

nation of Lincoln. It was the first newspaper article in behalf of the Emancipator's candidacy and was widely copied. Stoddard served in the army and was author of numerous historical works.

Andrew D. White, American diplomat and educator, whose impress upon Central New York was noteworthy, was born in Homer, Cortland County, November 7, 1832. He was graduated from Yale in 1853; traveled in Europe, studied at Sorbonne and College de France, 1853-54; was attache to American legation at St. Petersburg, 1854-55; studied in University of Berlin, 1855-56; was professor of history and English literature in University of Michigan, 1857-63. Then he returned to Syracuse, New York, and was elected state senator, 1863-67, in which capacity he introduced reports and bills codifying school laws, creating a new system of normal schools and incorporating Cornell University. He was chosen as first president of Cornell in 1866. He also filled the chair of modern history and visited Europe to purchase books and apparatus for Cornell and to make a special study of European educational methods.

Doctor White was appointed by President Grant as commissioner to Santo Domingo to study and report on question of annexation, 1871; by New York State as commissioner to Paris Exposition, 1878; by President Hayes as minister to Berlin, 1879-81; by President Harrison as minister to St. Petersburg and continued under President Cleveland, 1892-94; appointed by President Cleveland a member of the commission to Venezuela, 1895-96; was ambassador to Berlin under President McKinley, 1897; was president of the American delegation to the International Peace Conference at The Hague in 1899. He was a regent of the Smithsonian Institution and an officer of the Legion of Honor of France. He died in 1918.

Two Cayuga County diplomats are among those recently contributing to the international relations of the nation. William Miller Collier, born in Lodi, Seneca County, in 1867, but later a resident of Auburn, was minister to Spain from 1905 to 1909, after which he was president of George Washington University from 1918 to 1921, when he was made ambassador to Chile, a post he held until retiring in 1928. He has represented the United

States on numerous missions and at international conferences in connection with the World War and other matters. He has been a member of the State Civil Service Commission and as a lawyer, a distinguished writer on legal subjects.

Edwin Vernon Morgan, born in Aurora, Cayuga County, in 1863, is United States ambassador to Brazil, after having held the office of United States minister to Korea, 1905; Cuba, 1905-10; Uruguay-Paraguay, 1910-11; Portugal, 1911-12; Brazil, 1913 to date.

Ontario County has been particularly prolific in the number of men it has sent into high places. Myron H. Clark, born in Naples, October 23, 1806, was elected governor of the state on the Whig-Free-Soil-Temperance ticket in 1854 and served as United States collector of internal revenue under Lincoln. He died in Canandaigua in 1892.

Another Canandaiguan, Francis Granger, after being elected to Congress in 1835 and after having been candidate for governor and vice president, was appointed postmaster-general by President Harrison. He died in Canandaigua in 1868.

Stephen A. Douglas, known as "The Little Giant" in the political battles before the Civil War, was a student at the old Canandaigua Academy 1831-33.

In the early days of the Republic, Gen. Peter B. Porter of Canandaigua was secretary of war in the cabinet of the younger Adams. He settled in Canandaigua in 1795 and represented the county in the Assembly. He was a major-general in the War of 1812, directing the defense of Black Rock, now Buffalo. He was offered the full command of the United States Army by President Madison and declined.

Another secretary of war came from Canandaigua in the person of John C. Spencer, who in 1815 was assistant postmaster-general and in 1826 special prosecutor in the Morgan abduction case. He was Governor Seward's secretary of state and two years later was Regent of the State University. He became war secretary in 1841 and two years later was transferred to the post of secretary of the treasury.

Still another Canandaiguan who became postmaster-general was Gideon Granger, who served in that capacity throughout the term of Jefferson and most of Madison's.

Ezra Cornell, founder of Cornell University and a pioneer in railroad development in the lake country, began life as a mechanic and miller at Ithaca and subsequently became a contractor for the erection of telegraph lines. He was a member of the State Assembly in 1862-63 and of the State Senate in 1864-67, this service being at the trying time of the Civil War. He died in Ithaca in 1874.

It was one of Elmira's daughters, Miss Olivia Langdon, who captured the affection of Samuel Clemens Mark Twain, just returned from his European trip immortalized in "Innocents Abroad." The couple were married at the Langdon home in the presence of a hundred guests. In those Langdon parlors later Mark Twain saw much of joy and sorrow and there he and his wife and children returned in death, to be buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Elmira. The world owes much to Mark Twain's wife, who from the very beginning inspired him to give only his worthiest to the world. Possessed of both literary perception and refined tastes, she became his editor and they enjoyed reading his works together until death.

In Charles J. Folger, a prominent Central New York figure a century ago, the area gave to America a legal authority who became secretary of the federal treasury and who was defeated for governor in 1882 by Grover Cleveland. Folger moved from Massachusetts in 1831 to Geneva, was graduated from Hobart College there in 1831, studied law in Canandaigua, practiced in Lyons and settled in Geneva in 1840.

He became a judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Ontario County. He was a Democrat until 1854 when he joined the newly formed Republican party. He was state senator 1861-69; a member of the New York Constitutional Convention of 1867 and chairman of its judiciary committee. By appointment of President Grant United States Assistant Treasurer in New York City in 1869-70.

Folger was elected associate judge of the State Court of Appeals in 1871 and in 1880 was re-elected. He resigned in 1881 when appointed by President Arthur as secretary of the treasury, a position he held until death.

The vision and daring and fortitude of Dr. Marcus Whitman, native of Central New York, and other men and women of the district, won the great Oregon country for the United States. Whitman, hero of the Oregon trail, was born in Rushville, Ontario County, on September 4, 1802. The tiny settlement was then known as Federal Hollow and sometimes as Burning Spring, because of natural gas springs one mile southwest of the hamlet.

In 1836 Whitman emigrated with others to act as a missionary among the Indians of the Upper Columbia. Accompanied by his young wife, he crossed the plains by wagon, an ancient vehicle made at Prattsburgh, Steuben County, and was the first person to reach the Pacific by this means. It was at Prattsburgh that Narcissa Prentiss, Whitman's bride, was born in a house still standing. She attended Franklin Academy, Prattsburgh, and was active in the Prattsburgh Presbyterian Church, now over 135 years old. For several years Doctor Whitman practiced medicine at Wheeler, a hamlet eight miles from Prattsburgh on the road to Bath. His office still stands and is used as a barn.

When the couple started, they were accompanied by Rev. Henry Harmon Spaulding, who was born at Wheeler and attended the academy in Prattsburgh. He became a missionary to the Nez Perces and converted a thousand Indians, among whom he died at Lapwai, Idaho, in 1874. When the young enthusiasts, setting out from the frontiers of civilization to the wilderness of the West as the first cross-continent pioneers, they little dreamed that Doctor and Mrs. Whitman would save Oregon to the Union and then be massacred in 1847 by the red men.

The little party in the West was soon joined by other emigrants who settled in what was then known as Oregon and which now forms the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho. At this time the Hudson Bay Company was using every possible means to secure this territory for the British. When this plan became evident to Doctor Whitman, he made plans to forestall it.

The Ashburton-Webster treaty was then before Congress and was expected to settle the Oregon question. Knowing that the government should have full knowledge as to the true state of affairs in the far West, Whitman rode over 3,000 miles on horseback, enduring all the hardships of a western winter in the Rockies. He reached Washington on March 3, 1843, only to find that the treaty had been signed. Fortunately the Oregon question had not been included. Doctor Whitman at once tackled the laborious task of convincing the government of the value of the land it had deemed worthless and demonstrated to the people the fertility of the land of Oregon and the fact that it could be reached by wagon. He then returned at the head of 1,000 emigrants.

By his zeal and his daring ride, Doctor Whitman won this great section for the United States and the results were secured by the treaty of 1846. A year later the Whitmans and others were slain by the Cayuse Indians.

A beautiful tablet on a boulder was erected at Rushville in 1931 by the Gu-Ya-No-Ga-Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution, and by citizens' contributions, to mark the birthplace of Whitman.

In 1928 the Franklin Academy Alumni Association and the State of New York erected two tablets in Prattsburgh commemorating the lives of Whitman pioneers, one to Rev. Henry Harmon Spaulding and the other to Narcissa Prentiss, Whitman's wife.

The whole of Whitman's background had been emblematic of the sturdy blood of pioneers to Central New York. His family migrated from Windsor, Massachusetts, locating somewhere in what is now the town of Hopewell, Ontario County. After a few months they moved to what is now Rushville, where the father, Beza Whitman, became proprietor of the first "open house" in the section. It was located on the main street, a few rods north of the Yates County line on the corner of the first street to the right after crossing the railroad track on entering Rushville from the north.

To another son of Central New York goes the credit for adding Alaska to the possession of the nation. America has produced few greater statesmen than William H. Seward, President Lin-

coln's secretary of state and the man who acquired Alaska. Seward came to Auburn, Cayuga County, as a young man of twenty-one and made that city his residence until his death in 1872. In 1838 and 1840 he was elected governor and in 1849 United States senator. He was the friend and adviser of President Taylor and was always a staunch abolitionist. In 1860 he was defeated for Republican nomination for president by Abraham Lincoln, but in the election campaign vigorously supported Lincoln.

Seward then became secretary of state under the martyred president and was dangerously wounded in April, 1865, by a would-be assassin. As secretary of state, a post he held under Lincoln's successor, Andrew Johnson, he displayed notable tact in dealing with Great Britain in the "Trent Affair." He was the chief advocate of the purchase of Alaska, then known as "Seward's Folly." But his determination and eloquence won. He negotiated the acquisition of that great territory from Russia in 1867, at a purchase price of \$7,200,000, only a fraction of the amount the exports of that territory bring in yearly.

Today the ancient Seward mansion still stands in Auburn, occupied by descendants of the statesman. And adjoining is Seward Park and a great monument to Seward, pointing to "the Higher Law."

On February 7, 1800, in a cabin in Summerhill, southern Cayuga County, was born Millard Fillmore, who rose from an apprentice wood carver to the position of the thirteenth president of the United States, and during whose administration California was taken into the Union. With Daniel Webster as his secretary of state, Fillmore's ideals were always for expansion of the Republic. It was he who sent Admiral Perry to the Orient with the United States fleet and opened the door of Japan, then a hermit kingdom, to the family of nations.

Fillmore's term of office was also marked by the Lopex expedition against Cuba, reduction of the prohibitive postage rate of twenty-five cents to three cents, and introduction of the first bath tub into the White House. He was one of the eight presidents who did not have a college education.

Fillmore's family was poor and he was apprenticed to learn the tailor's trade at the age of fourteen, after meagre instruction in reading, writing and spelling, with the simplest branches of arithmetic. But in 1819 the youth conceived the idea of studying law, and entered the shabby little office of Judge Walter Wood in the hamlet of Montville, a half-mile northeast of Moravia, Cayuga County.

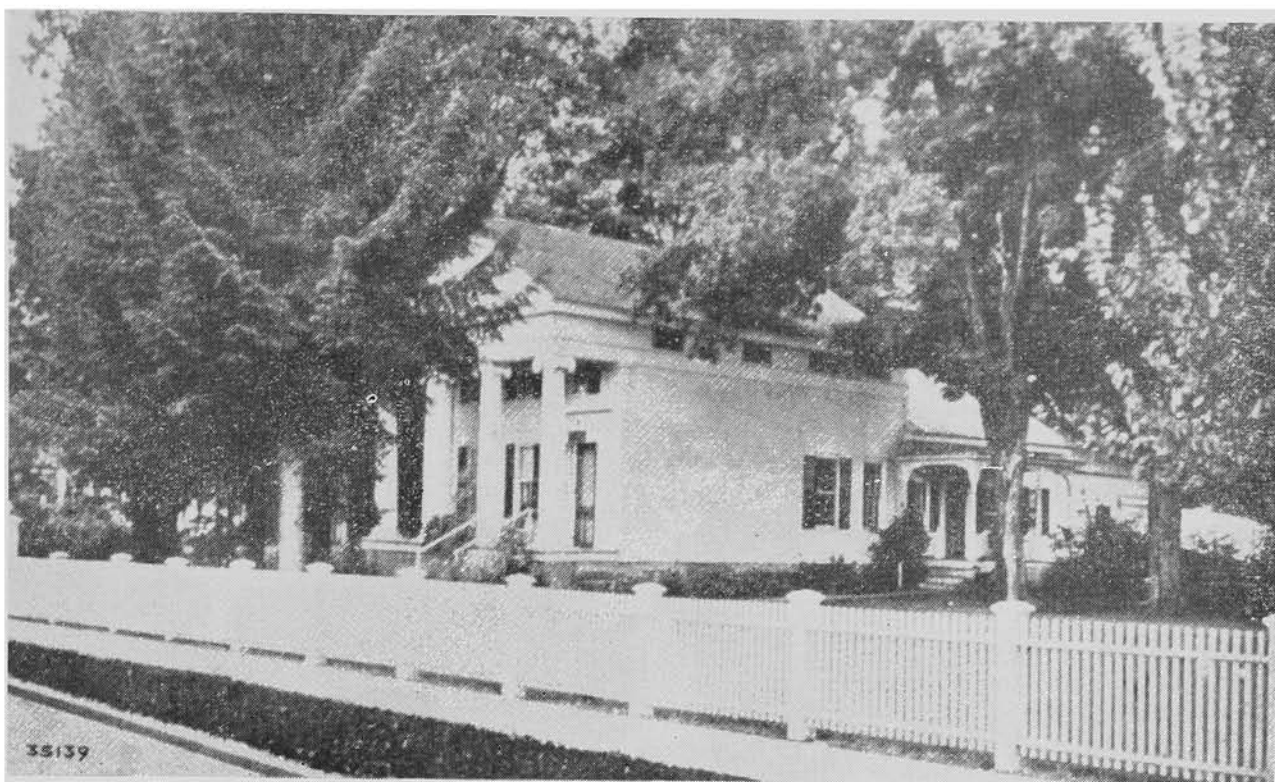
While in this study he achieved his first local distinction by delivery of a Fourth of July address in a grove on the premises now owned by Dorr Burgess near the "Gulf." Some of the hearers prophesied that he "would make his mark" and perhaps become a judge. The little desk where Fillmore studied is now in possession of James D. Harris, who resides on Chestnut Ridge road in Moravia. It has been in the Harris family since 1839, when William Harris, Sr., received it from Judge Wood.

