

Leon L. Brockway, another job printer, issued the first number of the *Owego Advertiser* November 23, 1889. It lived but a few weeks.

The first attempt to establish a daily newspaper in Owego was made by Andrew H. Calhoun, publisher of the *Advertiser*, who issued the first number of the *Daily News and Advertiser* Oct. 18, 1838. It was published only a few weeks, owing to insufficient patronage.

The second attempt to establish a daily newspaper in Owego was made by Mr. Beebe in 1848, the year of the French revolution. The telegraph line had just reached Owego, and the publication of the *Daily Gazette* was begun in March of that year. The paper existed only from March to June.

Another attempt was made by Mr. Beebe to establish a daily edition of his paper in 1855, the first number appearing October 18. Its publication ceased with the issue of Dec. 6 of the same year, the patronage being insufficient to sustain it.

Mr. Beebe's last attempt to established a daily edition of the *Gazette* was made in 1861. He believed that the anxiety of the people to obtain the latest news from the war between the north and the south, would create a demand for a daily paper sufficient to ensure its success. The first number was issued May 27. The news from the seat of war gave the paper a fair circulation, but it did not receive sufficient advertising patronage to make its publication profitable, and it was accordingly discontinued during the last week in October, 1861.

The next attempt to found a daily newspaper in Owego was made by Dorsey B. Gibson. When the *Workingman* collapsed, the wife of Dr. Elias Seymour took possession of the plant, by virtue of a chattel mortgage. Gibson, who had been a printer in the *Review* office at Waverly, came to Owego and hired the old *Workingman* plant of Mrs. Seymour. His paper made its appearance August 4, 1879. It was called the *Daily Owegoan*. It was a poor thing and expired with its issue of Oct. 7, 1879.

November 4, 1882, Captain Gere, publisher of the weekly *Blade*, began printing a daily edition called the *Owego Daily Blade*. The daily and weekly *Blade* were published until April 23, 1887, when

both were discontinued, and the presses and material were sold and removed from Owego. The publication of the paper might have been continued indefinitely, as it was backed by ample capital, but it had been a losing venture from the outset, and when the publisher became tired of journalism he discontinued the paper.

The next daily in Owego was issued by Scott & Watros, publishers of the Tioga county *Record*. The first number of the daily edition was issued December 20, 1886, and was called the *Owego Daily Record*. It is still published by Scott & Watros, and is a good local paper, enjoying a fair measure of success.

The first number of the *Owego Daily Press* was issued December 3, 1896. Its publication was begun by C. E. Greenwood, R. P. Hogan, W. H. Smullen and C. N. Forsyth. It was discontinued with its issue of April 17, 1897.

The first paper printed in Waverly was the *Waverly Luminary*, established October 3, 1851, by Thomas Messenger, with an office on the second floor of the Spaulding block. After an existence of ten months the *Luminary* ceased to illuminate. The press and material were sold to Francis H. Baldwin, who, September 17, 1852, issued the first number of the *Waverly Advocate*, a weekly newspaper which subsequently became republican in politics and is still published. In 1853, the paper was sold to M. H. Bailey, but in 1854 Mr. Baldwin, in company with William Polleys, repurchased it and continued publication until December 1, 1860, when Oliver H. P. Kinney purchased the Baldwin interest. Baldwin retired permanently from journalism. He died in Waverly, April 19, 1890. He was born at Groton, Conn., July 4, 1812, and came to Factoryville in 1845. When Waverly was incorporated, in 1854, he was elected member of the board of trustees, and was the first president of the village. His sons are Albert and Hugh J. Baldwin. Polleys & Kinney published the *Advocate* until 1883, in which year both died. After their death George D. Genung, who had been for about a year the editor, continued publication for the administrators until April, 1884, when legal questions arose regarding the settlement of the estates, and the office was closed. J. C. Shear subsequently bought the Kinney interest, and on July

15, in the same year, E. M. Fenner purchased the entire establishment and publication of the paper was resumed. January 1, 1885, Fenner's father became nominally associated with him under the firm name of E. M. Fenner & Co. Mr. Genung was engaged as manager and editor, which position he filled until June 15, 1885, when the *Advocate* was sold to Wellar & Shear, who continued it until November 1, 1885, and then sold to E. L. Vincent. In 1889 Francis M. Perley purchased the paper and conducted it five years, until his death, August 26, 1894. Then Frank E. Perley, a reporter on the *Buffalo Express*, conducted the paper until November, 1894, when he sold it to Charles E. Currie and Harry W. Romer, of New York city. This partnership continued until August, 1896, when Mr. Currie purchased his partner's interest.

Oliver Hazard Perry Kinney was a man of fine abilities. He was born December 15, 1819, at Sheshequin, Pa. His grandfather, Joseph Kinney, a revolutionary soldier, came to the Wyoming valley from Vermont soon after the massacre and settled there. After having studied in the Towanda academy two years, Mr. Kinney became a student in David Wilmot's law office. He was admitted to the bar in 1844, and began law practice in Towanda. In 1858 he was elected a member of the Pennsylvania legislature, and was re-elected the next year. He came to Waverly in December, 1860, and became one of the owners of the *Advocate*. He was elected to represent Tioga county in the assembly of this state in 1868; was supervisor of the town of Barton from 1874 to 1877, inclusive. He was also active in local affairs, and was three years chief engineer of the Waverly fire department. In 1876, he was appointed postmaster of Waverly, and held the office at the time of his death, September 25, 1883. Mr. Kinney was prominent as a Spiritualist and Free Thinker. He also took great interest in local history. He was a prominent Odd Fellow and served two terms as deputy grand master of the district comprising Chemung, Schuyler and Tioga counties. He was a man of rugged honesty and a speaker of ability, aggressive and convincing.

William Polleys was a practical printer, born at Malden, Mass., August 18, 1816. When ten years of age he removed with his parents to Towanda, Pa., where his father worked as a shoemaker.

In 1834 he entered the *Elmira Republican* office as an apprentice, and after completing his term remained in the office as compositor until 1840, when he and Alvah S. Carter purchased the paper and conducted it until November, 1845. It was then sold to S. B. and C. G. Fairman and the name changed to the *Elmira Advertiser*. Mr. Polleys remained in the office as foreman until 1854, then removed to Waverly and entered into partnership with Francis H. Baldwin in the publication of the *Advocate*. He was postmaster of Waverly fourteen years, from 1861 to 1876. He died in the village June 26, 1883.

The publication of the *Waverly and Athens Democrat* was begun at Waverly by David P. Schultz in the winter of 1867. A year afterward Samuel C. Clisbe became his partner, but remained only a few months. The paper died a natural death in 1870, and the printing material was sold to the *Advocate*.

January 7, 1863, Francis H. Baldwin began publication of the *Tioga and Bradford Democrat* at Waverly. It was continued four years, after which the press and material were removed to Port Jervis.

Frank T. Scudder, a practical printer, started the *Waverly Enterprise* October 15, 1867. It was neutral in politics. At first it was a monthly paper, but December 15, 1869, was changed to a semi-monthly. January 1, 1871, it was again changed to a weekly. July 1, 1874, Phineas C. VanGelder, who had been the business manager of the *Elmira Advertiser*, purchased a half interest in the paper. Mr. Scudder was in poor health, and on that account sold his entire interest in the *Enterprise* to Mr. Van Gelder January 1, 1875. Mr. Scudder died November 14, 1875, aged 28 years. Mr. VanGelder published the paper until January 1, 1876, when he sold a half interest to Amos Roberts, of Rathboneville, N. Y. July 1, 1876, Mr. VanGelder, on account of ill health, leased his interest in the paper to J. A. Fraser, of Athens, Pa., after which Roberts & Fraser continued publication until October 5, 1876, when the office was burned. The presses and material were insured for \$5,000, which about covered the loss.

After the destruction of the *Enterprise* office, its former foreman, James B. Bray, who had been conducting a job printing office in

Waverly, purchased the subscription list and good will of the concern and began printing a new independent republican weekly called the *Waverly Free Press*. The first number was issued November 22, 1876. In December, 1877, Mr. Bray sold the paper to Cyrus Marsh, who, after two weeks' experience as a publisher, allowed it to go back into the possession of Mr. Bray, who sold the paper November 3, 1890, to Benjamin F. Gordon and George G. Pendell. Mr. Gordon sold his interest to his partner April 1, 1892, and Mr. Pendell sold the paper to George D. Genung and Clayton A. Smith, the present publishers, October 20, 1894. The *Free Press* is one of the best newspapers in Tioga county, and is devoted specially to Waverly interests.

Ira L. Wales, who had published the *Review* at Candor, and whose office had been burned, removed to Waverly the material that had been saved from the fire, and established the *Review*, a democratic weekly paper, the first issue of which appeared February 4, 1876. The paper was published under various adverse circumstances until April 4, 1882, when Mr. Wales discontinued it and removed the material to Binghamton, where he founded *Latest Morning News*. This, too, was a short lived and unprofitable journal.

The first number of the *Waverly Tribune*, a weekly paper, neutral in politics, was issued April 27, 1882, by William H. Noble and A. G. Reynolds. After three numbers had been printed, Mr. Reynolds sold his interest in the paper to his partner's brother, Albert C. Noble. Noble & Noble sold the paper for \$3,500, January 26, 1894, to William H. Campbell, who took possession, but paid no part of the purchase money. Mr. Campbell published the paper four months, without paying for its use, and then allowed the Nobles to resume possession of their property. In the meantime Mr. Campbell had purchased in New York on credit a new press and material and had made arrangements to print a new democratic paper in Waverly. The new venture was called the *Waverly Democrat*. The first number appeared July 4, 1894. Its existence under the circumstances was naturally brief. It was published four months, until the close of the fall campaign, when the bills for material, etc., became due. Its suspension was announced the

week before the election in November. The *Tribune* was sold in January, 1895, to Stephen W. Alvord, of Towanda, Pa., who published it until August 9, 1895, then sold to Currie & Romer, under whom it was discontinued.

The first attempt to establish a daily newspaper in Waverly was made by Ira L. Wales, who was publishing the weekly *Review*. The paper was called *The Echo*, and appeared November 18, 1876. Its publication ceased in December for want of support, after an existence of a little over two weeks.

The first number of the *Waverly Evening Journal* was issued August 1, 1895, by a combination of the forces of the *Advocate* and *Tribune*. C. E. Currie, of the *Advocate*, was business manager. It was a four page, six column folio. Mr. Alvord sold his interest to his partners in September, 1895, and the name of the paper was changed to the *Advocate*. Its publication was discontinued May 29, 1897.

The first newspaper in Candor was established in 1867, and called the *Candor Press*, the first number being issued October 9. The proprietors were Samuel C. Clisbe and another printer named Manchester, the firm name being S. C. Clisbe & Co. The paper was subsequently sold to Benj. B. F. Graves, who changed its name to the *Candor Free Press*. The office was burned in the night of April 8, 1873. Nothing was saved from the flames except a paper cutter.

The *Candor Independent* was founded by T. H. Pride. The first number appeared October 7, 1876. One side was printed in New York and the other in Candor. The paper was sold to W. H. Young, who published it until December, 1879, when he closed the office and removed the material to Owego, where he joined John McCormick in publishing the *Owego Blade*.

John R. Beden issued the first number of the *Candor Standard* January 22, 1885, but publication was discontinued in August, 1887, for want of sufficient support.

In February, 1874, Samuel C. Clisbe, then editor of the *Hancock Times*, returned to Candor and opened a job printing office, with the intention of publishing a newspaper; but before he could establish it James D. Cameron and Ira L. Wales came from Owego and

began the publication of the *Candor Review*. Mr. Wales had begun an apprenticeship to the printer's trade in the *Owego Times* office, but left before the expiration of his term to publish this paper. Mr. Cameron was a compositor in the *Owego Gazette* printing office. The first number of the *Review* was issued March 19, 1874. Mr. Cameron withdrew from the paper in June, 1874, for the purpose of studying for the ministry. In December following Mr. Wales exchanged a half interest in the *Review* with George Ketchum for a half interest in the *Ithacan* at Ithaca, where both papers were printed. As Ketchum, who had purchased the *Ithacan* in June, 1874, did not meet his engagements, the sheriff closed the office in April, 1875, and Mr. Wales again came in full possession of the *Review*, the publication of which had been once or twice temporarily discontinued. The office was burned in the night of December 18, 1875, and as Wales was uninsured the paper was suspended indefinitely. In February, 1876, Wales removed to Waverly the material he had saved from the fire and began the publication of the *Waverly Review*. He was afterward publisher of *Latest Morning News*, in Binghamton, and at the time of his death, January 12, 1891, was editor of the *Evening Union* in Albany.

The *Candor Gleaner* was established by Blackman & Co. (Rev. A. G. Bloomfield and Arthur Blackman), and the first number was issued August 11, 1892. It is now published by Arthur R. Bloomfield.

