ECHOES of LANSING YESTERYEARS

By Jennie H. Conlon

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1970

Published by the author in cooperation with

DEWITT

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF TOMPKINS COUNTY, *Inc.*

ITHACA, NEW YORK 14850

Dedicated to
WILLIAM HEIDT, JR.
in recognition of his
co-operation

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

Contents

Preface

These stories have been compiled from collections authored by Isabel Parish, Dr. Morris, Hardy Campbell Lee, Agricultural Bulletin No. 203. Also from old Ithaca Journal clippings, Landmarks of Tompkins County, by interviews, family letters, and my bag of memories of Dad.

JENNIE H. CONLON.

South Lansing, New York
June 30, 1970.

Our Pioneer Farmers

Imagine, if you can, how the first settlers in our town—they began arriving after 1790—were compelled to hack their way through the dense forest in order to reach a military lot, or section thereof, that was to become a new homeland. Once they reached the location, they hastily threw up a lean-to of pine boughs for shelter while a log cabin was constructed. Then a small area of land adjacent to the cabin was burned over on which to raise food crops of corn, pototoes, beans, pumpkins, squash and turnips, all quick growing, to ward off danger of starvation during that crucial first year.

Of necessity each settlement became a community in itself and largely sufficient to its needs. The newcomers produced from the environment what they needed in food, clothing, medicines and to a large degree tools came from resources provided by the feral land they came to convert into arable acres. Supplementing limited food production at first with products of a liberal Nature, were bear and deer from the Dark Forest, fowls of field and stream, fish from lakes and creeks, and nuts and berries that grew abundantly. Their livestock was nutured on browse of the woods and hay harvested from the swales, a natural but coarse fodder.

Implements available for the harsh work were crude, inefficient. The ax fell the trees, the grubhoe stirred the soil until it was sufficiently free from roots and stumps to permit employment of the plow. And the plow itself was no less crude than were the other available implements, being clumsily constructed of wood throughout but of necessity strongly made. Its handles were shaped from a tree part that possessed the proper "crook" for a grip, and the mouldboard was a massive slab hewn to the proximity of the curve of a modern corresponding part. The various components were fastened together with wooden pins. Regardless of the inefficiency of this implement,

at least one advantage may be claimed for it: connstruction and maintenance were within the competence of the farmer himself.

Iron cost eighteen cents a pound by the time it was transported to the blacksmith shops of Lansing from Hudson River foundries, rather costly in a new country. But here were available numerous varieties of trees and men capable of shaping them to their needs.

For working among green stumps and root-infested soil, it must not be assumed that the pioneer's plow was equal to the need, but it sufficed for the shallow cultivation called for at first. The virgin soil was so filled with age-old humus that it fell apart at a touch, thus making pulverization a simple matter. Holes punched into the ground received corn, pumpkin, squash and seed potatoes; turnips, wheat, buckwheat and other grains were sown broadcast and "brushed in" by dragging a tree branch over the seed area. Women and children were assigned the chore of dropping seeds that were planted in hills or rows, but it was the skilled handsower who broadcast grain seeds of grain with remarkable evenness over a large area during a long, hard day's work treading the soft soil.

When Jethro Wood of Scipio devised the iron mouldboard plow about 1813, it was eventually welcomed by our farmers who by then had considerable acreages freed of stumps, roots and stones. At first these steel and iron plows were thought poisoners of the soil, but when this fear was overcome their advantages were accepted readily. At first this new tool was equipped with a fixed mouldboard, but an early improvement included a flexibility which enabled the plowman, when he came to the end of his furrow, to swing the mouldboard to the opposite side, thus minimizing the time required for turning into the back furrow or moving to the far side of a "land." This new plow was especially adapted for plowing sidehills.

Improvements continued for a half century before a really satisfactory plow was constructed to meet the demands of the Plains farmers following settlement of the West after the Civil War era. Single-plow, lightweight adaptations of these prairie sodbusters became available to Lansing farmers in the last decades of the century. After World War I tractors replaced horse

teams as motive power for plowing. The faithful ox of the pioneer gave way before the horse as recently as 1880.

After plowing came harrowing of the roughly turned earth, to eliminate ridges and hollows caused by the furrows, and to break up clumps of soil for a seedbed. An early substitute for a harrow was a limb from a nearby tree which was hauled by a yoke of oxen to both level the surface and "brush in" the grain seeds. Later came an "A" drag, so named because its frame bore the shape of the letter with the team hauling it over the ground from a hitch point at the apex of the triangle. The sides were either tree limbs or sawn timbers after sawmills were set up.

Both legs of the triangle were equipped with wooden pegs which later were replaced by iron pins to form an improvement on the primitive model, and still later came the spring-tooth harrow. Whatever the device, it was dragged across a plowed field. Because the soft earth worked up between the hooves of the ox, harrowing was assigned to horse teams as soon as they appeared upon a farm.

At best, all farm tools have been described as "man-killers." A good representative was the grain cradle still remembered by men in their seventies. Nevertheless, it was well designed and constructed by handcrafters. Those made by Erskine Bouck of Schoharie County became known far and wide, and sold for $5 each. Searching through forests, he'd locate an ash tree that had been uprooted, then extricate the entire stump and its roots. From these he split out pieces having the natural curve of the "fingers" on the finished implement.

Equipped with a well-balanced cradle—and a strong back—a skilled worker under favorable conditions and a tremendous output of energy, could cut four acres of grain in a long day, more of oats and buckwheat, less of rye and wheat. From the fingers of the cradle the straw was laid in an even swath to facilitate raking into sheaves for tying by hand.

An old-time test of dexterity was to bind a sheaf, toss it into the air and bind a second before the first touched the ground. Since this required raking the straw, making and applying the binder, the performance was quite a feat. Deftly and quickly made, the binder was a withe formed from a few straws

withdrawn from the sheaf whose heads were twisted so firmly that the binder held the sheaf safely even when subjected to handling during harvest. At threshing time, this band was severed with a knife.

In early days, this binding work was performed mainly by women who arranged five or six sheaves in a shock and then spread an inverted sheaf over the shock to protect the grain from rain which might cause sprouting. This was called the capsheaf.

In 1850 an elevator was invented which was calculated to make the work of binding grain somewhat easier. This grain-binding rake was wide enough to handle the longest straw but was considered to be lightweight at 15 pounds. It was pushed along the cradle swath ahead of the operator until it had gathered sufficient straw for a proper-sized sheaf. Pressure on a front pedal tilted the bundle into a position so that it could be bound without bending the back. It cost from $3 to $4.

This elevator may have been a back saver, but it could not compare with McCormick's reaper patented in 1830. This new implement, however, required a second man to sit on the machine and, with a handrake, sweep the "gravel" from the table whenever enough had accumulated to make a sheaf of desired size. "Gravel" meant loose material; i.e., loose straw.

Before the powered mowing machine came into general use at mid-nineteenth century, the scythe was the implement used for mowing hay. It was one of the earliest objects of manufacture in the country. There was one model which resembled an enlarged sickle, but most used was the one where on a snath shaped from a naturally crooked stick, a forged steel blade was mounted so that it could be removed for resharpening on a grindstone. In the field the scythe was resharpened by use of a whetstone and later by a "rifle," which was a lathlike piece of wood covered with a glued-on abrasive, coarse on one side, finer on the other for "dressing" the cutting edge.

This mowing was done on the basis of exchanged work. Often a gang of mowers was seen following the leader and swinging their scythes in unison. Barefooted and lightly clad, the men perspired freely, and imbibed quantities of hard cider on most farms. On others, buttermilk where available was sub-

stituted; on still other farms a molassas-based, ginger-flavored switchel was preferred. Water was eschewed because it produced flatulance and stomach cramps without quenching thirst.

Cutting hay close to the ground required a field to be free of small stones, as a single sweep across a hidden stone was a disaster to the keed-edged blade. To reduce such mishaps, each fall, stones were picked off and deposited in heaps or used to gullies. Until the ground froze, this unpleasant work was assigned to boys for the main part. The dried stubble cut the skin around the finger nails and dried out all the oil so that the skin cracked and bled. Add to this the numbing cold of late autumn, and one begins to understand why only the sturdiest of youths remained on Lansing farms.

Handling hay and straw was done with pitchforks that first were crude tools made of wood on the farm or of iron roughly shaped on a blacksmith's anvil. After steel-tined forks came into general use, the man who pitched the hay onto the load in the field, distributed it in the mow ("mowed away," it was called) as the field loader pitched it off. Both were strenuous, hot jobs made extremely unpleasant by dust and seeds, and the hay that lodged in the body's liberal perspiration and irritated the skin. Well toward the close of the century successful mechanical hayforks came into use, horsepower displacing much manpower. This device both unloaded and deposited the hay in the mow, where "mowing away" remained a challenge to brawn and physical courage. Bailing machines eventually arrived in hayfields but not until this centruy was well advanced and motor power was available did their use become widespread.

As crop handling became progressively mechanized, handraking yielded to horse-drawn rakes which presented women and youths of a farm family with a new duty: they drove the horse and managed the rake. It was less arduous than cutting grain with a sickle or using a handrake in the field, both of which were age-old tasks of women.

Hay was stored in the mow at the side of the barn floor that was conveniently opposite the cow stables. Area over the barn floor and that over the stables provided additional space where oats in the straw were stored until threshed.

Grains were threshed out on the barn floor where the straw was spread and oxen or draft horses were driven over it to loosen the grain. Early barns were equipped with one or two giant swing beams, timbers cut two feet or more square, that were designed to carry overhead mows without center support. In the middle a small post was set up and a light sweep attached to serve as a guide for the horses or oxen when driven around it. Men attendants kept turning the straw and shaking out the chaff.

It was planned to do this work after the straw was dried out and when the horses were without shoes, which would be late fall. Later on, a wooden "niggerhead" was used. This was a log 10 or 12 feet long into which many augur holes were bored to hold stout wooden pegs. One end was pivoted to the central post, to the other the team was hitched to draw the device around. The "niggerhead" bumped and rolled and shook the grain loose from the straw. Oats, barley and buckwheat were threshed under hooves of animals, but wheat, rye and peas were flailed by men.

Barn floors served for winnowing the grain. These buildings were erected with doors on one end of the floor of sufficient dimensions to admit a load of hay; at the other end, a smaller opening provided for disposal of wastes from threshing. On a day when a strong breeze prevailed over the length of the floor, the doors were thrown open and the grain and chaff tossed repeatedly into the air. The heavier grain fell back to the floor while the seeds and chaff were carried on the breeze through the smaller opening.

In 1812, the fanning mill entered the scene as a farm tool which performed this winnowing regardless of wind or weather. Powered by man's muscle, a crank turned a cogwheel whose action was tranferred by chains and sprockets to a series of sieves and a rapidly revolving set of vanes. These vanes furnished a sufficient air current to blow the chaff out of the rear of the mill while the heavier grain was guided through a chute to a measure set on the floor.

When the threshing machine became available, threshing and winnowing were performed simultaneously and mechanically. Six or eight men comprised a threshing crew, each of

whom was assigned a specific station. All were sweaty, dusty jobs, but the one who disposed of the straw worked in a cloud of dust, and was called "the tailer" from his position at the tailend of the thresher.

One reward for being a thresher was the bountiful meals served at noon and early evening of threshing days. Women of several nearby families gathered at the site of the threshing and prepared substantial meals. In one instance, a special treat was a pie made with 48 black squirrels in it.

Early threshers were powered by a treadmill operated by a team of horses or oxen, but steam engines displaced the treadmill and, in turn, gave way to gasoline engines. These mechanized threshers were manufactured in Groton, Trumansburg and Ithaca.

On farms where cattle raising was a specialty, large haymows and self-feeding racks were installed; sheep growers had lighter structures. Those who raised and trained horses had need for large hay and grain storages. Some exceedingly fine horses were developed in the Lansing area during the whole span of the century but particularly after 1880 when the horse superseded the ox as a farm draft animal. Mustangs, untrained natives of the western prairie, especially Montana, soon offered competition to the rearing of carriage horses. Weighing 700 to 900 pounds, they were brought in by the carload and sold at $50 upwards a head.

From the earliest arrival of farm pioneers, hogs were raised in considerable numbers. Pork was not only an essential food product of the primitive farm but it was economically produced, the animals subsisting largely on natural foods uprooted in the forest and fattened on corn produced on the farm. Litters were large, development rapid with little care, and pork products were easily preserved by smoking and brining. Packed in barrels, it became an early export of the town. Nationally, it ranked as the top meat food until about 1880.

Corn was another crop of heavy yields for milling. As the demand for wheat expanded with growing cities, it was sent to market and corn, rye and barley were consumed in the farm homes. Ensilage was not heard of until the century was drawing its a close.

Another crop that produced heavy yields was potatoes. Until the soil became depleted and the Colorado beetle attacked the plants, potatoes were an important factor in the agrarian economy of the town. Nuturing the crop called for much manual labor of a back-breaking nature all the way from dropping the seed in the spring, through hoeing and in later years combatting the potato bug, until the harvesting in early autumn When planted in hills, as practiced earlier, or in drills, harvesting called for opening the ground with a hook or fork and laying the tubers aside to dry in preparation for storage. When planted in rows, the whole row was plowed open at one time. Potato diggers eventually reduced this manual labor and in commercial operations all but eliminated it.

Potatoes along with other root crops were stored in root cellars, commonly called "the hole," which was located nearby the cellarless log cabin. When framed houses displaced the log dwelling, cellars underneath provided storage for foodstuffs, but the hole continued to be utilized as Carrie Manning indicated in her diary of 1869. She lived in the Kline school district which included Lansing territory.