When Fillmore entered the Wood office, he had two years of his wood-carving apprenticeship still to serve and agreed with his employer to relinquish his wages for his last year's work and promised to pay thirty dollars for his time. He received his board from Judge Wood for work in the office. In 1821 Fillmore set out on foot for Buffalo to study law further, arriving there with four dollars in his pocket. He obtained permission to study in a lawyer's office and supported himself by teaching school and assisting the postmaster.

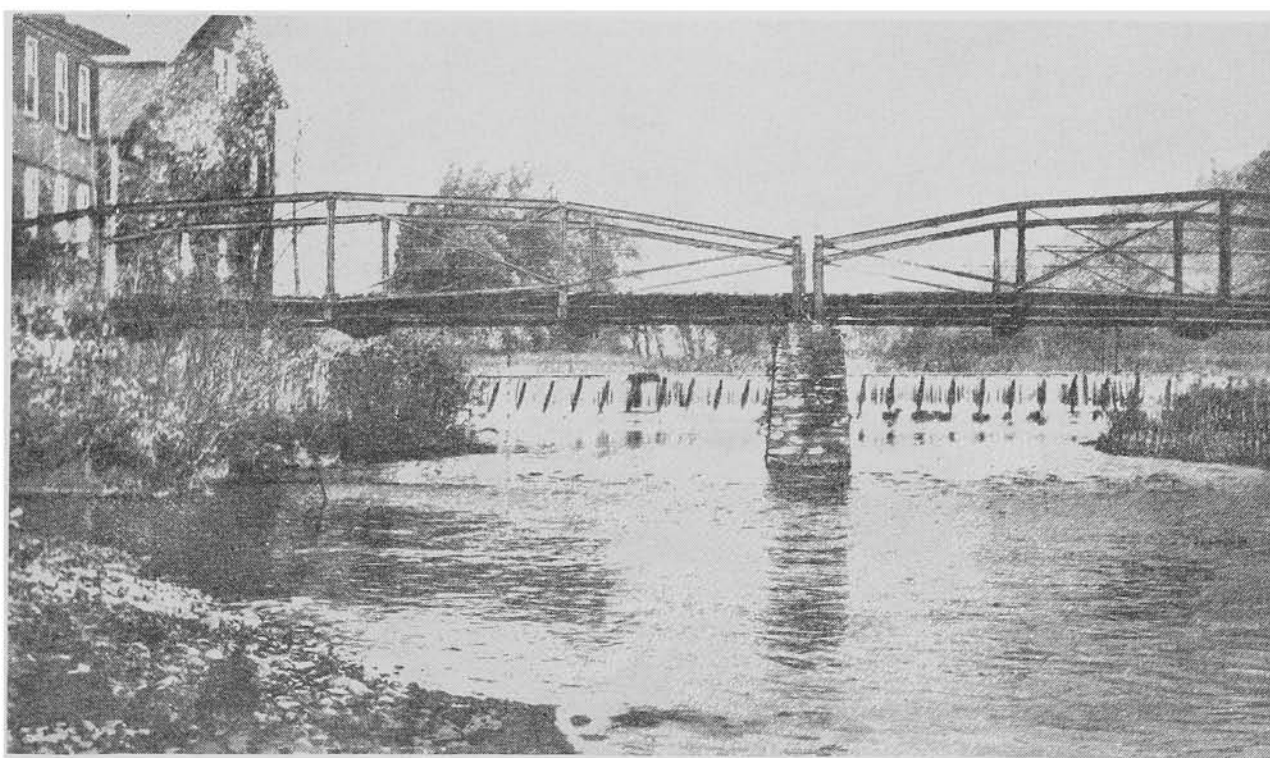
His political life began when he was elected to the State Legislature, where he served for three years. In 1832 he was elected to Congress as a Whig and retained his seat with due intermission until 1843. He became state comptroller in 1847 and the following year was chosen vice president by the Whigs on the ticket of Zachary Taylor. Upon the latter's death in 1850, he succeeded him. Fillmore died in Buffalo March 8, 1874.

Today a rude marker stands at his place of birth, erected by Leonard H. Searing, former president of the Finger Lakes Association. A state bill has passed appropriating \$10,000 for a state marker and bills have been introduced of late years by Congressman John Taber of Auburn, asking federal grants to honor by a monument Fillmore's memory. Two acres, embracing the site





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WATER STREET BRIDGE, HOMER, N. Y.





of his cabin birthplace, have been deeded to the Cayuga County Historical Society to hold until such time as state or nation cares to take over the land as a patriotic shrine.

In ancient St. Matthew's Church, Moravia, Fillmore was united in marriage to Miss Abigail Powers on Sunday evening, February 5, 1826. In it is a memorial tablet to the country boy who studied by light of fireplace in a home where candles were too costly, and then rose to the greatest office in the land.

Not far distant from his birthplace is the big state park, named after Fillmore, at the suggestion of the late Dr. Charles Atwood of Moravia.

A one-time principal of the Moravia Institute at Moravia, Cayuga County, is credited with having fathered legislation which resulted in admission of Washington to the Union and appropriations to build the Puget Sound Naval Yard at Bremerton and the Lake Washington Ship Canal in Seattle. This erstwhile Central New York pedagogue was Watson Carvosso Squire, a governor of Washington Territory and one of the first pair of United States senators elected in the state. He left Moravia to enlist as a private in the Civil War and a year later raised a company of Ohio Sharpshooters that was known as General Sherman's Bodyguard. He was brevetted colonel. He was the only senator to be re-elected in Washington from the beginning of statehood in 1889 until Wesley L. Jones duplicated that feat in 1914.

Women of America today enjoy equal suffrage largely because of the pioneer work of Elizabeth Cady Stanton of Seneca Falls, Seneca County, who called the world's first woman's rights convention there in 1848. This mother of five sons and two daughters was born November 12, 1815, in Johnstown, marrying on May 1, 1840, Henry B. Stanton, an anti-slavery orator and lawyer, who removed with his wife in 1847 to Seneca Falls to reside in an inland climate because of his health.

The laughter of the nation was excited when Mrs. Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Martin Wright and Mary Ann McClintock called the woman's rights convention. Mrs. Stanton's father, Judge Daniel Cady of Johnstown, when he heard of the convention,

thought his daughter demented and visited Seneca Falls to learn of her condition.

In 1854 Mrs. Stanton addressed the Legislature on the rights of married women and in 1860 in advocacy of divorce for drunkenness. In 1868 she was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress. She was editor of "The Revolution" and author of "The History of Woman Suffrage," "Eighty Years and More," "The Woman's Bible" and other works. She died in 1902, having resided in Seneca Falls until 1861. Her home was at the northwest corner of Fall and Mynderse Streets.

In three humble homes in Central New York, John D. Rockefeller spent the first fourteen formative years of his life, earning his first money, learning to swim, play the old cat, hoe potatoes and do all the chores of a lad on a primitive woodland farm, in the days when deer ran wild in the forest. Though Rockefeller amassed a fortune in oil, his first business venture was in turkeys, when he was a boy of eight. Though he resides in a palatial mansion, he lived for years in a home of rough planks hewn in the forest. As a barefoot boy, he often went after the cow of a frosty morning and stood to warm his feet on the spot where the animal had lain.

From old timers of Central New York today come those intimate tales of how little John milked, weeded the garden and chopped kindlings. They remember their parents told them how he labored hard in a neighbor's potato patch for three days and found he'd earned less than the year's interest on his turkey venture the preceding season. So that he discovered that it is easier to have money work for you than to work for money.

John was born July 8, 1839, in a small, two-story house four miles northeast of the village of Richford, Tioga County. It was of beams, hewn by the axe from the forest, fastened together with pegs and clapboarded. Here he lived until four years old, so that he has left but vague memories of the tinkling brooks that met near the back door and vanished through the woods.

While deer still roamed the countryside, his family moved to his second home on a knoll a third of a mile above the waters of Owasco Lake and four miles north of Moravia, Cayuga County.

Here young Rockefeller spent the most formative years of his life. There with his brother, the late William Rockefeller, he slept on the top floor in a room unceiled and heated only by a stove pipe that led up from the room below. Of a winter's night, when the wind swept over Owasco, fine particles of snow sprinkled across his coverlet from cracks in the wall. And of a morning he often awoke to the creak of sleigh runners on the crisp snow, as his father started lumbering trips, with no lights but the stars and a lantern. Near this wildwood home, the father built the first school house in that section, locating it by driving his wagon across the town and counting the wheel revolutions. Then passing back he counted to half that number of revolutions and thus found the center of the town.

In this primitive environ, young Rockefeller first practiced what he was later to do so often in other business—recovered property which otherwise would have gone to waste and nursed it into paying a profit. Here he earned his first money raising turkeys. He saw a turkey hen stealthily making for the woods. He patiently trailed her. For days he hunted her nest. When he found it, he brought home the baby chicks and fed them with scraps his mother gave him. He sold the birds in the fall in the Moravia market. The returns he placed in a china bowl over the mantelpiece, the beginning of the Rockefeller fortune. Up until a few years ago, he visited the spot yearly, showing his retinue the cold brook that murmurs among the grasses as it has murmured for ages—the brook out of which he worked so hard to keep his young turkeys.

When John was ten years old, the family moved to another domicile still standing three miles east of Owego, Tioga County. Here no farming was done, but there was a garden across which was stretched a string, with one side for John and one for William to hoe. When eleven, the boy learned to swim in the old swimmin' hole back of a neighbor's barn and later he dared the current of the Susquehanna. He went to school in the Owego Academy, walking six miles daily back and forth. When just a lad John would go into the country to buy the family's wood supply, and it was always good measure.

Such was the training he received before going to Cleveland to work for three dollars a week and start the career that should make him millions. Today the mire trail over which little John once drove his turkeys is a paved highway from Auburn to Owego and named the Rockefeller Drive in his honor by the Finger Lakes Association.

Rockefeller was born on the Michigan Hill home four miles from Richford, he moved to the Owasco Lake home in 1843, living there until 1849 and then came back to Tioga County to live from 1849 to 1853.

Central New York played a conspicuous part in the development of the gigantic express business which today is one of the bulwarks of American business. Henry Wells, the expressman who with William G. Fargo formed the Wells-Fargo Express Company, was once a farm hand and shoemaker in the district but he became a capitalist and founded Wells College at Aurora. The determination of Wells and Fargo to develop a new idea in transportation formed one of the most striking battles to improve business and transportation in the nation's early history.

Wells was born in Vermont in 1805 and his father, a Presbyterian minister, moved his family to Central New York in 1814. Young Henry for three years mended shoes in Port Byron, Cayuga County, where he was an apprentice after working on farms near Syracuse and attending country school. He did not finish his apprenticeship as a tanner, however, but carried on trade by canal among farmers on Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, as a preliminary to organizing the great express company whose business extended around the globe. After his local express work by boat, he carried a carpet bag filled with packages from Albany to Buffalo. He traveled by rail to Auburn, then by stage across Cayuga Bridge to Geneva, and from there by stage and rail to Buffalo, the trip consuming four nights and three days in summer and much longer time in winter.

Then he became associated with Mr. Fargo, who had commenced his transportation business in a freight depot of the old Auburn & Syracuse Railroad, Auburn, as agent. Fargo became Wells' express agent in Buffalo in 1843 and with Wells extended

the express line to Cleveland, Chicago and St. Louis. Three years later the two opened offices in Paris and London and Fargo at a later date became president of the Wells-Fargo Express Company.

Wells merged with other little local groups and formed toward the south the Adams Express Company. Then he consolidated in 1850 with other rivals, forming the American Express Company, of which he became president. Wells died in Glasgow, Scotland, December 10, 1878. Fargo died in Buffalo August 3, 1881.

Another express venture found birth in the region in 1866 when the Merchants Union Express Company was organized in Auburn. A corporation was formed and the nominal capital of \$20,000,000 was fixed, upon which assessments were to be made only as necessary. The new company had Wells' companies, the Adams and American, as well as the United States, with which to compete. These carriers cut rates until express could be shipped almost as cheaply as freight. This swelled the express business until it embarrassed the railroads to handle it and they raised the rates upon express from 300 to 600 per cent. After a two years' war in which the young Auburn company expended over \$5,000,000 and the competing lines had lost heavily, a compromise was made and the Merchants Union united with the American Express Company under the name of American Merchants Union. Later the name reverted to the American Express Company.

## CHAPTER XXVI

### BANKS AND BANKING.

PIONEER BANKS AND BANKING—EARLY BANKING LEGISLATION—SUSPENSION OF SPECIE PAYMENT—FIRST BANK IN CENTRAL NEW YORK—GROWTH OF BANKS—SAVINGS BANKS—SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS—STATE BANKS AND TRUST COMPANIES—PRESENT-DAY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

More than a century ago banks opened in Central New York communities to lend their aid to commerce and the upbuilding of an infant region. Several of the banks over 100 years old have never since opening closed their doors during banking hours. Others have been liquidated and still others today through mergers are doing business under different names. Today more than a hundred banks are aiding in a return to normalcy after the greatest financial depression in the nation's history during 1929-32, during which slump not more than a half dozen banks in the area closed their doors.