The first attempt to establish a newspaper at Newark Valley met with success. March 4, 1876, George M. Jordan, a harness maker who had dabbled in journalism in Owego, removed to Newark Valley, and in company with George Riley, Jr., a practical printer (now editor of the *Ottumwa, Iowa, Press*) issued the first number of the *Newark Valley Herald*. The presses and material were brought from Rome, Pa., where an unsuccessful attempt had been made to establish a paper. In May, 1876, Riley sold his interest to Henry A. LeBarron, of Union. August 25, 1877, Charles L. Noble purchased LeBarron's interest, and January 1, 1878, became sole proprietor. January 1, 1884, Noble sold an interest in the paper to Gilbert E. Purple, and in 1889 disposed of his remaining interest to Samuel P. More, editor of the *Great Bend*

Reporter. More & Purple published the paper until January 1, 1893, when Mr. Purple became sole proprietor.

May 14, 1874, Otho Hedges, a young man about 19 years of age, who lived on Shepard's creek, came to Spencer and began the publication of the *Spencer News*. After having published the paper about three months at a considerable loss, and in the meantime having become involved in other difficulties, the venture was abandoned.

The *Spencer Herald* was established as an independent newspaper by F. H. Pride (proprietor) and F. E. Foote (manager), who published the first number August 22, 1878. In November of that year Mr. Pride withdrew from the establishment and Mr. Foote continued the paper until the summer of 1880, when it was purchased by J. Leroy Nixon. January 1, 1887, Phineas C. VanGelder, who had been conducting the LeRaysville (Pa.) *Advertiser*, purchased the paper and put a steam power press in the office. He sold the *Herald* August 1, 1890, to W. W. Wisegarver, of Woodbury, Conn., who published it until the following January, when, being unable to meet his payments, Mr. VanGelder resumed possession. April 1, Dr. Paul W. Burge, of Lima, N. Y., exchanged the *Lima Town News* with VanGelder for the *Herald*. In 1894 Dr. Burge changed the name of the paper to *Spencer Town News*, and in November, 1894, discontinued the publication entirely.

Wm. R. Swartout established the *Spencer Needle*, the first issue of which was dated January 1, 1888. It was neutral in politics, as had been all the other papers published in that village. The *Needle* was sold, December 1, 1892, to George M. Pashley, (formerly of the *Times*, at Elmer, N. Y.) who is still its publisher.

Vol. 1, No. 1, of *Progress*, a monthly journal devoted to schools, appeared at Spencer in November, 1886. William W. Abbott was "editor-in-chief." It was short lived.

The *Nichols News* was published at Nichols by N. L. Teeple, of New York, a young lawyer. The first number was issued in September, 1890. In its last issue, dated February 19, 1891, Mr. Teeple said he was "completely disgusted with the town," because of the "lack of public spirit," and that he should "shortly remove to a larger town," and he did. This was the first and the last attempt at journalism in Nichols.

CHAPTER XVII.

EDUCATION IN TIOGA COUNTY.*

THE matter composing an educational history of a county appears to include that relating to the system to which it belongs, the method employed for its supervision, the financial means used to secure results, and that also in which are concerned the schoolhouse, the pupils, branches of knowledge taught, text books used, and the teacher. Such a history is linked inseparably with that of the state.

At the time of the organization of Tioga county, in 1791, it is to be borne in mind that the boundaries then and for some time afterward included a much larger territory than is embraced within its present limits. In early records, which do not date back previous to the year 1814, the reports submitted by the school authorities of Tioga county came not only from the towns at present composing it, but also from the towns of Elmira, Southport, Erin, Caroline, Cayuta, Veteran, and others now comprised in adjoining counties. In this respect, Tioga seems to have been the original which furnished territory for the growth of other counties.

SUPERVISION AND MAINTENANCE.

The relation between the county and the state was established early, has continued to the present time, and is more intimate now than ever before. The office of state superintendent of common schools, who was the first state educational officer, was created by the legislature in 1813, and was abolished in 1821. During this interval the office was held by but two persons, first by Gideon Hawley, who was succeeded for a few weeks only by Welcome Esleek. From 1821 to 1854, the secretary of state became *ex-officio* superintendent of common schools. In 1854, the office of state superintendent of public instruction was created which has continued to the present. Victor M. Rice was the first to hold this office. Provision was made by the legislature in 1856 for the office

*By OSCAR GRANGER, School Commissioner.

of school commissioner, one for each division of the state, as established by the act creating the office and known as a commissioner district. Tioga county constitutes one such district. The first commissioner for this county was Dr. Elijah Powell, who was appointed by the board of supervisors, and he was succeeded by Hon. Wm. Smyth who was influential in educational matters. From the commissioner, teachers receive their legal authority under rules and regulations prescribed by the state superintendent. Previous to the creation of the office of school commissioner back to 1843, each town had a supervisory officer, known as town superintendent, by whom teachers were "licensed." This office was abolished in 1856, as soon as the commissioner was appointed and qualified.

Preceding the year 1843, three school commissioners were chosen by each town in conformity with the act of 1795, as suggested by governor George Clinton, and received the reports of school district trustees, using the same as a basis of apportionment, in the same manner as such information was subsequently received and used by the town superintendents and county school commissioners. From the early beginning, the immediate management of the affairs of school districts was placed under the control of trustees, an arrangement still prevailing. For several years the reports of the town commissioners were made to the county clerk, and afterward to the superintendent of common schools. Reference is made in these reports to the act of the legislature, presumably that of 1813, entitled "An Act for the establishment of Common Schools," or that of 1814, entitled "An Act for the better establishment of Common Schools." These reports also contain statistics including the number of the district, the time school was kept, the number of pupils instructed, and the number of pupils between five and fifteen years of age, and, later, those between five and sixteen, also vague information regarding inspections. They also certify to the sums of money received from the town commissioners, which was derived from two sources, the town collector and the county treasurer. The former was evidently raised by a town tax, for the act of 1795 had required that a sum equal to one-half that apportioned to each town by the state should be so raised,

and the act of 1813, as amended by that of 1814, directed that a sum equal to that apportioned to each town by the state should be raised by the town for school purposes. The money received from the state was to be expended for teachers' wages exclusively, and the balance required for the purpose to be raised by rate-bill. The funds received from the county treasurer undoubtedly consisted of the state apportionment.

The system provided by the acts above alluded to was retained until 1840, and was the foundation of the organized school system, not only of Tioga county, but of the entire state. The state fund, in which this and other counties shared, consisted originally of an annual appropriation of \$50,000 for five years, as provided by the act of 1795, which was the first state aid for the maintenance of common schools, to which was added the proceeds of "Literature Lotteries," operated from 1801 to 1821, a part of the revenue of which was invested, and became incorporated into the common school fund; also, the proceeds of the sale, in 1805, of 500,000 acres of unoccupied lands belonging to the state, the income of which, after amounting to \$50,000, was devoted to school purposes.

In 1836, by the distribution of the surplus revenues of the United States to the different states, New York received about \$4,000,000, known as the United States deposit fund, in the appropriation of the income of which Tioga county has received its due quota. In 1849, the act making provision for free schools was passed, by which additional financial aid was required by town taxation, the object of which was to reduce the amount raised by rate-bill. The act of 1851 provided for the raising of an annual state tax of \$800,000 for distribution to the school districts of the state, in addition to the incomes already mentioned. Local burdens were thus further diminished, but the rate-bill was retained and any deficiencies were levied upon the parents of children who attended school. The effect of this feature of the system was to deprive many children of the benefits of the schools, for the reason of parental inability to meet the requirements of the rate-bill. After an existence of a period of fifty-four years, the rate-bill was abolished in 1867, the state tax made one and one-fourth mills on the dollar, provision made for a district tax where the public money

was found insufficient, and the schools made free to all pupils between five and twenty-one years of age. This arrangement continues in force. It is worthy of note that the report of the town of Cayuta for the year 1835 makes mention of the fact that money for school purposes was received from the overseers of the poor in accordance with the popular vote so directing. It thus appears that the act of 1795 required an amount to be raised by town tax equal to one-half that received by the state, that the acts of 1813 and 1814 directed a sum so levied should equal that received from the state, and that this sum was further increased by the act of 1849 and then diminished by the act of 1851. While the school district, having as executive officer a trustee (or trustees), has existed since the earliest organization, it has been the unit of taxation only since 1867, the year in which the rate-bill was abolished, and the entire property of each district made legally subject to taxation to supplement the sum received from the state. The total amount of such sum in Tioga county for the year 1896 was \$48,693.81, and the sum received from the state was \$29,947.54.

THE SCHOOL AND THE TEACHER.

The largest centers of population have generally afforded the best and most comprehensive educational advantages. The rural schools, in which the common branches have been taught almost exclusively, academic subjects being introduced occasionally, have existed in numbers greatly superior, and have covered a wider area, than those whose energies have been directed in the line of academic work. Of one hundred children entering school at the present time, two reach the college, four the high school, and ninety-four leave school for the active pursuits of life, without acquiring an academic or a college education. The number of children of school age residing within the districts of the county has been steadily diminishing. In the year 1856 the number of resident pupils of school age was 10,585; while in 1896 the number of such children was 6,383. In the comparison of these figures it must be taken into consideration that the former represent the number between four years and twenty-one years of age, and the latter those between five and eighteen. This will not make the difference appear so great. The actual attendance of pupils has

also greatly diminished. In 1848 the number of children attending the schools was 8,541; in 1896, it was 6,526. During this period the number of teachers employed at the same time increased from 161 in 1856 to 227 in 1896, an increase of over 40 per cent, while the number of pupils decreased over 23 per cent. The amount of public money received in the year 1846 was \$2,370.42. In the year 1896 it was \$29,947.54, an increase of nearly 1300 per cent. The large district school outside of the village, as it existed once, with fifty, or sometimes nearly one hundred pupils, has disappeared and is represented to-day by a school with an attendance of less than half that number. A school of forty is exceptional, and in 1895 there were fifty-seven districts in the county with an average attendance not exceeding ten. Better facilities afforded by the larger village schools and academies attracting pupils from the rural districts, as well as opportunities for employment of parents in the larger towns, may be reckoned among the causes contributing to this result. The consideration of the rural school, not only in this county, but throughout the state, presents one of the most important questions for solution, both from an educational and from an economic point of view.

Although the masses of pupils have received their education in the common schools, those conducted by private enterprise have also existed. In 1848, in the town of Owego, fifty pupils were reported in attendance at private schools, exclusive of the Owego academy. A private school still continues in the village of Owego, which during the school year ending July 31, 1896, had an attendance of sixty-five pupils. In the year 1848 there were twelve unincorporated, select and private schools in the county, with 208 pupils in attendance. In the year 1856, the number of private schools had increased to eighteen, with an attendance of 720 pupils. The adoption and growth of the free school system, with the advantages it furnished, have obviated the necessity for the existence of private institutions, however desirable the features presented by the latter. Besides the one to which allusion is made above, only two more were reported in 1896, these in the village of Waverly, with a small attendance.

The reports of 1838 assert that the village of Berkshire main-

tained a "high school" during nine months of the year. Since the organization of the academies in the villages of Owego, Waverly, Candor, Spencer, Newark Valley, and Nichols, the influence of these schools has been felt, not only in their immediate vicinity, but throughout a wider range, and many of the surrounding districts have been furnished with teachers prepared by them. In these high schools, and in the former two particularly, many students have made the necessary preparation and found their way to college. At convenient intervals during each year, regents' examinations have been held, both in preliminary and in advanced subjects, and a course of study has been adopted leading to graduation. The Union schools of Apalachin and Tioga Centre, as well as the village schools of Berkshire, Richford, Barton, Smithboro, and Lockwood, although without a regularly organized academic department, have included in their course of instruction, besides the common branches, some of academic grades. The number of schoolhouses in Tioga county in 1848 was 156; in 1896 the number was 159, of which six were brick and 153 were frame buildings. The log schoolhouse, with its great fireplace, of the early days of our educational history, disappeared long ago, as well as the master and the pupils whom he instructed.

"A man severe he was and stern to view
I knew him well, and every truant knew;
Well had the boding tremblers learned to trace
The day's disasters in his morning face;
Full well they laughed with counterfeited glee,
At all his jokes, for many a joke had he!"

Others follow, building upon the foundation they left behind them, in turn to be followed by others still, in one continuous tide of humanity forcing itself into the world through the schoolhouses, out of which grow a broader view of life, a better citizenship, and a higher civilization. Many excellent schoolhouses have been erected in the country districts, in which may be found modern furniture and conveniences. Others bear the marks Time leaves behind, both outside and in—furniture exhibiting, in some instances, the accumulated evidence of the ability possessed by several generations of boys in the art of wood-carving. It is worthy of note that the beautiful and commodious school-building in the village

of Newark Valley was erected a few years since at the personal expense of and was presented to the district by Royal W. Clinton, a resident of that village.

