance, the appearance mentioned is produced. The stone readily breaks in the direction of the furrows or hacks, and the fracture shows stains or marks of infiltration.

"When an acid is applied to the different associates of the gypsum, they do not effervesce in the free manner of purer limestone, but the effect is produced when in powder. It is highly probable that the greater number contain magnesia, which may cause the difference.

"The dark color of the gypsum and the brownish color of many of its associates, appear to be owing to carbonaceous matter, and not to metallic oxides, becoming lighter by long exposure. The greenish colored shale, so abundant usually in gypseous deposits, appear to be but an inconsiderable portion in the district; owing to the dark color of its gypsum, and but few parts of the mass having recently been uncovered, and its

ready change of color by the action of the weather."\*

Several brine springs exist in and near the village of Montezuma. Their geological situation is in marly clay, 380 feet above tide. They have a temperature of fifty degrees, and evolve carbonic acid gas.

"The springs were discovered at a very early period by the Indians, and were shown by them to the first white settlers. The brine was originally obtained by digging small holes in the ground a foot or two in depth, in the marsh at the foot of the ridge upon which the village of Montezuma is situated. Subsequently wells were sunk by the whites to the depth of forty or fifty feet, from which brine was obtained in sufficient quantity for the manufacture of salt.

"In 1807, salt water was discovered in a branch of the Seneca River, since called Salt Creek, at the depth of eight or ten feet from the surface. The brine thus obtained was similar in quality to that in the wells already noticed. In 1810, under the direction of the Cayuga Manufacturing Company, a well was sunk about one hundred feet deep, on the west side of the ridge upon which the village now stands. In sinking this well three separate springs of water were discovered. The first was about ten feet from the surface, and was like that which had been previously used. Then succeeded a stratum of fine blue clay, five or six feet in depth. Below this was a stratum of hard pan, with occasionally some gravel, about thirty-five feet in depth. A third stratum of quicksand succeeded, in which was found some weak brine, yielding about ten ounces of saline matter to the gallon. Lastly, there were strata of sand and clay, with some water, to the depth of one hundred feet, where was found the great fountain of brine, which came in through a body of quicksand. This brine, when unmixed with that of the upper veins, is said to have produced twenty ounces of saline matter to the gallon.†

"The brine from this well was analyzed by Mr. G. Chilton,‡ of New York, and found to contain in each 1,000 grains,

Chloride of calcium	1.53
Chloride of magnesium	0.30
Sulphate of lime	4.31
Carbonate of lime	0.02
Chloride of sodium	73.72
Water, &c	920.12

"A year or two afterwards, another well was sunk on the east side of the ridge, and the great fountain of brine was found at a depth of eighty

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

† "See a letter of Comfort Tyler, Esq., published in the Appendix to Dr. Van Rensselaer's *Essay on Salt*."

‡ *Silliman's Journal*, VII., p. 344.

feet. The strata passed through were similar to those in the preceding well. The *new well*, more recently opened, (I believe in 1824,) was one hundred and twenty feet deep. At one hundred and fifteen feet, the brine was said to have been of sufficient strength to yield eighteen ounces of saline matter to the gallon. On reaching the quicksand, however, the brine rose rapidly, and in two or three days overflowed the top of the well.

"In 1823, the salt made at the Montezuma springs amounted to between 16,000 and 20,000 bushels, of which about 1,000 were produced by solar evaporation. From that time the annual produce gradually decreased, until it scarcely amounted to more than a few hundred bushels.

"This great depression of the manufacture may be ascribed to several causes. One of these undoubtedly is the rudeness of the pump works. The brine is raised by hand or horse power, and the tubs are so imperfectly constructed that fresh water is continually flowing in and reducing its strength. The soil is moreover owned by individuals, and the manufacturer is obliged to purchase or lease it, as well as to erect his works. At the Onondaga springs, on the contrary, grounds are furnished by the State without charge.

"Again, the inferior strength of the Montezuma brine has operated unfavorably upon the manufacture at this place. On the other hand, the advantages possessed here, are an abundant supply of wood and eligible sites for the erection of works on a side-cut from the Erie Canal.

"The brine obtained from one of the borings made here previously to 1840, had a specific gravity of 1.07543. 1,000 parts of the brine yield 101.20 dry solid matter. The composition of the whole is as follows :

Carbonate of lime.....	0.18
Sulphate of lime.....	5.25
Chloride of calcium .....	1.40
Chloride of magnesium.....	1.00
Chloride of sodium, or common salt.....	93.35
Oxide of iron, with a minute portion of silica and carbonate of lime.....	0.02
Carbonic acid, holding in solution the carbonate of lime and oxide of iron.....	0.08
Water, with a trace of organic matter.....	898.72

"This brine, therefore, contains 700 grains of dry chloride of sodium in a wine pint; 5,600 grains, or 0.80 pound in a gallon, and it requires nearly seventy gallons for a bushel of salt. The strength of the Geddes brine, when compared to this, is about as ten to seven; of the Liverpool brine, as ten to six and a half.

"By an act of the Legislature passed in 1840, an appropriation was made for the purpose of procuring, if possible, a supply of brine of sufficient strength to be advantageously used in the manufacture of salt. A shaft was sunk to the

depth of 200 feet, which opened into a vein of brine much stronger than any heretofore procured in this vicinity. The specific gravity of this brine is 1.09767; and 1,000 parts of it contain 129.33 parts of dry, solid matter, or 12.93 in 100 parts of brine. This is within one per cent. of the quantity contained in some of the brines which have been worked in Onondaga county; a fact which would seem to warrant further expenditures, and to strengthen the expectations which have been entertained in regard to the establishment of the manufacture of salt at Montezuma.

"I have analyzed brine from a boring of upwards of 500 feet, at the village of Montezuma, and which is remarkable for the large proportion of saline matter which it contains. The specific gravity of this brine is 1.18959, water being 1.00000. 1,000 grains of the brine contained 230.30 grains of perfectly dry saline matter. The strength of the specimen may be judged of by the fact, that 1,000 grains of water saturated with common salt, contain from 260 to 270 grains of that salt; so that if there were nothing in this brine but common salt, it would be within three or four per cent. of complete saturation; but this is far from being the case.

"The following are the constituents in 1,000 grains of this brine:

Sulphate of lime, with minute portions of carbonate of lime and oxide of iron.....	0.69
Chloride of calcium.....	90.24
Chloride of magnesium.....	8.05
Common salt, (pure and dry,).....	131.32
Water, with traces of organic matter.....	769.70

It will require from 43 to 45 gallons of this brine to furnish a bushel of salt in the ordinary state of dryness.

"The following statement will exhibit the value of this brine, as compared with the best specimens heretofore obtained from Syracuse and Montezuma :

	Grains.
Proportion of common salt in 100 grains of this brine.....	13.13
Proportion of common salt in 100 grains of best Syracuse brine.....	17.35
Proportion of common salt in 100 grains of best Montezuma brine.....	9.33

"But in regard to the troublesome impurities, viz: the chlorides of calcium and magnesium, the proportion in the brine just described is much larger, as will appear from the following statement :

	Grains.
Earthy chlorides in 100 grains of this brine.....	9.82
Earthy chlorides in 100 grains of best Syracuse brine.....	1.50
Earthy chlorides in 100 grains of best Montezuma brine.....	2.40

"The manufacture of salt from this brine, therefore, will require more than ordinary care; as the earthy chlorides, even in small proportions, render it moist and unfit for certain uses."\*

The well here referred to is doubtless the one sunk in 1839, by Solomon P. Jacobs, then State Superintendent of Salt Works, back of the present grist-mill in the village of Montezuma. It was carried to a depth of 650 feet.

About 1858 the State appropriated \$7,000 to develop the Montezuma salt springs. Col. John S. Clark and William H. Carpenter, of Auburn, were appointed commissioners to superintend operations. A boring was made east of the village, near Buckland's bridge, on the farm owned by C. W. Clapp, and another near the river, on land owned by J. J. McLoud; but the brine at neither place was sufficiently strong to warrant the erection of works. A third boring was made at a place locally known as "Charleston," one and one-half miles south-west of this village, and brine obtained, which, it is said, was equal to that at Syracuse. Two long blocks were built and the manufacture of salt begun about 1860. In 1862 Messrs. Truesdale & Loomis began to make salt of a superior quality, and bade fair to realize their fondest hopes. Salt was manufactured about three years, till 1863, when a bar of iron or steel, an attachment to the pump, fell to the bottom of the well, which was thus effectually sealed and remains so to this day. The bar exactly fitted the tube and could not be removed. The business was consequently abandoned.

This circumstance gave rise to the suspicion of foul play and induced the belief that this accident was concerted in the interest of the salt works at Syracuse; but it is probable that the business here, like that at Syracuse, suffered from the competition incident to the development of the salt interests in Michigan and Canada, and that this accounts for the final abandonment.

A few years previous to this Frank Torrey, L. D. Fenelon and David Gaston manufactured a good article of salt from brine drawn from the old well near the grist-mill, in the village; but they soon discontinued it. In 1872 a stock company was formed, the capital being furnished by weekly contributions, for the manufacture of salt by solar evaporation. Seven long vats were erected; but after a short trial some lost faith in the enterprise and withheld their contributions,

and the project was soon abandoned. The inferior brine and deliquescent character of the salt made from it, owing to the presence of earthy chlorides, made it impossible to compete with the works at Syracuse.

About this time another appropriation of \$3,000 was obtained through the efforts of Hon. Ira D. Brown, member of the Legislature in 1871. Wm. Thorn, J. M. Jones and B. Ross were appointed commissioners. They were of the opinion that by cleaning out and extending the tube of the well near the grist-mill a stronger brine would be obtained, but they sunk the well to a depth of 1,000 feet without realizing their expectations. The derrick still stands, a monument to their enterprise and the State's improvidence.

The soil upon the hills is a clay loam, mixed in places with gravel; in the valleys and on the flats it is a rich alluvion.

The area of the town is 9,550 acres; of which 7,528 are improved; 844, woodland; and 1,178, otherwise unimproved.

The population in 1875 was 1,395; of whom 1,222 were native; 173, foreign; 1,385, white; 10, colored; and 215, owners of land.\*

The direct line of the New York Central Railroad crosses the north border of the town, but there is no station within the town. The Erie Canal crosses the town from east to west a little north of the center and crosses the river upon an aqueduct. The Cayuga & Seneca Lake Canal connects with the Erie Canal at Montezuma village, and extends south along the west border.

#### MONTEZUMA.

Montezuma (p. o.) was incorporated in 1866.† It is situated near the center of the west border, adjacent to the river, and at the junction of the Erie and Cayuga and Seneca Lake Canals. It is connected by stage with Auburn, whence it receives its mail. It contains four churches, (M. E., Free Methodist, Baptist and Catholic,) a district school, one dry goods store, one hardware store, one drug store, four groceries, two

\* *Census of 1875.*

† Following is a list of the presidents of the village since its incorporation, with the years in which each served; Wm. Thorn, 1866 and '7; Alanson White, 1868; Frank Torrey, 1869-'70 and '71; Alonzo D. Drake, 1872,-'3 and '5; Col. Wm. Bell, 1874; Henry Stokes, 1876; C. E. Chase, 1877; and Garrett Forshee, 1878.

The village officers in 1878 were Garrett Forshee, president; Dr. Emerick Crispell, clerk; Jerome Warrick, treasurer; Frank Torrey, John Ross and John Malloy, trustees.

\* James C. Beck, *Natural History of New York Mineralogy.*

hotels and a grist-mill. It has a population of 550.

The grist-mill owned by Messrs. Babcock & Drake, came into their possession some twelve years since. It was originally built as a steam mill in 1853, by L. A. Hopkins, of Auburn, and was changed to a water power mill in 1861. The motive power is furnished by the surplus water from the canal, there being no natural water power in the village. The mill has three run of stones.

The *Northern Hotel*, located in what is called the old village, is conducted by H. R. Shockey, who leases of Mrs. Elcy Forbes. This hotel occupies the site of the first hotel kept in the town, which was built about seventy years ago by a man named Stephens, and was burned July 16th, 1874.