In the early part of the nineteenth century there was no general banking law, but the few banks that existed were separately chartered, each by separate special act. The memory of the ruin caused by the worthless continental currency still remained in people's minds, and there was a general suspicion of paper money and a fear of banks as probable oppressive monopolies, as, indeed, many of them were. That oppressive monopoly could be prevented by a general grant of banking powers to any set of men putting up the necessary capital, was an idea that seems to have slowly permeated the public mind, and it was not until 1838 that the legislature enacted the free banking law, the model on which was afterwards framed the National Bank Act. In 1817, and for some time before and after, bank charters were granted only as a special favor to specially designated per-



sons. This favoritism necessarily threw the business of granting bank charters into politics; which ever party was in the majority was apt to limit the membership of a new bank to political friends and supporters and to see that the stock was distributed "where it would do most good." And the bank so organized was considered an appanage of the political party that gave it life, and its discounts were apt to be limited to those of its own political faith.

Three times prior to the Civil war had specie payment been suspended in this state. From the fall of 1814 to the spring of 1817, all the banks of the country, except those in New England, suspended payment. A second suspension continued from May, 1837, until the following spring. On October 13, 1857, all the New York City banks, save the Chemical, suspended and the banks in the state generally did the same, but resumption soon took place.

Earliest banks were first established in rooms of hotels, in stores and sometimes in homes. They were the first steps taken by men of vision in seeking to aid industry and commerce, they gave financial stability to settlement communities and they marked the beginning of progress in the business world of Central New York.

One of the first, if not the first bank in Central New York was the old Ontario Bank in Canandaigua, chartered in 1813. Nathaniel Gorham, one of the financiers negotiating the great Phelps and Gorham Purchase, was its president. The Ontario bank had a capital of a half million, but when its charter expired in 1856, it went out of business.

The pioneer banking institution of Seneca County was chartered as the Seneca County Bank on March 12, 1833, and on June 1 temporary banking quarters were secured in the Williams Hotel in Waterloo and business was commenced July 9, with an authorized capital stock of \$200,000. It is now the First National Bank of Waterloo.

In Cayuga County the growth of the village and the large disbursements of money during the construction of Auburn Prison in 1816-17 led to organization of the first bank there.

Enos T. Throop, later governor, was among those making application for a charter which was granted May 31, 1817, to the Auburn Bank, with authorized capital stock of \$400,000. In July the bank was organized. Today, after changes in name and mergers, it occupies the third banking home on the same site where it started. It is now known as the Auburn-Cayuga National Bank and Trust Company and it claims the record of never closing during banking hours since it was opened in 1817. The Cayuga County National Bank, formed in 1833, merged with it in 1931, and Edwin R. Fay & Sons, private bankers organized in 1892, united a few years before.

In the same year the Auburn bank was formed, a charter was issued March 28 to the Bank of Geneva, which had a capital stock of \$400,000. This financial institution continued until 1853, when an extension of its charter expired and it closed its business and liquidated. Another bank of the same name began business January 1, 1853. In the early days of the institution it issued notes in as small denomination as five cents.

As the years passed banking laws steadily became more stringent in their provisions for protection of depositors. The Savings Banks and National Banks made their debut and then the state banks and trust companies. Generally speaking, savings and loan associations and a few credit unions and industrial banking concerns were the latest financial institutions coming into Central New York. Of these latter the savings and loan associations occupy the most prominent position. Under the state banking law such an association is defined as a "domestic moneyed but non-stock corporation formed for the purpose of encouraging industry, frugality, home building, the saving of money by its members, the accumulation of savings, the lending of such accumulations to its members and the repayment to each member of his savings when they have accumulated to a certain sum."

Today there are a score of savings and loan associations in the eleven counties of this district and, despite the panic, all save those in three counties show a marked increase in resources for 1931 over 1930. Not a one has closed during the depression. A

number are members of the State Land Bank, organized in 1915 as a mutual institution to provide funds for its member associations. This is accomplished by assigning bonds and mortgages to the Land Bank, which in turn uses these bonds and mortgages as collateral security for serial bonds for public investment. It thus enables members to secure funds in emergencies and at times when such funds can be advantageously used. The Land Bank report for the year ending December 31, 1931, shows a capital of \$1,147,000, loans to members of \$16,110,000 and bonds outstanding in the sum of \$16,439,000.

The Auburn Savings and Loan Association, which commenced business in 1920, has assets of \$924,452.

The Bath Savings and Loan Association, which began business in 1890, has assets of \$247,916.

In Canisteo, Steuben County, the Savings and Loan Association began business in 1921 and its assets have mounted to \$148,296.

The Corning Cooperative Savings and Loan Association, which opened for business in 1889, has assets totaling \$5,127,216.

In Cortland the Dime Savings and Loan Association has assets of \$666,048, although it began business as late as 1911.

Elmira has two such financial institutions and one credit union: The Chemung Valley Savings and Loan Association, with assets of \$5,279,561 and in existence since 1875; the Elmira Federal Employees' Credit Union, organized in 1931 and with assets of \$4,399, and the Elmira Savings and Loan Association, organized in 1888 and with present assets of \$3,082,988.

The Geneva Permanent Loan and Savings Association commenced business in 1886 and has built up assets of \$3,655,410.

The Savings and Loan Association of Groton was formed in 1914 and has assets of \$51,120.

Hornell has two such savings institutions: the Hornellsville Cooperative Savings and Loan Association, formed in 1888 and with present assets of \$144,709; and the Maple City Cooperative Savings and Loan Association, which commenced business in 1906 and now has assets of \$1,440,242.

The Horseheads Savings and Loan Association began business in 1920 and its assets total \$344,440.

In Ithaca are two associations and one credit union; the Ageco Credit Union with assets of \$1,944; the Ithaca Savings and Loan Association, founded in 1915, and with assets of \$1,842,314; and the M. I. A. Credit Union, organized in 1930 and with assets of \$674.

The Wayne Savings and Loan Association at Lyons commenced business in 1924 and has assets of \$31,414.

At Montour Falls, the Shepard Savings and Loan Association began business in 1920 and has assets of \$102,026.

The Owego Savings and Loan Association, commencing business in 1921, now has assets of \$26,231.

The Home Savings and Loan Association of Penn Yan, which opened in 1890, has \$58,210 in assets.

The Waverly Cooperative Savings and Loan Association, organized in 1902, has assets of \$667,940.

At Wayland, Steuben County, the Dime Savings and Loan Association was formed in 1888 and its assets total \$87,077.

All figures herein given are taken from the annual report of the superintendent of banks of the state for the year 1931.

## CHAPTER XXVII

### CAYUGA COUNTY.

AREA—ORGANIZATION—EARLY INDUSTRIES—LOCATION OF COUNTY SEAT—  
TOWNS — PIONEER SETTLERS — CHURCHES — AUBURN — AURORA — CATO—  
CAYUGA — FAIR HAVEN — UNION SPRINGS — MORAVIA — MERIDIAN — PORT  
BYRON—WEEDSPORT.

Cayuga, the twenty-ninth county in the state, was formed from Onondaga March 8, 1799. It covers 703 square miles and has a land area of 449,920 acres, 82.9 per cent of which is in farms, which number 3,865. The farm acreage totals 372,890 and the value of the land and farm buildings is placed at \$21,701,367. Cayuga's population is 64,828.

Industrially the county is as rich as agriculturally. According to the 1929 federal figures, the last available, 120 industrial plants were listed, employing an average number of 6,774 persons. The county's annual industrial wages total \$8,135,889; her plants pay for materials, fuel and purchased power \$21,420,763 and the value of her industrial products yearly is \$41,884,673.

Cayuga County has 1,489 miles of roads, 288 of which are of the finest paved state highway. Her motor cars number 17,796. The county's single city, Auburn, located in the geographical center, is the county seat. In addition are nine incorporated villages: Aurora, Cato, Cayuga, Fair Haven, Meridian, Moravia, Port Byron, Union Springs and Weedsport.

Cayuga has twenty-three towns, with the following population: Aurelius, 1,430; Brutus, 2,109; Cato, 1,288; Conquest, 906; Fleming, 987; Genoa, 1,407; Ira, 1,342; Ledyard, 1,235; Locke, 715; Mentz, 1,553; Montezuma, 690; Moravia, 1,913; Niles, 902; Owasco, 1,753; Scipio, 991; Sempronius, 543; Sennett, 1,524;

Springport, 1,313; Sterling, 1,966; Summerhill, 448; Throop, 990; Venice, 1,050; Victory, 1,037.

Cayuga County, about halfway between Albany and Buffalo, is fifty-five miles long and has an average width of fourteen miles. Its drainage is in a general northerly direction.

The earliest civic division in this part of the state was Tyron County, created in 1772 and changed to Montgomery in 1784. It included the entire state west of a north and south line drawn through the center of Schoharie County. Ontario County was next formed January 27, 1789, and included all that part of Montgomery County lying west of a north and south line drawn through Seneca Lake, two miles east of Geneva. Herkimer County was formed in 1791, extending from Ontario County to Montgomery County. Onondaga was formed from Herkimer March 5, 1794, and included the original Military Tract, the present counties of Cayuga, Seneca and Cortland and parts of Tompkins, Wayne and Oswego. Cayuga when formed in 1799 then embraced Seneca and a part of Tompkins.

Towns in those days were very large.<sup>1</sup> Whitestown, created in 1788, embraced the entire state west of Utica and there were less than 200 inhabitants when it was formed. The town officers were scattered from Geneseo on the west to Utica on the east.

This large town was afterward divided into Mexico, Peru and Whitestown, Mexico embracing the eastern half of the Military Tract. The first town meeting in Mexico was held at the home of Seth Phelps, in the town of Ledyard, and the first general election in the town of Whitestown, was held at Cayuga Ferry on the east side of Cayuga Lake near the present Cayuga village. If the voters residing as far east as Utica came to Cayuga to vote, traversing over eighty miles of forest roads, they paid heavily in labor for the franchise. Cayuga County contributed to the formation of two other counties. Seneca was taken off in 1804 and a part of Tompkins in 1817.

Cayuga County as early as 1810 had forty-seven distilleries going full blast, according to Spafford's Gazetteer of 1813, which says: "The number of looms in the county were 1,360, producing 340,870 yards of cloth annually; there are nineteen tan-

neries, forty-seven distilleries, forty-eight asheries, eleven carding machines, eleven cloth dress mills, three oil mills, an air furnace triphammer, several nail factories, six earthenware factories and several hatters' shops. About 2,500 skeins of silk and 60,000 bushels of salt are made annually. The inhabitants clothe themselves principally in the products of their own families and, were it not for the exorbitant number of their distilleries, I should add, were very temperate and industrious."

When the county was organized the first courthouse was at Aurora, a structure of poles, covered with brush. There in 1803 a circuit court and court of Oyer and Terminer was held and an Indian tried for murder and sentenced to be hung. A log shack in Cayuga was authorized for a jail in 1800. The first courthouse in Auburn was constructed in 1807-09 at a cost of \$10,000. It was of wood and two stories high and painted white. The lower story, used as a jail, was built of large upright logs held together with iron spikes.

The present courthouse of stone was projected in 1835. In 1922 it was gutted by fire and completely restored in 1924, the same walls being used but an additional story added. The cornerstone of the present county clerk's building was laid April 17, 1882, and it was occupied the following March.

First county officers were: Seth Phelps, judge; William Stuart, district attorney; Benjamin Ledyard, county clerk; Joseph Annin, sheriff; Glen Cuyler, surrogate.

Even the hamlet of Sherwood shared early ambitions to be the county seat and succeeded in 1804 in being selected by commissioners to designate a location. But Sherwood was shorn of this glory in 1805, when the law which established it as a county seat was revoked. But Sherwood went so far as to provide a jail, in the upper east room of a structure, across the windows of which iron bars were fastened. In the building, a tailor shop, courts were also held for one year.

A stone jail was erected in Auburn in 1833, two stories high, with two double and twenty-six single cells, arranged in the center of the building with a hall on three sides, open to the prisoners in the daytime. The contract for the present jail was let in 1887.



Cayuga has one assembly district. It is in the Thirty-sixth Congressional District, the Seventh Judicial District and the Forty-second Senatorial District.

#### TOWNS.

Aurelius was formed January 27, 1789, and Brutus was taken from Aurelius March 30, 1802. Cato was formed from Aurelius on exactly the same date and Conquest was formed from Cato March 16, 1821.

Genoa township is in the central portion of what was originally organized as the town of Milton in 1797, ten years before formation of Cayuga County. Locke was taken off in 1802 and the name changed in 1808 to Genoa.

Ledyard was formed from Scipio January 20, 1823, being named for Benjamin Ledyard, agent and clerk for apportionment of lands in the Military Tract.

Montezuma was formed from Mentz April 8, 1859, and Mentz previously had been formed from Aurelius March 30, 1802. At that time Mentz was known as Jefferson, its name being changed April 6, 1808.

Moravia was formed from Sempronius March 20, 1833, Niles was formed from Sempronius March 30, 1883, Ira was formed from Cato March 16, 1821.

Scipio was one of the original towns, having been formed March 5, 1794. Fleming was formed from Aurelius March 28, 1823, and Sempronius March 9, 1799.

Locke was created from Milton (now Genoa) February 20, 1802. Owasco was formed from Aurelius March 30, 1802, and Sennett from Brutus March 19, 1827. Springport was formed from Scipio January 30, 1823.

Sterling, named from William Alexander, Lord Sterling of Revolutionary memory, was formed from Cato June 19, 1812.

Summerhill, originally known as Plato, was formed from Locke April 26, 1831, and its name changed March 16, 1832. Throop, named after Governor Enos T. Throop, a resident, was formed from Aurelius, Mentz and Sennett April 8, 1859.

Venice was formed from Scipio January 30, 1823, and Victory from Cato March 16, 1821.

The first settler in Cayuga County was Col. John Harris, who came to what is the town of Aurelius in 1788 and built a log cabin near the old Indian trail westward just south of what is now Cayuga village. Nearby he established a ferry across Cayuga Lake about where Cowing's Point now is. Near this point was made the fifth and last treaty between the state and the Cayuga Indians for purchase of their last reservation, in 1795. Red Jacket and Fish Carrier for the Cayugas; John Harris and John Richardson for the state of New York were the principal negotiators. How the state paid in 1931 a claim there made is told in the chapter dealing with Indians of the region.