The essentials of a common-school education from our early history have been regarded as consisting of a knowledge of the "common branches"—arithmetic, geography, grammar, reading, writing, and spelling. To these in modern times have been added physiology and drawing, and in the higher grades, American history and civil government. From this it will appear that the scope of the work done in the common-schools is now greater than that of former days. The number and character of the subjects pursued in those days depended often upon the fancy of the teacher, the tendency of the pupil, or the caprice of the parent. As an evidence of this fact the records of the year 1848 show that of the pupils then attending school in the county, 218 were studying the alphabet (modern methods of teaching reading were not then employed), 1,549 interested themselves with arithmetic, 842 were poring over geography, 533 were musing over the rules of grammar, 125 were meditating on the events of history, 256 were investigating the laws of nature as revealed in natural philosophy, 110 pursued algebra, physiology attracted 151, bookkeeping was studied by three, astronomy engaged the attention of 13, instruction in vocal music was received by 472, geometry, surveying and higher mathematics entered into the calculations of 8, mental or moral philosophy afforded abstract thought for 11, and the time of 588 was devoted exclusively to the subject of spelling. (Oral spelling was more generally practiced in those days than now. The "spelling school" in some localities was a prominent feature of the neighborhood, and furnished an evening of both entertainment and instruction at the district schoolhouse, where the young and those of more mature years had met to choose sides and "spell down." In the winter these excursions to the schoolhouse were sometimes made in the season of good sleighing with the ox-team as a means of conveyance, the latter doubtless packed with a happy throng, whose merry voices long ago died away, silenced forever by the uncompromising limit time sets upon the experience of mankind.)

The teacher is now guided by a carefully arranged course of study and the teachers' manual issued by the state superintendent. A revised edition, the first issued by the superintendent, has recently been placed in each district. The two former editions, less complete than that just issued, served a period of usefulness, their existence, and help afforded by them to teachers in arranging, grading, and classifying their schools, being due to the activity, zeal, and energy of Leon O. Wiswell, who served this county in the capacity of school commissioner for nearly eight years, and who, at present in the department of public instruction, still continues to serve the state. The manual describes and limits the work of the pupil for each term of the year, at the conclusion of which examinations covering the same are furnished by the superintendent, and those pupils showing the required degree of proficiency are granted "grade certificates" for the work of that term by the school commissioner, and proceed to that of the term to follow. At the close of the course (the completion of the work of the ninth grade), on acquiring the necessary standing in the ten subjects named above, the pupil is given a diploma.

The text-books, which have found their way into the school room from time to time, have varied greatly in character and in different localities. In each subject there seem to have been different generations of books, which have disappeared with the generations of the people who used them, leaving to posterity the memory of their usefulness only. Arithmetical knowledge has been presented at different periods by such authors as Daboll (whose "rule of three" is still remembered), Walsh, Pike, Root, Colburn, Smith, Ostrander, Ruger, Adams, Emerson, Perkins, Green, Thompson and Stoddard. More attention was formerly given to mental arithmetic than is occupied with that subject at present. Geography was studied from Mason, Cummings, Dwight, Woodbridge, Goodrich, Olney, Peter Parley, Willet, Smith, Huntington, Burritt, Mitchell, Morse, Colton and Fitch, but both the treatment of the subject and the teaching was confined within narrower limits than those bounding the same in modern writers on that topic. Maps were more imperfect and did not possess the convenience those of later origin do. Knowledge of English grammar

was obtained from the text-books of Walker, Greenleaf, Murray, Kirkham, Brown, Frazee and Kenyon. More prominence was given to the practice of parsing than is now generally observed; in fact the study of English was often narrowed down to an exclusive knowledge of "parsing." The number of pupils pursuing this subject seems to have been less than that studying arithmetic or geography. Judging from the figures heretofore given, we find that in the year 1848 the number of pupils studying grammar was about one-third the number receiving instruction in arithmetic.

A knowledge of reading and spelling has been regarded as the most essential, and recitations were sometimes confined exclusively to these branches, instruction in other subjects being made a personal matter suited to meet individual needs. The authors of text-books on reading included Cobb, Murray, Sanders, Porter, Anderson, and Denman. Besides their works may be mentioned the English reader, High-school reader, North American reader, Girls' reading-book, and the Columbian reader. The spellers of Webster, Cobb, Williams, Sanders, Crandall, Randall, and Denman were familiar text-books. The histories of Goodrich, Hale, Willard, Wilson, and Guernsey furnished means of acquiring knowledge in that branch. Algebra was studied from Day, Bourdon, and Robinson, (with intellectual algebra as a supplement); chemistry from Comstock; rhetoric from Comstock, Newman, and Blair; physiology from Leet and Coates, Smith and Bullion, Cutler and Jones; botany from Phelps; astronomy from Ostrander and Abbott; surveying from Flint, Dewey, and Davies; geometry from Davies, Day, Gibson, and Playfair's Euclid; natural philosophy from Jones, Comstock, Swift, Colburn, Davies, Olmstead, Blake, Taylor, Lee, Barber, and Parker; bookkeeping from Preston, and Fulton and Eastman. The dictionaries were those of Walker and Webster.

Among the miscellaneous works finding their way into the schools were Cobb's Sequel, Common School Manual, American Manual, Farmers' School Book, American Instructor, Life of Columbus, Watts on the Mind, Wright's Orthography, Wayland's Moral Science, Town's Phrenological Chart, Page's Normal Chart,

American Preceptor, and the Columbian Orator. Frequent mention is made in the records on file of the fact that the Bible and the Testament served as *text-books* in the early schools. Lack of uniformity in text-books is complained of by the school authorities of that time, and this condition prevails even now. The present era is producing books for school use greatly improved in character over those of former times. Authors have multiplied in surprising numbers, many offering books of superior merit which are seeking recognition and competing for a place in the schools.

About the year 1840 a new impulse seems to have been given to library matters and interest stimulated to the extent that subscriptions for this purpose exceeded the amount of public money received for the same. Harper's "School District Library" appeared, comprising books written upon a variety of topics embracing travel, science, history, biography, literature and agriculture, as these were then known or understood. Many of these volumes may still be seen occupying the upper shelves of the library case in some school districts. In 1848 the number of volumes reported in the district libraries of the county was 14,516; in 1856, the number was 16,649; but in 1896 it had diminished to 13,364. Of the latter number nearly three-fourths may be found in the towns of Barton and Owego. It may also be observed that more than one-half of the children of school age in the county reside in these towns, as shown by the enumeration of 1896. State money for library purposes, limited in amount, is now obtainable on the application of trustees for the same, on certified statement showing that a sum equal to that applied for has been raised by the district. In the case of common school districts this amount must not be less than five dollars nor more than ten. In union-school districts the limits are between ten and twenty-five dollars. Before the purchase of books for the school library, the trustee is required to submit a list for proposed purchase which must first be approved by the state superintendent, thereby preventing the introduction of worthless or pernicious works.

The qualifications and qualities of the teacher, combined with natural aptitude for the work, must be reckoned among the essential causes contributing to the success and progress of the schools.

Early standards of qualifications were evidently required depending on the judgment or caprice of local authorities. In 1822, "qualified teachers" and teachers "approved" are mentioned. In the year 1838 it is recorded that "a teacher under rigid rules was refused a license." The period covering the last ten years has doubtless produced more radical changes in the qualifications of teachers than are apparent in all the time preceding. Conditions to be complied with by the teachers are prescribed by the state superintendent. Examinations are now uniform throughout the counties of the state. Third-grade certificates are issued only after exhibiting the required degree of proficiency in the examination including ten different subjects, and are granted to the same candidate but once, that for a period of one year. Second-grade certificates are issued for a term of three years, after a satisfactory test furnished by an examination of fourteen different subjects has been passed. Certificates of the first grade, covering a knowledge of sixteen different subjects, in which the candidate must acquire the necessary standings, are issued for five years, and are renewable without re-examination for the time during which the holder has been engaged in actual service.

The preparation for the work of teaching offered by the Training Class has never been so efficient as it is at the present time. Two such classes are maintained, one in the Owego Free Academy, the other in the Waverly Academy. Qualifications for entrance to them, established by the state superintendent, are acquired by standings earned in the uniform examinations for teachers or in the regents' examination. The course of study covers the instruction of one year, and the examination required for a certificate embraces sixteen subjects. Certificates earned in this examination are issued for three years, and are renewable without re-examination the same as those of the first-grade.

As a means of additional aid to the teacher's preparation, the Teachers' Institute has proved itself a success. Its origin in this county appears to date from the year 1848 (five years after the organization of the first one in the state at Ithaca), when the town superintendents recommended to the county clerk that he appoint them "an advisory committee to organize and conduct a Teachers'

Institute." Subject matter continued at first to be the principal consideration at such meetings, but the energies of the institute are now directed largely in the lines of means and methods of doing educational work. The first mention of a normal graduate as a teacher is found in the records of 1856. It must be borne in mind that the first normal school in the state at Albany was not organized until the year 1844.

The schools of the village of Owego were organized by special act of the legislature, which confers upon the board of school commissioners of that village the power to license teachers employed within its jurisdiction. During the current school year, information, at the time it was collected, revealed the fact that of the 228 teachers employed at the same time in the county, 30 held certificates of the first grade, 114 of the second, 19 of the third, 25 training-class certificates, 12 normal diplomas, 3 college-graduates' certificates, 10 state certificates, 2 temporary licenses, and 13 local certificates. Some of these also hold other certificates than the kind mentioned. About eleven per cent of the teachers employed are men.

The teacher of to-day enjoys the use of facilities in educational work in which the schools of an earlier period were deficient. In those days the master "set the copy" in the writing books (some of the old manuscripts bear witness of excellent penmanship), heard his recitations, gave his instruction, and inflicted his punishments. Many of the punishments were of a character which would not be tolerated in modern times.

" Within, the master's desk is seen, deep scarred by raps official ;
The warping floor, the battered seats, the jackknife's carved initial."

The "rap official" of the heavy ruler on the desk enjoined upon the school submission to the authority it stood for. This scepter of pedagogic sway was employed, as occasion demanded, to add impressiveness to the master's sentiments, with which the realizing sense of the offender sometimes found himself closely in touch. "Dr. Beech" and "Dr. Birch" were called in consultation, and the dismal errand of going to "fetch them," and the melancholy return of the unfortunate messenger with the dreaded rod of correction, produced an inner consciousness of nervous

agitation and disturbed tranquillity of soul with which the refractory member of the school was familiar. The necessity of stern discipline seems to have been greater then than it is now. In contested matters of difference between master and pupil the master did not possess the co-operative influence of school authorities, nor the protection afforded by the improved school laws of the present time. A different spirit pervaded the school-room. A higher grade of scholarship is now reached at an earlier age. There was less freedom then, more liberty to-day. Indeed, in a land of liberty, it seems proper that pupils in the public schools should learn how to use liberty. Less memorizing is now done in the schools than was done formerly. Men were generally employed as instructors in the winter, women during the summer. School was in session every other Saturday. Less progressive teachers, in the absence of the graded course of study now provided, have repeated the work of their predecessors to an unnecessary extent in some instances, and in this way proved a hindrance to the progress of their pupils.

The everchanging body of teachers is being continually augmented by new members, and diminished by others whose term of service and degree of success vary greatly. Those at present employed in the county whose experience within its borders is remarkable for long and continuous service are Miss E. Jennie Steele, of the Owego Free Academy, and Mrs. Mary L. Yates, to both of whom the writer would return grateful thanks for valued help and suggestions. To these may be added Miss Anna W. Abel, Miss Alice M. Hutchinson, Miss Estella A. Hill, Miss Mary J. Lewis and Miss Caroline A. Tuthill. Prof. E. J. Peck, principal of the Owego Free Academy, and Prof. P. M. Hull, principal of the Waverly academy, each, after many years of service in his present capacity, continues the work that has placed those institutions in the foremost ranks of similar ones in the state. These and others employed throughout the county continue the work of those preceding them, conscientiously moulding the lives and shaping the destinies of those who will assume the duties and responsibilities of citizenship in a republic, where "The intelligence of the people is the security of the nation."



A. F. Huey

Our County and its People.

TOWNS OF TIOGA COUNTY.

Owego, Owego Village, Barton, Waverly Village, Spencer, Newark Valley, Candor, Tioga, Nichols, Berkshire, Richford.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE TOWN OF OWEGO.

THE first white occupants of the territory comprising the town of Owego were American soldiers under command of Generals Poor and Hand, who were charged with the duty of driving the Indians from the Susquehanna valley, and who were also sent to the relief of General Clinton's army on its devastating march down the river, destroying and burning as it went along.

Every person familiar with American history knows that it became necessary for congress, and General Washington as commander of the United States army during the revolution, to inflict salutary punishment on the Indians of New York state who had allied themselves to the British cause. This memorable campaign, inaugurated and carried into effect during the summer and fall of 1779, was under the chief command of General John Sullivan, and in carrying out his plan of operation General Clinton proceeded

down the Susquehanna, laying waste every vestige of the Indian occupation. Stationed at Tioga Point with the main body of his army, Sullivan sent Generals Poor and Hand with nine hundred men to march up the river and meet Clinton's force, and it was this body of men who, on the 17th of August, 1779, camped on the site of the present village of Owego, and were, so far as any record shows, the first white men within the limits of the town, as afterward constituted.