One of the most laborious tasks on the pioneer farm was using the hoe whether for chopping weeds, hilling potatoes or digging them in the fall. In garden and cornfield, the hoe was the implement used in cultivation. Although tined forks came into use in digging the tubers, general relief from the type of farm work did not come until cultivators, hillers and diggers appeared by the 1840's.

Horse-drawn, use of these implements often called for a teenage boy or girl to remain out of school to ride and guide a reliable horse up and down the rows while the father manipulated the machine. Many farmers successfully trained an older horse to respond to tugs on the reins wrapped around his body as he held the handle of the implement and guided the animal, thus eliminating the rider assistant.

Until century's end, gardens were the responsibility of the women and children. So was poultry which was raised in small numbers for kitchen and table use. One specialty involving poultry was chicken pie that for a century and more featured family gatherings and church benefits. Chicken, duck and

goose feathers were used in the home for making pillows, featherbeds and stuffed quilts.

Eggs marketed brought in pin money for the wife, as did old rags, bottles, and pieces of iron that were exchanged for a variety of merchandise carried by Yankee peddlers. In *Carrie Manning's Diary,* Carrie recounts an instance where she and a sister gathered odd bits of iron and traded their cache to one of those itinerant merchants for six salt cellars. At the same time, their mother received a baking tin for a sheep pelt.

Many farmers kept a few skeps of bees for home-produced honey used as a substitute for high-priced sugar. Any surplus and the beeswax were sold on the local market. As long as heavy forestation prevailed, wild honey was an source of considerable cash income at a time when money was welcome in any household. Another source of sweetening was maple sugar and sirup. Sugar purchased in the early stores was called Moscow sugar; it was a soft brown lump commodity that retailed for as much as 18 cents a pound.

Many factors over which the farmer had no control imposed severe restrictions on his economy. Transportation was long limited to ox- or horse-drawn vehicles that must traverse the most primitive of roads and at a date when Albany was the trading center for both agricultural products and merchandise retailed in local stores. It was a six-weeks' round trip and so costly that wheat which sold for 50 cents a bushel netted the producer scarcely nothing for his other expenses. A solution was found by distilling from it whisky which could be transported in loads that brought a greater return. Lansingites, however, began to consume the liquor without restraint, even serving it at breakfast and to children, so that a reaction led by Benjamin Joy, a Ludlowville merchant, developed a temperance movement that kept legal beverages out of the town for more than a century.

Then highway and water transportation became feasible with completion of the Erie Canal, and for the next half century Lansing prospered and enjoyed the boom caused by military demands during the Civil War. End of the conflict caused first a severe drop in agricultural production and within a few years disastrous competition came from western farms, and

from factories. In 1869 the Pillsbury mills opened in Minneapolis, and it was only a few years until flour and animal feeds from this operation made wheat growing in Lansing uneconomical. In this and many another similar instance newly established rail transportation afforded the advantages that our pioneer farmers so sorely lacked from the beginning.

As a result of factory methods developed during the Civil War, numerous other changes in the local economy were brought about. The shoemaker disappeared, domestic spinning, knitting and weaving succumbed to factory-produced goods; even manufacture of spinning wheels ceased about 1880. Canning of foodstuffs and drying apples fell victims of the factory; soapmaking and the making of yeast were no longer a housewife's responsibility. Where the mistress of the log cabin had been compelled to use ashes from burned corn cobs for leavening, baking soda and later baking powder came into widespread application as they were timesavers.

Pictures of mid-century farmers show them in weird-looking clothing made at home from ill-fitting linsey-woolsey. During the early years most of the men went barefooted while engaged in such work as mowing, planting, plowing and cultivating. For heavier duties and especially in winter they wore over wool socks leather boots that they kept greased with tallow or beeswax in an attempt to waterproof them.

Women and children, too, went barefooted much of the time in warm weather, but when necessary they donned woolen stockings and leather boots or shoes. These sox and stockings along with mittens, hoods, scarves and many other articles of dress were products of the art of knitting taught small girls by their mothers and grandmothers.

Life for the pioneer farm women was equally as hard as that of their menfolks. There were no supermarkets, no automatic washing machines, electric irons, and the scores of other conveniences Lansing housewives possess today.

Cooking was done in iron kettles hung in the fireplace. Baking done in Dutch ovens buried in the ashes and coals of the fireplace, the "oven" being a heavy iron kettle with a tight-fitting cover. To sweep the puncheon floor of the cabin, the housekeeper used a broom made of small brush, grass or shav-

ings tied to a handle. Water was carried from brook or well for culinary, bathing and laundry purposes.

Washing, carding, spinning and knitting woolen articles was a simpler task than processing flax. Wool was produced on almost every farm, but flax was not.

To prepare flax fibers for use, part of the plant had to be gotten rid of. This was an outer coating that was rotted in a flowing stream or laid on the ground and exposed to the dew. It was a process that required several weeks before the right stage was reached for gathering and drying the flax. When dry, it was broken on a primitive tool called a "flax break" or "crackel." This was a wooden beam, four or five feet long, that was supported sawhorse fashion at a height convenient to the operator.

On top of this was a second beam, hinged to the first at one end so that the other end could be lifted and dropped by the operator's hand. A handful of flax was pounded between the two beams until the now-porous portion of flax was thoroughly crushed and loosened from the true flax fiber. Then it was "switcheled" by breaking it with a great wooden knife along the edge of a plank to remove broken waste.

Next, it was "hetcheled" by drawing the fibers over and through a many-toothed hetchel. This process cleaned and combed it into beautiful strands of soft, gray fiber, the dressed flax. The flax spinner sat her "little wheel" in distinction to the "great wheel" used in spinning woolen yarn. Her fingers separated and fed the foot-turned wheel a succession of long filaments from the heavy strand of dressed flax thrown over the distaff. Towels, bed and table linens as well as clothing fabrics were made in this manner.

Another source of clothing were the pelts of native animals. Caps were made of the pelts of raccoon and bears; breeches and coats, of deerskin. Tanning was done either at home or in the many small tanneries that sprang up throughout the new country.

Each farm found it necessary that a flock of sheep had a place in its economy, whether for food, wool or for sale. Until wolves, bears and other predators were eliminated. sheep were victims of ravages by these pests.

After shearing in May, the wool was cleaned of as much grease and dirt as possible; this was done in the family wash-tub with homemade soap and lye. After the wool had dried, it was pulled by hand into soft, fluffy masses until ready for carding. Carding was done by hand to comb the wool fibers into cylindrical rolls which were fed to the revolving spindle by pulling fibers out as it was fed to the spindle.

When the spindle was full, the yarn was wound off and on to the reel, whose circumference was six and one half feet. Forty revolutions of the reel was a knot, and ten knots formed a skein. Four skeins was a day's work from which could be knit eight pairs of stockings or ten pairs of mitts, or weave two to four yards of cloth.

Bed blankets, dress material and winter garments for the men were of pure wool. Much of the cloth was rough, just as it came off the loom. To finish this material, the cloth dresser used wild-growing teasels as early at 1800 to raise the nap.

Cloth was usually dyed some uniform shade with homemade dyes; butternut bark, hickory-nut shucks and onion skin were among approved dyestuff. This was a long process of boiling and soaking and finally a running through limewater to set the color.

During October or November a fatted heifer, cow or steer was slaughtered for a winter's supply of beef which was preserved by drying or smoking; some was added to pork in sausage-making. The hides were tanned to provide leather from which the family was shod and teams equipped with harness.

In tanning, the first step was to get rid of the hair, which became a byproduct that was used as a binder in plastered walls. Cattle hides were placed in vats with milk of lime which loosened the hair so it would slip. To remove the lime, after the hair was scraped off, the hides were transferred to a vat and soaked in a mixture of hen dung and water, called "bate." (My father tanned hides and made all our first shoes. The bate smelled terrible).

After a period in the vat, the hides were scrubbed and rinsed in rainwater, then the soft, plump hides were ready for the long immersion in a tanning liquor made from hemlock or oak bark. The hides now had to be inspected, repiled; if necessary,

more bark was added. They lay all winter in the bark solution, a full six months. Usually, it was a year or more from the time the hides were taken to the tanner until the finished leather was ready for use.

Sheep and lamb pelts were tanned either with the wool on or it was removed by moistening and leaving them to "sweat." This loosened the wool so it could be pulled off.

The shoemaker was an indispensible member of the community. The idea of the shoe opening up at the front so it could be laced originated in 1791, about the time the first of the pioneers descended upon Lansing's forests, but boots continued to be made from lasts that did not distinguish between right and left foot. Farmers preferred leather boots to shoes until comparatively recent years.

The cobbler's bench was four or five feet long. At one end was a rounded, sunken seat where the worker sat; at the other end were compartments to hold and keep separate the different tools and pegs. Soles were either sewn on or attached by wooden pegs as nails could not be used until iron lasts replaced the early one of wood. Each bench was equipped with assorted sizes of lasts.

The shoemaker's kit included many sizes and shapes of awls, three or four kinds of knives, one or two of them curved, and all kept as keen edged as a razor. There was always on hand a whetstone or strap to keep them in this condition. His sewing was done with waxend made from linen thread waterproofed with a mixture made of beeswax and lampblack. The needle used in hard-to-reach places was a pig's bristle through a loop of which the waxend was passed and waxed to form a unit with the bristle.

At the cobbler's knee stood his wooden "sewing horse," whose jaws clamped and held the work while both of his hands were employed in punching holes in the leather and drawing through the threads. Arranged in orderly fashion were all the tools, including the last from which he selected the one he judged would fit the client's foot.

The coarse working footgear of the farmer and his family was made of cowhide. For Sunday and town-meeting wear the

well-to-do farmer had a pair made of calfskin, which matched his broadcloth suit and beaverskin hat.

When the calendar indicated it was time to have the family equipped with footwear, the shoemaker was called to the home. After he had completed his shoemaking stint he remained a guest of the house until he was called to make shoes for another family. Much the same practice in early days was followed by tailors and dressmakers.

Since the pioneering family could bring only a very small supply of food with it and was compelled to depend on products of the soil, a gristmill was an essential to a new community. This mill was dependent upon waterpower to turn the stones, which were from three to seven feet in diameter. The lower stone was stationary and was known as the "bedder," while the upper stone revolved upon it, from which action it was called the "runner." The early stones were such as found in the vicinity of the mill. Capacity of the mills was small, of course. Scattered at first, it was often necessary to carry grain long distances and frequently wait a day or two for it to be ground.

Scarcely less urgent than the gristmill was the sawmill, which also depended upon waterpower. There went into their construction little costly iron, and in their operation no belts or gears were employed. The saws were straight and cut only on the downstroke, making progress through a log a slow process. These up-and-down sawmills were not replaced until 1850 when the circular saw came into general use. Waterpower succumbed to steam about 1865, by which time the town was pretty much timbered off.

It is not difficult to understand the apprehension of the newcomers over the possibility of suffering prolonged hunger because of their inability during the first season to produce and store an adequate supply. This state of mind is summed up in the old saying, "Candlemas Day, half your pork and half your hay."

Here the apprehensive pioneer was expressing the thought that if by February 2 he had half his food supply (pork) and half his hay (food for his livestock) he was safe for that year. The date was approximately the midmark between autumn and a new growing season.

Some Early Families

William Holden, son of John W. and Elizabeth (Brown) Holden and grandson of John Holden, was born in Lansing, November 26, 1838. Until of age, he lived on the farm and when 22 he went to Illinois to work.

On December 22, 1861, he enlisted in Co. H, 10th Ill. Infantry, for three years. His service with this regiment extended through seven engagements first at the siege of New Madrid, Mo. While in the Army of the Mississippi, capture of 3,000 prisoners near Titonville, Ky., was made by his regiment 600-strong after a forced march. The supporting troops came up the next morning in time to guard these prisoners who were gathered from the woods, where they had been driven the night before.

Then being transferred to the Army of Tennessee, he participated in the siege of Corinth, Tenn. In the fall of 1862 he was transferred to the Army of the Cumberland where he performed the greater part of his service. He was at the defense of Nashville, Tenn., Piseca, Ga., as well as other points of importance, and was with Sherman on his famous march to the sea. He endured many hardships and forced marches in the states of Missouri, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia.

Although not wounded in battle, when accidently struck by an ax he sustained a serious injury which kept him in the hospital for four months. Later he was in hospital service but on recovery he rejoined his ranks and served with credit until he was mustered out in Savannah, Ga. At the expiration of his service December 27, 1864, he returned to Lansing.

On March 9, 1865, he married Catherine E., daughter of Peter Howser of Lansing; they had three children. The family lived four years in Groton, then five years in Lansing but in 1874 he bought the old Miller or Peck farm in Groton.

* * *

William Drake was born April 2, 1823, son of Freeman Drake, carpenter and farmer who came to this town about 1800. A lifelong resident of Lansing, he married Catherine, daughter of Henry Bloom, an early settler here. They had nine children: Henry, Caroline, William, Harrison, John, Fancy, Julia Ann, George, Catherine and Lewis.

William attended the common schools and worked on the farm until 20, when he was engaged by his uncle on the farm by the month. About five years later he began boating on the lake and canal, but his first venture was disheartening. He bought a boat and soon after was taken ill and had to hire a man to run it; he lost money, and in the fall of the same year his boat sank. His illness lasted three years and at the end of that time he had no money left.

He formed a partnership with another man and bought a boat, for which they ran in debt, but two months later they sold the boat to their advantage. He then engaged to run a boat by the month for William C. Taber of Ithaca, remaining with him for eight years. He and another man built a boat which they sold, then he bought a farm in Ithaca which he conducted for seven years. He married Elizabeth LaBar, a daughter of William and Margaret (Collins) LaBar of Lansing. They had three children: Emma, Isabel and William Henry.