The second settler was Roswell Franklin, who came in 1789 and settled not far distant. Even then the Cayuga Indians, who once held supremacy over the territory now embraced by the county, still resided along Cayuga Lake. Most of the early settlers were soldiers, who drew lots upon the Military Tract or who had purchased soldiers' warrants. The first immigration to the county was by way of Oneida Lake and River, and from the south by way of Cayuga Lake. But in 1796 a state road from Whitestown to Geneva by way of Auburn was cut through and in 1800 the famous Cayuga Bridge was built, making the county in the direct path of the great highway of westward travel. First inhabitants were principally from New England and eastern New York counties.

At least a dozen churches in Cayuga County, outside Auburn, were founded more than a century ago. The First Presbyterian Church, town of Mentz, in Port Byron, was organized 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 Presbyterian Church of Cayuga was formed May 30, 1819, in a school house and two years later erected a meeting house. The Congregational Church at Ira Corners was organized July 7, 1807, and the Baptists of Fleming held their first services about 1794 in private homes. The Baptists formed the

first church in Sempronius in 1798 and in Locke the Methodists organized in 1819. The First Presbyterian Church in Sennett was organized in 1805 as the First Congregational Church of Brutus. The Baptist Church in Summerhill came into being in 1807, the Baptist Church in Venice in 1800 and the Methodist Church in Victory in 1813. Sand Beach Church at the foot of Owasco Lake, town of Fleming, was organized as the Protestant Reformed Church in 1807 and the first church was built on the site in 1810. Present edifice was erected in 1855. The First Presbyterian Church of Genoa was organized August 13, 1798, the first structure being a log cabin a mile east and a mile south of King Ferry. A new edifice was built at the present site in the village in 1806, replaced by the present structure in 1847 and enlarged in 1871. The Reformed Dutch Church of Owasco was the first in the county, being built in 1798.

#### AUBURN.

Coming down the winding Indian trail from the East on a bright day in 1793, a tall, swarthy veteran of Sullivan's campaign, with his daughter and two negro slaves, paused in a thick hemlock forest beside the rushing waters of the Owasco River. The latent power of the stream fascinated him. For several days he explored the valley. Then upon a dry spot in the section, which was chiefly a swamp, he chose the site for his cabin. Capt. John L. Hardenbergh had found what is now Auburn.

Though originally awarded bounty land in the towns of Fabius and Cicero, Hardenbergh chose the wild Owasco Valley because of his intimate knowledge of the region and the possibilities for its future growth. After the Sullivan campaign, he had been a deputy under the surveyor general, when the original townships in the Military Tract were mapped. So he disposed of his award to obtain a location where he might put the power of the Owasco in harness.

His first cabin with its rude smoke hole, went up on what is now the site of the present new headquarters fire building in Market Street. A clearing appeared in the forest. With his home built, the pioneer next went at the task of controlling the

strength of the Owasco. A log dam was flung across the stream and a gig mill, with thatched roof, rose to grind the grain which previously the Indians and isolated white pioneers had crushed with a pestle and mortar. By 1802 Hardenbergh had built a second mill, that would turn out thirty bushels of flour a day, as against the original twelve.

Auburn's industries were born. The first of the plants which were later to utilize the power of Owasco River in its fall of 170 feet within the city turned out its product.

Auburn's close association with the Sullivan campaign is revealed in the acquisition of lots on what is now the city, by officers in the expedition against the Iroquois. Col. Peter Gansevoort, who with a detachment in the Sullivan campaign passed eastward from Cayuga to the foot of Owasco Lake not far from the site of Auburn, drew lot fifty-seven, retaining it until 1805 when he sold it to Samuel Swift for \$4,000.

Col. Philip Van Cortlandt, another officer in Sullivan's campaign, acquired 100 acres, transferring it in 1799 to William Bostwick, who built a log tavern on South Street and afterward erected Bostwick's Tavern, where the Western Exchange Hotel was later built and long enjoyed a large patronage.

Three years after Hardenbergh came, Samuel Bristol arrived and opened the first tavern in a log cabin, in which a little store was Auburn's first mercantile establishment. There were then eight families in the hamlet. In all this time the Aurelius town meetings were held in the home of Hardenbergh, and the town was so small the majority of citizens had to accept office to fill the civil list.

In 1796 the first school was opened a little north of where the present Holy Family school now stands. The settlement, which had been named Hardenbergh's Corners, boasted a post office in 1800, with the mail brought on horseback every two weeks. By 1804 the service was bi-weekly and by 1808 daily. Stages ran along the old Genesee trail on weekly schedule as early as 1800, the year that the first bridge across the outlet was built at North Street. Previous to that pedestrians crossed on a tree trunk and horses waded.

In the tiny post office Enos T. Throop, later governor of the state, was postmaster from 1809 to 1815. He was also successively Supreme Court judge, county clerk, Congressman for Cayuga, Seneca, Tioga and Broome counties, naval officer of the Port of New York and charge d'affairs to the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

Auburn early owed its growth to water power and secondly to the removal of the county seat to the village, land for the court house being donated by William Bostwick. In 1803 Hardenbergh's Corners became Auburn, on recommendation of a "Naming Committee." By 1810 the place gave first indications of being a real manufacturing center, with seventeen small industrial plants along the Owasco outlet. Six dams provided water power for five saw mills, four grist mills, two distilleries, two carding mills, two fulling mills, one linseed oil mill and one forge.

In 1808 Auburn's first newspaper, *The Western Federalist*, was published by two Englishmen, holding the field without competition until the *Cayuga Patriot* made its debut six years later.

North and Genesee Streets were the first in Auburn. South and Owasco were laid out in 1795; Market, then known as Mill road, and Franklin, at first called the Genesee Road, were projected two years later. East Genesee, though in use before, was legally designated in 1802. Division Street was mapped in 1799 and Seminary Avenue in 1805. What is now Osborn Street and known before as Lumber Lane and then Mechanic Street, was not definitely located until 1821. Seminary and Fulton Streets date from 1806 and State and Chapel from 1811.

Agitation for an academy began in 1810 and several residents offered to donate land for such a school. That given by Robert Dill, embracing five and a half acres on Garden Street, was accepted. By 1811 subscriptions totaling \$4,090 were pledged for the academy and on January 5, 1811, the Auburn School Association was formed. That year the academy building was erected, a three-story brick structure, sixty feet by twenty feet in size. In it dark cells were provided to confine unruly boys. Fireplaces provided heat. The school opened February 3, 1812,

but was burned in 1816 and rebuilt in 1823. The present building on the site was erected in 1888. The school had been established as a High School free to children of the city in 1867, but the word Academic is still used in Auburn Academic High School in accordance with a condition of the old Dill gift of land.

The High School in the fall of 1932 became the Junior High School, with the building of a \$750,000 Senior High School out Franklin Street on the site of the car barns of the old Auburn & Syracuse Electric Railroad, abandoned a few years ago. Part of the land was given the city by Fred L. Emerson, who purchased all holdings of the defunct transit company. The new school is one of the finest in the state, with an auditorium seating 1,500, with a gymnasium for boys and girls, with baseball diamonds, a battery of tennis courts, three football gridirons and other novel features including a large cafeteria. The structure is the finest public building in Auburn and contrasts sharply with the original academy of 1812.

By 1815 the village had 200 houses and 1,000 population. A swamp covered that part of the business district now occupied by Dill and Water Streets, but it was being cleared and drained. The forest had not been cut away beyond where Washington Street now runs and magnificent South Street was then a mud lane. There were but five brick buildings on Genesee Street. In that year the first volunteer fire company organized and the village was duly incorporated on April 18, 1815.

Before the incorporation, the sidewalks consisted of slabs thrown down in summer and consumed for fuel in winter. But the new village administration ordered brick or plank walks eight feet wide on both sides of Genesee Street, on the west side of North and on the north side of Center Street.

It was about this time that the most striking institution in the region—Auburn Prison—was proposed. As with the academy, citizens again donated the site for the penal institution known throughout the world and whose history is sketched in the chapter of this volume dealing with state institutions.

On February 4, 1818, the Agricultural Association of Cayuga County was formed and the following October the first county fair was held in Auburn.

In 1824 Dr. Erastus Tuttle, prison physician, began a medical school in Auburn, continuing educational lectures to students until his death five years later. Associates sought to carry on but establishment of a medical department at Hobart College, Geneva, influenced the Legislature to deny Auburn's application for a college charter and the project died.

The first Auburn band was established in 1825, when the village population was 2,982.

Ten years later the Big Dam was built, with the idea of forming a canal to Owasco Lake. The cornerstone bore this inscription: "The Cornerstone of the Auburn and Owasco Canal was laid October 14, 1835." Five years later the laboriously begun canal project was abandoned, but the sponsors had given Auburn a magnificent dam twenty feet high, adding greatly to the utilization of the river's water power.

Because Auburn was given the state prison, the state refused to deflect the course of the Erie Canal to pass through the city and the first step in blocking the advance of a community that bid fair to be the leading metropolis of western New York had been taken. But no sooner had hopes of securing the Erie been blighted than Auburnians in 1822 proposed to construct a canal to Port Byron. Meetings were held, committees named and nothing accomplished. Seven years later the project was revived and the Owasco Canal Company organized and \$100,000 subscribed. The company incorporated April 20, 1828. But the plan fell through, once again to be agitated within the past twenty years.

Auburn's streets were lighted for the first time by oil lamps on December 31, 1836. The following year, on January 21, 1837, occurred the most destructive fire in Auburn's early days, when fourteen buildings in the business section were leveled with a loss of \$100,000.

That year was also marked by the building of the Town Hall, used as the City Hall until 1930. It was built at a cost of \$30,000 and the lower floor used as a public market. Down through nearly a century it underwent many changes. In its rear was the police station and city lock-up. Up until 1930 the head-



quarters fire company was also located in the old home of the city's founder back of the ancient City Hall.

Here it is well to digress in the chronological sequence of city events to touch upon the magnificent new structures which have just replaced the old City Hall and the fire station. The new \$500,000 Memorial City Hall, dedicated April 5, 1930, was a direct result of the interest stimulated in the Osborne family for the city's welfare, because of the part members of that family had taken in advancing the community.

Memorial City Hall was the gift of Mrs. James J. Storrow of Boston and Mrs. Frederick Harris of Springfield, Massachusetts, in memory of their father, David Munson Osborne, who was mayor in 1879 and 1880, the first in a line of three Osbornes who became the city's chief executive. The next in line was the late Thomas Mott Osborne, famed prison reformer, who was mayor in 1902 and 1904. Both held office under the old aldermanic form of government. Under Commission form, Plan C, the third Osborne, Capt. Charles D. Osborne, was mayor for a four-year term from 1928 to 1932.

The donors of the new hall chose a site opposite historic Richardson Square, opposite the Woman's Union, another Osborne benefaction. The cornerstone was laid May 16, 1929, and at the later dedication former Lieut.-Gov. George R. Lunn and Mayor Rolland B. Marvin of Syracuse were among the prominent speakers.

The abandoned City Hall in Market Street was razed by the city and the handsome police and fire station of colonial architecture, matching the new City Hall, was erected. It was opened in the fall of 1931, Chester J. Bills being the first police chief in charge of the station and Fred W. Washburn the first fire chief in the new central fire headquarters, to which the State Street Hose No. 3 was recalled.

Atop the old City Hall there was placed, June 17, 1881, the ancient Wheeler Bell, weighing 6,300 pounds. Until the hall was razed, it pounded out the city's fire alarms in clarion tones, its great clapper shaking the venerable building at every stroke.

Today the bell rests silent in the tower of the new Memorial City Hall. It was named in honor of Mayor Wheeler.

Reverting to days when Auburn put up the City Hall in 1837, we find that in the fall of 1838 William H. Seward, one of Auburn's most distinguished citizens, was chosen governor.

Two years later the village entertained two distinguished guests; Henry Clay, who was welcomed by the Whigs and President Martin VanBuren, feted by the Democrats. John Quincy Adams was a guest in 1843.

The biggest state fair in New York up to that time was held in Auburn upon the top of Capitol Hill, beginning September 15, 1846. The street was given its name because at one time it was thought Auburn would become the state capital, and the government buildings would be located at the crest of the hill.

About this time Auburn was the center of the American silk industry, with many growers starting the cultivation of the mulberry tree. Manufacture of silk was begun in the prison and there were only three mills in the nation employing more operatives than behind those gray walls. Auburn was the principal cash silk market for the country. Finally the prison suspended manufacture and the flourishing industry lived but five years.

Organization May 15, 1815, of the Fort Hill Cemetery Association, to have jurisdiction over historic Fort Hill recalls the mystery and romance which clothes one of the most intriguing spots in the region—a cemetery originally purchased for a dollar and occupying the site of a pre-historic fortification.

To the casual visitor Fort Hill is simply a beautiful cemetery where repose the remains of William H. Seward and where a monument towers to the memory of the Indian, Logan. But to the archaeologist the antique shafts appear as milestones of the ages, recalling the eternal continuity of life from the time, perhaps, when the ancient Mound Builders worshipped their gods from an eminence in the center of the hill.

When earliest settlers came to Auburn they found an aboriginal fortress. McCauley, the historian, visited it in 1825 and under the title, "Fort Alleghan," described it as follows: "It enclosed about two acres and had a rampart, ditch and gateway.

It is now nearly obliterated by the plow. In its original state, or condition, it was in about 1790, the rampart was seven feet high and the ditch ten feet wide and three deep. Two persons, the one standing in the ditch and the other within the enclosure, were unable to see each other. The gateway was in the north-western side in the direction of a spring which flowed close by. The work was 350 paves in circumstance."

Shoecraft, who visited the spot in 1845 for the state, held that the fortress was the work of the Alleghans, a tribe of Mound Builders, driven out by the Iroquois. The antiquarian, E. G. Squier, after comparing the pottery, pipes, ornaments and relics of barbaric art found in the fort, with those of historic and pre-historic tribes, leaned to the belief that the fortification was constructed by the Iroquois.