As a matter of history, and bearing directly on the early occupancy of the town and of its natural physical condition when first visited by the whites, a few extracts from the journal of lieutenant-colonel Henry Dearborn, an officer commanding one of the detachments of Sullivan's army, will be found interesting. The following quotations are taken from the published journal *verbatim et literatim* :

* "17th. We march'd early this morning proceeded 12 miles to Owagea an Indian Town which was deserted last spring after planting. About the town is a numbar of fruit trees & many plants & hearbs that are common in our part of the country here is a learge body of clear Intervale cover'd with Grass Our march to day has been very severe & fategueng especially for the left Column (to which I belong) as we had to pass several difficult steep hills & bad Morasses"

"18th We march'd early this morning proceeded 14 miles to Chaconnut the remains of a large Indian town which has been likewise abandoned this summer Here we found plenty of cucumbers squashes turnips &c we found about twenty houses which we burnt Our days March has been more severe than yesterday as we had besides hills and common swamps one swamp of about 2 miles so covered with large pines standing & lying which appeared as though several hurricanes had been very busey among them since which a tremendous groath of bushes about 20 feet high has sprung up so very thick as to render passing thro' them Impracticable by any troops but such as nothing but death can stop At sunset we ware very agreably alarm'd by the report of a Cannon up the river which we supposed to be Genl Clintons Evening Gun."

"19th Our troops were put in motion very early this morning after marching about one mile Genl Poor receiv'd an express from Genl Clinton informing him that the latter expect'd to be here by

*August 17, 1779.

10 o'clock A M in consequence of which we return'd to our old incampment where Genl Clinton Joined us at 10 o'clock with 2000 men Including Officers boatmen &c He has 208 batteaux with provisions amunition etc after mutuil congratulations & Compliments the whole proceeded down the river to Owagea & incamped This evining the town of Owagea was made a bone fire of to grace our meeting Our general course from Tioga to Choconut is about N East."

The little Indian town which Colonel Dearborn designates "Owagea," has been variously spelled and pronounced by authorities and writers of local history. In the Indian dialect it was known as Ah-wah-gah, the authority for this statement being Mrs. Jane Whitaker, a captive white girl, who was taken to Owego with other prisoners on the journey to Unadilla after the massacre at Wyoming. According to Morgan's "League of the Iroquois," the name, in the Onondaga tongue, was "Ah-wa-ga," the "a" in the second syllable having the same sound as a in "fate." It was otherwise known and spelled as "Owegy," "Oweigy," and also as "Oswegy." On a number of the early maps of the region the name was known as "Owegy" and "Owega," while to the pioneer settlers it was commonly pronounced "O-wa-go," and was so written in the journals of several officers in Sullivan's expedition, and also in the records of the town of Union, that being the first organized civil jurisdiction which exercised authority over the territory now called Owego. The meaning of the word "Ah-wa-ga," according to Judge Avery, a recognized leading authority on Indian history in the Susquehanna valley, is "where the valley widens," but Wilkinson's "Annals of Binghamton" interprets it as "swift river."

THE PIONEERS.

While it is possible that the Moravian missionaries may have traversed the Susquehanna valley in their labors among the Indians in this region, and while it is equally possible that the Jesuit fathers may also have visited the valley in their like efforts to convert the men of the Iroquois, there is no evidence of the presence of any white visitors to this locality previous to the enforced coming of an occasional captive, followed soon afterward by the avenging army of General Sullivan; and with General Clinton's com-

mand in that memorial campaign was lieutenant James McMaster, the pioneer of the town.

Five years after the invasion of the Susquehanna valley James McMaster made a visit of exploration and investigation in this region. This was in 1784, one year after peace had been agreed upon between the contending powers, yet the late Indian allies of Great Britain had returned to the sites of their former habitations and villages, and the only white man then in all this vast region was Amos Draper, an Indian trader, whose cabin was located at Choconut, fourteen miles above the point where our adventurous pioneer decided to build up a home. According to all accounts, Amos Draper had been in the valley at least two years before McMaster came, but Draper only sought to trade and barter with the natives, exchanging notions and trinkets for furs and skins, while McMaster was the advance guard of civilized white settlement in a country known to him to be both fertile and productive, for he had helped to destroy the abundant crops planted by the Indians five years before. A friendship was at once established between these solitary white men, and through the influence of Draper with the Indians McMaster was permitted to come and live among them on lands selected by himself—the most desirable in all the valley—on the east side of Owego creek and north of the river. More than that, the two so ingratiated themselves into the savage favor that they secured from the natives a deed or lease to a considerable tract of land, eighteen square miles in extent. This document, which was secured in 1786, was of course void under the law which forbade all persons, except those authorized by Massachusetts, negotiating either by purchase or lease for the lands owned by the Indians, but it did have the effect, when supported by the personal efforts of Draper and McMaster, to keep the Indians from the treaty with the Massachusetts proprietary until the latter consented to make a generous concession of lands to McMaster. This concession, in which Draper also profited, included a portion of the present town of Owego, and the subject, more fully treated in an earlier chapter, forms an important element of local history.

After his preliminary visit in 1784, James McMaster returned to

his home in the old town of Mohawk, Montgomery county, and in April of the following year came again to Owego, accompanied by his brother, Robert McMaster, also John Nealy, William Woods and a boy named William Taylor, but who afterward became well known in the county. This company of pioneers came down Otsego lake and the Susquehanna river, following much the same route as did Clinton's men, but unlike the soldier's theirs was a peaceful errand, and their arms were chiefly farming implements, cooking utensils, household articles and other necessaries of border pioneer life. On reaching the old Indian town of Ahwaga, McMaster and his companions built a pine log cabin about fifty rods above where the electric light works in Canawana now stand. This was occupied temporarily, until they planted ten acres with corn, when a larger and more substantial log house was built at the lower end of Front street, on the site now occupied by Gurdon H. Pumpelly's residence. The house stood facing the river, near its bank.

This was the first permanent white settlement in Owego, town or village, an event which antedated the creation of the county, and also of the old town of Union, by four years. After hoeing time had passed the pioneers returned to their former home on the Mohawk, but in the fall came back to Owego and gathered their crop of corn, which the Indians had permitted to grow undisturbed.

In the spring of 1788, McMaster's family removed from the Mohawk valley to Owego, and from that time he was a permanent resident of Tioga county. As is fully narrated in a preceding chapter, he became the owner of the McMaster "half-township," lying wholly within the present town of Owego, and although it cost him nothing he died poor. He sold the land in parcels, and encumbered it with mortgages as his necessities required, but before his death the entire tract of eighteen square miles had slipped from his grasp. However, he was an honest and generous man, public-spirited for his time, and gave of his means as occasion suggested. He was the first sheriff of the county, appointed February 17, 1791. In his later life he went to live in Candor with his daughter, Mrs. Sackett, and there he came to his death by being thrown from

a horse, in the year 1818. His sons were James, Jeremiah and David, and his daughters were Jane, Ellida, Catharine and Ann.

Amos Draper, the Indian trader of the Susquehanna valley, abandoned his cabin at Choconut in the spring of 1787, and came with his family to Owego; and his was the first family to settle here. Draper, it is understood, had formerly lived at Kingston, Penna., and thence came into the valley and established a trading post at Choconut. His family removed to that place in 1786.

The Drapers, Amos and Joseph, were sons of Major Simeon Draper, one of the forty settlers of the township of Kingston under the old Connecticut claim in 1768. Joseph settled in Owego after Amos had located here. Amos died in the town May 24, 1808, of cancer, and was buried in the village grave yard. Selecta Draper, daughter of Amos, born at Owego June 19, 1788, was the first white child born in the town. In 1809 she married with Stephen Williams, Jr., of Newark Valley, and at the home of her son, L. E. Williams, in that town, she died, April 2, 1865.

William Taylor, who accompanied James McMaster to the settlement, was a native of this state. His father died when William was quite young, and his widow removed with her children from Albany county into the Mohawk valley and settled about ten miles above Schenectady. At the age of eight years William was bound by indenture to James McMaster. In after years Mr. Taylor owned a farm in Tioga, which he sold to Nathaniel Catlin in 1800, and still later removed to Candor, where he died in August, 1849.

John McQuigg was also one of the pioneers, having come to the settlement in the year 1788. According to Judge Avery, Mr. McQuigg came from the Merrimac valley, in New Hampshire, and entered the valley of the Susquehanna by way of Otsego lake, following the old Indian trail to Owego. The house which he first occupied stood on the site of Camp's furnace of later days, in Front street, a short distance below the park. Pioneer McQuigg was an old revolutionary soldier, and his arrival was an important acquisition to the little settlement. He died in Owego in 1813. In his family were eleven children, the sons being John, Daniel, Jesse, and David.

The McQuigg log house was one of the best in the settlement. As described by Jesse McQuigg to Judge Avery, it contained two square rooms, and the chinks between the logs were filled with bits of wood and "mudded." A square hole was cut in the outer wall, intended to admit the light, but, lacking sash and glass, it also let in the cold. The floor was of split pine logs, smoothly hewed, and a wide hearth-stone, with a sufficiently high chimney-back, also of stone, and an opening in the roof with stick and mud chimney above, furnished a place for fire and egress for smoke. Other primitive log houses of the period were similar to that owned by John McQuigg, but were perhaps smaller in size and less substantial in construction. All, however, were sufficient for the requirements of the occupants; "the latch-string was always out; welcome presided at the threshold; peace and hope at the hearth-stone, and genuine hospitality at the board."

In the eastern part of the town, in the vicinity of Apalachin, Isaac Harris was the earliest settler. Indeed the statement has been made that pioneer Harris came to that locality as early as 1786; that he was a Quaker, and came from Providence, Rhode Island. He purchased a part of the Coxe tract, cleared and developed it, and afterward lived in the town. He died about 1835. His daughter, Phebe, was the first white child born in that part of the town.

Silas and Jonathan Gaskill were also pioneers and came to the town in 1789. This family name has ever since been known in the region, the little settlement and post station about five miles northeast from Owego village having been named in allusion to Joseph Gaskill, son of Silas, who was only nine years old when the first settlement was made. Joseph located at the corners in 1822.

The pioneers of the Ferguson family in Owego were Daniel and Daniel, Jr., the elder an old patriot of the revolution, and both settlers near where Flemingville is built up, as early as 1789. Judge Avery says Daniel Ferguson first saw the Indian village of Owego during the early years of the revolution, he having been captured by the savage allies of Great Britain and detained there through the winter. The cabin in which he was held captive stood at the

intersection of Paige with Front street, as known in later years. Its exact location the old pioneer was able to point out on his arrival at the place in 1789.

Asahel Pritchard is said to have settled on the site of Flemingville as early as 1790, and while this statement is disputed in certain quarters, the present writer adheres to the opinion that he was among the pioneers of the locality, though at a date later than the year mentioned. It is also said, and generally believed, that pioneer Pritchard dwelt in Nichols previous to his settlement in Owego, and that still earlier he lived in the Wyoming valley. He was a native of Connecticut, born May 28, 1763, and died in Flemingville, September 24, 1840.

Amzi Stedman was seven years old when the Pritchard settlement was made as noted in the last paragraph, and came with Asahel Pritchard and his wife (who was Polly Stedman) to this county. He afterward became a pioneer of the town and a man well respected in the region. He died at Flemingville, February 21, 1854, and several of his descendants are still living in the vicinity.

In 1790, Emanuel Deuel, an old survivor of the revolution, made a settlement in the north part of the village tract. He was a useful man and frequently went down the river to Wilkesbarre to obtain flour and meal for the pioneers. On one occasion he was delayed beyond a reasonable time, in consequence of which his own family were in want for the necessaries of life, but at this juncture the Indian, Ka-nau-kwis, or, as known among the settlers, Captain Cornelius, discovered their distressed condition, and at once procured for them a good supply of venison.

Another Indian of note was Nicholas, whose cabin stood on the south bank of the river, nearly opposite the mouth of Owego creek. He was thought to be a Mohawk by some of the settlers, but probably was a Tuscarora. He had a little farm on which he raised good corn and vegetables, and also owned several head of cattle, but after the whites became more numerous in the region he left and went to Canada.

In 1791 Caleb and Simeon Nichols, father and son, both former soldiers in the American army during the revolution, came and

were squatters on the Coxe tract. Caleb died in the town in 1804, and the son May 16, 1856, at the ripe old age of ninety-three years. Their settlement was in the vicinity of Apalachin. Amariah Hicks came during the same year and settled in the same neighborhood. Moses Ingersoll also settled in Owego in this year, and purchased a farm of five hundred acres of land. He had served in the revolution under his father, captain Peter Ingersoll.

From what has been stated it will be seen that settlement in Owego during the first five years of its history was indeed rapid ; and while the foregoing sketches have brought to notice the names of many of the pioneers of the town, it may be said that not more than half of the actual settlers of that brief period have been mentioned. In proof this statement recourse is had to the records of the town of Union, (which of course included what is now Owego), for the year 1791.