The *Exchange Hotel*, located in the new village, has been kept by Garrett Forshee some five or six years.

*Montezuma Lodge F. & A. M. No. 176*, was organized July 15th, 1850, with seven members, and meets the first and third Saturday evenings of each month. Simeon Mott was the first master. The present officers are, Jerome L. Fuller, *M.*; Chas. W. Ball, *S. W.*; John Ross, *J. W.*; H. Mack, *Treas.*; Ed. Ross, *Sec.* The present membership is 48.

*Rechabite Tent No. 43*, was organized in September, 1874, with Russel S. Chappel as *C. R.*; B. F. David, *D. R.*; and Geo. W. Bell, *Shepherd*. The present officers are, B. I. C. Bucklin, *C. R.*; Chas. Davenport, *D. R.*; and Dr. E. W. Crispell, *Shepherd*. It is reputed to be a useful temperance organization. There are 60 members. Meetings are held every Saturday night.

*Logan Grange No. 107*, at the old Mentz Church in Montezuma, was organized about 1873, with thirty members. It consists of twenty-nine members. The first officers were, Jno. S. Pratt, *Master*; Wm. Buckingham, *Overseer*; and Jas. H. Baldwin, *Lecturer*. The present officers are Chas. C. Weston, *Master*; J. D. Nye, *Overseer*; and Abram Rowe, *Lecturer*.

In the south-east part of the town is a cheese factory, which receives the milk of about 100 cows. It was built in 1872, by a stock company, of which Wallace Weston is *President*; S. R. Glasgow, *Secretary*; and Alonzo J. Weston, *Treasurer*.

The first settlements were made in 1798, at what is now called the old village of Montezuma, by Dr. Peter Clarke, Comfort Tyler and Abram Morgan, who were attracted to the locality by the salt springs there; though it is pretty certain that neither Clarke nor Tyler settled there permanently till several years later, about 1810 or '11. About the beginning of the present century they commenced the manufacture of salt, "and did a good business long before Syracuse had lain the foundations of its present prosperity and wealth."

COLONEL. COMFORT TYLER was born in the town of Ashford, Conn., February 22d, 1764. At the age of fourteen he evinced that disposition to mingle in public affairs which so conspicuously characterized his after life, for at that age we find him a soldier in the war of the Revolution, though his duties were light, being mostly confined to service in and about the fortress of West Point. In 1783 he was engaged in surveying and in teaching school in the Mohawk country, and while there he was engaged by Gen. James Clinton and spent one season with the expedition to establish the boundary line between New York and Pennsylvania. In the spring of 1788, in company with Major Asa Danforth, he began the settlement in Onondaga county, where he "felled the first tree, and constructed the first piece of turnpike road in the State west of Fort Stanwix," and assisted in the first manufacture of salt. When the Military Tract was surveyed he was selected to assist. He surveyed one of the townships, and subsequently the Cayuga reservation. He filled various offices of responsibility and trust in Onondaga county, and in 1798 and '9, represented that county in the Legislature. He was foremost among the agitators for public improvements, and was conspicuously active in the construction of roads, bridges and all other works calculated to promote the general welfare. His efforts to bring capital and influence in aid of these undertakings led to his acquaintance with Aaron Burr, and his subsequent connection with the celebrated southern expedition projected by that gentleman, which resulted so disastrously. The disease which ultimately resulted in Col. Tyler's death is ascribed to his effort to evade capture at this time. This affair greatly impaired his private fortune, and, such was the popular prejudice against those who participated in it,

that it destroyed forever his prospects as a public man. It also engendered a controversy between Burr and Tyler, which resulted in their total estrangement.

In 1811, Col. Tyler removed with his family to Montezuma, and took a deep interest in the Cayuga Manufacturing Company, who were engaged in making salt. With a view to increasing their business by rendering Montezuma more accessible, and very much by the advice and personal exertions of Col. Tyler, the company built two long bridges across the Seneca and Clyde rivers, and constructed a turnpike, more than three miles in length, over the Cayuga marshes, where the earth was so soft that with one hand a man might with ease thrust a pole into it ten or twelve feet.

Col. Tyler resided two or three years in Hoboken, and superintended the draining of the salt meadows in that vicinity. During the war of 1812 he entered the army and served in the capacity of Assistant Commissary General to the northern army, with the rank of Colonel, till the close of the war.

After the close of the war the canal policy engaged his earnest attention. From the beginning, he was among the foremost of the advocates of that work, and he was early in the field, side by side with Judge Geddes and Judge Forman in advocating the feasibility and policy of the plan. He lived to rejoice with those who rejoiced at its completion.

He died at his residence in Montezuma, in the house now occupied by Addison Pease, August 5th, 1827.\*

Dr. Peter Lynsen Clarke, who was born at Milford, Connecticut, July 15th, 1773, came from New York city, on horse-back, and arranged for the erection of his residence, returning in the same way. Soon after his return he learned that the parties with whom he had contracted for the erection of the building, had decamped with the \$2,000, the contract price. He immediately returned and executed a new contract with other parties, for a like amount, not forgetting the second time a precaution he had overlooked at first, to require sureties from the builders.† It is a large, once sightly building, and

\* *Clark's Onondaga*, to which we are indebted for many of the facts obtained in this sketch.

† Local authorities differ in regard to the year in which this house was built. John Francis Daley, who has been connected with the

though it now shows signs of decay, is extremely well preserved. When erected it was supposed there was not another such house west of Albany. It stands upon a rounded eminence, known as Prospect Hill, and from its roof one gets a magnificent view of the surrounding country, which lies spread before him like a panorama. A really beautiful landscape is presented, such as one seldom beholds, diversified by hill and valley, and broad spreading plains, through which the river and creek, like silver threads, glisten in the sun, as they wend their tortuous course. The eye is charmed by the pleasing alternation of cultivated field, wooded slope, and grassy plot, with an occasional house peeping through the foliage of trees by which they are partially hidden. He realizes fully, having previously viewed the country from the neighboring lowlands, the force of the adage, "distance lends enchantment to the view," for it needs such a distance and altitude to give him a favorable impression of the marshy tracts which prevail in the immediate vicinity of the village.

Dr. Clarke moved into the town soon after with his family, and while his house was in process of erection occupied a house adjacent to it built by Mr. Swarthout, which has since burned down. He and his son, James Anthony Clarke, who was born in Brooklyn, July 23d, 1804, were largely interested in the salt works at this place, and were prominently identified with several other business interests conducted here.

About 1840 he removed with his family to New York, where he died May 31st, 1858. His remains are interred in the family cemetery in Montezuma, which is an addition, including three acres of ground, to the Montezuma Prospect Hill Cemetery, beautifully situated upon the hill-side a little south-east of the village, where a fine marble monument is erected, costing \$1,000.

The property still remains in the hands of the Clarke family, and the old house is the summer resort of its surviving members, some of whom spend several months here every summer.

Clarke family for thirty years and has had charge of their property here for the last twenty five years, fixes the date in 1813; while Horatio Mack, who has proved to be an excellent authority in other respects, and to whom we are largely indebted for information regarding this town, thinks it was built as early as 1808. We are inclined to think the latter date more nearly correct, for he had a child born in the town in 1810; showing that he moved in his family as early as that year.

"Col. Solomon P. Jacobs, Dr. Job W. May, Royal Torrey, Wm. Dewey, Zebulon Mack, Drs. Noyes Palmer and Geo. W. Fitch, Robert Whaley, Alfred Hovey, Nicholas Morgan, Samuel Bradley, Simeon Mott, Benj. F. Janes, Asher P. Osborn, Alanson Griggs, S. N. Budlong, J. C. Wood, John J. and Frank Cook, Augustus Stokes, Geo. Vredenberg, Dr. Griggs and others, who sleep their last sleep, were residents of the village. Several of them to-day are represented in business by their children.

"H. S. Lemon was salt inspector; James McLoud, Samuel Gillespie and J. K. Chipps were proprietors of hotels.

"In 1848 Col. Jacobs was canal superintendent; Roswell R. Jacobs, captain of the State scow; Horace Davenport, Lewis D. and John R. Fenlon, captains of the packet boats.

"Lewis Bostedo, who died December 23d, 1877, in Wisconsin, and figured conspicuously in the business of the village, John J. Tallmadge, (Democratic candidate for Governor of Wisconsin, in 1870,) Giles Ross, (now of Michigan,) John Patrick, recently deceased, John Brett, who died in Auburn, Norman Hurd, who died in Canada, Diamond H. Hoff, who died recently in California, Edson Bishop, who died a few months since in Auburn, Maj. David Titus, of Aurelius, Samuel Bell, of Sacramento, Cal., Maj. Washington Bogardus, now living in New York, Wm. and J. K. Chipps, now living in Geneva, were also engaged in business. N. G. and Robert Ransom, (the former now living in Missouri, and the latter in this town,) and Wm. Ross, now living in the village, were leading farmers. Wm. Chillis, since Lieutenant-Governor of California, taught school in the house of Judge Post. Chauncey Smith, of Michigan, Chauncey Stokes, and Adonijah Stanley, of California, Abram Preston, of Michigan, and Smith D. Mallory, now living in the town, were prominent carpenters and mechanics. The genial Stephen Reamer, now deceased, kept a hotel on the site of the present hotel in the old village. Chas. Fenlon, now County Treasurer of Waupaca county, Wisconsin, R. K. McMaster, of St. Louis, recently deceased, Hiram Titus, now of Aurelius, Geo. B. Hurd, Henry Stokes, Frank Torrey, C. C. Mallory, and Benj. P. Ransom were among the young men of that day."\*

Ephraim Martin and a Mr. Howell were early settlers in the south-west part of the town, and Lewis McLoud, east of the village. Robert Ransom settled a little west of the village at an early day. Jethro Wood, the inventor of the cast-iron plow, came into the town from Scipio about 1832, and settled on Clarke's hill.

MERCHANTS.—Dr. Peter Clarke, Caleb M.

Fitch, John M. Flint and a Mr. Lord were among the first merchants.

Caleb M. Fitch moved into the town from Columbia county, N. Y., with his family, consisting of wife and eight children, only two of the latter of whom, (Wm. and Sarah Ann, wife of Bennett Radford,) are now living, about 1822, and settled in the old village, and opened a dry goods store in the building diagonally opposite the hotel, and now occupied by Henry Lemon, as a dwelling. Peter Clarke was selling dry goods in the same building, which was divided. He was a member of the Cayuga Manufacturing Company, which then consisted, besides himself, of Peter Clarke, Geo. W. Fitch and Job and Asher Tyler, the latter of whom removed to Cattaraugus county, and served his district in Congress in 1843-'45. About 1826-'27-'28, Mr. Fitch was associated with John M. Flint in the dry goods business. He subsequently purchased the interest of Flint, who removed to New York, where he kept the Pearl Street House. Mr. Fitch died August 23d, 1829.

Horatio Mack opened his drug store in the village in 1870, and has since continued it. He was born here July 1st, 1844. He is the present postmaster, a position he has held for nine successive years. His father, Zebulon Mack, who, in early life taught school in Montreal, moved into the town of Montezuma from Seneca Falls, in 1841, and died here November 24th, 1861. He was engaged in the grocery business in the village some ten years, and was postmaster for five years from 1849. In 1856-'57-'58 he was salt inspector.

Eli Sherman, a native of New Jersey, came to Montezuma from Onondaga county in April, 1836, and in company with Hiram Curtis from Connecticut, engaged in the boot and shoe business. After about a year Mr. Curtis returned to Connecticut, leaving Mr. Sherman to conduct the business alone until 1871, when his son, James L. Sherman, was admitted to partnership. In 1860, dry goods were added to the stock. The firm is E. Sherman & Son.

Wm. Thorn was born in London, England, and came to this country with his wife, Jessie, in 1848. In the fall of 1861 he removed to the village and opened a flour and feed store. He was canal collector in 1872-'73.