In 1852, with \$7,000 appropriated by the state, work of improving the Owasco outlet was begun, so as to maintain a proper depth in dry seasons and a proper supply for the Erie Canal, of which the waterway was a feeder. Within two years the "new channel" was cut through at the foot of Owasco Lake, creating what is now known as the Island and forming a new artificial lake outlet.

A charter was granted to the Auburn Water Works Company in 1859 and \$100,000 capital was raised in 1863. The following year a pump house, dam and raceway were completed and in 1865 water mains were being laid in the city for a supply direct from the lake.

With a capital of \$20,000 the Auburn Gas Light Company was organized January 11, 1850, and prepared to light the city September 1. That very night the factory burned down but the company was in operation within a month. Ten years later the company put up a plant to manufacture gas from coal, instead of from "whales foots" and from rosin as before.

In 1858 the great D. M. Osborne & Co., now the Auburn works of the International Harvester Company, commenced manufacturing reapers and mowers.

In 1848 Auburn was incorporated as a city.

The number of wards was increased from seven to ten by the new charter signed by the governor February 28, 1879. The following year the letter carrier system was inaugurated and, to facilitate deliveries, the Common Council ordered the streets re-numbered. It was this year that General Ulysses S. Grant visited the city.

September 17, 1880, a separate militia company was organized and a year later given the name Wheeler Rifles in honor of Mayor Wheeler. On August 10 the first train over the Ithaca, Auburn & Western Railroad entered Auburn. Madison School was erected in 1883 and the first "dummy" engine made its trip over what has been known as the Owasco River Railroad, sold in 1929 to the New York Central for \$75,000. On September 9 the Soule Cemetery was dedicated. Auburn's first electric lights glowed on November 28, 1883, and official lighting of the streets by electricity began December 15, 1884.

The cornerstone of the Y. M. C. A. building was laid September 30, 1884, and just a year and ten days later ground was broken for the present High School building which was dedicated June 5, 1888. The first board of trade formed March 9, 1887. The cornerstone of the post office building was laid September 4, 1888.

The poles of the telephone were first erected in Genesee Street in 1889 and the line opened to the public April 17, just thirteen years after the telephone had been patented by Bell. Auburn's first electric trolley car wound its way down Seymour Street and up State on January 17, 1890, and by the following month a line had extended to Owasco Lake. Auburn's trolleys were abandoned for busses in 1927.

Auburn claims the oldest furniture house in the United States. The house of Richardson was established in the year 1800 in Marietta, Ohio, by Col. John Richardson, who at the time was engaged in the furnishing of the castle of Herman Blennerhasset on the island bearing his name. It was afterwards re-established in 1812 at Auburn, New York, where it has continued in business to this day.

Men of courage and vision who were educational, industrial and commercial leaders from the time of Auburn's founding played their part in the upbuilding of the city. David M. Osborne, born in Rye, Connecticut, December 15, 1822, was one of these. He was the founder of the great D. M. Osborne & Co. farm implement factory, later the Auburn Works of the International Harvester Co.

One of the earliest industrial enterprises was founded in 1818 by Joseph Wadsworth, father of the Wadsworth Scythe Company which is doing business today.

Col. Edwin D. Metcalf, born in Smithfield, Rhode Island, March 14, 1848, was one of the industrial giants of Auburn, founding the Columbia Rope Company. He was drawn to Auburn as vice president and general manager of the D. M. Osborne Company, which he built up to a marked degree.

Erastus Case was the founder of the Case family in Auburn, a family whose benefactions have been felt in every strata of society. Willard E. Case, once a lawyer, gave up the profession to become a scientific investigator and writer, whose papers were read before the Royal Society of London, England. He established the Case Laboratories, now conducted by a son, Theodore W. Case, inventor of the tube which made possible the talking movie. The Case Memorial public library is one of the benefactions of the Case family.

Few towns in early days had a greater number of taverns than Auburn, a well known stopping place for travel over the Genesee turnpike. Today, in the busy rush of present-day life, it is interesting to locate these places of ancient conviviality in respect to present structures which have during the years crowded the old hostels from the landscape.

Just beyond the city limits out West Genesee Street stands a brick building built in 1804 by Zenas Huggins and used for thirty years as a tavern. It marks the site of the first settlement on the Genesee turnpike between Elbridge and the Cayuga Ferry. The original tavern before the present structure was built in 1791 by John Huggins, father of the builder of the brick tavern.

The Center House was located at the corner of Genesee and Market Streets. It is the site of an early tavern erected in 1805. Here Gov. Enos T. Throop had a law office. The First Presbyterian Church organized here in 1810 and here the first white Sabbath School in the settlement was formed in 1819. In 1829 the building was removed to 50 Fulton Street, where it is used as a dwelling today.

On the north side of Genesee Street, on the site of the Metcalf Building, stood the Willard Tavern, built in 1810, rebuilt and called the American Hotel in 1828-1830. The American was a four-story structure erected by Isaac Sherwood, Skaneateles hotel man and innkeeper, and was nearly square. It was considered the elite public house for miles around before it burned down in 1879. So "luxurious" were its cuisine and service that bottles of brandy sat every three feet on the table at all meals.

Bostwick's Tavern stood on the west corner of Exchange and Genesee Streets where the present Smith and Pearson hardware company stands. It was built in 1803 and rebuilt in 1824. Then it was named the Western Exchange Hotel. The building was razed in 1868. Here Lafayette was entertained in 1825.

Demaree's Tavern was located on the present site of the National Hotel in East Genesee Street. The tavern was first opened in 1817, and therein was opened the first bank in Auburn, predecessor to the Auburn-Cayuga National Bank and Trust Company.

Not far distant to the west stood Auburn's first freight depot, in front of the present site of the Schreck furniture store. It was the terminus of the Auburn & Syracuse Railroad, built by Charles W. Pomeroy in 1836. Here William Fargo, organizer of the Wells-Fargo Express Company, served as freight agent. The building was later used as the Genesee Opera House.

On the site of 187 East Genesee Street the Hunter Tavern was built in 1808 by Francis Hunter. Here under a great elm were held many councils between the whites and the Indians. Other landmarks abound in the city.

On the site of the present new fire headquarters in Market Street, John L. Hardenbergh, Auburn's founder, erected his first

log cabin in 1793, and here was held a year later the first Aurelius town meeting.

The present old stone mill at the junction of Genesee and East Genesee Streets was erected in 1824 but it occupies the site of the first mill built on Owasco River by Hardenbergh in 1793.

Auburn Prison, at the corner of Wall and State Streets, occupies ground where the Indian village of Wasco once was located.

At the corner of Lake Avenue and Camp Streets was a military depot camp during the Civil War.

The old North Street Cemetery, the principal one in Auburn until 1852, contains the remains of most of Auburn's pioneers and many Revolutionary soldiers.

On or in the vicinity of 191 Genesee Street was a military barracks in the War of 1812.

The first sermon in what is now Auburn was preached in 1798 by Rev. Asa Hillyer, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Orange. During the next three years there was occasional preaching by missionaries who came through Central New York on horseback.

The First Congregational Church of Aurelius was organized in 1801, with four preaching stations: Hardenbergh's Corners, now Auburn; Half Acre, Grover Settlement, now Fleming, and Cayuga, the pastor preaching at each church every month. On September 17, 1810, a meeting was held in the Center House, an Auburn tavern located near the junction of Genesee and Market Streets, and the First Congregational Society was formed. In 1814 active measures were taken for erection of a church edifice. This was the same year that Auburn was incorporated as a village, having a population of a thousand, and thirty shops and stores. Col. John L. Hardenbergh, Auburn's founder, gave a lot and \$8,000 was pledged for building. In 1815 construction work began and the church dedicated March 6, 1817. Total cost was nearly \$17,000. This same edifice was used until 1869 when it was removed to the corner of Capitol and Franklin Streets, where it became the Calvary Presbyterian Church and is still used, the oldest church structure in Auburn. The first Sunday School in



Auburn was organized in this church in 1817. Calvary, which took over the building, was organized as a church November 30, 1870.

The First Baptist Church of Auburn was constituted February 17, 1819, by a council of delegates from the First Church of Aurelius and the churches of Mentz, Brutus and Owasco. First worship was conducted in the court house; later a church was built at the corner of South and Exchange Streets on the site of the Richardson furniture store. A revival resulted in the building of a new church in 1833 in Genesee Street. This structure was of stone. It was occupied for fifty years and was then remodeled and today forms the principal part of the Traub furniture store. The present church at James and Genesee was built in 1887 at a cost of over \$70,000.

Organization of the Universalist Society of Auburn took place April 12, 1821, in a school house. Worship was in the court house, academy and other public places until the society succeeded the Baptists in their abandoned church on the site of the Richardson store. It was in 1847 that the Universalists moved into their present church across the street.

The First Methodist Church of Auburn was organized April 24, 1819, when Auburn was included in the Cayuga Circuit.

The first Roman Catholic Church in Auburn was Holy Family, the cradle of Catholicity in the region. First Catholic settlers came in 1810 and lived six years without a priest. Then Rev. John Gorman came by stage from New York and conducted services in the home of John O'Connor. Catholics came from Geneva, Seneca Falls, Waterloo and Ithaca to worship. Holy Family Church, occupying a structure formerly owned by the Methodists in Chapel Street, was dedicated in September, 1830.

Auburn has extended itself in welfare activity beyond the scope of most cities of its size. One of the most far-reaching welfare influences is the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, the result of a vision of service of Miss Emma A. Luce. Its constitution was adopted April 11, 1882, when officers were elected. Three rooms at 10 Exchange Street for reading and entertainment were opened November 3, 1882, and in October,

1884, Miss Frances Fiero was engaged as the first paid welfare worker.

In 1887 the Union moved into a new home of its own at 16 William Street. Twelve years later the property was sold and a second home purchased at 25 William. In 1907 the Union moved into its present handsome building at 25 South Street, erected as a memorial building by the late Mrs. Eliza Wright Osborne, who also gave an endowment of \$50,000 and refunded a building fund of \$22,000 raised by women of the Union. A gym and cafeteria were added and twenty-two rooms made available for self-supporting women.

In 1911 a vacation camp for girls was opened at Buck's Point on Owasco Lake and the next year Mrs. James J. Storrow, daughter of Mrs. Osborne, purchased Edgewater, farther up the lake, and gave it to the Union as a permanent camp.

The Union's first extension work was a lunch room for factory women at the Canoga Button Works. Next year a club house was purchased at 63 Wall Street and in 1916 funds were raised for constructing the fine Union Neighborhood House at 77 Wall. In 1915 Pomeroy Park was added as a gift of the heirs of the Pomeroy estate. In February, 1922, the Osborne Memorial Association gave to the Union the property and building at 25 South Street, together with an endowment fund of \$80,000.

In 1923 the new south wing was built at a cost of \$75,000, with its fine Dulles Pool and twenty-five more rooms for employed girls. Today the Union is a combination of school, gymnasium, club house, restaurant, home, library, social center, employment bureau and business office.

Auburn has thirty-five acres of parks and an area of eight and a half square miles, with 120 miles of streets, of which seventy are paved.

Auburn of today is a prosperous city of 8,719 families with 1,544 of its citizens paying a federal income tax in 1928. The population is divided: Native white, seventy-seven and seven-tenths per cent; negroes, one and four-tenths per cent; foreign born, twenty and nine-tenths per cent; English reading, ninety-

five and three-tenths per cent. There are twelve public grade schools, one Junior High School, one Senior High School and five parochial schools, with the students totaling about 7,000. The city has four Baptist Churches, one Christian Science, two Episcopal, one Hebrew, four Methodists, four Presbyterians, six Roman Catholic and six miscellaneous. It boasts one legitimate theater, four moving picture houses and three other auditoriums with an aggregating seating capacity of 9,250.

According to the federal census of manufacturers for 1929, the last taken, Auburn has 6,568 wage earners whose annual payroll amounts to \$7,941,366 and who turn out products annually valued at \$37,245,055.

#### AURORA.

Aurora was the first county seat of Onondaga County. In 1799, when Cayuga County was organized, the Court of Common Pleas was held at Cayuga Ferry, but in 1804 the county seat was moved back to Aurora and here the first court house was erected. Today Aurora is chiefly known as the home of Wells College.

Around Aurora began some of the first settlements of the county. Roswell Franklin, second settler in the county, came as the first white man in Aurora. Jonathan Richmond settled next in Aurora in 1791; Walter Wood in 1794, Eleazur Barnham in 1799 and Christopher Morgan in 1800. Aurora's site originally comprised lot number thirty-four, then in the township of Scipio. It was originally purchased by Judge Seth Phelps for \$600.

First evidences of the educational advantages which were to be a distinctive feature of life in Aurora were apparent as early as 1799 when the Cayuga Lake Academy was founded and chartered and built two years later. The original academic building burned in 1805, but Glenn Cuyler opened his house to students and classes were not interrupted while a new school was being constructed. In 1836 the wooden school was removed and converted into a Methodist Church, and a brick school erected with a capacity for 100 pupils. Today this building is still used as a public school.

One of the first executions in Cayuga County took place in Aurora. In 1803 an old Indian known only as John murdered Ezekiel Crane, a Seneca County settler. The Indian was captured and at first held in the jail under the eastern abutment of Cayuga Bridge. For safer keeping he was transferred to the jail in Canandaigua and finally in 1804 was tried at Aurora and sentenced to be hung. When on the scaffold, it was noticed that a pipe and tobacco leaf were in his belt, prepared, he informed officers, to smoke the calumet of peace with his victim.

One of the earliest Masonic lodges west of the Hudson was formed in Aurora in 1797. In 1819 they erected a fine lodge, still extant. A Royal Arch Chapter formed in 1819. Aurora's first church was the Congregational, organized in 1802. Services were held in the Academy Hall until 1819 when a place of worship was built. In 1818 the organization was changed to the First Presbyterian. The church was razed in 1860 and the cornerstone of the present one laid the same year.