The act that erected the county also created the town of Union, and included within its boundaries all the territory between Owego creek on the west and the Chenango river on the east ; the Pennsylvania line on the south, and the south line of the military tract on the north. In July of that year the town was divided into road districts, by the commissioners of highways, and from the lists of taxable inhabitants enrolled and assigned to work on the roads, is obtained a reasonably complete roll of heads of families then in that part of the original town which is now known as Owego. The settlers residing between Owego creek and the head of the Big Island were as follows :

James McMaster.	John Carmon.	Amos Mead.
Phineas Thompson.	Elias Williams.	James Barnes.
Emmanuel Deuel.	Timothy Sibley.	Benjamin Selden.
John Caster.	Daniel Ferguson.	Thomas Jordan.
Jehu Barney.	Daniel Ferguson, Jr.	Elisha Bates.
Robert McMaster.	Reuben Harrington.	Stephen Dean.
Amos Draper.	Jacob Harrington.	Benjamin Marsh.
John McQuigg.	Jeremiah Harrington.	Stephen Aylsworth.
John Nealy.	William Bates.	Benjamin Bates.

Between the head of Big Island and the line dividing the counties of Tioga and Broome, there lived these taxable inhabitants.

Silas Gaskill,	Matthew Hammond.	Amariah Yates.
Uriah Gaskill.	Daniel Thurston.	Isaac Harris.

Wilder Gaskill.	Benjamin Lewis.	Thomas Tracy.
Samuel Smith.	Daniel Hilton.	Cohoon Runnals.
Charles Dodge.	Nathan Hammond.	Roswell Smith.
Jonathan Hammond.	David Hammond.	John Kelly.
Seth Jakeway.	Moses Reed.	William Roe.
John Taylor.	Levi Wheeler.	John Rowley,
James Sarnier.	Samuel Atkins.	Zimri Barney.
Moses Ingersoll.	David Barney.	Richard ———
Reuben Holbrook.	Frances Norwood.	Jeremiah Taylor.
Gideon Thayer.	William Read.	Daniel Read.

During the period of ten years between 1790 and 1800, the population of the town was materially increased by the arrival of new settlers, many of whom were as fully and closely identified with the development of the region as were their predecessors. Indeed, immediately after the erection of the county there seemed to be a constant incoming of settlers from New England, from Pennsylvania, and from New Jersey, the yankees leading in point of numbers, and to them was largely due the credit of establishing and building up the first industries of the region. True, many came whose destination was in localities further west, in the old original town of Owego, or the still more distant Chemung in the western extremity of the county ; but all were imbued with the same patriotic spirit of determination to make for themselves and their families comfortable homes and farms in the new but not wholly unknown country. However, let us turn from these sentiments and briefly note the coming of later settlers.

Between the years 1790 and 1792 John and Abel Bills came from Columbia county and settled on the south side of the Susquehanna, and were among the first in that locality.

In 1787 Colonel Asa Camp came from New England and settled in the western part of what is now Broome county, but in 1792 removed to the Catlin farm in Owego. Eight years later (1800) he crossed to the north side of the river and made a permanent settlement on the site of the little village now known as Campville. Colonel Camp was a native of Rhode Island, born in 1760, and at the age of about seventeen entered the American army for service during the revolution. One of the important events with which he was connected during the war was the burial of Major Andre.

Although Colonel Camp was a person of influence and standing in the new settlement, he apparently took little part in public affairs, and the office of justice of the peace was the extent of his holdings. After moving across the river he built and kept a tavern, a famous resort in the stage coaching period of the town's history. In his family were five sons and one daughter. Four of the sons settled on good farms in the vicinity of Campville. Colonel Camp died in 1848.

John Hicks Horton was a settler in 1792, and located about two miles from Apalachin, opposite Campville. The same year also witnessed the arrival of Captain Mason Wattles and Dr. Samuel Tinkham, both on the village site. Capt. Wattles was the first merchant of Owego, and Dr. Tinkham was one of the pioneer physicians of the county.

So far as positive record discloses, the settlers in the town in 1795 were Hugh Eldridge Fiddis and Richard Searles, both New Englanders by previous residence, although pioneer Fiddis was of Irish parentage. Hugh Fiddis, father of Hugh E. Fiddis, came to America about 1762, and at Stonington, Conn., married with Hannah Eldridge. They had two children, Hugh Eldridge and Catharine. The father died when Hugh E. was an infant, and in 1768 his widow married with Captain Thomas Parks, 4th, a pioneer of Candor. Hugh E. Fiddis married with Anna Brown, and all of their four children were born in Owego. Richard Searles came from Bedford, Mass., and settled in Nichols in 1791, and thence removed to the vicinity of Flemingville in 1795, where he built a saw mill. He died September 9, 1849.

Jeremiah and Benjamin Brown, father and son, settled in Broome county in 1790, thence came in 1796 to Owego, where the family lived a short time.

Elisha Forsyth was another of the early settlers of this town, and a pioneer on the Broome side of the line. He came from Connecticut to Pennsylvania, and thence up the Susquehanna from Marietta to Union in a canoe. When he came to Owego he located in the Park settlement, on Owego creek. His wife was Frelove Park, daughter of Thomas Park, a pioneer in Candor, but later a resident east of the creek. The children of Elisha For-

syth were George, Catharine, Azor, Elisha, Experience, Gilbert and Eldridge. Mr. Forsyth was a lumberman and farmer.

In 1802 Major David Barney, an old revolutionary soldier, came from Cooperstown and settled first in Vestal, thence removed to Owego, where he built the first house on Apalachin creek.

The late Judge Avery, in his sketches of early life and settlement in the Susquehanna valley, has preserved to later generations many interesting recollections of pioneer times. From old and now lost documents and records he prepared a list of taxable inhabitants of the town of Tioga as constituted in 1802, including within its limits the present towns of Owego, Newark Valley, Berkshire and Richford. This list we reproduce, adding only the explanation (as did Judge Avery in his original article, published in *St. Nicholas* in 1854) that some names which have already been mentioned are omitted from the roll; and also that the first list comprises names of taxables residing north of the river, while those in the second list were residents on Coxe's manor, south of the Susquehanna. It is hoped and believed that every descendant of a pioneer family in Owego may find here, or otherwise mentioned in this chapter, the name of his or her ancestor in the town.

Andrews, Silas F.	Armstrong, Thomas	Ball, William
Brown, Joseph	Brown, Lemuel	Brown, Jeremiah
Brown, Bulah	Blackman, Lemuel	Bates, Luke
Burrill, Francis	Crane, Daniel	Cook, Ephraim
Curry, William	Carman, John,	Curtis, Robert
Casterline, Ebenezer	Dudley, William	Dean, Miel
Decker, Simeon	Ely, Susannah	Ferrand, David S.
Freeman, John	Foster, Luther	Foster, Abijah
Ferguson, William	Ferguson, Daniel	Ferguson, Daniel, Jr.
Gardner, William	Gleazen, Daniel	Gleazen, Joseph
Gaylord, Joel	Graves, Stephen	Gaskill, Silas
Gaskill, Jonathan	Horseford, Joseph	Hedges, Jonathan
Harris, Elisha	Howe, Josiah	Herrington, Reuben
Hunt, Harry	Hale, Joseph	Ingersoll, Moses
Ide, Nathan B.	Johnson, Abram	Kingsley, Vine
Kenyon, Griffin	Laning, John	Lawrence, Abel
Lincoln, Thomas	Lindsley, James	Moore, Henry
Muzzy, Jonas	Manning, Ripley	Mack, Stephen
McQuigg, John	Mead, Amos	Newman, Arthur
Newman, Alanson	Nealy, John	Olney, Zelotes
Pixley, David	Pritchard, Asabel	Pritchard, Calvin

Prine, Thomas	Roe, William	Rawson, Lyman
Rawson, Isaac	Rounseville, John	Sackett, Nathaniel
Sackett, Caleb H.	Swingle, Jacob	Smith, Eleazer
Steward, Samuel	Steward, Henry	Searles, Richard
Sparrow, Benjamin	Stoddard, Stephen	Simonds, Uriah
Stowe, William	Smith, Gilbert	Thompson, Phineas
Winship, Joseph	Wolfe, Doraster	Wolfe, Putnam
Waldo, Joseph, 2d	Williams, Solomon	Williams, Stephen
Williams, David	Wilson, Mary	Ward, Artemas
Wells, Ashbel	Whalen, Richard	Wood, Ephraim
Webster, Mason	Yates, Amariah	

The taxable inhabitants living on Coxe's manor in the year 1802 were as follows :

Aldridge, Solomon	Beebe, Reuben	Barney, John
Barney, David	Bates, Stephen	Bates, Elisha
Bills, John	Bills, Joel	Barney, Benajah
Burden, Philip	Chambers, Wilhelmus	Camp, Asa
Camp, Chester	Camp, Sarah(widow)	Green, Levi
Green, John	Gaskill, Uriah	Gaskill, Wilder
Guile, John	Harvey, John	Hammond, Jonathan
Hammond, Matthew	Hemstraught, David	Hall, David
Horton, J. Hicks	Holbrook, Reuben	Harris, Isaac
Lewis, Benjamin	Lewis, Venus (widow)	Miller, Tillotson
Read, Daniel	Roe, Gamaliel	Sheffield, Jonathan
Tilbury, James	Thompson, Moses	Thompson, Elijah
Thompson, Hezron	Vandemark, James	Van Gorder, Joseph
Westfall, Emanuel	Westfall, Abram	Whittemore, James
Wilcox, Daniel	Wood, Elisha	

ORGANIZATION AND CIVIL HISTORY.

By virtue of an act of the legislature, passed February 16, 1791, Tioga county was erected from Montgomery. At the same time the town of Union was created, and included the entire territory between Owego creek and the Chenango river. On March 14, 1800, the town of Tioga was formed from Union, and included substantially all that now comprises Owego, Newark Valley, Berkshire and Richford. However, on February 12, 1808, Berkshire was formed from Tioga, and comprised the present towns of Berkshire, Newark Valley and Richford, and all were civil divisions of Broome county until March 22, 1822, when an act of the legislature re-annexed them to Tioga county.

Again, on March 26, 1813, the legislature passed "An Act to divide the State into Counties," and on April 12, following, passed another act, entitled "An Act for dividing the Counties of this State into Towns," both of which were for the express purpose of correcting the irregularities of previous acts and to plainly define and establish both county and town lines. At that time Owego was the most important village in the region, and was located wholly within the town of Tioga, in Broome county. Adjoining on the west was the town of Owego, in Tioga county, and by reason of the confusion of names that frequently arose it was thought desirable to simply transpose them, which was done by the act, and Tioga of former years took the name of Owego, while the old original town of Owego thenceforth became Tioga, subject of course to subsequent reduction of the territory through the formation of new towns.

In the act above mentioned the town of Owego was described as follows: "And all that part of the said county of Broome bounded westerly by the bounds of the county; southerly by the Pennsylvania line; northerly by Berkshire, and easterly by a line beginning on the northwest corner of lot No. 171 in the township of Nanticoke; thence running southerly on the line of lots to the southwest corner of lot No. 121 in the same township; thence on the line of said lot No. 121 to the northeast corner of lot No. 117 in said township; thence southerly on the east line of the last mentioned lot to the south line of the Boston purchase; thence along said south line to the northeast corner of Coxe's patent; thence southerly along the east line of said patent to the southeast corner thereof; thence due south to the Pennsylvania line, shall be and continue a town by the name of Tioga."

The first town meeting in Union was held on the fifth Tuesday in April, 1791, at which time the following officers were elected: Town clerk, Silas Hutchinson; supervisor, Joshua Whitney; assessors, Daniel Seymour, Silas Hutchinson, William Bates; poor-masters, James Lyon, Silas Gaskill; commissioners of highways, Amaziah Hutchinson, William Whitney, Nathan Howard, William Bates, Amos Draper.

The first meeting for the election of officers in the town of Tioga

(now Owego) was held at the tavern kept by Captain Luke Bates, in the village of Owego, on the third Tuesday in April, 1800. Colonel David Pixley was chosen moderator, and the following officers were elected: Town clerk, Lemuel Brown; supervisor, John Brown; assessors, Asa Bennett, Asa Camp, Henry Steward; collector, Jesse Gleazen; overseers of the poor, Vine Kingsley, Lemuel Brown; commissioners of highways, William Roe, Asa Bennett, Stephen Mack; constables, Henry Steward, Stephen Ball, Stephen Mack; fence-viewers, Vine Kingsley, Stephen Bates; pound-master, Vine Kingsley; path-masters, Silas Gaskill, John McQuigg, Edward Paine, John Freeman, Asa Leonard, Laban Jenks, John Barney, Wilder Gaskill, David Buriel.