Preston W. Ross and James J. McLoud,

\*Horatio Mack. Contribution to *Cayuga Chief*.

opened their stock of groceries and boots and shoes in December, 1874, under the firm name of Ross & McLoud.

John F. Daley, who has resided in the town some thirty years, and whose family has charge of the Clarke family's property, opened his grocery and meat market November 17th, 1875.

Frank Faatz, in the spring of 1877, opened the hardware store, which is now conducted under the name of Frank Faatz & Co.

PHYSICIANS.—The first physician was Dr. Nathan Wood, who lived in the Ward settlement in Throop. Dr. Job W. May was probably the first resident physician. He settled at the old village previous to 1814. He continued to practice until incapacitated by age and infirmities. In 1858 he removed to Wayne county, where he died, January 2d, 1875, aged 98 years. He was an excellent physician. Dr. Geo. W. Fitch, a brother of Caleb M. Fitch, came in from Onondaga Hollow shortly previous to 1822. The present physicians are Drs. C. E. Chase and E. W. Crispell.

Mrs. Sarah D. Stocking, formerly Mrs. S. D. Mack, and Mrs. Mary Sherman are the present milliners.

"The first postmaster was Dr. Job W. May. His successors were, Dr. Geo. W. Fitch, Dr. Noyes Palmer, E. Sherman, Norman Hurd, Lewis Bostedo, Zebulon Mack, Samuel W. Budlong, Benj. F. Janes, E. Sherman, G. A. Stocking and Horatio Mack.

"Judge Wardwell, who died in Jefferson county, in April, 1878, was the first canal collector. He was succeeded by Wm. Noble, Dr. Noyes Palmer, Alfred Hovey, E. B. Cobb, Dr. Alleben, Elijah Miller, Theron Green, Wm. H. Day, David S. Titus, E. H. Whitney, Giles Ross, Stephen M. Stokes, Wm. K. Wheat, Hiram Titus, Chas. Truesdale, Royal E. Torrey, Henry Stokes, Garrett Forshee, A. White, Wm. Thorn, B. Ross, John Nolan and Wm. Emerson."\*

The first saw-mill was built about 1810 or '12; and the first grist-mill about 1842 or '43, by Horatio Griffin. It was a steam-mill, and stood on the lot owned by Catharine Joiner, on the east side of the road between the old and new village. A saw-mill was connected with it, but both burned down soon after. Previous to that the settlers took their grists to Throopsville and Port Byron.

The completion of the Erie Canal in 1825 gave a new impetus to the village, and diverted settle-

ments to its locality, which is denominated the new village, in contradistinction from the settlements made when the salt interests were the center of attraction.

TOWN OFFICERS.—Montezuma was organized as a town April 8th, 1859, being set off from Mentz. The first town meeting was held at the house of Isaac W. Trufant, March 6th, 1860, at which time the following named officers were elected: Royal Torrey, *Supervisor*; Isaac W. Trufant, *Clerk*; Morgan L. Worden, William Bell and Robert Jeffries, *Justices of the Peace*; James A. Baldwin, William Pease and John B. Myers, *Assessors*; Ezra Pease and Joseph McLoud, *Overseers of the Poor*; Robert Ransom, Joseph Weston, John A. Taylor, Jr., *Commissioners of Highways*; Jesse S. Leigh, *Collector*; Henry Stokes, Harmon H. Morgan, Christopher Trufant, Moses Gay and John W. Mills, *Constables*; Bennett Ratford, Smith D. Mallory and Charles H. Gamwell, *Inspectors of Election*; Titus Bargy, *Sealer of Weights and Measures*; N. Post and G. H. Stocking, *Justices of the Peace*.

The present officers are (1879):

*Supervisor*—Alonzo D. Drake.

*Town Clerk*—William F. Daley.

*Justices*—Nathaniel Post, Frank Torrey and Jonathan P. Jones.

*Assessors*—John Ross, Charles W. Ball and James D. Nye.

*Collector*—William Kelley.

*Overseer of the Poor*—Silas H. Pease.

*Constables*—Horace Davenport and Charles Humphrey.

*Inspectors of Election*—Curtis I. Trufant, Thos. Hall and Charles Walling.

*Game Constable*—Jacob H. Shaw.

*Commissioners of Highways*—William Buckingham, John Stahlnecker, Jr., and Harrison L. Crofut.

*Commissioner of Excise*—George Eckert.

Montezuma sent over one hundred men into the field during the Rebellion, of whom many died. La Due, Walling and Mosher died in Andersonville prison, and Franklin Reed, Harmon A. Morgan, George White, Henry Mink and others, were slain in battle.

CHURCHES.—The first church formed in the town was *The First Presbyterian Church of the town of Mentz*, now located at Port Byron, about the beginning of the present century. The meet-

\* Horatio Mack. Contribution to *Cayuga Chief*.



ings were held in a school house which stood near the site of the "Old Mentz church."

THE BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTEZUMA was formed September 11th, 1819, and the "Church of Aurelius and Mentz" was adopted as its name. The first pastor was Rev. Ichabod Clark, who was voted \$25 for his "labors among us in the gospel," February 21st, 1820. The church took early and strong ground against the practice of dancing, for at a meeting held March 9th, 1820, it is recorded that Benjamin Waite made complaint against Harry Phelps for indulging in that pastime, and a committee was appointed to labor with him. May 11th, 1820, the committee reported adversely and fellowship was withdrawn. At the same meeting \$75 was voted Mr. Clark for pastoral services for one year from March 10th, 1820, the amount to be paid in grain, which, according to a vote passed January 20th, 1821, was to be estimated at seventy-five cents per bushel for wheat, and thirty cents for corn and rye.

James Rathbone, Amos Woodworth, William Chandler, Benjamin Waite, William Gay, Samuel Gilbert, R. N. Woodworth, Ebenezer Allen, Freegift Cole, William Blossom, Harry Phelps, William Greiggs, Benjamin B. Jewett, Wheaton Hicks, Sperry Peck, Phebe Gay and Elias Beach were among the first members of this church.

February 21st, 1820, it was "Voted that we believe it to be a disciplinable evil for our brethren to attend the Free Mason Lodge; therefore feel it our duty as a Church of Christ not to fellowship such brethren as do visit the Lodges, or any other of the Masonic meetings." This view, however, seems soon to have been very much modified, for November 4th, 1820, it was "Voted to withdraw the vote passed February 21st, 1820, concerning the subject of Masonry."

Elder Elkeney Comstock was the next pastor, for February 2d, 1822, he was voted \$100 for preaching one year from January 1st, 1822. May 4th, 1822, it was "Voted that the church acted unconsiderate in receiving Brother Fradrick Lathrop on his Baptism, being Baptized by an open communion Baptist." At the same date it was "Voted to withdraw the hand of fellowship from Sister Eunice Emons for her unlawful act in marrying another man while her husband liveth." For several years they were without a

pastor, although the records show that frequent efforts were made to secure the services of one. Elder Luther Goodrich was the next pastor, from June 28th, 1828, for two years. July 3d, 1830, it was "Voted to hold meetings constantly at the school-house on the turnpike near to Foster-ville."

June 4th, 1831, Elder Goodrich officiated, and Elder John Jeffries succeeded him in the pastorate. October 1st, 1836, he was granted a letter. Elder S. M. Plumb served them a few months in 1837, and was succeeded by Elder Ezra Dean, as a licentiate, April 19th, 1838. Elder Dean was ordained August 29th, 1838, and continued one year. Elder John Jeffries was again engaged May 15th, 1838.

January 1st, 1842, the church decided to give Edmon Mott a license to preach, and August 6th, 1842, the hand of fellowship was withdrawn from him on account of infidelity to his wife.

In 1843 Elder Jeffries severed his connection with the church, but was engaged to supply the desk till another pastor could be secured, for which he was promised a reward. September 3d, 1844, he was voted \$50 for that service; but it was never paid, for February 20th, 1845, it was voted to accept it as a donation, Mr. Jeffries having relinquished his claim to it. June 3d, 1843, a letter of dismissal was voted him. W. F. Purrington supplied the pulpit, at the expense of the society, till May 1st, 1844. Sunday, November 3d, 1844, Elder P. Lyon seems to have filled the pulpit, and the following Sunday his services were engaged for one year at a salary of \$250.

February 28th, 1846, it was unanimously resolved to call Brother W. F. Purrington to ordination. February 6th, 1847, it was resolved to invite Brother Purrington to continue the pastorate, and instead of a salary to give him all that could be collected in the church and society by subscription and donation. July 1st, 1849, Elder O. M. Gibbs assumed pastoral relations. May 2d, 1852, Elder H. Trow was called to the pastorate one year, for \$300. June 10th, 1855, the services of Elder Ferguson were secured till the first of the following September, at \$5 per Sabbath.

The record does not show who were the pastors from this period to 1868, in which year Elder L. R. Reynolds was called. He commenced

his labors January 1st, 1868 and closed them April 1st, 1872. He was succeeded by Elder Chas. Berry who served the church from May, 1872, till May, 1874; Elder Sigford supplied the pulpit three months during the summer of 1874, and Adelbert Coates, a student from Rochester, for six months during the summer of 1875. Till October 1st, '76, when Ross Matthews, of Port Byron was called, the pulpit was supplied by students from Rochester and Hamilton. When it was decided to call Elder Matthews, it was also decided to raise \$200 toward his salary and to ask the State Convention to add thereto such sum as they in their wisdom saw fit. April 10th, 1878, an invitation was extended to Elder L. R. Reynolds to again become their pastor for one year from April 28th. The Church has a present membership of thirty-six.

**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MONTEZUMA.**—In the year 1823, the first meetings under the auspices of the M. E. Society, were held at the school house in the old village. Robert Whaling was the first class-leader. The original members of his class were Benoni Harris and wife, Robert Whaling and wife, Walter Thorp and wife, Thos. Fenlon and wife, Ezra Buckingham and wife, Eneas Cherry and sons, Sallie Austin, Maria Clarke, and Mary Barnes. In the year 1825, the Mentz Church was erected. The first minister was Rev. John Kimberling, who was succeeded by Vincent M. Corriel, Dana Fox, Isaac Puffer, Roswell Parker, John Watson, John Whitcomb, Loren L. Adkins, Philo Bennett, Rev. Mr. Morton, Alonzo Wood, Wm. Newell Cobb, Jas. Aylsworth, Ward W. White, Aaron Cross, Samuel B. Porter, C. H. Hall, Wm. Dean, David Davis, Lansing Benjamin, A. Hamilton, Asa Benham, J. S. Foster, Albert Ensign, John M. Searles, Thos. D. Wire, Wm. C. Bowen, F. M. Warner, Walter Jerome, S. Miner, Elias Hoxie, David Davis, D. W. Beadle, David Stone, Royal Houghton, S. H. Aldridge, Charles L. Dunning, John R. Pendell, and W. F. Butman, the present pastor.

The present M. E. Church on Auburn street, was dedicated January 1st, 1848, Rev. Elias Bowen, Presiding Elder. Cost about \$2,000. Present number of members 100.

Average attendance at Sabbath school, 35. Average attendance at Class-meetings, 45. Average attendance at Prayer-meetings, 30.

While none of the members of the church have been called to the missionary field of labor, yet the church has had at all times active and zealous members, who have always stood firm and true for the Master, and has been blessed with an active and pious ministry, and many are safe in the promised land as the reward of their labors. Rev. Wm. C. Bowen, A. M., a former pastor of the church, is now Professor and Principal of the Bordentown Seminary, Bordentown, N. J.

**THE OLD MENTZ CHURCH (M. E.)** located in the south-east part of the town, was organized prior to 1825, in which year their present church edifice was erected. Meetings were held previous to the erection of the house in the barn of John Gilmore. Rev. Samuel Bibbins of Weedsport, officiated as their pastor when the church was erected. The present pastor is Rev. Seth Mattison, who has served them two years. The present membership is about thirty; and the attendance at the Sabbath school forty.

The first Methodist minister known to have preached in Montezuma was Benoni Harris.

**ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, (Catholic,)** at Montezuma village, was organized about 1865, with some fourteen families, among whom were John M. Daley, John Nolan, Michael Maroney, Thos. Connolly and Thos. McGuire. Previous to the organization occasional meetings were held in private houses and conducted by priests from the neighboring villages. The church, the one now occupied, was built in 1865, at a cost of \$1,400, the money having been contributed by individuals in this, Seneca and Wayne counties. The first pastor was Rev. James Leddy, who commenced his ministrations in the fall of 1865, and came once a month from Weedsport, where he was settled. After about a year Father Patrick Burns, commenced his ministry here, continuing about two years. He was succeeded by two German priests, one of whom was Rev. Father Joseph, who also served them about two years. Father Michael Purcell came next, continuing his pastoral relations about three years, and was followed by Anthony Vei Cici, an Italian, and after two years, by John C. Kenney, who also served them three years. Father Kenney was succeeded by Father Chas. Horan, whose ministrations they now enjoy, and who, like his predecessors, being stationed at Weedsport, filled the pulpit there as well as at Port Byron. The church never

had a resident pastor. They number about thirty-seven families, and are now negotiating for a lot, on which they purpose erecting a new edifice. Father James O'Connor was a very acceptable pastor of this Church, but in what year we could not determine.

THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH, of Montezuma village, was formed about 1869, in which year the church edifice was built by Bolivar Beach, in whom the title is vested. The building cost about \$1,500, and will seat about 300 persons. Among the first members were Bolivar Beach and wife, Ellen, John Stahlnecker and wife, Catharine, and daughter, Catharine, Wm. Reed, Roswell R. Jacobs, Mrs. Almeda Freeland, Thos. Allen and Mrs. Benjamin Helmer. The present number of members is twelve. Meetings were held some two years previous to the building of the church, in the Baptist Church and the school-house. The first pastor was John Glen, who remained one year. He was succeeded by John T. James, a Mr. McDougall, John Osborn, and Moses M. Downing, each of whom remained one year. Rev. Mr. Olney, of Port Byron, is the present pastor. They have not been continuous in their service, and the church is in a feeble condition.

## CHAPTER XXXVII.

### TOWN OF MENTZ.

MENTZ is an interior town, situated north of the center of the County and is bounded on the north by Seneca River, which separates it from the town of Conquest, on the east by Brutus, on the south by Throop, and on the west by Montezuma.

The surface is moderately hilly, the highest elevations being in the southern part. The north part partakes more of the character of the marshy tract which borders the river. The hills are susceptible of cultivation to their summits. The streams are the Owasco Outlet, which flows north through the central part, and Spring Brook, which crosses the south-east part, both emptying into the Seneca River, the former in this town, the latter in Brutus.

The underlying rocks are the red shale, gypsum and limestone of the Onondaga salt group, which rests upon the Niagara group. The gypsum does not appear in layers or beds; on the contrary it occurs in insulated masses, as though the particles of each mass had been attracted by a common center, but greatly modified by disturbing causes, so that the forms which it assumed were irregular and not globular masses. In many localities there appears to be two ranges of these masses, or *plaster beds*, as they are termed, generally separated by the vermicular rock, the hopper shaped cavities, and other less characteristic masses. The hopper cavities were noticed at the hill and road-side to the south of Port Byron, below the gypsum. In no part of the range is there a vertical section, of any great height, of the gypseous masses exposed; and, therefore, there is no absolute certainty of their being in ranges, or of the number of ranges, though certain localities prove both. The disposition of the whole third, or gypseous, deposit to a stratiform arrangement favors a like state for the gypsum, but does not define the number of the ranges.

The plaster hills range from east to west through the County. They are more or less rounded and short, rendering some portions of their plaster very accessible, the layers in which the masses exist having but a slight inclination.

The *vermicular lime-rock* is essentially calcareous, and was first made known by Prof. Eaton. It is a porous or cellular rock, strongly resembling porous or cellular lava. Its name is due to there having been observed in it several holes, lined with a kind of tubular calcareous shell or crust, in some measure resembling the tubular covering of the *Serpula*, which is so often seen perforating coral rocks. In color it is a dark-gray or blue rock, perforated everywhere with curvilinear holes; but very compact between the holes. The holes or cells vary from microscopic to half an inch in diameter. The cells generally are very irregular, and communicate in most instances with one another. Some are spherical, and contain spherical crusts. The resemblance of no small part of the rock to a porous lava is perfect; but if the cells in lava are caused by gaseous matter, as is commonly supposed, then these had a different origin. In Bull's plaster quarry in the town of Lenox, the structure of

the cells leaves no doubt as to their mineral origin. The cells show that parts of the rock were disposed to separate into very thin layers which project into the cells, an effect wholly at variance with aëriform cavities, but evidently the result of the simultaneous forming of the rock, and of a soluble mineral, whose removal caused the cells in question. This view appears to be fully confirmed by the discovery in this rock of those forms which are due to common salt, showing that a soluble saline material had existed and acquired shape in it, and been subsequently dissolved, having a cavity or cavities.

There are two masses of the vermicular rock, an upper and a lower one. The former extends from Port Byron east to the ridge west of Oneida Creek. It is about four feet thick; and its pores or cavities are usually large. The lower mass is limited. Its pores are small, and its greatest thickness is about twenty feet.\*

An extensive deposit of gravel and fine building sand has been opened in the hill in the south part of Port Byron, and large quantities of the former have been used in improving the roads in the town. The sand is shipped to other localities by canal. A vertical section of some one hundred feet is exposed, and gives a fine illustration of the dip and strata of the rocks.

Vast deposits of marl exist in this town in common with many other localities in the County.†

Only recently its development as a fertilizer was begun, and should the enterprise meet with that success which it now seems reasonable to anticipate, this interest is destined to be an important industry in this locality. It will open up an almost inexhaustible mine of the richest manure.

"This substance is a carbonate of lime, which has separated from its solvent, in water; the latter preventing its particles from cohering together, and allowing them to subside in the state of a calcareous mud. It is in many places constantly depositing from waters holding limestone in solution."‡

The soil is a clay loam on the hills, mixed in localities with sand and gravel. In the valleys

it is a rich alluvion. It is generally well adapted to wheat and the other cereals, which rarely fail on clay bottoms, upon which the surface never heaves. This property of clay, that of holding the roots when the surface is frozen, is highly important.

The following is an analysis of two specimens of soil taken from the farm of the late Mr. Ira Hopkins in Mentz. The salt group lies below and the surrounding region contains much drift. The first specimen was taken from a dry ridge which has been under cultivation many years, and has produced forty bushels of spring wheat to the acre; the second is a clay loam, resting upon plaster shales:

	First.	Second.
Water of absorption -----	3.84	5.10
Organic matter -----	10.44	5.94
Silicates -----	77.78	80.40
Peroxide of iron and alumina	4.98	5.00
Carbonate of lime -----	1.30	2.36
Magnesia* -----	1.48	1.08
	99.82	99.88

The town covers an area of 10,081 acres; of which 7,246, are improved; 991, woodland; and 1,844, otherwise unimproved.

The population in 1875 was 2,300; of whom 2,091, were natives; 209, foreigners; 2,271, white; 29, colored; and 435, owners of land.†

The direct line of the New York Central Railroad extends through the town from east to west a little north of the center; and the Erie Canal, in the same direction, a little south of the center.

#### PORT BYRON.

Port Byron is beautifully situated in the valley of the Owasco, surrounded by rounded eminences, which, with their alternating verdure and cultivated soil, make a pleasing landscape. Its principal streets, with their many fine residences and tastily ornamented lawns, evince the æsthetic culture of its citizens.

It is on the line of the Erie Canal, one mile south of the station by the same name on the New York Central Railroad, and distant seven miles north of Auburn, with which it is connected by stage. It contains six churches (M. E., Presbyterian, Baptist, Free Methodist, Episcopal and Roman Catholic,) an academy, a newspaper

\* Lardner Vanuxem, *Natural History of New York, Geology, 3d District.*

† According to James Hall, the Cayuga marshes, which embrace an area of 40,000 acres, are in many, and probably in all places, underlaid by marl to the depth of several feet. *New York Geological Reports, 1839.*

‡ Lardner Vanuxem, *Natural History of New York, 3d District.*

\* E. Emmons, *Natural History of New York, Agriculture.*

† Census of 1875.

office, a private bank, two good hotels, (the *Howard House*, owned by John R. & Rush M. Howard, and the *National*, kept by Wm. G. Gallt,) several stores of various kinds, two flouring-mills, a foundry, a planing-mill, sash and blind factory, woolen factory, a small cheese factory, and about 1,200 inhabitants.

THE PORT BYRON FREE SCHOOL AND ACADEMY was chartered in 1857, and the following year a lot containing one and one-half acres, centrally located, was purchased and the present brick structure erected. The building is three stories high, sixty feet long and fifty feet wide, and is capable of accommodating 400 pupils. The cost of the lot and building was \$10,850. The school is divided into academic, senior, sub-senior, junior and primary departments. It is free to all residents of the district, except for Latin and Greek, for which \$2 each is charged. To non-residents the tuition fee is \$6, and \$2 each for the languages. The course of instruction is left discretionary with the principal. It is managed by a board of nine trustees. The first board was composed of J. D. Button, M. D., W. A. Halsey, who is the present president, Alfred Mead, Amasa K. King, F. M. King, D. B. Smith, Geo. Randall, J. D. Schoonmaker and Wm. D. Osborne. It has a library containing 1,050 volumes, valued at \$1,062.50, and philosophical and chemical apparatus valued at \$250. The present attendance is from 250 to 300. The present Principal is A. W. Morehouse.

THE PORT BYRON CHRONICLE is published weekly by Chas. E. Johnson, who commenced its publication in company with Geo. F. Marsh, under the name of Marsh & Johnson, November 1st, 1873. John L. Ransom became interested in its publication in May, 1874, and continued his interest till September, 1877, when he sold to the present proprietor, who is also its editor. The paper was established here in 1851, by Oliver T. Beard, as the *Port Byron Gazette*. In 1860 it passed into the hands of Benj. Thompson, who sold to Wm. Hosford in 1861. In 1862 it was bought by Cyrus Marsh, and its name changed to *The North Cayuga Times*. H. P. Winsor succeeded Cyrus Marsh, but in what year we could not learn. Several changes in proprietors took place from this period to 1873, and at intervals its publication has ceased entirely.

THE PRIVATE BANKING HOUSE OF H. B. BAXTER & Co. commenced business March 1st, 1877, with Henry B. Baxter, formerly of Sherman, Chautauqua county, as senior partner, and G. W. Latham, of Port Byron, as junior partner.