* * *

Barnard M. Hagin was born in Lansing, March 23, 1828, son of Charles Hagin, a native of Ireland, born 1792, who came to America as a soldier in the British army in the War of 1812, having been seized in the streets of Belfast and pressed into service. Upon reaching Canada, he made his escape to the American side and a few days later lost an arm in the battle of Lundy's Lane in the American cause. After leaving the hospital, he came to Lansing where he taught school. Later he was elected constable and carried mail between Ithaca and Auburn for ten years. He was finally thrown from his horse, dying from the injuries he received. His wife was Mary Ann, daughter of John Yates and Mary N. Smith, by whom he had six children: Francis S., John B., Sarah Ann, Matilda E., Charles A., and Barnard M., Jr. Mrs. Hagin died in 1873.

Son Barnard M. was an uncle of Edward Ozmun, who told

of Uncle Barney being born in a log cabin located where the Colonial Cleaners are today. Barnard was educated in the district schools; his first occupation was as a boatman on the lake and canal. Later, his employer assisted him to secure a boat for $125 a month, he to furnish a crew of two men and board them. At this time he was 20 years old. His successful venture in this direction led him to continue the business for ten years, then he began buying and selling grain and shipping it to New York City by canal. He built and sold many canalboats. For many years he owned and supervised the Beck farm and accumulated property until he owned 300 acres. In 1848 he married Catherine, daughter of Ephriam and Clara Iven LaBar, by whom he had four children: Charles Ernst, Clara Edith, Ida Kate, and Andrew LaBar.

* * *

Daniel DeCamp was a prominent citizen of Lansing, son of Morris DeCamp, born in New Jersey in 1799, who came to this town with his parents, Jacob and Rhoda DeCamp. Jacob and Rhoda had ten children: Susanna, Genina, Joseph and Clarissa (twins), Sally, Betsy, Abraham, Charlotte, Daniel, and Morris. At the death of his father, Morris came into possession of a large part of their farm on which he and his wife spent their lives. He married Rachel Learn, a native of Pennsylvania; they had eleven children. Harry married Sarah, a daughter of Edward and Mary Schink; Henry married Sarah, daughter of Andrew and Hannah Miller; Catherine was the wife of Henry Teeter of Groton; Mary the wife of Ira Osmun of Lansing; Angeline the wife of Jerry Osmun; Daniel who married Mary, daughter of Samuel and Phana Davis; Nelson who died aged five years; Lovina was the wife of William A. Singer of Genoa; Armena, the wife of Ezikiel Woodruff of North Lansing, and Matilda who died at 15. The death of the father occurred in 1890 and that of the mother in 1877.

Daniel was reared on the home farm where he lived until 21 years of age, then managed it himself for two years, after which he bought a farm of 75 acres and to which he added until he had 212 acres. He dealt in agricultural implements and farm produce. In 1855 he married Chloe Ann, daughter of John and Catherine Miller of Lansing, by whom he had two children:

Addie died at six years; William M., born in July 1869, married Belle Sharpsteen of Lansing. Mrs. DeCamp died in 1890. He was a member of the North Lannsing Grange, and a Democrat.

* * *

Frank H. Tarbell was born in Lansing, June 11, 1858, a son of Abram H., born in Schuyler County in 1826. He was prominent in the community, taking a deep interest in politics of his town and county. In 1861, he bought a farm of 100 acres which later was owned by Frank H. In 1864, he married Margaret Howser, daughter of Charles and Catherine Howser of Lansing. Eight children were born to them, six of whom grew to maturity: Alice, wife of Frank Haring; Ida A., wife of Ben O. Brown; Frank H.; Emma, wife of William Davis; Effie Doud. Ed was graduated from Cornell University agricultural course class of 1889.

Mr. Tarbell died in 1876 of injuries received while leading a team backward and not noticing where he was going, he backed into a tree against which the end of the pole of the wagon pinned him. His wife then resided with Frank H. The father of Abraham was Thomas, native of Pennsylvania, who came to Groton and there died in 1886 at the age of 86 years. His wife survived him two years, dying at the age of 84. They were married in 1823 and fifty years later celebrated their golden anniversary.

Frank H. attended district schools and Ithaca High School and then took a term in business college. When Frank was 18, his father died, and he returned home from college to assist with farm duties, later purchasing the interest of the other heirs in the homestead to which he added by purchase. On August 25, 1886, he married Hattie A., daughter of John and Catherine Sill of Genoa. They had two children, Kenneth L., born March 15, 1890, and M. Gladys, born April 12, 1893.

Mr. Tarbell served as an excise commissioner for five years and seven years as justice of the peace. He was a Republican and a Free Mason, and both he and his wife were members of the North Lansing Grange.

* * *

Elizabeth Foot Fenner was born at Stewarts Corners, Cay-

uga County, March 21, 1828, and died at her Lake Ridge home March 27, 1920, aged 92 years. Her father was Dr. Jared Foot, born in Cayuga County in 1788, died in 1844. Her mother was Eliza Clark, who was born in Scipio in 1800 and who died in 1839. Mrs. Fenner's grandmother was Lucinda Jennings Clark, daughter of Colonel Jennings of Revolutionary War fame. Her great-grandmother Foot was a daughter of Governor Bradford of Massachusetts.

Elizabeth Foot began teaching school at 16 and in 1918 she was one of the oldest teachers in this section. In 1848, she came to Lake Ridge and taught school for $1.25 a week and boarded around. On January 1, 1840, she married Casper Fenner and came to the house she occupied until her death. Mr. Fenner died in 1882. They had three children: Clark, Casper, and Leslie. Mrs. Fenner was the oldest member of the King Ferry Presbyterian Church at the time of her death. She and her husband were for many years members of a quartet known as the Fenner-Price quartet which sang at church and throughout the county at concerts on various occasions. Many called her "Aunt Libbie Fenner."

* * *

Casper Fenner was the son of Elizabeth Foot Fenner. He was assemblyman from Tompkins County in 1915 and served until his death in his seventh term in 1922, aged 62 years. It was the next to the last day of his term.

He was one of the best-known and most-popular citizens in the county. He was born at Lake Ridge in 1860 at the home of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was graduated from Aurora Academy in 1878. He served for one year in the revenue service in Duvel, Col., and three years in the office of Senator William B. Wooden in Auburn. He was married in 1891 to Miss Hattie M. Gilette of Auburn. Assemblyman Fenner was for five years in the employ of Armour Packing Co. in Kansas City, Mo.

He represented the Town of Lansing on the Board of Supervisors for three years, 1912-15, and was elected a member of the assembly by a plurality vote of 1,679 over three opposing candidates. A 32nd degree Mason, he was a member of the Shrine. From 1886-89 he was a member of the Second Separate

Co. of the National Guard. His brother Leslie was an instructor in plant pathology at the College of Agriculture at Cornell University.

* * *

Written from notes taken at an interview with Grace Brewer of Myers, N. Y., June 12, 1961:

Frank Gallager, father of Mrs. Brewer, who came to America in a sailing vessel, had seventeen brothers and sisters. Bridget was her mother. He came to Myers when the railroad was built and helped to construct the Midland Railroad.

Sherman Collins was the first settler at Portland Point where the Beam Milling Co. plant recently stood. They had an orchard on the Point and along the creek built a house for his mother. As a child, Grace used to visit there. (My notes: Mr. Ozmun drew spikes from the "84" to the Point when the Cement Company was building in 1899. The "84" was northwest of the brick house on the Peruville Road where Bertrand Buck lives. He drew lumber from there for a period of three years.)

Dr. Will Barr owned all of the land at Myers Point and as far as the stone quarry. Latter the Gallagers owned all this land. Dr. Barr named it Ladoga Park after the Russian Lake Ladoga because he liked the name. In 1885, he planted all the trees remaining there today.

At one time the Gallagers had an orchard there and they ran a boarding house back of the present Frank Hranack store; it was well patronized because of the good food served. Grace said Mrs. Gallager made much of the bread used.

With floods and time, part of this area became a jungle of trees and shrubs, then sold to Bob Angell who wanted it for a a hunting area. In 1956, he sold the gravel business to Leon Ford who operated a peach orchard near Taughannock Farms Inn, and lost his life in an accident soon after. Mrs. Ford is current proprietor of the marina subsequently established at the location.

The Syrians came in about 1905. Abe Abbott was the first, and Pat Townsend taught him English. The first newcomers lived with Mrs. Love at "Hurricane Hall" at a time when Art Brewer was foreman at the International Salt Co., where they

came to work. Abe Abbott later moved to Ithaca and started a grocery business.

Henry Myers had the oldest house in Myers. Professor Monihan, a mechanical engineer at Cornell, lives there now.

Andrew Myers, with his wife and two children, came down the lake in 1792 and settled at Myers Point. His son Andrew built a large gristmill there in 1832.

* * *

Interview with Melvin Bush, Lake Ridge, June 13, 1961:

Lake Ridge Tavern, built in 1814, had Frederick Fenner as the first merchant and proprietor. In 1870, L. D. Ives purchased and operated the store; after his death it passed to his two daughters, one of whom was Lucy Shank. In 1895, Lucius Hicks, Mrs. Oliver Holden's grandfather, bought the property, which was no longer used as a hotel, but her grandmother for a time used a front room as a hat shop. Mr. Bush purchased the property in 1917 and since has used it as a dwelling.

The outside doors are two inches thick and have the original latches. When Melvin was 12 years old, he lived with a Mrs. Starner who operated the hotel. The front door still has the cat scratches that were made by a cat which had learned how to open the door. Each door throughout the house has cross panelling. Mrs. Starner did not serve drinks, but lots of nights the rooms would be filled with transients. There were seven rooms for lodgers. Each overnight guest would be served supper, lodging and breakfast and feed at night and morning for the horses, all for $1.25. Some of the guests drove in with their own rigs. Meals were 25 cents.

The house had five fireplaces. The ballroom was upstairs but that part of the house has been torn off. The large front room was the day room and had a pool table in those days. Mr. Bush spoke of the pack peddlers who would come and stay at the hotel. Jim McGrail was a fine salesman and when he came to town all the women prettied up for him. He drove a Congers wagon from Groton.

The Ozmun Name and Family

There are several forms of this name in several countries, all probably having the same source. Several persons, in different countries, have claimed the name as we spell it, but proof is lacking.

An Ozmun on the Pacific Coast has said the name came to America from Scotland and to Scotland from Norway. He said a party of Vikings on a raid on Scotland beached their boats silently and then stole barefooted to surprise the Scottish camp. Becoming entangled in thistles, their exclamations aroused the Scots, who took them prisoners. Among them were one or more Osmans. In time, they married Scotch women.

Raids such as these were common and the north and east coasts of Scotland and England came to be settled largely by Norse and Danish colonists. The practice of protecting camps with thistles was common practice.

The name as it came from Norway was Osman. Norwegians coming to this country still bear the name. In their language its meaning is *under the guardianship of the gods*. Whenever the name appears in early New York, New England or Pennsylvania records it is spelled Osman.

A young stonecutter in North Dakota from Edinburgh said that near his home town was an old castle with the name Ozmun in ancient letters, cut into the stone arch over the door (gate). No one bearing this name had lived there since any current resident had knowledge of it.

At the battle of Dunbar, Cromwell defeated the Scots and took many prisoners, of whom 250 were sent to North England. Many escaped to Ireland also. Whole families were wiped out and property confiscated. Someone who came from that part of Scotland said all the old estates had walls with stone arches over the gate and the family name cut into the arch. She

thought this story true and this gateway in partial ruins, perhaps on some highway not then in use. An Englishman, who claimed to have travelled all over Great Britain, said the name came to America from County Suffolk, England, where there are many Osmans. There they claim it is of Danish origin.

The first name found in New England records is that of Thomas Ozman, Southold, Suffolk County, Long Island. He married Martha Purryer in 1664, daughter of John, one of the founders of Southold, who came from England. In Orange County, New York, records the names of Israel and Ezekiel Osman were found; they signed the pledge of loyalty 1775-6 in New Cornwall precinct.

Abraham Ozmun was born at Smith Clove, New Cornwall, Orange County, November 4, 1764. Old gravestones in Tompkins County show both Ozmun and Osman names. The earliest seems to be that of Sally (Sarah) Ozmun, first wife of Abraham; died August 12, 1812.

Olmstead County, Minn., history in speaking of Abraham Ozmun, Jr., says: "His grandfater was a Revolutionary soldier. He fought at Fort Montgomery, was taken prisoner, and died in the famous old Sugar Warehouse in New York." Family tradition says there was a son who shared this experience with him, but no names are given. How many sons he had we do not know. Besides the one who died in prison we know of three and feel reasonably sure of a fourth.

From the late Dr. I. Davis Ozmun came this account as related to him by his father: "Two brothers came to Tompkins County in boats. They had a fight with Indians and his grandfather's brother was shot through the body by an arrow but he recovered." These were the two brothers who could not agree as to the spelling of the name. Both are buried in Asbury Cemetery.

Abraham Ozmun was married twice. He had twelve children by his first wife, Sarah, and eight by Rachel, his second wife. Records found only six children. His second wife was Rachel F. Morgan, a widow, whose grave is beside his. Her two children's inscriptions are Abraham b. 1814, Mercy b. 1817. Four of Sarah's children's graves are marked William A. b. 1783, Isaac b. 1785, John b. 1787, Sarah b. 1800.