Aurora boasts of having had the second oldest mercantile house in the state—that of R. Morgan & Son. The business was established in 1801 by Christopher Morgan. The name of Morgan as well as Wells, Zabriskie and others have for generations been synonymous with progress in Aurora. Reference to some of these men is made in the chapter devoted to great men of the region and also in the Who's Who section.

Aurora was incorporated May 4, 1837, chiefly to secure the name and prevent its incorporation by Aurora, Erie County. The village was the birthplace and is the American home of Edwin V. Morgan, present American ambassador to Brazil. Wells College boasts among its distinguished alumnae such names as Mrs. Grover Cleveland, Mrs. Charles Evans Hughes and Mrs. Cleveland H. Dodge.

#### CATO.

Cato, a village of 403 population in the northern Cayuga County, is the natural center of fertile country, abounding in fruit, grain and other products. It was incorporated in 1880. It lies within two miles of three beautiful small lakes—Cross,

Otter and Forest Lakes. The first settlement at the head of Cross Lake was made as early as 1800.

Settlement in Cato was commenced in 1805 by Platt Titus, who remained only two or three years. The first permanent settler was Dr. John Jakway, who arrived about 1809. Long the settlement was known as Jakway's Corners. The first postmaster was Augustus F. Ferris. In 1878 Adelbert P. Rich, now a retired Supreme Court Justice who also served in the Appellate Division with distinction, began manufacture of cigars in Cato. Justice Rich still has a Cato residence and his sons have created there a beautiful public golf course, opened in 1930. George R. Rich was the first lawyer in Cato. George Humphreys from Auburn began practice in Cato in 1844 and was chosen county judge in 1844. Frank Rich, son of George, began practice in 1855, and Stephen Olmsted, son-in-law of George R. Rich, commenced practice there in 1863.

Cato Lodge, No. 141, F. & A. M., was organized June 11, 1849.

#### CAYUGA.

Cayuga, a village of 344 population and the hub of an extensive cottage colony near the foot of Cayuga Lake, was settled the earliest of any place in Cayuga County. It was incorporated as a village as early as 1857. From time immemorial it has been on a line of travel westward. The Iroquois, the early Jesuits and later the soldiers of Sullivan all knew well this strategically located spot, from which the great Cayuga bridge as early as 1797 flung its planking westward to carry caravans of pioneers.

The first ferry ever operated across one of the Finger Lakes was that of John Harris, who in 1788, settled on the Cayuga Indian Reservation and built his cabin just off the ancient Indian trail south of what is now Cayuga village. He was the first white settler in the county, according to Frank S. Skillton, genealogist. The Cayuga Patriot of November 17, 1824, in an obituary notice of Harris' death on October 15 preceding, says: "He was one of the first men who explored the country and settled on the east side of Cayuga Lake in May, 1788." Many early historians cred-



WEST SIDE NORTH MAIN STREET, OVID, N. Y



MAIN STREET, INTERLAKEN, N. Y.



it Roswell Franklin, who came to the district in 1789, with having been the county's first settler.

With Harris in the project of this early ferry was James Bennett, who had settled on the opposite or west side of Cayuga Lake across from what is now Cowing Point, from which the ferry started. With a rough boat, propelled sometimes by oars and sometimes by sail, this pioneer enterprise early transported whites and Indians alike as they headed toward the sunset down the Iroquois trail. A year later two more ferries opened, one westward out of Cayuga village and a third, "the Cayuga ferry," at what is now Mud Lock.

After the ferries came the great bridge which was the grand highway of emigration until the Erie Canal checked the turnpike tide. The county seat was located at Cayuga on the first organization of the county. Here also the Indians made a treaty with the governor in 1794, selling their reservation.

The pioneer Harris opened the first store in 1789, keeping it until 1814, on the lot just south of the Presbyterian Church. In 1890 he also opened the first Cayuga Inn. Dr. William Harrison opened a store about 1806, but six years previously Daniel McIntosh had opened a store, which he kept until 1836, when he sold to his son, John, who continued until about 1860.

Dr. William Franklin was the first physician, coming in 1797 and practicing until his death in 1804.

The Presbyterian Church, organized May 30, 1819, in the school house. Its first plain wooden meeting house was dedicated in 1823. The First Methodist Church was organized in 1830, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic in 1853 and St. Luke's Episcopal in 1871.

In 1799 the court house was built at Cayuga and the Court of Common Pleas held there. In 1804 the court was removed to Aurora and in 1809 to Auburn.

Though this community which has been on the line of Indian and white travel for three centuries is now off the main trunk line Route 5 and 20 across the state, good connecting roads and the New York Central Railroad make it easily accessible.



## FAIR HAVEN.

Where Lake Ontario begins to turn to the north, lies Fair Haven, a village of 562 population at the northern tip of Cayuga County. The community extends the whole length of Little Sodus Bay, one of the best harbors on Lake Ontario, and is a terminus of the Auburn branch of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. To the general public its most distinguishing feature is Fair Haven Beach State Park, described in the State Parks section of this book. But for generations it has been a great lake shipping point, particularly for coal to Canada. As many as 170,000 tons of coal a season have been shipped from Fair Haven.

Today the village, incorporated in 1880, has several thriving stores, three hotels, and a prosperous bank. Fair Haven lighthouse and pier form the water gateway to the community. In olden days shipping out of Fair Haven was even greater than today. From April 11 to December 4, 1877, the number of vessels coming into the port was 360 with an aggregate tonnage of 68,516.

## UNION SPRINGS.

Union Springs, a village of 791 population, and incorporated in 1837, is situated on the east shore of Cayuga Lake. It derives its name from the many springs found within its borders. Two of the largest of these springs have been dammed to form pools and were the source of the earliest industries. Others have a strong taste of sulphur and still others contain iron and other minerals.

The first whites venturing into the vicinity were Jesuit priests. Except for the Sullivan campaign, not until 1789 did whites come again. Then Edward Richardson, in 1789, dammed the north spring and started a log grist mill. However, as he had settled on Indian land, he was compelled to leave, so it was not until 1800 that the first permanent settlers took up their claims. Today grants of land given settlers are still held by their descendants. The Carrs of Carr's Cove are examples. Also there came Quakers from New England and Pennsylvania.

In 1800 the first post office was established on the site of the present Town Hall, with Dr. John Mosher, the village's first physician, as postmaster. The mail came in on horseback and later by four-horse coach and each postmaster along the route selected his mail from the bag.

The earliest stores were general stores, and one of the first, dating about 1810, was owned by Laban Hoskins. It stands yet opposite Park Street, as does his home across the street. The cornerstone of the store known as Mersereau's was laid in 1827 and the business begun by them was carried on by members of the family for over a hundred years.

In 1816 there came from Dutchess County with his family Philip Winegar, who before many years started a saw mill and a woolen mill at the south pond.

At the north pond there had been a small grist mill which had saved the people many miles of travel, but the one which now stands was begun in 1835. The mill was built by George Howland, a Quaker from New Bedford. A canal leading to the lake was constructed close to the building and this saved much cartage and enabled him to get flour out easily by water. It was shipped in oak casks made close by and these casks came back from their trips filled with oil.

On the opposite side of the canal Robert Howland owned a bending works which employed many men.

Of the religious bodies, the Quakers were the first to organize, 1803-04, and built a meeting house in 1816, next to the present Quaker cemetery. The permanent building of the Orthodox Friends was built much later and is now the Public Library. The first church was the Presbyterian built in 1840, and the others followed: the Roman Catholic in 1851; the Christian, the Methodist, the Baptist, and the Episcopal.

In early days the village was a sporting community. Here Willard A. Hoagland, one time world champion heel and toe walker, staged matches. Here, too, Charles E. ("Pop") Courtney, Cornell rowing coach, lived and made his winning shells.

Oakwood Seminary, established in 1858 and incorporated by the Regents in 1860, was long conducted under the auspices

of the New York Yearly Meeting of Orthodox Friends. Today it is the property of the Seventh Day Adventists who conduct it as a school.

#### MORAVIA.

Moravia is a village of 1,295 residents. As early as 1789 settlers from adjoining towns came to the meadowland of the valley for hay. The following year the "visitors" came and planted eight acres of corn and cut another crop of hay. But the first permanent settler was John Stoyel, who moved to the valley in 1791 and purchased a large tract, including the site of the village. He built the first mill and was the first postmaster, having been appointed in about 1800.

Three years later he was followed by his brother, Amos, with Wilslow Perry and Jabez L. Bottom. The first child born in the village was the son of Wilslow and Rachael Perry in 1794; the first marriage was that of Jonathan and Elbridge Wright in 1796; the first school was taught by Levi Goodrick in 1797; the first inn was opened by Zadoc Cady in 1801 and the first merchant was Cotton Skinner, who opened a store about the same year.

By 1810 the village boasted six frame houses and a hundred inhabitants, with the population doubled in the next twelve years and quadrupled by 1830. About 1818 Jethrow Wood here constructed the world's first cast iron plow, later moving his shop to nearby Montville. Located on Mill Creek with abundant water power, industries from earliest days have operated in Moravia. The village was incorporated in 1837.

Congregationalists were first to form a church in the village, organizing March 12, 1806. In 1847 the First Methodist Church organized and built a neat chapel. St. Matthews's Episcopal Church was founded July 14, 1823, and the Baptist Church June 22, 1870. St. Patrick's Catholic Church was organized in 1878.

Millard Fillmore, thirteenth president of the United States, and John D. Rockefeller, as boys, were closely identified with Moravia life.

Sylvan Lodge, No. 41, F. & A. M., held its first communication December 25, 1810, in an attic; St. John the Baptist R. A. Chapter, No. 30, received its charter February 6, 1811; Rising Sun Lodge, No. 29, I. O. G. T., was organized January 20, 1866; Moravia Tent N. O. I. R., No. 47, was formed January 27, 1875, and Moravia Grange, No. 201, was chartered July 9, 1874.

Less than a mile from Moravia is Fillmore Glen. Another point of scenic interest is Parsons Falls, a mile and a half north-east of the village. It is higher than Niagara. Several times the village has suffered from floods.

The Cayuga County Fair, which for years was held at Moravia, was transferred in 1930 to Enna Jettick Park on Owasco Lake, near Auburn, in order to place it in the center of the county as well as in the county's center of population.

#### MERIDIAN.

Meridian village, of 266 population and formerly known as "Cato Four Corners," was incorporated October 17, 1854. Its original name was changed in 1849. The first settlement in the community was made about 1804 by George Loveless and Abel Pasko. The first merchant, Daniel M. Bristol, opened a store in 1806, and the first postmaster, William Ingham, was appointed in 1819. As early as 1810 the First Baptist Church society was formed. The Presbyterians organized February 2, 1836.

In the old days of fraternal life insurance, Meridian Lodge, No. 142, Ancient Order of United Workingmen, was organized March 26, 1878, with twenty members, as the second lodge of its kind in the county, the first being in Union Springs. Meridian, two miles east of Cato village, is in the northern part of the town of Cato.

#### PORT BYRON.

Port Byron is one of the most historic villages in Cayuga County. Today its population stands at 890, but in the days of the Erie Canal it was twice that size. Settled in 1798 by Aboliah and Elijah Buck, who purchased lot seventy-three, the commu-

nity was first known as Buckville, until 1825, just ten years after the building of the Erie Canal through the settlement, when it took its present name. The sunken line of the canal today reflects the ancient prestige of Port Byron as one of the best grain markets along the old waterway in the days of tow ropes and sturdy teams. At Port Byron was a large double lock, with a twelve-foot lift and here the seventy-foot water lane was spanned by four ornate bridges.

The first settlers were soldiers in the Revolution; some of them were with General Sullivan in his expedition against the Iroquois. And in the old cemeteries sleep men who fought in the War of Independence, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War and the World War. In 1861 no less than fifty-four students from the High School enlisted in a company organized by the principal, serving him through the Civil War. The community also furnished a goodly quota of men to the historic One Hundred and Eleventh New York Volunteers which did so much to break Pickett's charge at Gettysburg.

The chief natural advantage found in Port Byron by early settlers was the water power in Owasco River. A grist mill was put up soon after the first settlers came. By 1816 a dam had been built. In 1828 John H. Beach settled in the place, bought the water power rights along the river and built a raceway two miles long, thereby securing a head of twenty feet. He put up a mill with ten run of stone, capable of making 500 barrels of flour a day. This was the largest and best constructed mill in the state for a time, the building being 120 feet long, fifty feet wide, with a storehouse attached, eighty by forty feet and an overshot waterwheel twenty-two feet in diameter. It was on the west side of the river and the south bank of the canal, and had a branch canal under a portion of the storehouse, to facilitate loading boats. The structure cost \$60,000 and employed from twenty to thirty men. A cooper shop, 200 feet long and built of stone, was connected with the mill and supplied a part of the barrels used.

The direct line of the New York Central from Syracuse to Rochester went through the village in 1851 and four years later

enlargement of the Erie Canal was decided upon. Agitation for shifting the canal location resulted in digging a new channel through the most beautiful part of the village.

The first school was established in 1800. In 1857 a charter was procured for the Port Byron Free School and Academy and in 1859 an acre and a half of land was purchased and a three-story brick building, sixty by fifty feet and accommodating 400 pupils, was erected. This school burned down just before the turn of the century and the present one was constructed about 1900.

The connection of Brigham Young, founder of polygamy in Mormonism, with Port Byron is interesting. Little known facts unearthed by Mayor George H. Perkins, show that Brigham worked as a painter at the Parks Pail factory, one and a half miles south of Port Byron and it was while he was there employed that he met his first wife. She was Miss Miriam Works, who resided about a mile south of Throopsville. They were married in 1824 and shortly afterward moved to Port Byron.

Brigham worked in a boat yard there for some time. The couple moved in 1829 to Mendon, New York, and Brigham was baptised in the Mormon Church in 1832. The house which he occupied in Port Byron is still standing. More of his career is given in the chapter devoted to religions of the district.