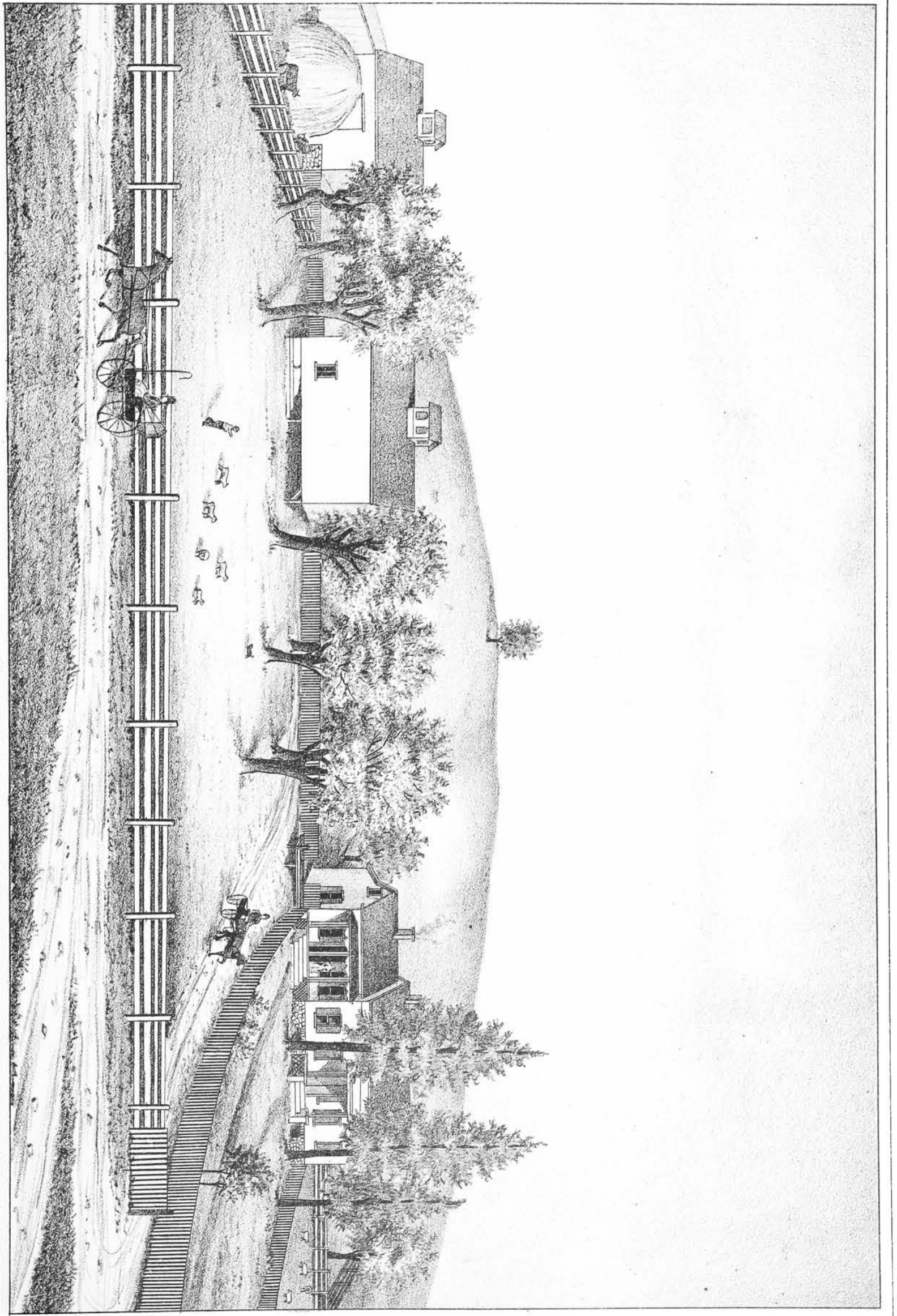
JOHN C. DIXON, proprietor of the flouring and grist-mill at Port Byron, commenced business in the fall of 1865, in company with J. V. White, the present Supervisor (1879) of Mentz, under the firm name of Dixon & White. February 17th, 1875, the mill, which was a wooden structure, erected in 1845, was burned, and in that year Mr. Dixon bought Mr. White's interest and rebuilt on the same site. The present mill, which is also built of wood, is forty by sixty feet, three and one-half stories high, and supplied with all the modern improvements. It is reputed to be the finest mill in this section of the country. It contains four run of stones and is capable of grinding 100 barrels of flour per day in addition to custom work, which averages from 25,000 to 30,000 bushels of grain annually. The motive power is furnished by water from the creek, over a fall of eight feet. The first mill on this site was built about 1814 or '15, by Aaron Knapp, the site and ten acres of land being donated for that purpose by Elijah and Aholiab Buck. The present mill is the fourth one on this site, three having been destroyed by fire. A saw-mill built on this site by Knapp about the same time stood until it decayed. These were the first mills in the town.\*

The cheese factory located in the village, near the upper dam, is owned by a stock company, which was incorporated in 1867, with a capital of \$3,800, and of which David H. Mills is President, W. A. Jacobs, Secretary, and W. D. Osborne, O. A. Paddock and Jonathan Myers, Trustees.

The foundry and machine shop owned by Henry Leonard and George Anable is located on the dam south of the canal.

On the dam north of the canal is a planing-mill owned by Lewis Peck, and a flouring and grist-mill, with three run of stones, owned by Henry Traphagen. The sash and blind factory and planing-mill, owned by Samuel M. Wells and Charles J. Stiles, are operated by steam.

\* Statement of Daniel Drake Buck, to whom, and to Mr. W. A. Halsey, we are largely indebted for information in regard to this town.



RESIDENCE OF ELIZABATH NICHOLSON, MENTZ, CAYUGA Co. N. Y.



Port Byron has suffered from several disastrous fires. May 30th, 1870, the dry goods store of J. T. & William S. Smith was burned. This fire aroused the citizens to a realization of the importance of providing adequate means of protection, and the excellent water works which the village now has were established. The reservoir is 150 feet long, 50 feet wide and 12 feet deep, located on the hill west of the village, on grounds donated for the purpose by Mr. William A. Halsey, and has an altitude of 175 feet above the main street in the village. Water is pumped into the reservoir from the outlet.

Port Byron was incorporated March 2d, 1837, and reincorporated in 1855. The first officers under the charter were: Walter H. Smith, President, who was elected by the board of trustees; Reuben Saxon, Samuel Harnden, Dennison Robinson and Abraham Teachout, Trustees; Campbell W. Haynes, Clerk; James D. Button, Joseph Hadger and Elijah Rice, Assessors; David B. Smith, Treasurer; and Jesse Vanderhoven, Constable. The successive presidents are Elmore P. Ross, 1838; Samuel Harnden, 1839, '42 and '43; Cyrus C. Peas, 1840 and '41; James Cutler, 1844, '45 and '47-'51; L. Goodsole, 1846; Thomas W. Smith, 1852 and '55; George Randall, 1853; James D. Button, 1854; Richard H. Hoff, 1856, '59, '66; Richard Dyer, 1857; Abram Gutches, 1858 and '67; William S. Hoffman, 1860 and '62; Arthur White, 1861; Daniel Graves, 1863 and '64; Augustus Kelley, 1865, '70 and '71; Stephen H. Close, 1868; Thomas B. Dickey, 1869; William A. Halsey, 1872; Edward B. Somers, 1873; Horace V. Howland, 1874; William Hosford, 1875; Horace C. Badgley, 1876; James V. White, 1877. The present officers (1879,) are: T. Fayette Dixon, President; Rush M. Howard, Charles M. Storms, Oliver B. Tanner and Charles F. Stiles, Trustees; Samuel N. Dougherty, Clerk; Charles Kelly, Treasurer; George Somers, O. W. Seymour and George W. Latham, Assessors; Samuel N. Dougherty, Police Justice.

PORT BYRON LODGE No. 130, F. & A. M., was organized as *Freedom Lodge*, about 1820, and the name and charter changed June 8th, 1845. The present officers are, Geo. W. Dickinson, W. M.; Oscar Gutches, S. W.; Chas. M. Storms, J. W.; R. M. Howard, Treas.; Egbert Homel, Secy.; D. M. Kellogg, S. D.; F. F. Sears, J. D.; Geo.

Anable, Tiler; Augustus Kelly, H. B. Baxter, and Thos. B. Dickey, Trustees. Meetings are held the first and third Wednesdays of each month, in Masonic Hall. The present number of members is 75.

MORRIS CHAPTER No. 156, R. A. M. has a membership of about 45, and meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, in Masonic Hall. The officers are Abram Gutches, H. P.; Chas. Kelly, E. K.; Wm. Cooper, Jr., E. S.; C. R. Berry, Secy.; E. B. Erity, Treas.; C. M. Stone, C. H.; E. M. Slayton, P. S.; A. Houghtaling, R. A. C.; Geo. W. Dickinson, M. 1st V.; O. Gutches, M. 2d V.; Jehiel Weston, M. 3d V.; Geo. Anable, Tiler.

CENTENNIAL TENT N. O. I. R. No. 41, was organized in January, 1876. Meetings are held every Friday evening. The membership is 35. The officers are, H. W. Leonard, C. R.; George Anable, D. R.; T. Fayette Dixon, Secy.; C. P. Yates, Jr., Treas.; John M. Coon, F. S.; Geo. Newkirk, S.; Thos. Porter, I. G.; H. B. Dodge, O. G.; W. D. Osborne, P. C. R.

Port Byron was for many years, known as *Bucksville*, which name it derived from the Buck family, who were early settlers here and contributed largely to its growth and prosperity. The present name was assumed in 1832.

One and one-half miles south of Port Byron, near the line of Throop, in a pleasant romantic valley, at the terminus of a deep gorge in the Owasco Outlet, is the factory of Ezra B. Hayden, who is engaged in the manufacture of woolen cloths, yarns, cassimeres and flannels.

The first settlement in this locality was made about 1810, and the first dam was built in 1816, by George Casey and Daniel Clark of Auburn, the former of whom was one of the commissioners for the erection of the State Prison at Auburn, and expected to secure a State contract for timber to be used in its construction. They purchased one hundred acres of the adjoining land, which was covered with a dense growth of hemlock and other timber, paying therefor, four dollars per acre. The next season they erected a saw-mill about fifteen rods south of the present woolen factory. The following year A. B. Tilman erected a building and commenced the business of tanning, which was abandoned in a few years.

The business of wool-carding and cloth-dress-



ing was begun in 1820, by Harry Rice, who settled here at that time and erected a building for that purpose, taking water from the saw-mill flume. Mr. Rice carried on the business till his death a few years after, when, in the spring of 1824, the property was rented by Wm. Hayden, a native of Conway, Massachusetts, who came into the town of Sennett about 1801, where his father commenced the business of wool-carding and cloth-dressing. William Hayden removed to Auburn about 1820 and connected himself with the late Levi Lewis in the cloth-dressing business; and two years later, having separated from Lewis, he commenced the manufacture of cloth at Clarksville, now a suburb of Auburn. He was the first person in this County to manufacture cloth by machinery. About 1824 he removed to the locality above described, in this town, for the purpose of carrying on the business of wool-carding and cloth-dressing, which he continued ten or twelve years, when, having then purchased the property previously rented, he added the manufacture of cloth. Since his death, in 1866, the business has been conducted by his sons, Ezra B., William, Martin, John, George, Charles and Samuel. Ezra B. Hayden has had the entire management of the business since 1875, in which year he became the sole proprietor. The building erected by Rice went to decay, and in 1828 the present one, which is 90 by 26 feet, and has four floors, was built and used about three years as a tub and pail factory, by Charles and Amos Parks, of Auburn. William Hayden bought it soon after the death of the senior Parks, in 1831, and converted it into a woolen-mill in 1835. It is provided with two sets of woolen machinery, capable of turning out 60,000 yards of cloth per annum, and gives employment to about twenty men and women. The motive power is furnished by the Owasco Outlet, which has a fall of ten feet at this point. The Haydens have acquired some notoriety for the excellence of the cloths manufactured by them.\*

\* Samuel Hayden, one of the brothers referred to in this sketch, died March 14th, 1878. He studied law till failing health compelled him to desist, after which he was associated with his brothers in the woolen-mill. He subsequently devoted his time and attention to agriculture and contributed many articles on that and other subjects to the agricultural and other papers. It is worthy of note that his remains were carried to their final resting place by his six brothers, all of whom were older than he, and all of whom, except Martin, who lives in Sandusky, Cattaraugus county, and William, who resides in Auburn, live in Mentz.

David Clark, of Clarksville, built a saw-mill on the creek here about 1816.

A fruit drying establishment was started in this locality in the summer of 1877, by John Hayden.

The late Brigham Young, the noted Mormon and polygamist, resided in this locality about one year, in 1832, on lands now owned by the Haydens. He was in the employ of David Smith, a merchant of Port Byron at that time. The house in which he lived was sold in May, 1878, by Mrs. Lucy T. Hayden to James Palmer, of Throop, who removed it to his place in that town, to be used as a summer kitchen. The price paid was \$10.