William A., the eldest son, remained on his father's farm, became a wealthy man and managed his immense business without the help of lawyers. Isaac, the second son, in 1802 when 17, wrote a book of problems in arithmetic and geometry. He was counted a fine mathmetician and was a surveyor He went to Ohio and settled 23 miles south of Cleveland, and was a justice of the peace for 23 years.

Summit County, Ohio, history mentions a Jacob Ozmun who came at the same time but no further record of him appears. The same history tells of the second marriage in Boston township of Israel Ozmun to Susan, daughter of John Mallet of Richfield. He served as a private in the War of 1812, going in August of that year with Isaac, sergeant, and Abraham, ensign, in Timothy Bishop's company.

Abraham went to Ohio at that time and later married Aurelia Bishop. Isaac in 1813 was promoted to ensign and in 1819 was made a major which rank he held till his death. John, the third son, was drowned soon after his marriage, leaving one son who was the late Edward Ozmun's grandfather and my great-grandfather.

Further data in the Ozmun family:

Among the men who came to Tompkins County from Orange was Lemuel, who named a son Daniel. There was a John Ozmun, sergeant in the Revolutionary War who served three years and received 600 acres in Cayuga County that had been reserved for soldiers of the Continental Army. That part of Cayuga County is now Tompkins and the land where Lemuel Abraham and John Ozmun located.

Orange County (New York) history says most of the early settlers of the county came from Long Island, which indicates that a group of neighbors probably migrated together. Smith's Clove is derived from the Saxon word *cleopen,* meaning a cleft and literally a valley. Smith's Clove is along the Highlands of the Hudson River. At one time Washington had part of his army stationed here. It is the birthplace of Chief Justice William Smith and Joshua Hett Smith, associated with Arnold in his West Point treason. It got its name from the notorious Claudius Smith and his sons who well earned the name of Tory.

They made frequent raids upon their patriot neighbors, robbing them of their stock and burning their homes, and even murdering them.

It is evident the Ozmuns who were living in Smith's Clove were not followers of the renegades for we found John in the army, Israel and Ezekiel signing the pledges of loyalty and later by his own statement, Abraham worked two months as a collier, which means he engaged in making charcoal from which was made gunpowder for the army. It was for this service that the D.A.R. accepts descendants to their membership. William Ozmun had several daughters and one son. He was a Whig and when his daughters married he would give them a farm if she married a Whig. If she married a Democrat she got no farm unless she changed her politics. Only one failed to get a farm. To the son he gave all he possessed when he died and the son in his later years lost it all.

Isabel Parish

Isabel was Town of Lansing historian until her death January 6, 1967, at age 87. In 1962 she had succeeded her friend and co-worker, Mrs. Susan Haring, in the office. During the years that she was confined to a wheelchair, and I was confined to the care of my Dad, Edward Ozmun, we kept in touch by letter. I have copied here from her letters some of the interesting things she told me.

July 9, 1963—A week has gone since the 4th. I can imagine the lake was beautiful with all those flares lighting the shores. I listened to the bells, Barbara Hall had records of bells at West Point and King's Chapel in Boston, etc. I rang the old school bell which I used in country schools, also my father and grandfather used it. At 2 I listened for the church bell here but I didn't hear it, although they say it was rung.

It was a grand idea to get people to ring bells as it made folks think of the oldtime 4th; nowadays we seem to forget what the 4th means.

Ludlowvville used to be awakened at midnight by the anvil blasts with powder and flint in the limestone rocks by the bandstand. Then a parade of fife and drums, and old-home days when everybody came and the minister read the Declaration of Independence. Maybe there was a ballgame opposite my house and lots of homemade ice cream sold by both churches, Methodists on Barr Cottage porch, and Presbyterain in front of the old Lyon house. And there were firecrackers, of which I was afraid, until they were outlawed.

Election Day 1963—Today I was reading up on the story of my great-aunt Harriett Clark, who was married at 17 to a young man, James Cain, 18, in April 1819, as an unwilling bride. She tells in her diary of bidding her lover, Nathan Burr, good-by under a tree by the falls. That was romance in the

olden days. She went to keeping house in a log cabin near Auburn. She says one of her wedding presents was a tray of hard soap for her who had never done a washing in her life. She had three sons in ten years. Her husband left her and she came home to pa and ma.

November 1, 1965—The only important event at this house was my birthday October 15. Now I am 86. The Fords, Nellie, Isabell, husband Art Walpole, and Dorothy and husband from Apalachin came and took me for a ride and dinner. Since I don't walk without the walker they decided to get the carry-out dinner that the Lehigh Valley House advertises. So we ate in the car, fried chicken, French fries, apple sauce, onion rings, coffee and cake, and visited near the old Lehigh Station. Then they produced birthday presents: pajamas, warm bed slippers, and warm stockings.

November 1963—Then, there was Aunt Sue Clark. She was Susan Terry whose lover, Jeff Crocker, bade her good-by to go west and make his fortune. Her sister had married Alonzo Clark but lived only a year or two. Then Alonzo proposed to Susan, but she waited for Jeff. Years went by and after six years her family persuaded her to wait no longer and that Alonzo really was a fine man with a fine farm. So they were married. Shortly after that, they were spending the day at her father's house when a tall stranger came. It was Jeff, and for the only time in her life, she fainted away. Jeff vanished and was never heard of again. The farm they lived on was the Bristol place, and she once confided to a friend that each night she watched the sun set in the west and her heart went with it. How is that for romance? I knew Aunt Sue Clark as an old lady troubled with arthritis, yet never dreaming of her broken heart. They had no children but adopted Walter Bristol in their later years. That is how it came to be the Bristol place.

December 11, 1964—The most interesting, exciting event this winter are letters from a cousin in Scottbluff, Nebraska, who wanted the Harper-Clark family history. The first member of that family was Janus Harper who came to Portland, Maine, in 1720 from Ireland, then to Boston. He had three sons: James, Joseph and John. This John had numerous children, one of whom was the celebrated Col. John Harper in the

Revolution. The family moved from Middletown, Conn., to near Cherry Valley. Colonel John obtained a grant of land and built the first house in Delaware County in 1776.

My grandmother Isabell Harper Clark was born in Ludlowville in 1816. Her younger sister Mary Ann, born 1811, married Aaron Spencer and they moved to Friendship, Wisconsin, where he died. Mary Ann moved with her daughter and husband to Bayard, Nebraska, and there at first they lived in in a sod cabin. She lived to be 97, was lame and almost blind and deaf but was cared for by her daughter. The husband's name for Francis Wisner and he started a weekly newspaper in Bayard which was continued by his son for 40 years. He has retired, now 82, but the paper is still going. The other son, Harry Wisner, went to Scottbluff, Nebraska, where he published a daily, married and had six children. The daughter who wrote to me is now 62 and has several grandchildren. I have enjoyed her letters about the Wisner's and the country in Western Nebraska. They are right on the Oregon and Mormon Trails where early pioneers travelled west. So I keep interested and busy.

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ANECDOTES OF LUDLOWVILLE

By Isabel Parish

I am writing only parts of these that may interest the reader and perhaps produce a chuckle now and then. These tales were reminescences of Adrian Wood told to Isabel from 1945-55 as he visited at her home.—J.H.C.

We talked of Homer Blissing being ill of smallpox in my kitchen. In those days, everyone was afraid of it, even the doctor, C. P. Farlin, so he passed medicine through the window to the sick man on a long-handled shovel. He died September 6, 1852, and was buried by two Irishmen at the foot of my east hill on the other side of the bridge where there is now a great patch of myrtle. The two men on the way back bathed thoroughly in the creek to wash away germs, but one caught the disease and died. Among grandfather's old papers, I found his bill for $3 for Blissing's coffin.

Dr. Asa Smith was a dentist who occupied the second floor of the wooden building across from the stores where now is the D. W. Garage. One day Smith Townley, who lived on the farm now owned by Casper Swayze, came to him to pull some aching teeth. He begged the doctor to get him some whiskey so he could bear the dreadful pain. So he went across to the drug-store and bought a pint. Still the patient wasn't satisfied and he secured a second pint. By that time he was quite wild but the doctor got him down on the floor and by sitting astride, got the teeth out. He was afraid his patient in his condition would not be able to find his way home by the path across the fields so he walked him all the way. The joke was on the doctor as his patient never came back for his false dentures nor paid for the work or whiskey. Dr. Asa's business was not too prosperous and he moved to Ithaca. He died there during a typhoid epidemic. He had a brother John who, with his sisters, lived in the Presbyterian Manse. He worked in the gravel bank near the salt plant, loading cars which the railroad took whenever filling was needed.

An old family was that of John and Maria Benson. They lived in a hut up "Burgy's Gully" at foot of Dug Road. He worked for Amasa Wood, feeding stalks of sorghum corn into the rollers that squeezed out the juice. So he was allowed to build a small house, one room, in the farthest corner of Amasa's farm up the Creek Road, against the sidehill next to Fred Brill's line.

They had six children: Erastus, Rhoda, John, Mary, Lottie and Henry. When small, the children slept in a trundle bed that was pushed under the big bed in the daytime. Nearly every morning they would be seen walking single file, father first, down Creek Road to the village, where they stood silently. Maria did washing and cleaning. John cleaned stovepipes and blackened stoves. He lived to be very old and very round shouldered, with a long nose and a cane. As a child at Grandfather's I wondered when that long nose would touch the ground. He made quite a bit of money selling Dr. Benson's Greenbay Salve, a concoction of his own.

My cousin Adrian remembers Erastus, who was often around Lyon's store where Adrian worked. One day he was looking at

some pocket knives and was much taken with one. He wanted to buy it but lacked the small sum so Adrian let him have it and as soon as he got the money, he came in and paid for it. Erastus died in 1890 and his father in 1899. There are no markers for any of the rest of the family along the east fence of the cemetery.

My grandfather Amasa Wood, at age 56, moved to the farm in 1865. He spent all his adult years in the village as cabinetmaker and undertaker. So his acquaintance with farm animals was small. When Adrian was a boy he remembers helping his father, Clark Wood, draw loads down from fields above the barn. In a small field through which they had to come was a flock of sheep. They had warned grandfather that the ram was ugly but he laughed and said he would put up the bars when the wagon was through. Hearing a noise, Adrian looked back and saw grandfather bent on the ground. As he reached for the bars, the ram saw a good opportunity to tackle him in the rear.

Barney Moore (1845-1916) was a half-witted fellow who spent winters at the county house across the lake, but appeared in Ludlowville each spring as warm weather approached. Mrs. Luther Myers was kind to him and fixed a bed in her barn and cared for his money whenever people gave him coins. It was saved to buy his mother a headstone in the northeast corner of the cemetery. She was Elizabeth Weaver (1802-1872). He earned his money by sawing wood for different families in the vicinity. If meals did not please him, he would remain away from the woodpile. He loved to attend funerals and dressed for them by wearing black gloves. He never missed one and could remember the minister's text and where each person was buried. Sometimes his memory helped the cemetery officials if there was a question about where a person was buried and there was no stone to mark the spot.

He had his own coffin made and stored it in the attic of Ford and Burr's long wooden building at the north end of Ludlowville Square. Adrian tells that when he was a boy, he and some companions went up into this attic by the dumbwaiter which was quite a novelty then. As they were looking around, they heard a noise and looking over in the corner, they saw a person rise up from the coffin. They were scared and didn't go

down the dumbwaiter but flew hurriedly down the stairs. The apparent ghost they saw was Barney who had gone up to see if his coffin fit him and had fallen asleep in it. He never used it as it was burned up when the building burned in 1887. He lies by his mother in Ludlowville Cemetery with a small headstone to mark the spot.

Barney spent winters at the County Home near Jacksonville. It was the custom of the town poormaster to take him there at a stated time in the fall. One year the poormaster wanted to go a week or so earlier than the regular time, so he drove to Ludlowville and got Barney in, drove to Ithaca and on to the County Home. He let Barney out and went inside to talk awhile. Then he drove back to Ludlowville. As he stopped his horse, Barney rose from the rear of the wagon where he had been covered by a horse blanket, and said, "Well, I got back as soon as you did." He had no intention of leaving Ludlowville until the right time came.

At age 15 or 16, Adrian was employed by Dr. Will Barr who was planting many trees at Myers Point to make a pleasant picnic ground. Adrian was to water the newly set trees, using a large barrel on a stoneboat drawn by a horse. This must have been in 1886 or thereabouts. Dr. Barr built a large dance platform and farther near the Point a building used as an eating place. Also there were two nice pools with fountains. There were two boathouses set out over the water, one of which has been enlarged into Arthur Mack's cottage, and the other was drawn back to make room for cottages. Older people remember also the long pier at which the steamboat Frontenac landed twice daily during trips between Ithaca and Cayuga Lake Park. This was named Ladoga Park. The most interesting event of the season was the Lansing Town Picnic to which old former residents returned, if possible. Ice cream was abundant, made in 20-gallon freezers in Sayre. Clerks from Barr Brothers' store in Ithaca dipped it all day.

Dr. David Barr came to Ludlowville in 1851 after graduation from medical school in Cleveland. He built the house opposite the brick store owned by Leo Teeter. He had four sons and one daughter, Myra, who married a Brokaw, lived in Elmira, and had one son, William. The eldest son Frank Hudson bought

the Daniel Clark home and he and his family, Marguerite Cutter, Frank, Harry and Winfield, spent summers there. David and Fred Barr formed a hardware firm in Ithaca. Fred had two sons, Joseph S. Barr of Ithaca and David Barr of New York City.