Henry Wells, noted expressman described in another chapter, mended shoes while a resident of Port Byron.

The First Presbyterian Church of Mentz, located in Port Byron, was organized about 1801 as a Congregational Church, but was changed to a Presbyterian ten years later. The First Baptist was organized May 18, 1830; the Methodist, June 10, 1850; St. John's Roman Catholic about 1858; St. Paul's Episcopal about 1863.

The burning of the J. T. and William S. Smith dry goods store May 30, 1870, prompted the village to provide better fire protection through establishing a water supply. A huge reservoir was constructed on a hill west of the village on grounds donated by William A. Halsey. Into it water from Owasco River is pumped. Today the same system is used for fire hydrants. The

village has never had a community drinking water supply, because the river received sewage from Auburn and is unfit to drink.

Port Byron was incorporated March 2, 1837, and reincorporated in 1848. It is on both the New York Central and West Shore Railroads and was a junction point on the Rochester and Eastern and the Auburn & Northern electric interurban lines until their abandonment within the past ten years. In 1932 a fine new concrete highway from Auburn to Port Byron, following parts of the road bed of the old trolley line, was constructed.

#### WEEDSPORT.

Weedsport, a village of 1,325 inhabitants, is a natural depot for the produce of a rich dairy farming county in the town of Brutus. From its beginning in 1800 it has been a shipping center for bulk freight. Between 1800 and 1825 boats were operated on the Seneca River by means of poles and large quantities of merchandise were loaded here and transported to Auburn by team.

When the Erie Canal was opened in 1825 stage coaches were operated between Oswego, Auburn and southward to Owego. Passengers were transferred at Weedsport and Auburn until about 1840 when the Auburn & Rochester steam railroad was opened. Now after more than a century, the big shippers are going back to the water route of the State Barge Canal, which has an oil storage depot and terminal at Weedsport.

Three railroads, the New York Central, the Lehigh Valley and the West Shore, converge in the village, which ships from ten to twenty cars per day of produce in season. Its position as a shipping center was recognized back in the days of the Erie Canal.

Weedsport was incorporated as a village April 26, 1831. The first settlement was made by William Stevens from Massachusetts in 1800. It was called Masidonia until 1821 when the canal went through. In 1816 this section of the canal was commenced and made navigable as far as Utica by 1821.

Elihu and Edward Weed settled in the village and made a "basin" for mooring and turning boats on the canal. They also put up a storehouse and the place became known as Weeds' Basin. In 1822 the Weeds advertised their business at Weeds' Basin, adding by way of a postscript:

"A postoffice has lately been established at this place by the name of Weedsport Post Office, of which Elihu Weed is postmaster."

The Weedsport Hotel, known originally as the Willard House, was built in 1871 on the site of the first hotel in the community, a hostelry dating back to 1820.

The village has the unusual distinction of having been the home, in their younger days, of two of the world's smallest women of note—Mrs. General "Tom Thumb" and Mrs. "Commodore Nutt," midget sisters. According to records in the Putnam family these little midgets were members of the family of John Wood, who made Weedsport his home when not on the road with his midgets or panorama of Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress. Wood was a promoter of the famous "Cardiff Giant" and also owner of Wood's Museum in Philadelphia. His remains lie in the Weedsport Cemetery.



## CHAPTER XXVIII

### CHEMUNG COUNTY.

ORGANIZED IN 1836—INDUSTRIES—TOWNS—NAME—BATTLE OF NEWTOWN—SETTLEMENT—CANALS—FIRST COURT—ELMIRA—ELMIRA HEIGHTS—HORSEHEADS—MILLPORT—VAN ETTEN—WELLSBURG.

Chemung County is the fifty-seventh in the state, having been erected from Tioga County March 27, 1836. It embraces 407 square miles with a land area of 260,480 acres. Of this total, 180,186 acres, or sixty-two and two-tenths per cent are in farms, which number 1,565. Value of farms and farm buildings totals \$9,871,562. Chemung's population under the last 1930 federal census was 74,843.

In the 115 industrial plants of the county, there are employed 7,938 persons, according to the last federal figures compiled in 1929. These workers receive \$11,129,674 in wages; the cost of materials, fuel and purchased power in the county factories amounts to \$17,071,777 and the value of the county's industrial products is \$48,665,433 per year.

There are 895 miles of road in the county, of which 133 are paved state highways. Residents of the county own 19,634 motor cars.

Elmira, Chemung's county seat, is the only city in the county, but there are five incorporated villages: Elmira Heights, Horseheads, Millport, VanEtten and Wellsburg.

Chemung has eleven towns as follows: Ashland, 948; Baldwin, 483; Big Flats, 1,672; Catlin, 668; Chemung, 1,285; Elmira, 5,085; Erin, 774; Horseheads, 8,618; Southport, 5,420; Van Etten, 1,003; Veteran, 1,515.

Ashland was formed from Elmira and Chemung, April 25, 1867. Baldwin was created from Chemung April 7, 1856. Big

Flats was erected from Elmira April 16, 1822. Catlin was formed from Catharine, April 16, 1823. Chemung was formed March 22, 1788; Elmira, as Newtown, was taken off April 10, 1792, Erin March 29, 1822, and Baldwin April 7, 1856. Erin was formed from Chemung March 29, 1822. A part of Van Etten was taken off in 1854. Horseheads was formed from Elmira February 18, 1854. Southport was created from Elmira April 16, 1822. Van Etten, named from James B. VanEtten, was formed from Erin and Cayuta April 17, 1854, and Veteran was formed from Catharine April 16, 1823.

The name Chemung was derived from the river which flows through the county from west to east. It signifies "Big Horn" or "Horn in the Water." It was called by the Delawares Con-on-gue, a word of the same significance. Some historians say the name was given the river because Indians discovered the tusk of a mammoth six feet nine inches long and twenty-one inches in circumference in the water. Others say the name was applied to the stream in consequence of numbers of immense deers' horns found there.

In 1779 the forces of Gen. John Sullivan entered the county from the south, fought the battle of Newtown below Newtown Point, now Elmira and later carried back to eastern and southern settlements word of the fertility of the Chemung Valley. The story of the battle is given in the chapter devoted to the Sullivan campaign. The first settlements were made from 1787 to 1790 by immigrants from Pennsylvania and Orange County, New York, who had accompanied the Sullivan forces. They located principally in the Chemung Valley at Elmira, Southport and Big Flats. Soon after, settlements were made at Catlin and Veteran by pioneers from Connecticut; at Erin by Dutch and Scotch from New Jersey and Delaware, and at Chemung by immigrants from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The portion of the county lying south of the Chemung was included in a royal grant made previous to 1775. The remaining parts were included in the Watkins and Flint purchase.

Of particular impetus to the early growth of the county were the canals, described in the chapter devoted to canals. The Che-

Chemung Canal opened in 1832 extended south from Seneca Lake through the Catharine Creek to the Chemung River at Elmira, forming a direct connection with the great chain of internal water navigation of the state. A navigable feeder from Gibson, Steuben County, formed a junction with the canal on the summit level at Horseheads village. Junction Canal extended several miles along the Chemung, affording navigation at points where the river was obstructed by rapids and narrows.

The first court held in Chemung County was a term of the Circuit and Oyer and Terminer, begun May 16, 1836. The Chemung Common Pleas held its first term in Elmira July 12, 1836. The Chemung County Court was created in 1846 and the first term held October 25, 1847. The first proceedings before the Chemung surrogate were on June 3, 1836. The initial meeting of the Board of Supervisors was April 2, 1836.

Upon the erection of Tioga County, Elmira, then Newtown, was made halfshire; and upon the erection of Chemung County in 1836, it was designated as the county seat and the old county buildings were taken for use of the new county.

#### ELMIRA.

A tale of progress in a community of opportunity is the story of Elmira, for more than a century the financial, industrial and commercial capital of the Chemung Valley. As early as 1615 Etienne Brule was dispatched by Champlain to enlist the aid of Indian tribes in subjugating the Iroquois. A white man then first entered the valley of the Chemung among the red men's villages where Elmira now stands. Seven valleys there radiate to all points of the compass so that Elmira, as in the days of the Indian, is a natural focal point for commerce.

When white settlers first started a community, the hamlet of Newtown Point was at the junction of Newtown Creek and the Tioga (now the Chemung) River on Henry G. Wisner's 400 acres of military grant. Starting from this dim beginning, the growth to the present of Elmira as here given is very largely sketched in material provided by William H. Arnold, Chemung County historian. It was here that the pioneers settled, cleared

the land and built their rude cabins, near what is now East Water and Sullivan streets. Previous to the coming of the white man, there were many villages of the Iroquois scattered along the banks of the river and neighboring streams.

At the time Chemung County was first settled, there were three Indian villages on land now comprised within the city limits; one on Main street near where is now Wisner Park; another near the foot of Water Cure Hill, on the east side of the creek; and another, the largest of the three, at the foot of Water Street, on land now occupied by the Kennedy Valve plant. The last named village was called by the Indians, "Kanna-wa-lo-holla," the name being contracted by the early white settlers to "Canaweola," which meant "heads on a pole." The legend as given by Red Jacket was, "that a council of the Five Nations was held near the spot in the year 1730, at which one of the chiefs was tried for some crime, found guilty and beheaded, and his head placed on a pole." This was near the site of the courthouse on Lake Street. The village was known previous to that as "Shi-ne-do-wa," signifying "at the Great Plains."

In about 1788 the settlers began to arrive at Newtown Point. Col. John Hendy was probably the first white man to settle on lands now included within the limits of the city. It is said he was here as early as 1782. He came here from Wyoming, Pennsylvania, in April, 1788, accompanied by a small boy, named Dan Hill. It was near the junction of the creek and the river that he first set foot and planted corn, the first to be planted by a white man in this locality. During the summer he prospected, up and down the valley, and in the fall, after taking care of his crop of corn, he and the boy went to Tioga Point, where the Colonel had left his family. About Christmas time he returned and built a log cabin, a little west of the present city limits, near the entrance to Roricks' Glen, where, until a few years ago, the remains of the cabin could be seen. There remains now nothing but a heap of stones, which were once used as a fireplace in his cabin, on the farm of Albert H. Gould, on upper Water Street.

Where Colonel Hendy first landed was where the pioneers first settled. In the year 1790, there was quite a cluster of cabins,

near Matthias Hollenback's trading post, where Newtown Creek enters the river.

\* \* \* On April 26, 1790, Moses DeWitt took up Lot No. 195 in the old Town of Chemung, all of which is now within the City of Elmira, upon which was laid out a town plat which was called DeWittsburgh. It extended from the west line of Henry G. Wisner's Military Tract, westward to a line about one hundred feet west of Baldwin Street, which is practically the west line of the Rathbun House. The DeWittsburgh plot extended northward to Church or Second Street, and today includes a large portion of the business part of the city.

Moses DeWitt was a skillful engineer, and surveyed a large part of the lands in this immediate section of the state. He was one of the engineers employed to survey the line between the states of New York and Pennsylvania, the work beginning in 1788 and lasting about three years.

To the west of the DeWitt Plot, Lieut. Col. Henry Wisner purchased Lot No. 196, which extended west from DeWitt's line to Davis Street, and from the river northward to about McCann's Boulevard, including what is now Eldridge Lake. On this lot he laid out a town called Wisnerburgh, which reached from about State Street to College Avenue and from the river north to about Second Street. It was through the generosity of Jeffrey Wisner, his son, that the first Baptist Church society came into possession of their plot of land, and the city received the beautiful Wisner Park in the heart of the city, which at one time was the Baptist burying ground. These three settlements were generally known as Newtown.

Tioga County was formed from Montgomery County in 1788. The town of Newtown was taken from the Town of Chemung in 1792, and the name changed to Elmira in 1808. The village, however, continued to use the name, Newtown, until April, 1828, when it was incorporated as Elmira. In April, 1864, it became incorporated as a city.

#### THE TRADING POST AT NEWTOWN POINT.

When we take into consideration the many mercantile establishments in our city, how many of us give a thought as to what

the same kind of an enterprise meant to the little, but thriving, village of Newtown Point, away back about the year 1791.

There is no doubt that many of the solitary pioneers of this section came as traders with the Indians. William Miller, who was east of Athens in 1784, was an Indian trader later found at Newtown. Amos Draper, one of the early pioneers of Owego, and who erected the first log house there in 1785, was another. William Harris, a Pennsylvanian, shortly after the Revolutionary War, pushed his way up the Chemung with a cargo of Indian goods to open traffic with the hunting parties of the Six Nations, and built the first habitation of civilized man at "The Painted Post." The Indians showed a great deal of interest in the establishment of a trading post at the head of the Chemung, for, previously, they had to go to Tioga Point, nearly fifty miles below, for their powder, knives, belts, beads, liquor and jewsharps. Harris, however, quit business less than a year afterwards.

Matthias Hollenbeck is spoken of as our first merchant. This locality was early spied out as an advantageous situation by farsighted and enterprising men who had abundant means, and energy to apply them. Chief among these was Col. Matthias Hollenbeck, of Wilkes-Barre, who did much to start development of this region. In his establishment of the trading post here at Newtown Point, he laid the foundation of the business structure of the city, at the junction of Spring (now Newtown) Creek and the Tioga (now Chemung) River. There was no Water Street then. A trail led along the river to the west, and the great Ga-nun-da-sa-ga trail from Tioga Point and the south, leading toward Niagara, came through the valley and continued northward through the valley of Catharine Creek, up past Seneca Lake.

Where the post was located was without doubt the location selected by General Sullivan for Fort Reed, the supply depot for the expedition while it was in the Finger Lakes Region. It was probably there that Colonel Hendy first landed and planted corn, which he gathered in the fall of 1788.

A bill of goods, named Newtown Bill No. 24, dated November, 1783, proves the existence of the trading post at the mouth of Newtown Creek in that year.