The first settlements in the town were made in 1797, near Port Byron, which occupies parts of lots 61, 62, 72 and 73, River street, in that village, being the dividing line between lots 72 and 73. In that year Philip King, Seth Higly, Josiah Partridge and Chas. Annes had located there. Messrs. King and Higly were from Saratoga county, and settled on lot 72, the latter on a State's hundred, in the south-west corner. Mr. King took up the remainder of the lot and remained there till his death. He raised a large family, all of whom are now dead. His son, Ezekiel, who was born in 1799, was probably the first white child born in the town. Mr. King kept the first tavern, about a mile west of the village, prior to 1815. It was a frame house. It is related of Mr. King, that at one time he desired to cross Seneca River with a potash kettle to a sap bush on the north side of the river. The owner of the skiff refused to carry the kettle, when Mr. King, with characteristic energy, launched the kettle and safely ferried himself across in it. Josiah Partridge was from Massachusetts, and settled on lot 73. Chas. Annes came in from Chemung county in the fall and settled in the south-west corner of lot 73, on fifty acres donated by Elijah Buck to induce a settlement, on the place now owned by Francis M. Groom. Mr. Annes sold to a Mr. Beebe.

In the spring of 1798, Aholiab Buck, a native of Pennsylvania, moved in from Big Flats, Chemung county, and located on River street, opposite the residence of Samuel N. Dougherty, in the village of Port Byron. He was the first settler in the corporate limits of the village. He built a log cabin that season and cleared a

little land, when he went home and married Annis Drake, a native of Goshen, N. Y., with whom he returned the same fall, in company with his brother, Elijah Buck, and the latter's wife and daughter Sarah. Elijah had previously bought lot 73 of a soldier who served in the Revolutionary war. Both families lived in the log house till its destruction by fire the same fall, (a calamity by which they lost everything but the clothes on their backs,) when they removed to the house of Philip King, about three-fourths of a mile distant, where they remained till other houses were built. Mr. King's family at this time consisted of his wife, three sons, (Richard, Jeremiah and Daniel,) and a daughter, the latter of whom was subsequently united in wedlock to Elder John Jeffries, one of the earliest ministers in this section of the country, with whom she removed to Throopville.

The Messrs. Buck built separate houses that fall. Aholiab's stood on the site of the one destroyed by fire; and Elijah's near the house now occupied by Mr. Henry Vosburgh.

The town was then heavily timbered, principally with beech and maple, with some basswood, oak, whitewood and hemlock. Game and fish were plentiful, yet breadstuffs and other edibles were scarce. Bears and wolves were numerous and a source of much annoyance. Daniel Drake Buck relates that on one occasion when his uncle Aholiab was away from home his aunt shot and killed a bear which was disturbing the pig pen in the night. This was about 1805 or '6. The Messrs. Buck had two guns, one of which they left loaded, to be used in case of emergency. The heroine of this story was a resolute woman, a good sample of the women who undertook pioneer life. Aholiab Buck removed to Illinois in 1832.

Mr. Buck recollects seeing seven or eight deer browsing with his father's cattle from maple trees felled for that purpose when fodder was scarce.

He says his father had his first grinding done at Tyler's Spring, about one mile north of Auburn, where a mortar and pestle, so common in those days, had been constructed. The mortar consisted of a hard-wood stump, and the pestle was attached to a spring pole. Later his father and uncle were accustomed to go with their grists and those of their neighbors to Seneca Falls,

after a mill had been built at that place. The journey was made with a canoe of large size, which they had established on the Outlet, the route being by way of the Outlet to Seneca River, thence to Seneca Falls. The canoe was constructed from a large white-wood tree. The journey usually occupied three days.

On the farm settled by Elijah Buck was a well, known as the Indian well, from the supposition that the Indians dug it. It was about ten feet deep and furnished a constant supply of water, which is now used to water the cattle on the farm. Evidences of Indian occupancy, for brief periods at least, probably while on hunting and fishing excursions, exist in the numerous flint arrow-heads and stone tomahawks which have been brought to the surface in various localities by the plow. Portions of clay vessels, evidently used for culinary purposes, have also been found.

On the lot bought by Elijah Buck was a splendid water privilege, with a natural fall of ten to fifteen feet. This privilege, with ten acres, was soon after given by the Messrs. Buck to Aaron Knapp for the purpose of erecting a mill thereon; and the mill then erected by him was the first one built in the town. The precise year in which it was built cannot now be ascertained. The property soon after passed into the hands of a Mr. Aiken. The erection of this mill gave an impetus to the settlements.

Daniel Loveland, originally from Vermont, moved in from the southern part of the County, with his family, consisting of his wife and four children, one son, and three daughters, in 1799, and settled near where the depot now stands. Peter Ransier and Moses Lent, from Owego, settled on lot 62 in 1800.

Up to this time Mentz was a part of the town of Aurelius, from which it was erected, as *Jefferson*, March 30th, 1802, and its name changed April 6th, 1806. It then embraced the present town of Montezuma and a part of Throop, which portions were set off April 8th, 1859.

Following is a list of the first officers of *Jefferson*, now Mentz, who were elected March 6th, 1804: Isaac Smith, *Supervisor*; Lewis Kitchel, *Clerk*; Caleb Ward, Israel Clapp and James Leonard, *Assessors*; Joseph Farrand, *Collector*; Caleb Ward and Isaac Barnum, *Overseers of the Poor*; Philip King, Israel Smith and Prentice

Palmer, *Commissioners of Highways*; Joseph Farrand, *Constable*.

The officers elected, (1879) are :

*Supervisor*—James V. White.

*Town Clerk*—Charles Kelly.

*Justice of the Peace*—Howell B. Converse.

*Assessor*—Theodore Stevenson.

*Commissioner of Highways*—David Sadler.

*Overseer of the Poor*—John H. Eldridge.

*Collector*—Hiram A. Randall.

*Constables*—O. W. Seymour, Charles Hayden, L. C. Fargo, Charles Halsted, Peter Waggoner.

*Inspectors of Election*—Thomas B. Dickey, John M. Devore.

*Game Constable*—George Bettenhausen.

James Dixon and Major Eli Wilson, from Hebron, Washington county, the latter with his wife, Margaret, and daughter, Amy, came into the town near the beginning of the present century, and settled on a soldier's grant of 600 acres, on the east line of the town, which they took up jointly, and which is now largely occupied by the children and heirs of the former, who died there some seven years since, aged 92 years. John I., David, George and Eli Wilson, sons of Eli Wilson, settled on the same tract a little later. John and Eli Wilson and Elizabeth (now Mrs. Wm. A. Jacobs,) all of whom are living in the town, are the only living descendants of Maj. Wilson.

John Dixon, also from Hebron, Washington county, came in 1804, and settled upon fifty acres of the tract taken up by James Dixon and Maj. Wilson, and died there in 1876, aged ninety-two. Edwin S. and Edwin J., (twins,) Polly, (now Mrs. George B. Thomas,) and Marcha, (now Mrs. Ira Peck,) children of James Dixon, are living in this town, both boys on the old homestead. John C., son of John Dixon, and father of T. Fayette Dixon, the President (1878) of the village of Port Byron, is the proprietor of the flouring and grist-mill in that village; and Samantha, (now Mrs. James Robinson,) and Minerva, (now Mrs. Hiram Crossman,) daughters of John Dixon, are living in the town of Sennett.

Other early settlers were Martin and James Harker, from New Jersey, who located on the site of the village; Reuben Lent and family, from Washington county, who located on lot 62, a little west of Traphagen's grist-mill, about 1806. Lent claimed to have served in the Revolution for that lot, which he twice sold previous to his

settlement on it. After his settlement he sold portions of it to other settlers, and was finally ejected with his victims by Jacob Tremper, to whom he first sold it and by whom the title was held. Tremper, who lived in Kingston, Ulster county, never settled here, but his widow came in 1823 or '4, and located where John T. Smith now lives, in the village. John Seymour, a Methodist preacher, came with his family about 1806 or '7, and settled on lot 62, a little northwest of Elijah Buck's. He was probably the first preacher in the locality of Port Byron and in the town. Joseph Hamilton and Ira Hopkins, from Washington county, and Caleb Hopkins, from New Jersey, settled on lot 85 previous to 1804.

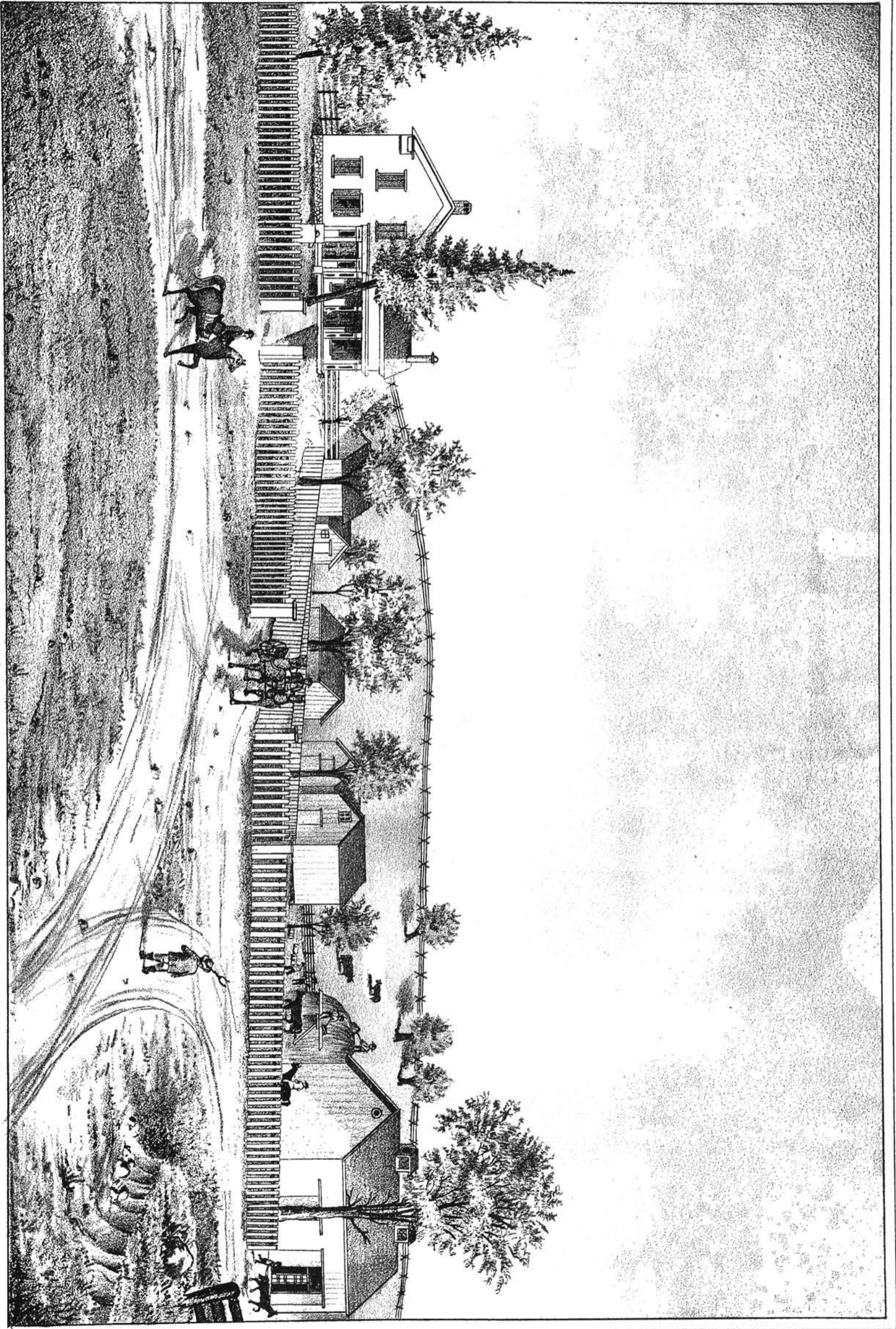
John Adams Taylor, who was born in Hartford, Washington county, settled in the northwest part of the town, where Mrs. J. S. Pratt now lives, April 14th, 1817. He bought a State's hundred, for which he paid \$7 per acre, rather than become involved in the perplexities arising from defective titles to the soldiers' grants, which many of the settlers bought for a nominal sum, and from which they were subsequently ejected. Mr. Taylor had prospected this section of country in 1815. He came on horseback, and bought of Edward Luck, who was obliged to leave on account of fever and ague, which prevailed here to an alarming extent, but diminished with the increased settlements and the clearing of the lands.