Dr. Will Barr left Lansing in 1889 to live in the West. After some years, he married a wealthy widow and lived in Harbor Springs, Michigan. As he advanced in years, he became blind and was attended by a young man to whom he finally left his property. His death was caused by a fall on the stairs. Clayton Townsend, who looked after the property here, became owner of the coalyard and two houses near the station and adjacent land.

A man named Seely was running the hotel on December 5, when my grandmother Isabella Harper Clark and Amasa Wood were married there. There must have been some family objection to the marriage so she took matters into her own hands, walked across the street from her father's house and was married without any of the family being present. Several old letters tell of it, one of congratulations and good wishes by Benjamin Joy and another from her sister in Lockport, reproving her for such a step.

In an old letter Ellen Townsend found in an old trunk that she bought at the Myers-Love auction is a story that Mr. Mac, coming to see his future bride, Adelia Swayze, was met at the gate by a female figure. He clasped the lady in his arms, exclaiming, "Oh, my darling Delia!" The lady jerked from him and exclaimed indignantly, "I ain't your darling Delia. I is the colored cook."

One of my good friends, when about 17 to 18, was Bessie McCormick, daughter of A. McCormick. They settled on Syrian Hill and built a house and barn on bluff near the highway going down a steep hill. They had not lived there long when the house burned. Mrs. Whitlock, their nearest neighbor, was tried for arson and sentenced to Auburn prison for a few years. It is said that the justice of peace near South Lansing who sentenced her found a fire started under his porch. (Editor's note: It was the Andrew Conlon home, now owned by Philip Oppenheim. Then the home of J. B. Mack on the hill above Mrs. Whitlock's home burned.)

These two fires at her home had a serious effect on my friend Bessie. She went into a decline and after six months or more died.

Bates White was a gentleman farmer, rode to church and store in a "surrey with a fringe on top," with a fine team of horses. One fall when Adrian was a boy, his father and he went up along the creek road to find their hen turkey and her flock, and found they had been locked in White's corncrib. White claimed he had raised them and would not unlock the door. So Adrain's father seized an ax and broke the lock, let the turkeys out and they followed him home. Adrian said that was the only time he ever saw his father really angry.

Luther Myers, the father of Minnie and Alice, was an agile man in his 80's and 90's. He loved to go barefoot in the snow and would show off a few dance steps in the snow in front of his home. When Adrian was working in Clinter Platts' store, Uncle Luther, as the boys called him, came in to get a box of pills his wife thought he needed. They were in an oval wooden box with directions on top. Luther was not seen for five or six days. On his coming in, Adrian asked him where he had been. He said he opened the box, took a pill and sat down to read his paper; absentmindedly nibbling at them until his wife came in and found he had eaten half the pills. Luther said that for several days and nights he spent all his time sitting in the outside toilet, exceedingly busy.

Years ago, when the Ludlowville Band was going strong, Patsy Conway led the Ithaca Band. Through Will Miller, who was managing the South Lansing hotel, Conway was persuaded to come here a number of times and drill our band. It practiced in the hall over Benjamin's Store. The Ludlowvville men had to buy their own instruments and uniforms. Some of the instruments were inferior and especially did the big bass horn annoy Conway. He told the men to bring the poor horn in its bag up to the hall where the Ithaca band practiced. He took them into an adjoining room where many new instruments were kept. These were furnished by some instrument company. He picked out a good bass horn which he put into the bag in place of the poor one. Conway was paid $5 a trip here, but he was well paid by Treman's for his work with the Ithaca band.

The uniforms were bought through No. 7 fire company of Ithaca and were the same. In a parade they always marched with the fire company. The band was organized in 1865. Adrian has a picture of it taken at Cayuga Lake Park. (Editor's note: I now own the picture. In it are: Willie Burger, Omar Holden, Clayton Haring, Merritt Winn, William DeCamp, Jay Morey, Lew Luce, Bert Ozmun, Warren Giltner, Will Miller, Will Searles, Lafe Jacobs, Newton Holden, Leonard Austin, and Adrian Wood.)

THE HOME OF ISABEL PARISH

The Sulphur Springs Farm

As told by Isabel to Jennie H. Conlon, 1960

This Sulphur Springs Farm house we think was built before 1830, the year the "Big Barn" (1830 was cut into the gable) was built across the bridge. It was the biggest barn in the vicinity at the time. I measured the foundation not long ago and found it was 35x52 feet. For its raising, my great-grandfather, Daniel Clark, called the neighbors in. In those days each side of a building was put together with wooden pegs on the ground, then a team of men, using pike poles, pushed the sides up and fastened them together. As was the custom, he provided a barrel of whiskey. So much was taken beforehand that it was impossible for the men to raise the heavy timber. So they were told to come back the next day when he saw that no liquor was drunk until the work was done.

Daniel Clark and his brother Cyrus came here (Ludlowville) in 1800. He bought the tannery across the road from Nicholas Townley, established a fulling mill, dyehouse and clothing works nearby. He left his brother to manage the business, went back to Delaware County, and returned with his wife and two children in 1803. They first lived in a log cabin at the foot of Cemetery Hill that was replaced in 1810 by a building that is now the Barr Cottage. This Sulphur Springs House was built for some of the men who worked in the business across the road.

There was a dam just above the bridge to form a reservoir

to provide waterpower for the tannery and fulling mill. This water was brought in a canal along the highway and willow trees were planted to help keep the water in bounds. A few of these willows still remain; also there are several timbers in the bottom of the creek fastened to the solid rock above the bridge that were part of the old dam.

When Daniel Clark died in 1855, he owned 700 acres which were divided among his six children. The fifty acres across the highway were my grandmother Isobella Clark Wood's share, the sixty around this house were Harriett Clark's share. My grandfather Amasa Wood in 1863 bought this from his sister-in-law and moved into this house in 1865. Previously, he had lived in the house "behind the store," made furniture in a cabinet shop in a building where Leo Teeter lives. He was an undertaker as well.

The fulling mill and clothing shop became the home of my uncle Clark Wood, father of cousin Adrian Wood, and the tannery was rebuilt into their barn. There was also a mill to process sorghum-like corn raised here, the stalks being run between rollers and the juice boiled down into molasses.

What is now my living room was the old-time kitchen with a big fireplace, bake oven and big chimney. What is now my kitchen was the open woodhouse. The big parlor is 20 feet square. Amasa Wood died in 1896. Then my father, mother and I moved in from Ithaca where he was bookkeeper for Small's lumberyard.

HOW THE TOWN OF LANSING WAS NAMED

The Town of Lansing was named for John Lansing who was a distinguished lawyer, secretary to General Schuyler, state chancellor and U.S. senator. After the Revolution he was in charge of granting military tracts to former soldiers as a reward for their services. To get a grant of land they had to go to him in Troy where a house still stands that was his former home.

John Lansing once came to this area and was impressed by the waterpower of Salmon Creek Falls. Later, he told his son-in-law Silas Ludlow of it, and Silas, his brother Henry and the

latter's son, Major Thomas Ludlow, came here in 1791, built homes and established a mill in Ludlowville.

Silas had a grandson whose name was Lord. He had a daughter who married a Montague and in 1825 lived in East Lansing. After a time she went to live in the ancestral home in the part of Troy called Lansingburgh. Being of practicel bent, she abhorred washing a white shirt when only the collar was soiled, so she ripped off the collar. This led to the industry in Troy. In a shirt factory there is a plaque honoring her as the inventor of the detachable collar.

To bring the story down to date, the Lansings finally moved to Watertown. In the early 1920's Robert Lansing, a descendant, was prominent in organizing the League of Nations and in later years his great-nephew, John Foster Dulles, carried on his ancestor's efforts toward peace as the administration's secretary of state.

Marion Woodbury Tichenor

Her father was James Woodbury, supervisor of the Town of Lansing in the 1870's. He was the grandfather of Edward Ozmun whose mother was Susan Woodbury, a sister of Marion. Susan was born in Lansing April 14, 1846, and Marion was born May 26, 1841. Her Bible was given to a friend in Kansas City, so I could not find the date of her marriage to John Tichenor.

Marion attended school in District 13 which was located on the Conlon Road where the old school lot is now occupied by a quonset house. She attended Groton Academy also and obtained a teaching license.

From her old school notebook I found a list of the pupils in District 13 for 1858. They were: John Brown, John Tichenor (later her husband), Will Miller, Wright Marshall, James Tichenor, Anne Tichenor, Kate Knettles (my husband's mother), Kate Manning, Josie Tichenor, Ada Teeter, and Kittie Hagin.

Apparently there were not enough arithmetic textbooks for she wrote illustrative problems in the students' homemade notebooks, a custom of early schooldays. Some of the books she studied were Buckles' *History of England,* Dante's *History of Ancient Greece, Conquest of Mexico,* and Selden's *Table Talk.* Later she taught in District 13, and was principal of the Fall Creek school until she began her trip to Manor, Texas, in 1896, in search of health.

She reached Buffalo where she suffered a relapse. She rested, then went on to Kansas City where she stayed a year during which she frequently hemorrhaged from the lungs. She arrived at Manor in 1897 in a very weakened condition, but gradually gained strength and was able to go walking or riding and attend her bookclub meetings. She had an occasional setback but with rest always bounded back. In the winter of 1900 she

began tutoring a young lad; it made her happy to be working again, even though so little.

She wrote many letters home, some depressing but most of them quite cheerful, and often spoke of coming home. Her family home in Lansing was on the corner of Conlon Road and Route 34B, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Wilson.

Her mother was carried by her grandmother who rode side-saddle when the family moved to Lansing from Pennsylvania in the early days. We had the saddle but Dad finally disposed of it as it was in bad shape.

Her grandparents lived in a house by the creek that runs across the south part of my property. Part of that house is now my living room and the old schoolhouse of District 13 is the west portion of my dwelling. The lilac bush is still by the banks of the creek that was by the old kitchen. Both Marion and Susan were born there.

The Woodbury family was instrumental in the start of the Remington Typewriter Co. Marion's son worked for the company in Canada for many years.

Marion was a beautiful, gentle person loved by all who knew her. I'm including in this story of Aunt Mame by using three letters written after she died March 23, 1900.

Manor, Texas, March 23rd, 1900.

Mr. J. P. Tichenor, Baltimore, Md.

Dear Friend: You doubtless are wanting to know the particulars of your Mother's sickness and death. I have lived across the hall in the same building with her all the time since she came to Manor.

My wife and I learned to love her very soon after making her acquaintance. We feel sad today since she is gone and we shall see her no more in this world.

Until last Saturday she was doing well, seemingly better than last winter, but took a severe cold and had a slight chill, fever followed and developed a case of "grippe." I saw her three or four times a day. I put her on treatment at once and got the fever under control as soon as possible; Wednesday night she was resting well and was clear of fever. Thursday morning she had a severe coughing spell, a light hemorrhage

and profuse expectorations. Soon after she had a collapse and the temperature fell to 95 degrees. I called another physician in consultation at once and we put her on the best agents known, employed all artificial means at hand to produce a reaction.

About 8 o'clock that night she reached a normal temperature again. At 2 o'clock collapse ensued; I called a third physician in consultation but all means failed. At 7:15 she passed away peacefully. All was done that could be done.

Manor is a small town and we could get no one to embalm the body. After your first message, we made arrangements to bury her here. After receiving your message to express to New York, I went to our railroad agent here but he did not think they would accept her unless she was in a metallic case and we had none here so could do nothing better, as we thought, than to bury her here in a nice way.

We placed a good double floor over the box and coffin so it will keep well. You can move it any time if you desire. You can get a case larger to receive the coffin so as not to molest the remains. Will take pleasure in serving you in any way in the future.

I asked Mrs. Crozier to consult her about wiring you the day before she died but she begged us not to as it would worry you so much.

We had a beautiful service and tried to do as we thought you would if you were here. The minister mentioned the love so tenderly for you and all the family.

I will send you expense of everything in a few days. May the comforting grace of God abide with you all through life and bring you safely to your Mother's rest.

Yours Truly C. W. Baldridge, M.D.

Baltimore, Maryland, March 26, 1900

My dear Aunt Tude: I enclose here with a letter received today. As it is from the attending physician it is a better explanation than that of Mrs. Crozier received in the same mail. I send a copy as I wish to retain the original.

As you will see by the letter it was our old enemy the grippe

finding an easy victim in her, debilitated by long sickness and unable to withstand the ravages of a disease of that character.

I can hardly realize that she is gone and that I will never see her again. The shock of her death came so suddenly after the encouraging letters she had written that it hardly seems possible that she is dead. When you stop to think that our family has been almost wiped out of existence in about a year, it seems too awful to be true. There is no small comfort in the fact that she has at last reached a haven of refuge where her troubles and sufferings are at an end. May she rest in peace for all eternity.

I sent a notice of her death to the Journal. I will try to write you again in a few days. Yours truly, J. P. Tichenor

See page 69 for a memorial prepared by the book club. It was received too late for inclusion here.—J.H.C.

Manor, Texas, March 23, 1900

Dear Mrs. Ozmun [Susan]. I am broken hearted to think I have to write to you the sad news of your sister's death. I know you already know of it as we telegraphed her son at once and asked him to inform you by telegraph as we did not know your number. We can find nothing to tell us how to address you, only as to this letter.

She burned a lot of papers just before she was taken sick and I suppose she had burned yours with the rest.

We knew her son's address by seeing his advertisement in the paper he had sent her.

She was looking for a letter from you, fearing you were ill as she had not got your letter she always looked for the first of the week.

It is quite a shock to us all to think she is gone. She looked so well and was fleshing up and did not cough but little. She could walk out quite a distance out of town and went out buggy riding the afternoon before she was taken sick. And she went 5 miles in a buggy to a bookclub reception the week before and it did not make her much tired. She came home and laid down awhile, and got up to eat supper and in a little while she went back to bed.