Among the clerks who had charge of the trading post for Matthias Hollenback at Newtown Point were Daniel McDowell, John Shepard, Thomas M. Perry, and after Mr. Hollenback moved his store further up the river, Archibald Campbell, George Denison, John Cherry, Matthew McReynolds and Bela B. Hyde. Guy Maxwell, who had been formerly in charge of the post at Tioga Point, with Samuel Hepburn of Milton, Pennsylvania, laid out the village of DeWittsburgh. He opened a store at Newtown Point. Associated with Stephen Tuttle, he put up the first flour mill on Newtown Creek at the foot of Water Street. Stephen Tuttle and Robert Covell began business here in 1807. Among others to engage in the mercantile business may be mentioned Homer Goldsborough, James Erwin, Ephraim Heller, Robert Covell, Miles Covell, Michael Pfautz, Isaac Baldwin, John Cherry, John Hollenback, Thomas Maxwell, Samuel H. Maxwell, Isaac Reynolds and others. John Arnot came to Newtown in 1818, and engaged in trade. His honesty and integrity won him the esteem of the early settlers.

On the books of the old trading post were found numerous names whose descendants may be found scattered throughout the length of Chemung valley. Another merchant who was noted for his uprightness and fair dealing was Horatio Ross.

Lyman Covell came here from Wilkes-Barre, in 1807, and engaged in business. Besides the mill at the foot of Water Street, there was one erected on Newtown Creek, a little above the Diven farm (Willow Brook), by Tuttle, Maxwell & Perry, and, about the same time, one on Seely Creek by a man from Maryland. There were a number of distilleries in operation.

The village of Newtown was the scene of one of the important Indian treaties, "The Treaty of Painted Post," which began July 4, 1791, and continued for about ten days, between the United States, represented by Col. Timothy Pickering and the Senecas. Of it Towner says, "The exact spot where was held the council that framed the treaty of 1791 has long been a matter of dispute,

some contending that it was near Newtown Creek and not far from its mouth, others claiming that it was farther west, in the neighborhood of what is now Market Street and Madison Avenue. A tree in the latter named locality was long held in more or less reverence by the lovers of local antiquities as the exact spot where the treaty makers sat, smoked their pipes, and made their speeches. The advocates of the claims of these two places were each warm and earnest, and full of evidence as to the exactness of their assertions. They were both right. The meetings were at first held at the Market Street location and were concluded on the land near Newtown Creek."

Early historians give the number of Indians who were in attendance as between 1,000 and 1,400. Col. Pickering stated that there were "upwards of 1,000." and, as he had to feed them, it is likely that his count was correct. Among the prominent Indian chiefs present were Red Jacket, Cornplanter, Farmer's Brother, Little Billy, Fish Carrier and Hendrick Apaumet.

The treaty was called to be held at "the Painted Post," but, owing to the low stage of water in the Chemung River, it was by agreement held at Newtown. The Indians were encamped along the western part of the village, from about the present site of the Rathbun House to the upper part of the city. Among the early pioneers who attended the treaty were Col. John Hendy, Col. Matthias Hollenback, Elisha Lee, Eleazer Lindley and William Jenkins. Among the papers preserved in reference to the treaty was the copy of a release from the Six Nations to Phelps and Gorham, presented to Colonel Pickering, and the certificate signed by him, dated at Newtown Point in the State of New York, July 26, 1791. It states that, the day before, the principal sachems of the Senecas assured him that they were satisfied with the treaty at Buffalo Creek in 1788. The council was the last gathering of the Indians in the County of Chemung.

Long years ago, shortly after the settlement of this locality, before the advent of the canal and the railroad, when plank roads and turnpikes were common, and the only mode of transportation was by the now antiquated stage coach, could be found the early taverns.



About the time that Newtown Point was settled, among the first institutions to be set up, after the establishment of Hollenback's trading post, was that of a tavern, but far from resembling the same institutions of this period.

In those early settlement days the taverns were built of hewn logs, the same as were the homes of our ancestors. The first of these taverns was on Sullivan Street, near to Newtown Creek, and was called the Stoner House. Dunn & Hornell were its proprietors. Thomas Maxwell, in the directory of Elmira in 1863, tells of a Court of Oyer and Terminer being held at this place, before the old log courthouse was built.

Mr. Maxwell also makes mention of the old "Black Horse Tavern," run by William Dunn, at the northeast corner of Water and Lake Streets, and which, with barns and sheds, occupied about 200 feet of land between the corner and where Carroll Street now is. William Dunn died, and his widow afterward married John Davis, who tended bar for Mr. Dunn. The tavern was from that time on known as the John Davis tavern, and was an important stage stop in all directions from the village.

The Kline House, run by John Kline, stood near the site of Madison Avenue bridge. Mr. Kline also ran the "ferry" which did duty there in carrying passengers who wished to cross the river in the early days of the village's existence, and until the erection of the wooden bridge, which spanned the river at Lake Street, the first bridge to be built over the river in the village. The Kline House was honored in having as a guest, for about ten days, in 1797, Louis Phillippe, who later became the citizen King of France.

The old Mansion House stood on the south side of Water Street, a little east of Baldwin Street, and was kept by Judge Bundy. It was a rambling, disjointed sort of a structure. The Masonic Lodge held its meetings there at the time. Communications were suspended because of the Morgan trouble, in 1828. Hogan's Tavern, a red dilapidated building, situated on Water Street, a little west of Baldwin Street, was the headquarters for the workers who helped to dig the Chemung Canal.

The tavern kept by Hawks & Dunn stood on the north side of Water Street next to the canal. In the upper story of this building were held the first theatrical performances to be held in Elmira village. Those who took part later on made their mark in the profession. The "orchestra" consisted of a single violin. The old Jerry Sullivan wooden tavern was a great rallying place and stood on the bank of the river just west of the railroad bridge.

There was another Mansion House conducted by E. Jones, which stood at the corner of Lake Street and Cross (now Market) Street, was quite a respectable hostelry and patronized by the better class of citizens. It was burned while Silas Height was proprietor. He rebuilt it and it was burned again. After it was rebuilt this time it became the property of Col. Samuel Gilbert Hathaway, who gave it his name. After its usefulness as a hotel had passed, it became the home of the Elmira Advertiser, until it was destroyed by fire on the night of February 15, 1888.

The Eagle Tavern, one of the most respectable hotels in this section was erected on Water Street in 1833. It was destroyed by fire, September 7, 1849. The proprietor, E. R. Brainard, rebuilt it the following year, calling it the Brainard House. Later on it came into possession of John T. Rathbun, who gave it his name, by which it is known today, the Hotel Rathbun.

The Franklin House was formerly the home of Judge Theodore North and was located at the northeast corner of Main and Water streets. It is said that during the Civil war, the members of a Michigan regiment picked up the bar and carried it out doors and placed it on the sidewalk, because the landlord refused to cater to their demands. When they got through with the hotel it was pretty much a wreck. The hotel was burned in 1866.

The Elmira House, located just west of the Chemung Canal on Water Street, where State Street now is, was the meeting place of farmers who visited the city from miles around and came to market their products and do their trading. It had commodious hitching stables attached, where teams could be cared for and fed, while they regaled themselves at the hotel. The

Elmira House was noted for its good meals and the fine quality of its liquid refreshments. On March 24, 1874, fire started in the sheds connected with the hotel, and spread rapidly, consuming bulidings on both sides of Water Street, between what is now Exchange Place and the railroad.

The Pattinson House was at one time, in fact about 1850, one of the leading hotels in the village, and at a time when a good hotel was sadly needed. The Eagle Hotel had been burned and was being rebuilt, as was also the Haight Hotel on the Mohican corner. It was at the time when the New York & Erie Railroad had just been completed as far as Elmira. The travelers were many, but nevertheless the Pattinson House looked after them.

At the time of the celebration of the opening of the New York and Erie at Elmira, in May, 1851, President Fillmore and members of his cabinet, with Daniel Webster, William H. Seward, and the president and directors of the railroad, were at the hotels, speaking from their verandas. In all probability, there has never been a time since when so many notables were here at the same time, for any one occasion.

The Chemung House was located across from the Pattinson, and catered somewhat to the city trade, but had a large patronage from the farmers. Another well-known hotel was the West End, which was patronized by farmers and horsemen for many years. It lately passed in 1929 like many others, a prey to the flames. There was on the Avenue, the Delavan House, opened in 1853 as a temperance hotel and the Frasier House and American House near by. All catered to the traveling public, being in near proximity to the Erie station. The Washington Hotel stood at the corner of Main and Water Street, across the street from the Franklin House, near the bridge, on the bank of the river. The Wyckoff House was conducted on West Water Street for a number of years.

Near the south end of Lake Street bridge, in the "Third Ward" was located the "Third Ward Hotel," and is now used as a residence.

Near Lake Street bridge on the south side of the river was erected in about 1830, a three-story hotel with an interesting inscription over the door, "Auster Portus Diversoriun." A mistake in ending the last word in n instead of m caused considerable confusion. It was intended to mean "South Port Hotel."

The old Mountain House stood about a mile to the west of the Fitch bridge. It probably had a career equaled by no other resort in this vicinity. At the beginning it is said that it catered to the better class, and made a specialty of exclusive dancing parties, and was noted for its Sunday dinners.

John Carpenter kept the "Half Way House," between this city and Horseheads. A fine well, on the street in front of the house, afforded a splendid watering place for horses, and the traveler had a chance to console the inner man within the hotel. Just back of the Half Way House was an excellent half-mile track, where first-class races were held.

Uncle Dick Hetfield's "Elderberry Tavern," near by, catered to the weary traveler, fed the hungry, and regaled the thirsty with an excellent brand of elderberry wine, or whatever else was required.

The Old Homestead Hotel (now the Rutland) was the home of the Arnots in the early days. Mrs. Harriet Tuttle Arnot Rathbone was born in this house. The Homestead for many years drew much of the farmer and horseman trade.

The Buckbee House near by was also favored by the farmer and horseman.

Many years ago, Captain Daniel Dalrymple built a hotel in the town of Southport, calling it the "Bulkhead Hotel." He was a retired sea captain, thus the name for the hotel. It was a popular place for many years, especially favored by the young people.

The old Wilcox Driving Park, and the Park Hotel, which still stands, near the south end of Walnut Street bridge, was a popular place, about the time of the Civil war. Many fine races were held on the old track, and the splendid view, which was enjoyed by patrons from the verandas occupying three sides of the hotel, will be remembered by many of our citizens.

Some few years ago a movement was started for the erection of a modern and up to the minute hotel. Last year a company was formed called the Wisner Park Corporation for the purpose of erecting a hotel at the corner of Main and Gary Streets, at a cost of about a million dollars, to be known as the Mark Twain Hotel. The site is an ideal one facing beautiful Wisner Park in the center of the city. The hotel was officially opened March 23rd, 1929. The Rathbun and the Langwell Hotels continue to serve the traveling public as they have done for many years, the names of both hotels being synonymous of service.

From all accounts the residents of Elmira and vicinity have always been abundantly supplied with newspapers. Early in October, 1815, the first of these made its appearance. It was the "Telegraph," published by Brindle & Murphy. It consisted of four pages, 12x20 inches in size, with four columns to a page. Such a paper was printed on a press the style now used by small weekly papers for taking proofs.

\* \* \* The Telegraph was published by the Messrs. Harkness for about a year and a half, who then sold out to Mr. Erastus Shepard for \$900—less by \$800 than what they agreed to pay for it, and a hard bargain at that. When Mr. Shepard took charge of the Telegraph he procured a few new type faces, and improved its appearance materially, calling it the Newtown Telegraph.

Immediately upon this arrangement, Murphy purchased a press and type from Simon Kinney, of Towanda, and commenced the Vedette. The Telegraph came out as a Bucktail paper, and the two did not live in perfect amity. The Vedette took its position, armed and equipped, the war began and it only ceased when the sinews of war were all exhausted, when both, at once, ceased to live and fight. Under the editorial management of James Robinson the Vedette was an efficient advocate of the Chemung canal.

After the discontinuance of the Telegraph and the Vedette, and the removal of their material elsewhere, a press was brought on from Owego, and a paper commenced by Robert Lawrence, and printed by Job A. Smith under the title of the "Investigator."

In 1824 the name was changed to the Tioga Register, under the exclusive control of Job A. Smith. This in 1828 was changed to the Elmira Gazette, and continued as such until July 1, 1907, when it was merged with the Evening Star and is now known as the Elmira Star-Gazette.

Fairman's Daily Advertiser was established in 1853, the first issue appearing on November 3. It was printed daily and distributed free. In 1854 it was increased to five columns and the name changed to the Elmira Advertiser, and the subscription was \$5 a year. At the end of the year it was discontinued and again distributed free. In February of the same year the subscription price was again resumed. The Advertiser, on June 23, 1923, became a part of the Star-Gazette family.

There were many attempts at Sunday journalism, but all met with failure until 1879, when Harry S. Brooks, Charles Hazard and James Hill, with but \$75 capital between them, established the Sunday Telegram, which was a success from the first, bringing fortune to each of them. The Telegram is now the Sunday edition of the Elmira Star-Gazette.

One of the most successful enterprises was that of the Evening Star, which came out as a penny paper, May 24th, 1888. Isaac Seymour Copeland, with James F. Woodford conceived the idea that a penny paper was what the public wanted. It was continued with phenomenal success until July, 1907, when it was merged with the Gazette. Almost fifty newspapers have been started in Elmira, with but a small percentage of success.

At the foot of Conongue Street, now Madison Avenue, was the old "ferry," the only way of crossing the river, before the erection of the first bridge at Lake Street. The movement for a bridge was begun in 1817. The charter was granted April 16, 1823, its erection begun soon afterwards, and in 1824 it was completed. This was practically the first public enterprise for general convenience. The bridge was a wooden toll bridge, which for many years brought revenue. It was afterwards replaced by a wooden covered bridge, which was partially destroyed by fire in 1850. It was repaired, but in the big flood of St. Patrick's day, 1865, the south end was taken down stream.