At that time there was no regularly laid out thoroughfare of travel in the town other than the old and well broken Indian trails leading up and down the river on both banks. Indeed, all the pioneers came into this part of the valley following the course of the river, and, unless compelled to journey on land looking after stock, the usual means of travel was a broad flat-bottomed boat, sufficient in carrying capacity to accommodate an entire family and all necessary farming implements and household furniture and utensils. Therefore, when the organization of the town was made complete the first duty of the officers was to lay out and open roads in all directions to prepare the way for other settlers. James Pumpelly surveyed the McMaster half-township soon after 1800, and of course made all due allowance for roads, and it remained only for the settlers to put them in proper condition for use.

POPULATION.—According to the census tables, within the broad area of Owego in the year 1800 were living 1,284 persons, but in 1808 at least one-half of the territory of the town was set off to form Berkshire, hence the inhabitants in 1810 numbered only 1,083. However, as the population of a town at stated intervals is a fair index of its growth and development, reference may be had to the census reports, both federal and state, to show the increase, and occasionally the decrease, in number of inhabitants in Owego from the year 1800 to 1892.

The population in 1800 was 1,284; 1810,—1,083; 1814,—1,099;

1820,—1,741 ; 1825,—2,260 ; 1830,—3,076 ; 1835,—4,089 ; 1840,—5,340 ; 1845,—6,104 ; 1850,—7,159 ; 1855,—8,328 ; 1860,—8,935 ; 1865,—8,865 ; 1870,—9,442 ; 1875,—9,729 ; 1880,—9,884 ; 1885, no enumeration ; 1890,—9,008 ; 1892,—8,762.

From this it will be seen that the town attained its greatest population in 1880, since which time there has been shown a gradual decrease in number. This, perhaps, has been due to the same causes that have contributed to the decrease in population in other interior towns of the state, whose people are chiefly agriculturists. It is a fact that for the last score of years there has been little in agricultural pursuits to attract labor to that field of action, for in that time the immense and limitless farming areas of the great west have arrayed themselves against the less extensive but more expensive lands of the east ; and while farm products are grown in the west at far less cost of time and labor than in the east, the same products are shipped from any western metropolis beyond the Mississippi to the Atlantic seaboard at no greater cost to the producer or shipper than from almost any point within Tioga county. Again, during the last quarter of a century the youth of the rural districts have shown a strong inclination for city life, and a corresponding dislike for the farm, and the result has been a constant flocking to the commercial centres, and the old homestead must perforce be neglected or worked at unusual expense by employes who have no direct interest in maintaining the producing qualities of the soil.

The first twenty years of history and settlement in Owego was a period of development and progress. Settlers from the east were coming almost every day and were casting about for lands suited to their tastes and to their means. Outside the principal valleys of the Susquehanna, Apalachin, Owego and Nanticoke creeks, there was little choice as to the best locations on the ridges. The bottom and valley lands of course commanded the greater price, but they were readily taken and at once improved.

The first disturbing event which in any manner affected the settlers in the region was the war of 1812-15, but the Indians had then nearly all departed, and the security of home and family and property was assured. All the able-bodied men were in the en-

rolled militia, and a few were drawn for service on the frontier ; but they were absent hardly more than a few months, and the period of the war was chiefly a subject for discussion at the fire-side and at the public houses where settlers were accustomed to assemble and hear the news of the day.

After the town was restored to Tioga county, and after Owego had been definitely fixed upon as the shire town, the prosperity of the people was an assured fact, and between the years 1814 and 1825 the population was more than doubled. The greatest benefit, however, from this designation was to the village of Owego, although the entire town profited by it. In 1830, came that period of depression, uncertainty and doubt, which has ever been known in history as the anti-rent conflict ; a period during which agricultural and business interests in certain of the western and central counties suffered seriously, and while the inhabitants of Tioga county were not materially affected by it, the subject was the main topic of conversation at resorting places, and as well the principal news in the papers of the time.

Again, in 1849, the New York and Lake Erie railroad was completed to Owego village, and general rejoicing prevailed throughout the town. Still better, property was increased in value all along the line of the road, and the little hamlets of Apalachin and Campville and also the village of Owego, at once felt the impulse of increased importance and worth. The old Ithaca and Owego road, organized April 9, 1828, as a company, was a benefit in its way and day, but the proposed Owego and Cortland railroad company of eight years later, but never built, occasioned a temporary lack of faith in such enterprises.

In 1860, Owego, town and village, contained a little less than nine thousand inhabitants, yet during the four years of war, which began in 1861 and closed in 1865, the territory mentioned furnished for the service an aggregate of more than five hundred men, beginning with volunteers in the third regiment of infantry, and continuing on through the period of the war, contributing both men and means for nearly every important command recruited in the county. In Company H of the third regiment were such familiar names as Isaac S. Catlin, who was promoted from captain to the

rank of brigadier-general, lawyer, soldier and patriotic citizen, and still a summer resident in the town; Willoughby Babcock, who was mustered as lieutenant, and eventually became lieut.-colonel of the 75th regiment, and who died on the battle field, and Major Lewis W. Truesdall and Capt. Henry L. Jewett, who were the two first men in Owego to enlist in the service.

Recalling to notice the old 5th cavalry, company G, mention must be made of the names of Major Abram H. Krom and Capt. Eugene B. Gere. In the same company were Tribe, Noble, Adams, Camp, Phelps, and others to the number of about forty.

In the old hard-fighting 23d, Co. C, were Captain Sumner Barstow, Lieutenants Van Benschoten and Durland, and privates Camp, Probasco, the De Groats, and others. In Company E were Captain George H. Powers and Lieutenant Hugh J. Baldwin, of Waverly. The 50th Engineers had many Co. I volunteers from the town, with Lieutenant Reynolds, Sergeant Whitmore, Musician Forsyth, and many privates from families of prominence in the region.

Then, in 1862, General Tracy, organized the 109th infantry, the old hard fighters of the 9th corps. He was its colonel; Captain Catlin, of the 3d regiment, was lieutenant-colonel; James S. Thurston, quarter-master; William A. King, quarter-master-sergeant, and Dr. Seymour A. Churchill, surgeon. The town's contingent of men in the regiment was mainly in companies C and H. In Co. C John Gorman was captain; Wm. H. S. Bean, 1st lieutenant, and Solomon Oakly, 2d lieutenant. In Co. H the commandant was Austin W. Alvord, and John S. Giles, 2d lieutenant. Captain Gorman was killed May 31, 1864, and lieutenant Edward C. Jones died of wounds July 1, 1864.

In the fall of 1862, the town furnished a fair proportion of the men of companies C and H of the 137th regiment. The officers credited to Owego in Co. C were captain, W. L. Hoskins; 1st lieutenant, David R. Russell; 2d lieutenants, Ambrose Thompson and William K. Porter. In Co. H the local contingent was small, chiefly privates and a few sergeants and corporals. These were the more important commands in which were volunteers from Owego, yet a reference to the military rolls, in a preceding chap-

ter, will disclose the fact that the town furnished recruits for many other regiments.

SCHOOLS.—Unfortunately, there has not been preserved any reliable record of the first schools in the various parts of this town, and untrustworthy tradition and the memory of old inhabitants are equally defective and uncertain. One publication incorrectly says that the first school in the town was that opened at Owego village in 1792, taught by John Kelly, while another account of later date fixes the year as 1794. The first school was taught by Mr. Quincy. Mr. Kelly was a farmer near Campville, and never taught school here. It is also said that the first school outside the village was in the Park settlement, and that a school-house was built there in 1817.

As disclosed by town records, the earliest attempt to establish school districts in Owego was made in 1813, when Eleazer Dana, James Pumpelly and Asa Camp were commissioners of common schools. In July of that year these worthy officers divided the territory of the town into seven districts, the boundaries of each being as follows :

No. 1. Extending from Owego creek, on the west bounds of the town, to the mouth of Little Nanticoke creek on the east, and from the south bounds of the town northerly to the Narrows, including lot 9 in McMaster's Half-township.

No. 2. Extending from the north line of lot number 9 one-half the distance to the north town line.

No. 3. Extending from the north line of No. 2 to the north line of the town.

No. 4. Commencing on the north side of the "Susquehannah" river, at the mouth of Little Nanticoke creek, and extending easterly halfway from thence to the easterly bounds of said town.

No. 5. Extending from the easterly bounds of No. 4 to the east bounds of said town.

No. 6. "Commencing at the east line of the town, on the south side of the river, and extending westerly as far as the division line between Nos. 4 and 5, on the north side of the river."

No. 7. Extending from the west line of No. 6, to a point opposite the mouth of Little Nanticoke creek.

Inspectors of schools were first elected in 1815, the incumbents of the office for that year being John H. Avery, William Jones, Abram Hogland, Nathan Camp, John R. Drake, and Daniel Ferguson. The same board was re-elected in 1816.

At the time this division was made the inhabitants of the town numbered about one thousand, but the next fifteen years witnessed a twofold growth in population, and in 1829 the number had increased to thirteen entire and five fractional districts. The number of children attending school was one hundred and ninety-five. The commissioners at that time were James Pumpelly, Cyrenus McNeil, and Eleazer Dana. In 1834 the town contained twenty-one whole, and seven fractional districts, and the total number of children of school age was 1,041. In 1858 the districts numbered thirty-nine.

According to the present disposition and arrangement of school interests, the territory of the town is divided into thirty-seven districts, one of which, No. 10, is joint with Maine and Newark Valley, and has no school-house in this town. No. 4 is a joint district with Union, in Broome county. The total number of school-houses is forty-one, of which thirty-nine are of frame and two of brick. The value of school sites is estimated at \$12,270, and sites and buildings at \$67,695. From the commissioner's report for the current year 1895 it is learned that the amount of public moneys apportioned to the several districts was \$9,482.10; raised by tax, \$14,296; received from other sources, \$1,062.90. During the year there was paid to teachers, \$20,892.37; for libraries, \$665.02; for apparatus, \$194.58; for repairs, \$1,747.04, and for all other expenses, \$3,812.09. The assessed valuation of taxable property in the town was \$5,093,899. Sixty-six teachers were employed, inclusive of those in Owego village, and the whole number of children between the ages of five and twenty-one years was 2,103, of whom 1,131 were in the village.

VILLAGES AND HAMLETS.—During the period of its history, there have been built up and established within the limits of this town one incorporated village, and three of less importance, neither of which has ever attained to the dignity of corporate character. In addition there are two post hamlets, one in the north and the

other in the south part of the town. The village of Owego, the seat of justice of the county, is the largest and most important municipality in the town and county, and is one of the most historic places in all the southern tier. By reason of this prominence it is made the subject of a special chapter in this work.

The other villages and hamlets, enumerated in the order of importance, are Apalachin, Flemingville, Campville, Gaskill Corners, South Owego, and Gibson Corners, each of which, except the last named, has a postoffice.

APALACHIN.—In the year 1786 Isaac Harris came from Providence, Rhode Island, and settled on the site of this village. Harris, with a partner, had made a contract for the purchase of Coxe's patent, and paid a part of the price in cash. The partner started for Philadelphia with the money to pay the balance, but suddenly disappeared and was never heard of afterward. In 1787 pioneer Harris returned to the east and brought his young wife and all their property and effects to the town, making the journey from Cooperstown by boat. He made his first improvement on Apalachin creek, on the afterward laid out river road, the locality known as the Glann farm and the Pardon Yates farm. Amariah Yates, Caleb and Simeon Nichols, John and Abel Bills, John Hicks Horton, and Major David Barney, all of whom are mentioned on preceding pages, were pioneers and early settlers in the immediate vicinity of Apalachin.

Benjamin Tracy, son of Thomas Tracy (a pioneer of Vestal, in Broome county) and father of Gen. Benj. F. Tracy, the present owner of "Marshland," settled on Apalachin creek, where he raised to maturity a large family of children. Col. Asa Camp was another early settler in this vicinity, and in the same connection may also be mentioned John Jewett, and his sons, Asa and John, Jr., in 1816; Henry and Chauncey Billings, about 1822, and also Joseph S. Dean, Vincent Glann, Josiah Mead, David Foster, Josiah Griswold, John Goodenow, Deacon Armstrong, the La Montes, the Billses, the Mortons, and others of later years.

The statement has been made that the first step in the direction of founding a settlement was made in 1820, when a branch of John Hollenback's Owego store was opened on the site of the vil-

lage; and two years later Henry Billings opened public house and gave the place early importance among travellers down the valley, both on the river and along the old Indian trail on the south bank. However, the settlement at Apalachin was not in fact founded until William S. Pearsall and his brothers, Thomas, Gilbert, Nathaniel, and Robert, and Ransom Steele came to the place and made permanent improvements; and in all that was done in this vicinity during the next quarter of a century, William S. Pearsall and Ransom Steele were the principal factors. David Beers, it has been said, opened a store in 1824, and was succeeded by Squire Steele in 1830, but as a matter of fact Squire Steele came here from Owego to manage the Hollenback store, but at least ten years later than 1824.