She got up the next morning fully rested and was well until last Friday morning. She woke up with a fearful headache. I told her not to get up and I'd bring her breakfast up to her and maybe she would feel better. I took up a cup of coffee and a raw egg and some toast. She took the coffee and the raw egg and told me she felt sick to her stomach and would lie down again. She would not give in to calling a doctor. Saturday afternoon when she had a slight chill and some fever, I asked Dr. Baldridge to come in and see her.

He is a good doctor and understood her frail body as he had treated her last spring and was so tender and careful of her. He lives in part of the house. He and his wife have rooms right across from your sister's room and they were great friends. Your sister placed great confidence in him and he would not give her any strong medicine, that is calomel or strong spirits, but when she had the chill and the fever came up, he then commenced doing so to build her up, as the fever left her so weak, coughing as she did. Dr. Baldridge called two other physicians to consult but they both said he had done all anyone could do, that it was LaGrippe; the grippe is very bad here now.

I asked her if I should call her son but she told me "no." She had just written him a long letter on Wednesday and she'd write to him again in a few days. That was 7 o'clock Wednesday night and at midnight she went to sleep. We would try to rouse her for a drink of water but she would shake her head and go to sleep again. At 6:45 a.m. she breathed her last and had a peaceful smile on her face as usual. She died as she lived and I am sure she is with the angels in Heaven today.

We wired him at once and we did not get an answer till 2 o'clock that afternoon. We also telegraphed Mrs. Hermans of Kansas City. When we heard from J. P. Tichenor he told us to put her remains away at Manor. We then made arrangements to put her remains in my lot in the Manor Cemetery.

Yesterday morning we received a telegram from Mr. Tichenor, telling us to ship her body to Ithaca, N. Y., but it was too late. We would have had to send to Austin, Texas, for a man to embalm her. She had been dead so long, they could not do it. We then went to the railroad agent at Manor. We thought perhaps he could send her through by putting her in a solid metal-

lic case but he told us we could not do that as there were so many contagious diseases in the south now and they would be liable to drop her off on the road somewhere and bury her. And then he told us if we tried it, it would cost between 300-400 dollars and that paid in advance and running the risk of losing her body.

He told us to bury her till the fall and then you could have her lifted out and put her body in a metallic case and that could be shipped safely for one fare. If we shipped her now it would be double fare.

It is warm here now and we could not keep her longer. We had the Methodist preacher and we put her away in a nice rosewood coffin, not a case; of course, it was not real rosewood for that could not be had short of St. Louis.

The new cloth dress shad had made when she was with you, lace cascaded down the front. It was what we once heard her say she thought was so nice for burials. We then put a black satin ribbon for a sash and had her black silk petticoat you sent her, put on and her best white skirts underneath the black silk one. She had no real black silk dress and they all had color in them.

The new cloth dress she had made when she was wihth you, she hated so. It was so heavy and ugly. We paid 85c a yard for the goods and we got 5 yds. I wrote to her son last night and asked him what I should do with her clothing and if I should send the trunk to you or to him and if I should send her gold watch and rings and gold-framed glasses in the trunk or send them separately. She had one diamond ring, the others were not so expensive.

The last thing she did was a small doily of battenberg lace. I would send it to you as I know you'd appreciate it. Oh, Oh, when I set down to my table and there is that vacant chair, the dear one so short a time ago occupied, I can't eat. She was so dear. It is hard to give her up. There were so many flowers sent in yesterday for her grave.

She had planted a bed of sweet peas in Feb. and they were the dwarf variety, they will soon be in bloom. She would go out to the bed each day and look at them.

She is in a more beautiful land now and she can look at all

the same but not in sorrow or pain. She is now with the dear ones gone before.

She went to church just once. She was afraid of starting her hemorrhage by being in a close room, but she read her Bible.

She took great interest in her bookclub work, never failed to go there. The clubroom was near to us and the girls looked for her to lead them. She selected nearly all the books for them.

I never took my clothes off to sleep for the time she took sick until she died and was at her bedside.

Please write me as soon as you can and tell me if there is anything more you would like me to tell you of her. I will be only too glad to answer any questions.

God be with you and yours, H. K. Crozier.

Manor, Texas, April 18, 1900

My dear Mrs. Ozmun:

I received your letter of the 29th of March and was glad to hear from you. I will always love you because I loved your sister so, the dear woman, to think it possible that she has gone to eternal resting place.

I packed all her things and shipped them all last week and how bad I did feel when all was gone. I sent by express to her son, her watch and rings and her gold glasses and her valuable papers and the trunk key. We had to put the trunk in a solid box as they would not ship it by freight in a crate. We got a box large enough to hold the trunk and all her things.

She had never made her silk waist to the skirt you sent to her, she intended making it this spring. She had sent to Buffalo for a summer dress and it came after she was gone. Her Buffalo friends also had sent her some nice things for her birthday but it was all sent back by the postmaster at Manor.

I received a letter from Mrs. Hermans and she told me she had just got a lot of nice things to send to Mrs. Tichenor for her birthday, but she had not sent them when she got word of her death. She wrote also that your sister intended your daughter to have her watch as Mrs. Hermans had given it to your sister. Mrs. Hermans wanted your sister's Bible for a keepsake. I wrote to Mr. Tichenor about the little doily of batten-

berg lace that was intended for you, and I hope he will send it to you.

She had not gotten any new winter dresses as she had plenty and did not go out very much.

Mrs. Tichenor had commenced to take a great interest in the poor. There was one lady in particular who was old and her husband had consumption, that your sister gave quite a lot of her clothes to and she went around the neighborhood and asked others to help the poor woman. Your sister took those poor people their Christmas dinner herself. She was so proud to think she could do it.

Mrs. Woodward sent me a good picture of your sister; I never had one.

Now, Mrs. Ozmun, if its not asking too much of you, I would like to have one of your pictures as I fear we will never see each other on this earth. I hope we will see each other in a better world without end.

I had a letter from Mr. Tichenor, telling me he intended to come to Manor, Texas, this fall and get his mother's remains and take them back and lay them beside her father. I hope he will.

I will always be glad to get a letter from you if you think I'm worthy of it. If there is anything you want to ask me, I will be glad to answer. Yours lovingly, H. K. Crozier.

She never was returned to New York State.—J.H.C.

The Spiral Stairway

Machinery cannot compete with human hands and ingenuity. An impressive example of this is in the spiral stairway in the old Charlie Ozmun house in North Lansing. Construction was started in 1863, but to one man goes the credit for completing a task after two years of patient toil from early morning to late at night.

Strange as it may seem, this man was not of any particular trade. His entire path of life had been a continuous round of ill luck. When William Howser drove up to the house in 1922, he introduced himself to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ozmun as from Detroit, Mich. The latter had no idea that in such a short time would a certain oddity in the Ozmun homestead be completed after 60 years. At the time, Mr. Ozmun was well along in years, but he was grateful to see his grandfather's plans fulfilled.

The solid mahogany spiral stairway caused interest and curiosity while the lone workman toiled with the last sections remaining to complete the structure. It had been given up by some of the more expert stairbuilders of this section as an impossibility, but this man completed the task entirely by hand. When done, it was opened to the public for several years, and hundreds of persons viewed the work.

Mr. Ozmun's grandfather, a millwright, had constructed the house for his family over a century and a half ago. It was one that would not crumble away within a few years but a building that would be everlasting and would serve his family and the generations to follow. His plans were well formed. He had completed the homestead with the exception of the stairway before he died. This portion was the winding stairway which he had planned to build from the first floor, through the large cupola on the roof, exceptionally large at the bottom and gradully receding toward the center at the top.

But construction of the stairway had only been started when

the builder died and no one could be found who could take up the work where he left off. As a result, the door leading to the foot of the stairs remained closed for many years.

Hundreds of feet of Honduras mahogany, purchased for a small sum, was stored in a hogshed on the farm where it remained untouched. About 1898 the work was resumed, the builder to be paid $1,000 for the job. But fate again intervened and the only man who had been found up until that time who could actually guarantee finishing the job, was taken suddenly ill and died before progress could be made.

Again the doors leading to the stairs were closed to remain so until Mr. Ozmun became owner of the homestead at his father's death, and took up the task of completing the stairway. He had no idea that it would be difficult to resume the work. Some of the leading builders agreed to work at various prices until it came to drawing the drafts. They did not back out, but decided it was an impossible task to complete the stairway.

Mr. Ozmun heard of William Howser of Detroit, but his efforts to secure the man's services were unavailing, and finally gave up and decided to lock the door and leave the job undone forever or until the homestead was torn down.

It was about 1922 when Mr. Howser inquired his way to the the Ozmun farm, driving in from Detroit in a Fork truck in which he had a large packing case. He was welcomed to the farm but was informed that the construction of the stairway had been abandoned owing to the condition of the wood that had remained in the hogshed almost a century. As proof that he could build the stairway, Mr. Howser brought with him in the packing case, a large writing desk he had started in 1890 but had not yet completed. The writing desk, unfinished, had a prominent place near the entrance to the stairway.

Mr. Howser used more than 27,000 pieces of wood to build the stairway. He purchased old musical instruments, using the best parts in the construction of the desk. The first night at the Ozmun home, he pried open the hogshed and carried one of the mahogany planks to the house. With a fine saw, he cut a slice as thin as paper and declared the wood as good as the day it was purchased. Then and there the winding stairway began to take form.

He worked alone, cutting the lumber by hand as he needed it. When the stairs were completed there was not enough lumber left to build a cigar box. The stairway is true to the original plans in every respect. There are no two sections of the same design and a trained eye cannot find a single joint which does not fit as snugly as if it were one piece.

Dr. Martin Besemer

H.B

12/8/18 Dr. Martin Besemer of Ithaca made many calls upon Lansing residents and performed surgery here. Over the years there were many Lansing doctors and much earlier practitioners, but he was the first to perform appendectomies here and in the surrounding areas of Ithaca. There are two of these operations of which I have personal knowledge: Irene Mapes and Mrs. Jennie Dean, on kitchen tables. Irene is the sister of Mrs. Eugene Atwater and Jennie Dean is the mother of Kermit Dean.

Born in the Town of Caroline in 1860, Dr. Besemer earned his degree of philosophy at Cornell, class of 1889. Later he graduated at Bellevue Medical Hospital and Medical College of New York City, obtaining his medical degree in 1891. He later completed a course at Cleveland Homeopathic Medical College.

Dr. Besemer then returned to Ithaca and for some time was associated with his father, Dr. Howard B. Besemer. Likewise, MARTIN he practiced with Dr. Robert T. Morris, a noted New York City surgeon and graduate of Cornell. This association gave him exceptional experience in surgery, for he assisted his mentor in many cases. Dr. Besemer was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a member of the Tompkins County Medical Society and its president in 1890.

His knowledge of medicine and surgery was far in advance of that of his predecessors. People placed great confidence in him, and because he was noted for his surgery, he was frequently called to Lansing.

Medicine and surgery in the 1880's had a long way to travel to the point of modernization. Absent were antibiotics or man-made drugs, and it was much later before oxygen became available; blood transfusions were not practiced. Before 1870 there had been no laboratories except in anatomy.

Various chlorine solutions, carbolic acid, oil of tar, alcohol

solutions, and balsams were used for dressing wounds. They failed, however, to do but a minor part in antiseptic service.

There were few precision instruments, but there was the stethoscope and a clinical thermometer that took three minutes to register. Edison had invented the incandescent lamp in 1879, but many years elapsed before it found a way into the cystoscope or other scopes.

The operating-room equipment consisted of a plain wooden table for the instruments, linen or oakum dressings, unbleached muslin bandages (there was no absorbent cotton) and a large tin basin. In this basin were one or two sea sponges, and instructions were to have them so clean that no sand or bits of shells could get into the wound because such foreign bodies were irritating! Sponges were to be squeezed out over a slop jar in the course of an operation in order to avoid changing the water in the basin too frequently.

If the metal parts of surgical instruments were clean and free from previous surgery, the wooden handle didn't matter so much. Most of the surgery was done in the private home after all rugs and carpets were removed from the floor, and the windows soaped so the curious could not see inside but yet let light enter.

The surgeon carried a large bag with a special compartment for gown, towels, sponges, bandages, antiseptic solutions, catgut and silk ligatures, and his instruments.

To avoid soiling his clothes, the surgeon donned his gown which was a clean kitchen apron or a linen duster. He washed his hands after the surgery rather than before. If his knife was too dull, he might give it a slash or two across the sole of his leather shoe to keen its edge. While tying a torniquet he might hold it between his teeth.

After supplying the pan, pail, pitcher and hot water, the whole family often would go into conference on the advisability of a surgical procedure. It was customary to use one basin of water, with one or two sponges, but the water was changed between each case. It was poured from the pitcher and the sponges rinsed only when it was necessary.

The majority of doctors would examine an obstetrics case and then go on to the next without any sort of preparation.

Although some physicians felt that childbed fever was contagious, they could not understand why it should be.

Earlier physicians in Lansing who were rated as skilled included Davis Hill, M.D., New Hampshire born in 1809, who practiced in Ludlowville. Skilled, kind and successful, he spent his whole professional life in Lansing. Dr. Frederick Hahneman, a homeopathic, was not looked upon favorably, so he stayed but a short time. A graduate of a hospital, he practiced in Ludlowville in 1827. Dr. Hiram Moe in 1827 and Dr. John F. Burdick two years later were other early practitioners here.