The bridge at Mosquito Point was built in 1815, two years previous to his settlement. "*Moscheto Point*," says Spafford, "is well named,"\* and we think the luckless traveler of to-day will testify that the name is well merited. Mr. Taylor added to his 100 acres till he held deeds covering 700 acres.

Both he and his wife, aged respectively eighty-four and eighty-two years, are still living in the town, with their daughter, Mrs. Lucy T. Hayden.

Daniel Mintline, a native of Albany, came in from Canajoharie, April 11th, 1805, and located on the farm now occupied by William and John D. Buckingham. He was the first settler in this locality and from him it derives the name of Mintline settlement. He was born in 1773, and died in the old homestead December 3d, 1839. Daniel Rairden, a Mr. Buckingham and Andrew

\**Gazetteer of the State of New York, 1824.*



RESIDENCE OF E. B. ERITY, MENTZ, CAYUGA Co. N. Y.



Myers were early settlers in this locality. Myers was from Dutchess county, and settled on the farm now occupied by E. Waldron. He died in Port Byron February 21st, 1874, aged seventy-eight years. Jonathan, his son, still lives in the town.

The completion of the Erie Canal, October 26th, 1825, gave a new impetus to the business of the village, rapidly increased its population, and soon made it one of the principal grain markets in western New York.

In 1828 the most important enterprise connected with the prosperity of Port Byron, was developed. In that year John H. Beach moved into the village and bought the water-power. He built a race-way two miles in length, thus securing a thirty feet head of water, and erected on the west side of the Outlet and the south bank of the old canal, what was then and for many years thereafter the largest and best constructed flouring-mill in the State. It was 120 feet long and 50 feet wide. Connected with it was a storehouse, 80 by 40 feet, under a portion of which a branch canal was conducted to facilitate the loading and unloading of boats. It contained ten run of stones, driven by an over-shot wheel twenty-two feet in diameter, and was capable of grinding 500 barrels of flour in twenty-four hours. The building cost \$60,000, and gave employment to twenty to thirty persons. Belonging to the mill, but not in its immediate vicinity, was a stone cooper shop, 200 feet in length, which gave employment to fifty persons, but furnished only a portion of the barrels used in the mill. Most of the wheat used in the mill was brought from the west.

Beach's mill was burned in 1857, and not rebuilt.

Henry Wells, the noted expressman, came into the town with his father's family after the opening of the canal, and for some three years mended shoes for the residents of Port Byron. The Wells family lived in a small, wood-colored house, which now stands diagonally opposite the residence of Mr. William Hosford, having since been raised and repaired and modernized with additions and a coat of paint. Henry remained in the town only about three years. His sister Harriet, (now Mrs. C. B. Newton,) who is remembered as a beautiful woman, a fine singer and a devout Christian, became a missionary to Lahore,

North India, a field which still engages her labors.

In 1851 the direct line of the N. Y. C. R. R. between Syracuse and Rochester was built, and operated detrimentally to the interests of the place by dividing its trade with other towns along the route, and carrying much of it to Syracuse.

In 1856, while the enlargement of the Erie canal was in progress—a measure which was ordered May 11th, 1835, begun in August, 1836, and finished in September, 1862, and by which the water surface was increased in width from forty to seventy feet, and the depth from four to seven feet—a difference of opinion arose among the residents of Port Byron as to the course it should take through the village. Some advocated the enlargement along the old circuitous route; others, a new and more direct route. The will of the latter finally prevailed, and the present channel was cut through the most beautiful part of the village. This change, while it vastly improved the canal, impaired the beauty of the village and proved disastrous to its business interests, by destroying in a great measure its water power. The State built a dam across the Outlet and diverted the water from Beach's race-way to the new canal, by means of a pipe forty rods in length, laid underground. The canal is spanned at this point by four iron bridges, and has a large double lock, with a lift of about twelve feet. The village at one time had a population of fully 1,500.

The first hotel in the village was built and kept by George Daniels, probably very soon after the opening of the King's inn. It stood on the site of the National Hotel, the land there being then low and marshy, and though it was a framed house, it was denominated an "inferior inn." It was burned during Daniel's occupancy, and re-built by him on a little larger scale. The present brick building on that site was built by Mr. Lytle, the second building erected by Daniels having also been burned. Contemporary with, but a little later than Daniels, were Amos Parks and the late James Pine, the former of whom kept a "better hotel," on the south-west corner of Main and Rochester streets, and the latter, one on the site of Mr. Lewis Houghtaling's residence, near the corner of Main and Pine streets.

**MERCHANTS.**—James Bennett and Willard Whitney were the first merchants in the village. Bennett came in from the town of Brutus and Whitney, from Washington county. They opened a store in company about 1815 or '16, in a building erected by Cornelius Dellemater for a distillery, which stood on the south side of the old canal, about where Kendrick's old wooden building now stands. They did business some two or three years and separated. Roswell Beardsley came in from the south part of the County, about 1819, and opened a store a little south of the other. He remained till his death, doing a very nice business. Joseph E. Smith came in soon after Beardsley died and opened a store on the north side of the canal. He did not prosper, and after three or four years failed and left.

D. B. and Walter H. Smith, brothers, from Orange county, opened a store in the building previously occupied by J. E. Smith, in the fall of 1824. After four or five years successful business they separated, the former continuing the old store, and the latter removing to one across the way, both keeping the same line of goods, which was a general stock. D. B. Smith became wealthy and continued the business till about 1858, when, on account of age and infirmity, he was succeeded by his son, John T. Smith, who still carries on the business. Walter sold goods for several years, without marked success, till about 1851, when he removed to Chemung county.

Dry goods were sold in the Davis & Dickey cigar store building a short time, about 1818-'20, by Matson & Landon, and subsequently by Horace Perkins, neither of whom succeeded.

Benj. B. Drake, a native of Orange county, who had previously published a paper at Waterloo, opened a store about 1823, on the corner of Main and Rochester streets. He did not succeed, and after about two years sold out and left the town.

Nathan Marble came in from Schaghticoke, Rensselaer county, in the spring of 1825, and opened a store in the building which stood on Main street, a little south of the printing office, which had been erected a few years previously for a store-house and was connected with the canal by a slip large enough to float the boats of that period. He succeeded admirably and continued the business till his death five or six years since. A Mr. Holmes, also from Rensselaer

county, and distantly related to Marble, came in about the same time and opened a like store on the corner of Main and Rochester streets.

Mr. Stilwell, from Oswego county, father of R. R. Stilwell, opened a dry goods store about 1865, in the building now occupied by the latter, who succeeded him after about two years.

Wm. Cooper, from Mexico, Oswego county, came in the spring of 1865 and opened a stock of dry goods in the barber-shop south of his present store, into which he moved after about a year.

Chauncey Sears opened his grocery about a year ago.

John G. Kick opened his grocery about two years since.

Wm. Tatgenhorst, commenced the grocery business some five or six years since; and George Schottz, about three years since.

Geo. Somers is an old resident, having come to the town with his father from Vermont, as early as 1809 or '10. He was for some two years in company with R. R. Stilwell in the grocery business, and bought the latter's interest the present spring.

Oscar Kent started a grocery about three or four years since.

About 1852 or '3 a drug store was opened by Hiram Schoonmaker, from Ulster county, who remained only two or three years. Richard H. Hoff opened the present one about the beginning of the late war.

**PHYSICIANS.**—The first physician was Dr. Nathan Wood, who came in the fall of 1799 and located in the Ward Settlement, in the present town of Throop; but the first one in the town of Mentz as at present bounded, was Harman Van Vechton, who came in about 1817 or '18 and located in the village, where he built some time after, the house next north of Masonic Hall.

The present physicians are Dr. Wm. S. Hoffman, who came in from Cayuga, about 1848; Hiram D. Eldridge, who is a native of Aurelius, and came to Mentz about 1823 or '24; and Daniel A. Force, who has lived here only a few years, is quite aged, and does not practice much. All belong to the allopathic school of medicine.

**ATTORNEYS.**—The first lawyer was Hiram Rathburn, who came to the village at an early day, but remained only a short time. Dennison Robinson, from Onondaga county, came about 1830, and practiced law until his death in 1856.

The present lawyers are Horace V. Howland, who came from Herkimer county, about 1850, and has since continued to practice here. He finished his studies with the late Hon. Wm. H. Seward, of Auburn, and has distinguished himself in his profession by his learning and ability. Charles R. Berry, Howell B. Converse and Calvin R. Aldrich, all of whom read law with William Howland, and the latter two of whom are justices, are the other lawyers.

Port Byron possesses a remarkable case of longevity. Mrs. Lydia Graham, who is now living in the village with her son-in-law, Alfred Mead, has reached the advanced age of 103 years. She is vigorous mentally and physically, and has a retentive memory, especially in regard to early events.

MENTZ GRANGE was organized in January, 1874, with twenty-five members. Oscar Gutches is President, and W. H. Rott, Secretary.

CHURCHES.—It cannot be definitely ascertained when the first religious services were held in the town; but judging from the following, it must have been at a very early day, of a primitive character, and under somewhat romantic circumstances:

“There is a very large hollow buttonwood tree, in this town, in which Elder Smith, preached to thirty-five persons at a time, and says the tree could have held fifteen more; he says its circumference, three feet from the ground, is thirty-three feet; and a correspondent informs me it measures more than seventeen feet in diameter.”\*

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE TOWN OF MENTZ, located in Port Byron, was organized about the beginning of the present century, as early as 1801, as a Congregational church, and was changed to the Presbyterian form of government in 1811, when the Presbytery of Cayuga was formed. The first meetings, and indeed for several years, were held in Ward's settlement, where the organization was perfected. A school-house, no longer standing, located near the site of the Mentz meeting-house in Montezuma, was the first public building used for religious services in that locality. This school was used on formal occasions, the meetings generally being held in private houses, till 1818 or '19, when it was destroyed by fire. The Society maintained a feeble existence, without a regular

pastor or much accession to its membership till 1818, in which year the services of the Rev. Oliver Eastman were secured and meetings held regularly in the school-house. Meetings were afterwards held in the school-house at Forshee's Corners, until the removal soon after of the Society to Port Byron, which was then a prosperous village of 500 to 600 inhabitants, “as yet unoccupied by any religious body.”

May 8th, 1820, soon after the removal to Port Byron, the church was first incorporated, as *The First Congregational Society of Mentz*, the meeting for that purpose being held at the house of James Pine. The first meetings in the village were held in the barns of Mr. Pine and Roderick Mattson. After the first summer the meetings were held for two years in the ball room over the open shed attached to the Eagle Hotel, which Mr. Pine generously threw open to them, receiving in payment such voluntary offerings “as the church from time to time could make.” In 1822 the meetings were transferred to a building in Nauvoo, near the western extremity of the park. The first minister who regularly officiated in this house was Rev. Abner Benedict, who staid about a year. September 5th, 1824, the Presbyterian form of government was again adopted, although the corporate name was retained, and a board of elders chosen, consisting of Lyman Grandy, John I. Wilson, John Dixon, Wm. Van Vleck and John S. Willis. Before the close of the year Rev. Birdsey Gibbs came to the church as a stated supply. During his pastorate the first Sunday-school was organized, Mrs. Sarah Osburn, to whose exertions it was largely due, and Miss Emeline White being the first teachers. “The first pupil and the only one on the first Sabbath was Mrs. E. P. Ross, of Auburn.” July 26th, 1826, Mr. Gibbs was dismissed from the church, and “was succeeded after an interval of a year and a half by Rev. William Williams, who labored as a stated supply in 1828-'9, under the patronage of the Home Missionary Society.”