The Pearsall brothers, William S. being the active operator, came to this region in 1833 or 1834, and looked over the country to determine the character and quantity of the timber, for they were lumbermen, from Chenango county, and were in search of a new field of operation. On the present village site William S., or the firm, purchased two hundred acres of land, on which they built a saw mill in 1836, and within the next few years their lumbering operations extended into Hooper's Valley, and also on Pea Island. They in fact controlled the lumbering interests of the region for a time, but the business depression of 1837 forced them into insolvency. They recovered, however, and soon afterward resumed operations. In the meantime Gilbert Pearsall had established a store at the Corners, as Apalachin was then called, but soon afterward sold out to Squire Steele and removed to Hooper's Valley. About the same time Squire Steele purchased one hundred acres of the Pearsall tract, and was for many years the only merchant in the settlement. Then the Pearsall firm was dissolved, and about 1840 William S. and Gilbert built grist mills at Apalachin and Hooper's Valley, at a cost of from \$5,000 to \$6,000 each. The local mill was 50x60 feet in size, had four "run of stone," and was the largest in the entire region. It eventually passed into the hands of John and Ransom S. Pearsall, and still later was owned by R. S. Pearsall and Lorenzo L. Buck, then by Buck & La Monte, and finally by Camp & Burr. It was burned in 1872. About 1855

William S. Pearsall rebuilt the saw mill, and combined with it a rake factory. These were important industries for many years, furnishing employment to several workmen. The fame of the Apalachin rake was known throughout the counties of the southern tier. However, these factories were also burned in the fire of 1872.

In 1849 the New York and Erie railroad was completed, and although the line lay along the north side of the river, it was of much benefit to all local interests. The management of the road promised Mr. Pearsall and Squire Steele that a station would be erected opposite Apalachin if a bridge could be built there. They at once set to work and spanned the river with a substantial wooden bridge, at a cost of about \$7,500, but the company failed to keep faith with its promise, and yielding to the persuasions of Campville residents, placed the depot about two miles down the river. The bridge was built by a stock company, in 1849, and Squire Steele and Mr. Pearsall were the largest shareholders. A portion of the structure was carried away by high water in 1852, but was soon restored. An accident happened soon afterward by which one McNiell and his team broke through the bridge and fell into the river. A damage suit followed, and to settle the matter Mr. McNiell took the structure with all its privileges. But the bridge was again taken away by high water, after which a ferry was established for the accommodation of the public, and has been maintained to the present day.

Apalachin was made a post station in 1838, Ransom Steele, postmaster. He held the office about twenty-five years and was then succeeded by his son Aaron Steele, who served a like period. The next incumbent was Frank J. Knapp, followed by Hiram J. Cooper and Ransom S. Pearsall, Mr. Pearsall having been appointed in August, 1893.

Fifty years ago Ransom Steele was the only merchant doing business at Apalachin, and the other interests of the period were Peter Cochran's blacksmith shop; Lorenzo Dow Frisbee's wagon shop, and the old Exchange Hotel, which Squire Steele built in 1838. From these small beginnings the present village has grown, but that growth did not in fact show substantial results until the

construction of the New York and Erie railroad. In 1855 the Presbyterians took the first steps toward erecting a church edifice, and in later years the Baptists and Methodists also organized societies.

As now constituted Apalachin has a population of about four hundred inhabitants within the area of a square mile of land. It has several good stores, two or three factories, three churches, a good union free school, and all the essential requisites of an incorporated village. Union school district No. 15, was formed in 1880. The first board of education contained nine members, but soon afterward the number was reduced to three. The present board comprises Aaron Steele, Gilbert Holmes, and John S. Giles.

The leading business interests of the village at the present time are the grist mill of Frank O. Palmer; planing mill, Isaac W. Campbell; saw and cider mill, James Holmes; general stores, Miller Bros. (John K. and Franklin G.) and John H. Gray; grocery stores, Chauncey B. Goodenow and John S. Barney; drug store, Lancy N. Hopkins; meat market, W. E. Beardsley; coal dealer, A. Steele, also a milk station and creamery, and a good village hotel.

The Presbyterian church at Apalachin was organized in 1855, with five constituent members, and was the result of the efforts of Mrs. Asa Camp, assisted by Rev. O. N. Benton. The church edifice, still in use, was erected in 1856 at a cost of \$3,000. Mr. Benton was the first pastor and remained with the society until 1861, when he was made chaplain of the 51st N. Y. Infantry. He was killed in battle at Newberne, N. C., March 14, 1864, and his remains were buried at Owego. This society was for many years the strongest in the eastern part of the town, but later on its membership declined to such an extent that a regular pastor could not be supported, hence the church was closed and the congregations attended the Free Will Baptist meetings. However, Rev. J. Forbes Robinson has recently been sent to supply the pulpit, and the church is now reopened. The present members number about thirty.

The Free Will Baptist church of Apalachin was organized in 1869, and was incorporated May 8 of that year, but it was not until 1874 that a church home was erected. It cost \$3,000. This

society has suffered hardships, like its predecessor in the village, and in recent years one is closed while the other is open. The last pastor of the church was Rev. Samuel S. Snell. The members now number about twenty-five.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Apalachin had not more than an informal organization previous to 1887, when the church edifice was built ; and even now it forms a joint charge with South Owego and Campville. In the three churches are 135 members and 30 probationers. The present pastor is Rev. S. H. Flory.

In the locality called South Apalachin a Free Will Baptist church was organized by the early settlers in 1816, and numbered fourteen members. Rev. John Gould was the first pastor, but the early meetings were held in school-houses and private dwellings. In 1844 a meeting-house was built, but was burned in 1859, and replaced with a more substantial structure in 1865.

FLEMINGVILLE.—In the northwest corner of the town, five miles distant from the county seat, is the pleasant little hamlet called Flemingville, so named in allusion to Captain David Fleming, who came from Newton, N. J., to Nichols in 1806, and thence to Owego in 1808, settling on the site mentioned. In the war of 1812–15 Captain Fleming held a commission in the 3d company, 3d regiment of heavy artillery, and fought at Sackett's Harbor, Lake George and Fort Erie. He died at Flemingville, February 4, 1862. Gen. Robert L. Fleming, son of the pioneer, was with his father in the capacity of waiter, during the war, and afterward became captain of a militia company. In 1835 he was elected brigadier-general, in command of the 9th brigade N. Y. state artillery. In the war of 1861–5, he assisted Col. Kane in raising the famous Pennsylvania "Bucktail" regiment, the old "Kane's Rifles," as originally known. In 1840 Gen. Fleming was elected sheriff of the county and served four years. He died February 26, 1877.

The pioneer on the Flemingville site was Asahel Pritchard, the famous hunter of the valley, who was said to have paid for his farm with the earnings of his rifle. As has been stated on a preceding page, pioneer Pritchard came to this town among the earliest settlers, and ever afterward lived in the locality. He died at Flemingville, September 24, 1840. Other early settlers in the same

vicinity, several of whom have been mentioned elsewhere, were Amzi Stedman, Daniel Ferguson, Daniel Ferguson, Jr., Jeremiah and Benjamin Brown, father and son, and Richard Searles, who built a saw-mill here in 1795.

Another of the early settlers in this part of the town was Aaron Truman, a native of Granville, Berkshire county, Mass., and a pioneer in Sparta, Livingston county, N. Y. He came to Owego in 1804, to teach school, and about two years afterward settled near Flemingville, where he took up and cleared a large tract of pine timber land. He married with Experience Park, and to them were born ten children : Lyman P., Charles E., Dorinda, Orin, Francis W., Charlotte, George, Fanny, Mary E. and Adeline. These sons and daughters in later years became identified with the best history of the town and village of Owego and are mentioned at length in the village chapter.

Notwithstanding the fact that this part of the town of Owego was settled almost as early as and by a class of pioneers as substantial as in other localities, and the further fact that the hamlet was pleasantly and conveniently located on Owego creek, Flemingville has not attained any marked prominence among the villages outlying from the county seat. Richard Searles's saw-mill was the first industry, and as early as 1812 Samuel Stewart had opened public house. The postoffice was established about 1820. A store was also opened about the same time, and around these interests was built up the hamlet, with a population at one time of about 200 persons. In 1811 a Methodist class was formed, and a school district was organized two years later, but beyond this condition of progress the hamlet advanced but little. A store has always been maintained here, and until quite recently two hotels have been kept open. The present merchants are B. F. Joiner, grocer, also postmaster, and Wheeler Stedman, feed store.

The Flemingville Methodist Episcopal society was organized as a class in 1811, with fifteen members, and with Thomas Stocky and David Fleming, class-leaders. The church organization was fully completed several years later, and a meeting-house was built in 1834, under the pastorate of Revs. Alanson Wood and Sylvester Minear. The present membership numbers about 130 persons ;

pastor, Rev. Carl Councilman. The Sunday-school has 50 pupils, and is under the superintendence of C. Vincent Mead.

CAMPVILLE.—In the year 1800, Colonel Asa Camp moved from Apalachin to the north side of the river and laid the foundation for a future village by building and opening a tavern ; but the earliest mention of the place in its hamlet character was as East Owego, and it was not until Stephen B. Leonard's term in congress, (1835–37), that the name Campville was given to the post-office then established. Col. Camp was in all respects a progressive, public-spirited citizen, and his presence had much to do with the early importance of the hamlet among the settled localities of the valley. In town affairs he held the offices of pound-master, assessor, commissioner of highways, overseer of the poor, and supervisor. He died in 1848, one year previous to the opening of the railroad, hence he did not live to witness the greatest growth and importance of the village named in his honor. This came with the establishment of the stockyards by the railroad company, and by this acquisition much business was brought to Campville. However, after the yards were removed a marked depression followed, and now nothing but a few old and much worn buildings mark the scene of former prosperity. The landmarks remain but the glory of the place has departed. The old "Campville House," built in 1835, still stands, but offers no shelter to the weary traveller, and only the accommodation trains now stop at the station. The only public buildings are the schoolhouse of district No. 33 and the M. E. church. The McNeil mills at Campville were built in 1876. The place has one small store.

Roswell C. McNeil was for many years the leading citizen of Campville, and was, as well, a descendant of an old family in the vicinity. His father was Rev. Cyrenus McNeil, an early settler near Campville. Mr. McNeil was the first station agent of the New York and Erie railroad at Campville, appointed in June, 1849. The stockyards were established here in 1855, and he was superintendent in charge of the company's interests until their removal to Deposit in January, 1871. McNeil died at Campville June 29, 1885, leaving a wife, three sons, and two daughters.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Campville was organized as

a class as early as the year 1820, and as a church society about thirteen years later (1833). However, the meeting house was not built until 1854. This church forms a joint charge with Apalachin and South Owego, under the pastorate of Rev. S. H. Flory.

GASKILL CORNERS is a little hamlet, about five miles northeast from Owego, on Little Nanticoke creek, and was named from Joseph Gaskill, pioneer, who, with his father, Silas Gaskill, came to the town in March, 1789, and to the Corners in 1822. In the same locality Elijah Walter was an early settler, and came from Great Barrington, Mass., about 1810. He raised to maturity a family of five children, and several of his descendants still live in the town.

The Corners was made a postoffice station in 1866, Clark Green, postmaster. A store has been maintained here many years, the present one being known as a grange store. Here, also, is a cider and saw mill, Harmon Curtis, proprietor; and a creamery owned by the Standard Butter Co. of Owego. The hamlet is in school district No. 20. The postmaster is John Pierson.

SOUTH OWEGO is the name of a postoffice in the south part of the town, in school district No. 22, about seven and one-half miles south of Owego village. In 1840 a postoffice was established here, and at times a store has been kept in the locality. About two miles north Burr Duane formerly had a steam saw mill (built in 1856), but nearly all evidences of early industry have now disappeared, and only the schoolhouse and the M. E. church mark the present hamlet. The South Owego Methodist Episcopal church was organized as a class about 1830, and as a church society, May 20, 1856. In the year last mentioned the meeting-house was built, and cost \$1,200. The society is now small, and is supplied from Apalachin by Rev. S. H. Flory.

GIBSON CORNERS is a little cluster of dwellings built up at a cross-roads in school district No. 25, in the southwest part of the town, on the site where Eli Gibson settled in the spring of 1835. He was born at Stowe, Middlesex county, Mass., June 17, 1795, and died March 12, 1864. This hamlet is located in the centre of a good farming territory, but it has no business interests, nor public buildings other than the district school and the grange hall. The

latter was built about fifteen years ago, and is used for farmers' meetings and occasionally for religious services.

FOSTER is the name of a locality in the eastern part of the town, in school district No. 17, and was so called from Daniel R. Foster, who built a mill here in 1836. The mill has been operated and maintained from that time to the present, both as saw and feed mill, and is now owned by Leonard Foster, of Owego village.

WHITTEMORE HILL is in the same district, though farther north. This locality was named from the old family surname, Whittemore, many descendants of which are still in the town. Isaac Whittemore settled here about 1830. On the hill, in 1850 and '51, was built a Methodist Episcopal church, on land leased to the society by Isaac Whittemore for the nominal consideration of one dollar, so long as the edifice should be used for church purposes. This charge is joint with Union, in Broome county.