Today we have Dr. Ernst M. Foerster who has attended our ills and complaints since 1946.

Of course, the practice of surgery and medicine has come a long way since the early days of Dr. Besemer even though he was far in advance of his predecessors, and we can thank our lucky stars that we live in an age when so much more is known or being discovered for easing human ills. Life expectancy is much longer and we can move confidently with surgery when it becomes necessary. No longer need mothers fear going to the hospital to bear their babies.

Lansing Justice

My Dad was justice of the peace in Lansing for 30 years. To protect them from embarrassment tales emanating from the office and related here do not present the names of persons involved. Only those concerned will recognize themselves, but they are invited to share the smiles with other readers.

Many were the nights when we would be aroused from deep slumbers by a vigorous banging on the door or our bedroom window for emphasis. This would announce the state police or the sheriff's men, and we knew it meant urgent business. Many of the after-dark emergencies were results of family quarrels, with the little wife swearing out a warrant for her husband's arrest. Then Dad would instruct the lawman to pick up the husband, a procedure that took an hour or more.

Almost always the protesting wife would call the next morning and withdraw the charges. In time we came to recognize the repeaters, and when they showed up I'd often refuse to get Dad up. I'd tell them to come back during daytime. Most didn't.

In one of the more spectacular fracasses, the wife left home and family, but eventually returned only to find another woman taking care of her children so the breadwinner could keep his job. She beat up the housekeeper and threw her to the floor, pummeling her and scratching her face. When the housekeeper appeared at Dad's office her swollen face was scratched and bleeding.

There were quite a few marriages at which Dad officiated in his best manner, Robert and I being witnesses to many. It is interesting to note that not all of these rites were performed in our home, exigencies of the case dictating another locale. One Sunday, for instance, a man came and asked Dad to go to his home and marry his daughter; excitedly, he stressed the urgency: the daughter was about to have a baby! Dad went, a little amazed, I imagine, and performed the duties of his office

in her bedroom. The baby came near being a guest at the ceremony, for it arrived soon after.

Dad had some pretty gruesome cases to vary his experience. There was a family that was expecting a baby, and eventually neighbors heard the cry of a newborn child but no one saw the newcomer. Upon investigation, it was discovered that the baby had been buried in the family garden. Upon exhuming the remains, they came upon the skeletons of several other children who had been buried in that unhallowed ground.

Then there was one of the most unbelievable affairs between a female Cornell student and a Lansing man. Although she had him arrested, from her testimony it was clear that she brought it all upon herself. A case of perverted sex, she related all the details with a smile. Poor Dad! The disclosures nearly made him ill.

Years ago Dad went to feed his chickens one morning when he found blood in the snow and two chicken heads in the henhouse. He called the sheriff, and together they followed telltale blood and footprints to a house where the chickens were cooking on the stove. The culprit was Dad's hired man!

A family had been quarantined because the children were ill. The father was arrested at a barroom on a charge of endangering public health. On numerous occasions there were complaints sworn out that charged fathers with threatening bodily harm and using abusive language to their wives and children. In many cases these complaints were repeated throughout the years.

Before the day of the alcoholic tests, the local doctor would be called. Dr. Rossitor would have suspects try to walk a straight line or repeat this: "Around the rugged rock the ragged rascal ran." One highly inebriated man stood up, weaving, and started to sing, "Around the rugged rascal, Oh, hell, let him run," and sat down.

If Dad was at the farside of the field when the troopers came, I would toot the car horn three times to let him know they were here. While the troopers waited for him, they often stopped cars along the highway to check licenses. This particular day the senior trooper had a rookie with him and wanted to show him how it was done. As one man passed, he smiled

at me and waved at the officers. The trooper told the rookie that the man probably had a license, but when the man came back the trooper stopped him to check his license. He had none!

One man driving with switched plates sought to fool the lawman by traveling side roads. But it just happened that cars were being checked at a point where this road crossed the main highway.

Before rules became so strict with state police, I'd invite them to eat with us if they happened in at mealtime. They usually accepted, it's not strange to say. One of these liked to visit and tell of his experiences, all interesting, some real funny.

One time as he was driving along a country road, he saw a lad shoot a female pheasant. He asked the boy to see it. The boy said, "Mother likes the female pheasant best. I have more at the edge of the woods; would you like to see them?" The trooper assured him that he would, and the boy offered to get them. He ran across the field, climbed over a fence, then called back to the trooper, "I know who you are." Running like a deer, the boy disappeared into the woods beyond the fence.

It was during the fishing season that the trooper was checking up on licenses, the fisherman assured him he had left it at home. Whereupon, he drove the angler to his home and waited and waited for him to come out again. As it turned out, it was an empty house; the miscreant went through it, out of the back door and disappeared.

Dad had many cases involving traffic violation, drunken driving, neighbor squabbles over line fences and such, desertions, the usual civil cases and dozens of all sorts of complaints. He built a reputation for dealing fairly and justly with all during his many years of service to his town. Perhaps, some are better citizens today for it.

North Lansing School District 5

Trustees' report, 1829—To the Commissioners of common schools of the Town of Lansing, we the trustees of School Dist. No. 5 of said Town, in conformity with the State of New York in the support of the common schools, do certify and report that the whole time any school has been kept in our district during the year ending on the date hereof and since.

The report from the date of the last report of said district is 10 months and 20 days; by teachers duly appointed and approved by the inspector according to law; that the money received in our district since the date of the last report is $97.09, and that the same has been expended on account of teacher's wages, duly appointed and inspected in all respects according to law; that the number of children taught in the school during the same year since the report is 136. And the number of children residing in the district on the first day of January over 5 and under sixteen, is one hundred and eighteen and the names of the parent and other persons with whom such children reside and the numbers residing with each family is as follows:

Charles Piatt	1	Joseph Winter	1	Braddock Searles	3
Wm. Weisler	1	Jacob Snyder	1	Charles Beardslee	5
Henry Robinson	1	Christian Kaim	5	David Evins	3
Daniel Spencer	1	Morris DeCamp	2	Benj. Shover	5
David Hamilton	1	Nathan Fuller	2	Amasa Culver	3
John Ozmun	3	Joseph Bishop	3	John Pierson	1
Reuber Rowey	2	George Bowker	3	James Beardslee	1
Andrew Miller	7	George Bossard	3	Warren Davidson	3
David Beardslee	2	Samuel Green	5	Joshua Joy	3
Ichabod Beardslee	1	Josiah Curtis	3	Joseph Beardslee	2
George Williams	3	Elias William	4	William Woodruff	6
W. H. Brooks	2	Jacob William	3	John Bowker	5
Andrew Bowes	5	Nathaniel Climer	3	Jacob Cruf	3
David Johnson	1			Benj. Tetty	3

JOSHUA JAY, *Clerk;* JOSEPH BISHOP, NATHAN FULLER, BRADDOCK SEARLES, *Trustees.*

School meetings were held once a year, in October. Buying firewood at the lowest bid was always voted at the fall meetings. This year the wood was to be good hardwood of lengths to fit the stove and to be split suitable for stovewood. (The length was two feet and pole size or split pieces that passed easily through the 10x15-inch door of a boxstove. This fuel was to be delivered in June, corded and ready for inspection; during the summer it seasoned in the schoolyard.)

School was kept four months in winter, starting November 20, and six in summer when the smaller pupils attended. In 1831, children of school age numbered 69.

A special meeting in April 1835 considered remodeling the schoolhouse. It was voted to take off all the overhead, and lay 80 square feet of floor over hall, repair and paint underpinning, add three new benches and repair existing ones; install a new door, a new six-inch stovepipe, and two rods for the stove; also ceil unceiled area in hall. Best offer was that of Nathan Williams who agreed to perform the job by the May 1 for $14.

Teachers were paid $61.60 for the 1868 term, when there were 68 school-age children in the district. Two-thirds of them registered for winter school and the remainder for the summer term.

Schoolbooks in use in 1841 were Brown's Grammar, Adams and Smith's Arithmetic, U.S. History, English Reader, Sander's Reader, Only's Geography, Sander's Spelling Book.

1849—The library had grown to 140 books. Children attended irregularly: 10 for two months and 20 for four.

1852—It was resolved to build a new schoolhouse not to exceed $400 in cost. A later meeting at the North Lansing Hotel voted to build on the old site and to raise $800.

Feb. 21, 1865—John Linderman was awarded job of building schoolhouse. Windows, seats, desks from the old building were sold to A. H. Terbill [*sic*] for $8.47. Plans were made for new schoolhouse to cost $832.50.

1881—Motion made and carried to have new floor laid and new seats installed. Flooring was to be Norway pine and the boards not to exceed 6 inches in width.

The Short Line

At the turn of the century there were demands for improved transportation between Ithaca and Auburn. It was thought that the existing service was too infrequent and that there should be some quicker route between these two points. Later a group of promoters, headed by L. W. Feint of New York, planned a new route or "short line" to connect the two points. Ultimately, the Lansing railroad was incorporated on March 8, 1900. Plans called for the construction of a line north from Ithaca to South Lansing, North Lansing, Venice, and into Auburn. Work was not started on the Lansing line for several years.

It was not until 1906 that the Auburn Construction Company was organized to build the railroad which was locally known as the Ithaca, Auburn Short Line. Under agreement, the line was to be a standard-gauge railroad, equipped with a third rail. The contract called for 70-pound "T" rails and three substations along the route. It was hoped that when completed it would be possible to run electric trains direct from Ithaca to Syracuse by way of Auburn and a converting interurban line. The plans were never carried out because of the great expense to be incurred.

Extra-length ties were eventually laid along the route but they never carried the extra rail. It was found that the steep grades between Ithaca and South Lansing and the proper yard space in Ithaca made the construction of a steam railroad unfeasible and that an electric line would be more adaptable. It was finally decided that the route would consist of 29 miles of railroad between Auburn and South Lansing and a seven-mile electric section connecting South Lansing with Ithaca. Work on the grading of the new line started in Auburn in the spring of 1906. Part of the route was laid out over the abandoned right of way of the New York Midland Railroad.

The Short Line made use of this right of way from about three miles south of Auburn to within a mile north of South Lansing. The work was slowed down by the "gulf crossing" near North Lansing. The Midland had crossed this deep ravine on a wooden trestle, but the builders of the Short Line put their road across on an immense fill of earth and cinders which took about a year to create. While the steam-section work was going on, there was activity in building the electric section.

This part was built over steep grades and crossed several ravines which required either bridges or fills. A short distance from Ithaca the hills ran to the lake edge so a roadbed had to be cut out of the side of the hill.

The first operation started with freight service between Auburn and South Lansing on March 1, 1908. During this period the freight trains were operated at night so as not to interfere with construction operations. This railroad was opened to passenger service between Auburn and Genoa July 1, 1908, and to Tarbell on September 19 of the same year.

A silver spike was driven at Esty's, four miles north of Ithaca, on December 12, 1908.

The electric division was opened for passenger service between Ithaca and South Lansing on January 1, 1909, which marked regular passenger service between Ithaca and Auburn.

A second engine was put on the road in 1906; the third was No. 3, called a 100 per cent "cabbage cutter." Always falling apart, it lasted only through the construction work.

Poles were erected along the line to carry high-tension transmission lines which would have used the third rail. However, it was used only for a telephone line for the company. The distance from South Lansing to State and Tioga Streets was seven miles.

From Renwick Junction to the center of the city the Short Line had trackage rights over the Ithaca trolley system. The first office at 138 East State Street in 1909 was moved to North Tioga Street that same year. Here were offices, waiting room, ticket offices and a baggage room. A small freighthouse was erected at the northeast corner of Fall and Tioga Streets. It could accommodate six cars.

Shortly after the electric division was opened, a small exten-

sion was built for the mail line near today's Volbrecht lumber yard to the Rogues Harbor Hotel in the summer of 1909 and opened for service to the hotel.

No. 4 engine weighed 56 tons. Used for freight, it did snow-plow work in winter.

There were usually four steam trains from Auburn daily, three on Sunday. They started their run from Auburn, taking about an hour and ten minutes to make it. The electric train took the passengers to Ithaca in about 25 minutes. Closed-pouch mail was carried between Ithaca and Auburn.

The passenger equipment on the steam section consisted of coaches and combination passenger-and-baggage cars of wood construction and open platforms. The electric section equipment consisted mostly of some convertible trolley cars leased from Ithaca traction. These were painted green and cream. The first car was No. 33; later cars No. 35 and 37 were in service. At one time the line owned a large, open-bench trolley car.

The Short Line handled some crowds in its heyday, New York Central coaches being delivered in time for the State Fair at Syracuse. Special trolley cars would leave Ithaca at 7 a.m., passenger transferring to the steam section at South Lansing; additional passengers would be picked up all the way to Auburn.

On the big days it was the usual thing to have 15 or more coaches filled to the platforms. This was a Wednesday and Thursday when the trains were hauled straight through to the Fairgrounds by the New York Central. Two engines would be used on the return trip from Syracuse at about 7 p.m. as all 15 loaded coaches were too much for one engine to handle on the 11-mile grade between Auburn and Merrifield. There were other events that crowded the trains, like the Tompkins County Fair and Farmers' Week at Cornell.

The electric section handled its share when boat races terminated at McKinney's. Three thousand passengers were carried to the finish line in one race, according to Charles Sigler, the Short Line motorman. During these events additional trolleys had to be put on to handle the crowds between Ithaca and South Lansing. Sometimes even Pullman cars were hauled on the Short Line to accommodate football and baseball teams.

Steep grades out of Ithaca and the lack of proper facilities there put the Short Line in a poor position for freight traffic in and out of Ithaca. Because of the steep hills and lack of terminal space it was impossible to run steam trains into Ithaca. They could operate no farther than McKinney's.