November 15th, 1830, the Society was re-incorporated and the present name, symbolizing its form of government, adopted. With the opening of 1831 Rev. Justus S. Hough commenced his ministry, and before its close had added fifty-one names to the list of membership. He closed his labors the following year. For five years, with

\* Horatio Gates Spofford, LL. D., *Gazetteer of the State of New York*, 1824.



the exception of a few months in the early part of 1835, when the Rev. Isaac Bliss performed the duties of that office, the church was without a pastor; but the pulpit was supplied by students from Auburn Theological Seminary.

In 1833 the Society erected a new house where the Methodist church now stands; but late the following winter it was burned, when meetings were again held in the old church. Within two years from the dedication of the one burned, another was erected on its site and occupied. In the spring of 1837 Rev. James T. Hough, brother of Rev. Justus S. Hough, assumed the pastorate for one year, during which forty members were added. He was succeeded early in 1839 by Rev. John Gosman, D. D., of the Dutch Reformed Church, Classis of Philadelphia.

A few years previous to this many persons had been admitted to membership from the Dutch Reformed churches in Eastern New York, and while "they strengthened and built up the church of their adoption," they retained strong preferences for the "methods and associations" of the Reformed Church. This preference, which had hitherto been latent, this year developed an open and bitter opposition between them and the Presbyterians, resulting in the selection of Dr. Gosman, and ultimately in a division and exhausting litigation in the civil courts for the possession of the house of worship, which the Reformed party held. The Presbyterians chose Rev. D. C. Hopkins, of Brutus, for their pastor, and withdrew to the school-house then occupying the site of the old church in Nauvoo, which had burned down two years before, the Reformed party retaining the services of Dr. Gosman. The courts decided in favor of the Presbyterians, or new-school party, who, in July, 1842, were put in possession of the church, which they occupied till their dissolution. This violent separation broke the rising strength of the new-school church and established the other under unfavorable circumstances. Mr. Hopkins' connection with the church was severed near the close of 1843, when Rev. Lemuel W. Hamlin became their pastor and remained about six months. During his brief pastorate thirty-three were added to the church on confession. For three years they were without a pastor. In 1846 Rev. Thomas M. Hodgeman began a pastorate of two years. He was the last minister whose stated services they enjoyed.

September 7th, 1850, their church building was sold to the Methodists, who still use it, having a few years since repaired and greatly improved it. May 24th, 1850, the society dissolved.

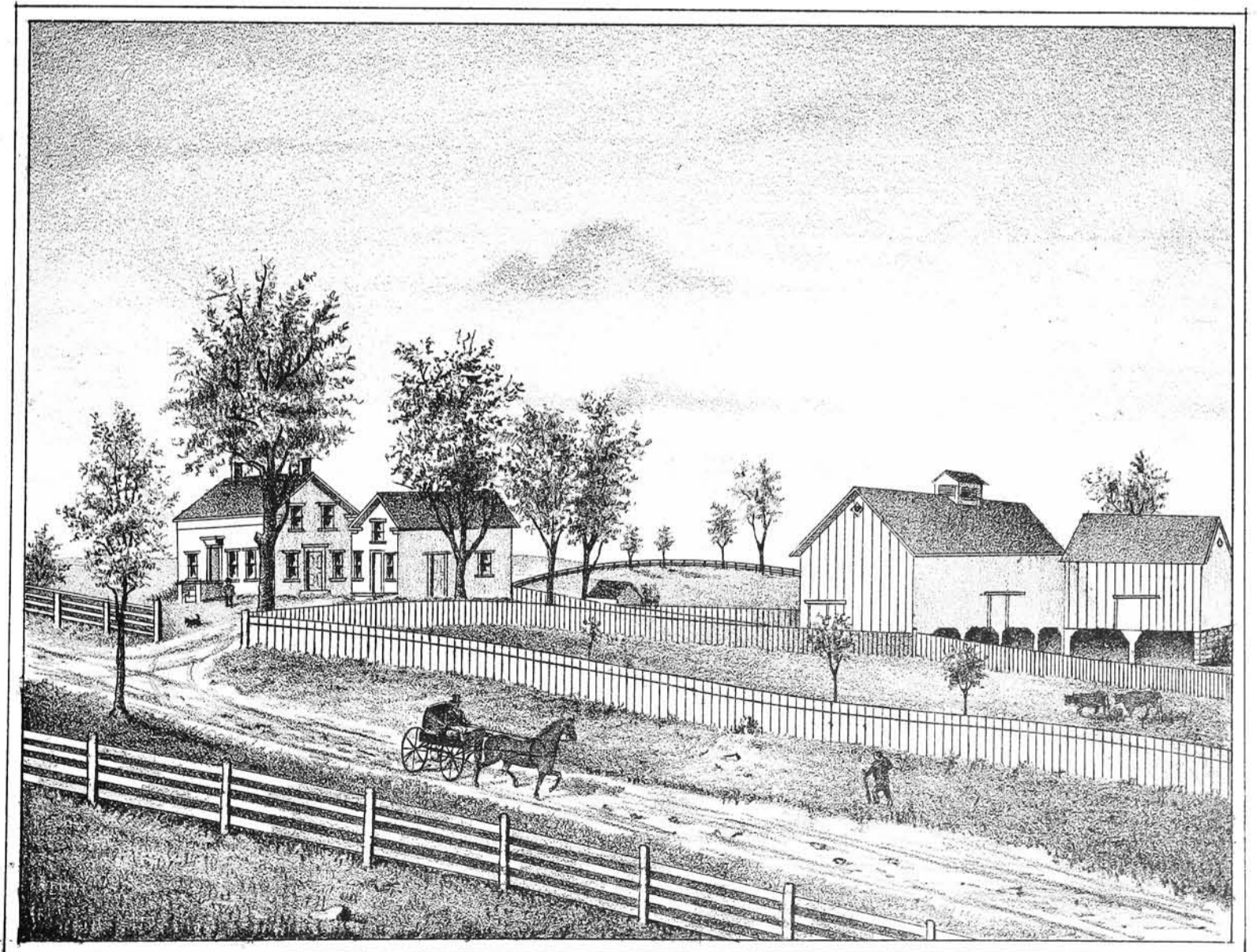
July 29th, 1840, the old-school party assumed the corporate name of the joint societies, and chose for their pastor Dr. Gosman, who secured his dismissal from the Classis of Philadelphia, and was admitted to membership in the Presbytery. November 17th, 1841, they incorporated under the name previously assumed, and from this time till the dissolution of the other society, both organizations bore the same name. Dr. Gosman's pastorate was terminated at his request in February, 1842. When compelled to surrender their house to the other society, meetings were held temporarily in a public hall connected with the Eagle Hotel; and, notwithstanding their resources had been severely taxed by the litigation in which they were involved, measures were at once taken to purchase a site and erect an edifice which was dedicated August 17th, 1843.

Rev. Robert Finley, then a recent graduate from Princeton Theological Seminary, succeeded to the pastorate, and was installed this same year. August 17th, 1845, Mr. Finley was released from his charge by act of the Presbytery. September 9th, 1845, Rev. Wm. Theo. Van Doren, who had spent several years as missionary on the island of Java, accepted a call. The 11th of August, 1848, a joint request of the pastor and congregation was prepared asking for his release.

Geo. C. Heckman, who had just graduated from Princeton, was now recommended to the Church, and on the 23d of October following, a unanimous call was extended him. His pastorate witnessed the liquidation of the remaining debt of \$763 on the church building; the purchase from Archibald Green of the old parsonage near Masonic Hall, with its grounds and out-buildings, for \$1,600, and the extinguishment, April 26th, 1854, of the indebtedness thus incurred; the repairing and enlargement of the church edifice in 1855, at an expense of \$1,800; and the addition of not less than 107 persons to the membership. He dissolved his relations in November, 1856, having accepted a call from the Church at Portage, Wisconsin. He was succeeded in July, 1857, by Rev. A. P. Botsford. April 23d, 1861, he was released from his charge, and Rev. Franklin D. Harris was installed pastor.



JOHN J. HENRY



RESIDENCE OF THO<sup>S</sup>. McCULLEN, MENTZ, CAYUGA Co. N.Y.



Mr. Harris resigned his charge in the summer of 1866. Rev. A. C. Reed followed and infused into the languishing energies of the Church a new vitality. During his pastorate *The Ladies' Christian Association of the Presbyterian Church of Port Byron* was organized by his wife, with five members, November 27th, 1872, and "is still maintained with excellent results."

During the year ending April 7th, 1868, the old parsonage and its grounds were sold; and the eligible grounds now occupied were purchased of Ira Peck, and a new and commodious parsonage erected, the whole costing \$4,500. In the autumn of 1871, the house of worship was repaired, altered and refurnished, at a cost of \$4,329, only about \$700 of which remains unpaid.

In the summer of 1873, Mr. Reed relinquished his charge, much to the regret of his people.

The present pastor, Rev. V. A. Lewis, commenced his pastoral labors near the close of 1873.

Mrs. C. B. Newton, a former member of this church, has now charge of a mission school at Lahore, North India.

The present membership of the church is 138. The number enrolled in the Sunday school and Bible classes at the last report to the Presbytery was 250. There are in the permanent church library eighty-five volumes; and in the Sunday school library, 300 volumes. The whole amount on record contributed by the church for foreign missions is \$1,761.40; for home missions, \$928.50.\*

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN PORT BYRON was organized May 18th, 1830, with a membership of forty-eight; forty-one of whom were dismissed for the purpose from the church in Throopsville, and the other seven, as is supposed, for a like purpose, from other churches. Of the original members only three are living, viz: George W. Milliner and wife, Fanny, and Mrs. Caleb Wood, all in Port Byron. The first pastor was Elder John Jeffries, who continued his labors about two years. During the second year of his ministry forty-three were added to the membership. The second pastor was Elder Roswell Osburn, who took the pastoral care in 1832, and remained one year. He was succeeded by Elder Isaac Bucklin, either as pastor or

temporary supply, probably the latter, as he was soon after excluded from the church in Sennett. In October, 1834, Elder T. H. Green assumed the pastoral relation, remaining one year. In this year a lot was purchased near the center of the village, and a brick edifice, 40 by 52 feet, was erected, at a cost of \$2,806. In 1874 about \$500 was spent in refitting and modernizing it. It will seat about 400 persons. Previous to this the meetings of the society were held in a building known as the "Old Boat House," situated in the west part of the village.

The next pastor was Elder L. J. Reynolds, who entered upon his labors in 1836, and remained till his death, nearly two years after. He was succeeded by Elder S. Knapp, who remained two years, and was followed in 1840 by Elder H. F. Davis, in the commencement of whose labors the church was blessed with a revival, by which fourteen were added by baptism and thirteen by letter. In 1842 Elder W. R. Webb became the pastor. During his ministrations the membership was considerably increased by baptism and letter. Elder W. Frary succeeded him in 1843, and also remained one year. Under his labors the church experienced "the most extensive and powerful revival ever enjoyed during any period of her history. Sixty-three were added by baptism and seventeen by letter."

In 1844 Elder John Jeffries entered upon a second pastorate, which he continued till death closed his labors in 1846. He was succeeded by Elder B. W. Capron, who remained about three years. After the departure of Mr. Capron, the services of Elder E. Dean were secured as a temporary supply. About the last of February, 1850, Elder A. Russell Belden was called to aid in a series of meetings, which were continued about four weeks, resulting in about sixty expressing "a hope in the pardoning mercy of God." The next pastor was Elder J. B. Vrooman, who entered upon his labors about the 1st of April, 1850. Under his faithful and judicious labors the prosperity of the church was largely increased. He was succeeded in 1854 by Elder Wm. C. Phillips. Elder Israel Wilkinson was the pastor in 1857; Elder J. J. Grundy, in 1861; Elder John Reynolds, in 1864; and Elder J. A. Howd, in 1866. In 1868 and 1869 the church was without a pastor. Elder A. Maynard took the laboring oar in 1870, and continued that and the succeeding

\* For the information contained in the above sketch we are indebted to Mr. Charles L. Wilson, of Port Byron, who has kindly placed in our hands a Ms. history of this church, prepared by himself, evidently with great care.