For a while the company used a small four-wheeled electric locomotive to handle carload freight over the trolley section of the road. This was No. 10, 20 feet in length and weighing 80 tons. It could handle only one car at a time. This meant a great many trips, back and forth, when any number of freight cars had to be moved between Ithaca and South Lansing. Car No. 11 was another piece of equipment, a large express-baggage car that did duty as an electric engine. This was painted dark green and had a removable snowplow, but these did not operate too well in the snow. Often in the winter No. 4 was assigned to break open the road with the snowplow. Once, through traffic was held up 16 days by snow. At another time over a period of 25 days, the line was tied up 15 days.

Besides the trolley operations, which connected with steam at South Lansing, there were several trips each day that terminated at Rogues Harbor. In 1909 there were six to the hotel, cut to five in 1910, to three in 1912. The branch was discontinued October 19, 1920.

Charles Sigler was motorman for many years. His salary in 1912 was $81.84 for May. In 1916, he earned 25 cents an hour and his pay for May was $82.50. By August 1923, he was earning $132 a month. Lewis J. Prime was station agent at South Lansing station. Bernard Kelly was the conductor.

The automobile soon began to cut into the services of the Short Line. As the express and passenger service declined, the McKeen cars were used more and more until they practically replaced the steam runs.

Business gradually declined. During the last years on the road, there was one steam freight which made the trip from Ithaca to Auburn in anywhere from six to twelve hours, depending on the volume available. Passenger service usually consisted of three or four trips a day in each direction. The Short Line, however, came to close October 31, 1923; the following summer the line was torn up for scrap.

Blizzards Big Winter Problem

On December 24, 1910, a blizzard sifted two cuts full of snow, tied up the Short Line so that the train from Auburn, due in Ithaca at 10:15 a.m., did not arrive until 5:30 p.m. A lot of angry passengers on the train got off at various stations; probably 40 or 50 of them had missed Christmas dinners by being laid up all day on the train or at stations along the way.

Twenty passengers left on train 21 from Auburn at 8:30 a.m. on the 25th, and for the most part stayed on the train until it pulled down behind the snowplow late in the afternoon. Some detrained at various stations, others came on to Ithaca. A number of persons who had planned connections with the 5 o'clock car for East Ithaca station stayed in the city overnight.

Train 21 left Auburn on its regular time of 8:30 a.m. The wind was blowing 15-20 miles an hour and driving snow before it. The train ran into trouble between Auburn and Mapleton, where was located the first scissors cut on the Short Line. The engine finally plowed through this, and the train went on.

At Foley's cut, between Mapleton and Merrifield, No. 21 stalled for keeps. This was the worst cut on the road. It was the cause of much delay in the wintertime; when No. 21 undertook to plow through, the snow piled nearly to the top of the car windows. The engine snorted, backed up and went ahead again, and then came to a dead stop, stuck in the snow so it could go neither way.

By the time the snowplow could get out from Auburn, it was well towards noon and the passengers settled down in the belief that they would get to their homes or destinations in time for a late dinner, but the fates ruled otherwise. The snowplow engine butting the rear of the train, smashed a platform on the rear car. The engine itself was damaged. Finally, the crew got things running again and No. 21's engine hauling cars bearing

20 passengers, pulled away, permitting the snowplow and its engine to trail back to Auburn which was reached shortly after 1 p.m.

Meanwhile, at various stations along the line, people had come to meet friends they had invited to Christmas dinner, passengers, too, were waiting, and the station agents were keeping the lines hot with inquiries. In some places the passengers were doing their best to keep fires going and the stations warm. The temperature was 16 or 17 degrees above zero and the gale was blowing and howling as if the Short Line never existed. When the score of passengers, No. 21, the snowplow and its engine got back to Auburn, the passengers were told the train would start out again and the snowplow would go ahead. No. 21 was sidetracked pending developments. The snowplow didn't get around to start until after 3 p.m., with the passengers staying on board and still hoping for that Christmas dinner, poking the fires and trying to believe they were having an adventure.

When the snowplow finally got started a little after 3 p.m., it conquered the drifts south of Auburn easily, then chortled south to tackle Foley's congested chasm when, by repeated backing and butting, the plow finally got underway, reports went down the line to the waiting friends, passengers and station agents that the plow was operating and would be in Merrifield. Everyone was advised that if it got there it would get the rest of the way. It did and the passengers felt dinner was in sight. Almost everyone had to postpone dinner as No. 21 didn't leave Auburn until she was sure the plow got past Foley's. At 4:09 the train reached Foley's and began to let off angry passengers, and take on other angry persons who wanted to become passengers. Both train and plow reached South Lansing in due time. These 20 passengers and another score of would-be travellers who had been picked up, eventually reached Ithaca at 5:30 p.m.

The water tank was at the Water Wagon crossing, a location that was often drifted in wintertime.

On March 1, 1914, the area witnessed the worst blizzard since that of 1888. The Short Line crew and 22 passengers were snowbound near Bogardus' place and required to stay there overnight.

The railroad handcar was used by young people to get to dances at North Lansing. One time some of a group had been drinking before they wanted to go to South Lansing. They took the handcar someone had used to get to the dance, but didn't see the train coming, so ran into it head on. All flew up in the air but only one was injured, as he landed on his thumb! Some of the local boys rode the handcar downgrade to the hotel and travelled pretty fast. At the end of the tracks was a large timber where the train stopped. When they hit it, the boys flew in all directions and the handcar overturned.

New York & Midland Railroad

A Contemporary Newspaper Account

The New York & Oswego Midland Railroad Company are building a road which diverges from the direct route to Oswego at Norwich and is now completed as far as Cortland. The companies are negotiating for trackage on the Ithaca-Cortland railroad as far as Freeville, and the probability is that they will soon secure this; if not, they will build a track of their own.

From Freeville, a line will be built to intersect the Murdock road near W. A. Ozmun's in the Town of Lansing; thence running northwest to connect with the Great Western, Michigan Central and Northern Pacific, thus opening a main track line from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The people of the Town of Lansing, desirous of benefitting Ithaca, their county seat, when bonding the town for one hundred thousand dollars, reserved five thousand dollars with the express understanding that it was to be used by the company for constructing a branch road from Ozmun's to Ithaca, and the bonds should be issued for no other purpose. The branch road to extend south to the coal regions, thus securing the valuable coal traffic to Ithaca.

When we consider that "competition is the life of business," we see at once that another line through Ithaca is calculated to increase the facilities of commerce, trade and manufacture, and to be of incalculable advantage to Tompkins County and to Ithaca, its chief town. For advantages which arise from railroad development cannot benefit a town without benefitting every town in a given region of country. Whatever helps the town of Lansing, helps adjoining towns in some way, and whatever helps Ithaca and increases her population and manufactures, tends inevitably and directly to benefit every town. No town or city or individual can obtain advantages of wealth and hold them entirely unshared by others. A ready and rapid

interchange of products, coal in abundance and an outlet for it to the north by this line, are some of the many advantages to accrue to Ithaca from the completion of a half-made road through a country well calculated to sustain a line of railroad with local traffic alone.

Work on the main line is rapidly progressing near Freeville; also grading is being done in Lansing, Genoa and Venice. The only work of any magnitude in this vicinity is the trestle work at Beardsley's Gulf, which requires two hundred and forty-six thousand feet of lumber. Parties in Newark Valley are furnishing this, which is being delivered by the Southern Central at Locke. The contract for drawing the timber from Locke to the Gulf has been taken by A. H. Tarbell, whose well-known energy and promptness in executing whatever he undertakes to do, together with the ambition of many in this region to assist in the building of a road, so long neglected, has had the effect to roll out such a force of teams and hands, that the timber is being drawn so rapidly that some days as many as thirty-five thousand feet have arrived.

Mr. Leonard, the contractor for grading, expects to increase the force of hands as soon as the spring opens, when work will be pushed, grading done, rails laid, and by the first of July we may hear the wild shriek of triumph from the iron steed as it rushes through the now quiet fields, tramping out its merciless prejudice to progress, and opening the way to prosperity in the future.

The Murdock Railroad

Out of the railroad mania of the 1830's, only one line to Ithaca materialized. Although there was not to be another until 1871, midway in this interval a revival of interest in local railroads occurred, the objective being to continue the Cayuga & Southern northward. Ebenezer Marks' Ithaca & Geneva and Ithaca & Auburn charters of the 1830's had lapsed but in 1848 his name again appears, this time as one of the promoters of a line from Auburn to Ithaca, passing through the towns of Fleming and Scipio and down the valley to Salmon Creek. Both this and a former Auburn route involved impractical climbs up Salmon Creek and Fall Creek. The former railroad was to build a road from Fall Creek to Cayuga Lake and to Auburn in 1835. No work was done on this project.

Only one of these projects reached the construction stage: the Lake Ontario, Auburn & New York Railroad. The object of this road was to provide a northern outlet for the Cayuga & Susquehanna at Fairhaven on Lake Ontario. The line was to branch from the C&S at Pugsley's about 10 miles southeast of Ithaca, keep to the north bank of Six Mile Creek through the former East Hill depot. There it turned north and, after crossing Cascadilla, continued on a level grade until it left the county at North Lansing. The grading of this portion was completed in 1853, except for about five miles northward from Cascadilla Creek. Of the total distance from Pugsley's to Fairhaven, about half was graded and of this half, two sections in the county were subsequently used by other railroad companies: Sixteen miles of it from Ozmun's near North Lansing to Scipio Center by the New York & Oswego Midland Railroad.

Worthington Smith, supervisor of the railroad's real estate in Tompkins and Cayuga Counties, endeavored to interest Ezra Cornell in the project without success. Writing on December

28, 1852, he said: "We have five companies south from Auburn at work grading and shall commence in a few days our grading in Tompkins County. Our entire line is under contract to be graded within one year from last month." (October 1853). He mentioned also that orders for delivery of rail and other equipment had been placed, and that he had deeds for the right of way from two miles north of Fall Creek to within 12 miles of Auburn. After describing the enthusiasm with which the farmers along the route were supporting the project, he continued: "We regret, however, to say that the village of Ithaca, almost to a man, is unfriendly to our road." This feeling he ascribes to the fact that the company refused to descend to lake level to join the Cayuga & Susquehannan. The route adopted would have crossed the University on a line where Bailey Hall now stands.

Work was stopped, owing to lack of funds caused by unauthorized town-bonding procedure. It was customary for the Legislature to authorize towns along the route of a proposed railroad to subscribe to railroad stock as a community, providing certain formalities were complied with. In the case of the Lake Ontario, Auburn & New York bonds the signatures of taxpayers in the towns of Venice and Genoa were found to have been obtained in an irregular manner, and thereupon the bonding was declared invalid. The company was reorganized on May 9, 1856, but little further work was done, although it was not until 20 years later that the last act concerning the company's affairs was passed by the state Legislature. The completed grading has been referred to ever since as the "Murdock Line" after a resident of Venice Center, Lyman Murdock, who was interested in this and subsequent railroad developments in the area.

The Murdock Line was bought from one Wood in 1871, an agreement with Ithaca and Cortland was signed in March 1872 and by December the railway had been completed from Freeville to Merrifield Road in Scipio township, 12 miles short of Auburn. The Murdock grade was utilized north of Ozmun's, a point near South Lansing. The whole line from Norwich to Scipio was referred to as the Auburn Branch.

In October 1872, before the line reached Scipio, " a grand,

free excursion" was organized to create goodwill for the new branch, and in accordance with the custom of the time, there was included a beautiful collation in a mammoth tent. The celebration took place in Venice and was attended by a crowd estimated at 8,000. But when regular passenger service was inaugurated in December, the traffic was so far below expectations that it was almost at once reduced to one train a week.

Mrs. Tichenor's Memorial

Too late for inclusion in the story of Marion Tichenor, a copy of a Memorial was received from the historian at Manor, Texas. It follows:

By the death of Mrs. M. W. Tichenor, who recently departed from this life at her home, the community lost one of God's noblest women. "None knew her but to love her, none named her but to praise her," could be truthfully said about this sweet-tempered woman, whose life among us has been an ever-present example of Christianity, and whose passing away was a disappointment to the grim reaper, Death, for those who live such lives, there is no death.

Mrs. Tichenor's home was in Ithaca, N. Y., and she had been in Texas only a few months, having come south with the hope of improving her health. Though she had been among the Manor people only a short time, she endeared herself to the hearts of all she met. The Tuesday Book Club, of which she was a member, passed the following resolutions:

Whereas, the Death Angel has entered this club circle and removed from our midst our beloved Mrs. M. W. Tichenor, and whereas, she was a prominent member of the Tuesday Book Club for a number of months, a faithful and regular attendant, therefore, be it resolved,

1st. That by her death the club has sustained a great loss is no longer enjoying the benefits of her superior knowledge, her pleasant companionship and her untiring co-operation in all efforts promoting the success of the club;

2nd. That the members of our club have lost a highly esteemed friend whose noble conduct has left them a worthy example of imitation and of influence for good that will not soon be forgotten;

3rd. That the members of this club unite with all her friends in extending to her bereaved relatives personal sympathy, and trust that they may receive from them light which in mercy will dispel the sorrow lately fallen upon them;

4th. Be it further resolved that a page of our minutes be devoted to her memory by inserting these resolutions thereon, and a copy be sent to the family of our deceased friend.—COMMITTEE.

Her simple monument in the Manor Cemetery in inscribed: Marion W. Tichenor of Lansing, N. Y. Died March 22, 1900.