WAIT SETTLEMENT is a name applied to the locality in which Henry Wait (from Half-Moon, Saratoga county) settled about 1818. The settlement is located in the extreme southwest corner of the town, in what is now school district No. 3. The people of this section have built a M. E. church at the cross-roads, southwest of the centre of the district.

NORTH OWEGO is the name of a settlement south of Flemingville and just north of the county poor farm.

The old Red Mill, on Owego creek, about half way between the village and the county farm, was built in 1820, by Jonathan Platt and David Turner. In 1868 it was purchased by George Nichols, and is still owned by his estate.

Another of the landmarks was the steam grist and saw mills, built by James Pumpelly and John R. Drake, and located on the south side of the river, about one mile below the bridge. The buildings were carried away by high water in 1865, after which Jacob Hand purchased the site and built new mills. These, in turn, were burned July 3, 1874, and were replaced in 1876 by other mills, erected by John D. Weed.

SUCCESSION OF SUPERVISORS.*

1791-92—Joshua Whitney.	1850-51—George W. Hollenback.
1793—Jonathan Fitch.	1852—James Ely.
1794—Daniel Hudson.	1853—John Holmes.
1795—Luke Bates.	1854—Stephen B. Leonard.
1796-97—Orring Stoddard.	1855—George W. Hollenback.
1798—Samuel Seymour.	1856—Stephen B. Leonard.
1799—Joshua Mersereau.	1857—Lyman Truman.
1800-1—John Brown.	1858—Arba Campbell.
1802—Joseph Waldo.	1859—Agur E. Cable.
1803-5—John Brown.	1860—Charles K. Lincoln.
1806—Asa Leonard.	1861—Ezra S. Buckbee.
1807-8—Stephen Mack.	1862—William P. Raymond.
1809-10—Charles Pumpelly.	1863—Agur E. Cable.
1811-12—Stephen Mack.	1864-68—James Bishop.
1813—John R. Drake.	1869—Frederick O. Cable.
1814—Eleazer Dana.	1870-73—Frederick K. Hull.
1815-16—Anson Camp.	1874—Frederick O. Cable.
1817-18—Asa Camp.	1875—William H. Corey.
1819-20—Anson Camp.	1876—John B. Brush.
1821-24—Charles Pumpelly.	1877—Charles M. Haywood.
1825-30—William A. Ely.	1878—Anson Decker.
1831—Anson Camp.	1879—Frank A. Bliss.
1832-33—William A. Ely.	1880—Anson Decker.
1834—David P. Tinkham.	1881—Aaron Steele.
1835-39—William A. Ely.	1882—John Jones.
1840—Lyman Truman.	1883-84—George W. Barton.
1841—James Ely.	1885—Jonas Shays.
1842—Joseph C. Bell.	1886-88—Orlando G. King.
1843—James Cameron.	1889-90—George F. Andrews.
1844-45—James Ely.	1891—Otis S. Beach.
1846—David Wallis.	1892-93—Aaron P. Storrs.
1847-48—Benjamin W. Green.	1894-95—Calvin B. Dean.
1849—Lyman Truman.	1896-97—Lyman T. Stanbrough.

*Town of Union from 1791 to 1800; Tioga from 1800 to 1813; Owego from 1813.



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A. Coburn

CHAPTER XIX.

VILLAGE OF OWEGO.

THE SEAT OF JUSTICE OF TIOGA COUNTY.

WHEN James McMaster first came into the Susquehanna valley, in 1784, and visited the scene of his former exploits as a soldier of the revolution, he little thought the land which appeared to him the most desirable as a home farm would ever become the site of one of the pleasantest villages of the state ; nor did he then believe the land on which he “made his pitch” would ever be selected as the seat of justice of one of the best interior agricultural counties of New York. It was the general fertility of soil and the desirable situation of the land, the first considerations that presented themselves to a farmer’s mind, that impelled pioneer McMaster to select this spot as the site of his future home, and it made little difference to the Indians whether he selected lands on the east or the west side of Owego creek, the north or the south side of the Susquehanna ; but if early tradition and record be true the worthy pioneer had previous knowledge of the productive character of the soil, for in 1779 he had helped to destroy the Indian village standing on the site of his proposed home, and had also helped to lay waste the abundant fields of corn and the orchard trees found growing on the north bank of the river, east of the creek.

James McMaster lived to see Tioga county created and organized ; he lived to see the little village settlement started, and contributed generously to that end ; he lived to see the lands of his half-township set off from Tioga to form a part of Broome county, but he did not live to see the territory again restored to the mother county, nor to see the village in the character of county seat. His concession of land from the Massachusetts proprietary extended up Owego creek a distance of six miles, and three miles up the Susquehanna from the mouth of the creek, yet before his death

James McMaster parted with his title to all this vast and valuable property, and left the town to spend his latter days with a daughter in Candor, where he met an accidental death in 1818 ; and all that Owego now has in memory of this worthy pioneer is a single village street leading northward from Main street to the corporation line.

In a narrative of early village life mention must also be made of Amos Draper, the nearest neighbor of McMaster, and whose home was up the river fourteen miles, at the little Indian village called Choconut. Indeed, it was through Draper's influence with the natives that McMaster secured this splendid tract of land, and he, too, became the possessor of several fine lots in the half-township in recompense for his service and assistance in bringing about the conveyance from the proprietary to the pioneer. McMaster also deeded a considerable portion of his tract to Captain Luke Bates, who was a conspicuous figure in early village life, and who had much to do with the events of his time. He was the first settler between Union and Campville, and in 1795 built the first tavern in the village. A portion of his purchase was within the village plat.

As the story is told in the history of the town, James McMaster became a permanent settler on the village site in 1785, and at the same time also came Robert McMaster, William Taylor, John Nealy and William Woods. Amos Draper came in the spring of 1787, and his was the first family to settle in the village. His house stood near the bank of the river, in the rear of the present residence of John R. Chatfield.

The second family was James McMaster's, who came in the spring of 1788, followed in the same year by James McQuigg and his family. McQuigg's house stood on the site of Camp's furnace, on the south side of Front street, while the McMaster dwelling was further down the same street, on the site now occupied by G. H. Pumpelly's residence. Both faced the river and between them and the stream was the only thoroughfare known to the settler, the old Indian trail running along the river bank. Front street, as now laid out, takes part of the land used by the first settlers for garden purposes.

The old village tract comprised the greater portion of lot num-

ber twenty-three in the west half township. It was in part surveyed by Amaziah Hutchinson in 1788 and '89, and completed by David Pixley, Jr., in 1789 and '90. The western limits of the village then extended only a short distance west of the park, while the eastern boundary was just beyond Paige street. The northern tier of lots was south of Temple street. Surveyor James Pumpelly increased the size of the village plat in his survey, made soon after 1800.

STREETS AND HIGHWAYS.—The first regularly laid out highway through the village began at the “fording place” on Owego creek, below where Main street now crosses, and thence extended east on the present course of the street to McMaster street; thence down to Front street, and easterly on that thoroughfare to and beyond the village limits.

When Amaziah Hutchinson surveyed the town plat, a narrow road ran from the river north through where Lake street now is, extending through the lot occupied by the *Times* office, and on up the valley of Owego creek. This was known as the “Lake Road,” as it led from Owego to Cayuga lake. In 1802 it was regularly laid out as a highway by Henry Steward and Solomon Williams, commissioners of highways, and extended from the river bank to the south line of Joseph and Lemuel Brown’s lot—a point near where stood the Thurston planing mill of later days, in North avenue. The late William Pumpelly, on May 17, 1802, then a lad of thirteen, passed up this road with his father’s family on the journey from Salisbury, Conn., to Tompkins county; and he said at that time the vicinity of Lake street was a wilderness of pine trees, so tall that to his youthful imagination they seemed to touch the clouds. The road was not so wide as the present street, and on each side was a rail fence. When the Hutchinson survey was made Front street was variously known as “the main street,” as “Water street,” and also as “the river road.” In 1795 it was made a highway, though not particularly straight in its course.

The highway now called Main street extended from where Park street now is to the Cayuga lake trail (McMaster street), and was known as Second street, and also as Back street, being back of the main road. McMaster street is nearly identical in its course with

the old Indian trail leading from the river bank north through the village tract. The trail led to Cayuga lake, hence the name "Cayuga lake trail." Another road began near the old Bates tavern (site of Ahwaga House) and thence ran diagonally across open fields to the northwest corner of the park. In August, 1801, Back street was extended from the northwest corner of the park east to the lake road, and the road from the Bates tavern, which had been laid out by Jabez Winship and Lemuel Brown, was discontinued. The Hutchinson survey also laid out a street, or lane, extending from the river north, between the residence of J. C. Dwelle and the old Avery house, across Back street and as far as Temple street. Paige street was laid down on the map as a lane. The highways thus far mentioned in this chapter were the only streets in the settlement previous to the year 1800.

In 1802 the Lake road north of Back street was discontinued, and a new highway was opened and was known, successively, as the Owego and Ithaca turnpike, Ithaca street, and North avenue. In 1803 a bridge was built across Owego creek, after which all travel west went by Back street, and the old river road was abandoned. The old Owego and Ithaca Turnpike Road Company was incorporated April 6, 1807, and the highway was laid out during that and the year following. The Owego terminus was in Main street, now the south end of North avenue. (For a more detailed history of this thoroughfare, see chapter IX).

McMaster street was laid out in 1806, on the Cayuga lake trail, by commissioners of highways Lemuel Brown and Abijah Foster. That portion between Main and Front streets was subsequently known as Chapel street, and all north of Main street was called McMaster street. The name Chapel street was changed to Academy street by the board of village trustees, April 26, 1886. The next highway laid out and opened was Ross street, November 18, 1812, by commissioners Asa Camp and John R. Drake. For several years it was known as the upper cross street, being in the extreme eastern limits of the village. Fourth street (now Fox) was laid out February 26, 1821, by William Pumpelly and Elisha Bundy, commissioners. It was named in honor of Captain Sylvanus Fox. In 1810, Lemuel Brown and Abijah Foster, commis-

sioners, laid out a road running from the river road to Back (Main) street, near where Paige street now runs. The road was abandoned in 1820, and that portion now known as Paige street was surveyed and laid out.

These streets were of course laid out for the convenience of property owners and the inhabitants of the village, but in many cases the course was irregular, and they were so insufficiently defined as to be little better than lanes. However, in 1827 the village was incorporated, and the newly created board of trustees at once took steps to put the public highways in order, and appropriate and permanent names were given them. The river road of pioneer days was named Front street; Back street was called Main street; Upper cross street became Ross street, in allusion to Major Horatio Ross, an early merchant. That portion of Paige street between Front and Main was named Leonard street, in honor of Stephen B. Leonard, and was so called as late as 1837. Paige street was named in honor of Dr. Joel S. Paige, and the part of the village in which he lived was known as "Paigeville." Previous to the incorporation Church street was called "Dutch alley." Lake street was named Ithaca street. The latter name was afterward given to the street now called North avenue. Down at the foot of William street was the old ark yard, from which the name Ark street arose. The trustees changed the name to William street.

In 1836 the trustees determined upon a new survey and map of the village, and for that purpose engaged the services of Stephen Dexter, of Ithaca. In many instances Mr. Dexter cut off door-yards and valuable property fronts along the streets, to the great displeasure of owners. But his survey was adopted, and the street lines are now in accordance with his map. The map was duly filed in the county clerk's office, but was either borrowed, or secretly removed, probably by some displeased land owner.

Front street, from Church to Court, was first paved with cobble stones in the summer of 1839, by James Erwin, of Smithville, Chenango county. He also paved Lake street in the fall of the next year.

Referring briefly to the more important streets subsequently

laid out and opened, mention may be made of the extension of Church street, in the fall of 1836; Main street from McMaster street west to Owego creek, in June, 1838; Temple street from North avenue to Paige street, in June, 1838, and extended west to McMaster street in January, 1853. March 8, 1842, the name of Ithaca street was changed to North avenue, and in 1878 to Broadway. March 28, 1881, the name North avenue was restored. In 1850 the narrow lane previously known as "Dog alley," was widened and named Liberty street, and was extended north to Fox street in 1857. John street was opened June 17, 1850, and named for John Hollenback. Fulton street was opened April 17, 1854. Farm street was laid out in May, 1858, but the name was afterward changed to Division street. Walnut street was opened in September, 1858. Tinkham street was opened in May, 1855, (named in allusion to Samuel Standish Tinkham), and was changed to Chestnut street April 28, 1856. Forsyth street was laid out and opened May 4, 1857. Spencer avenue was originally laid out as Furnace lane (1853), but was extended and called St. Patrick street in 1858. The name Spencer avenue was given by the trustees in 1870.

Previous to the completion of the New York and Erie railroad to Owego, in 1849, Judge Drake owned a large tract of land on both sides of the proposed road, extending from North avenue to the creek. This tract he caused to be surveyed into lots and streets, and the plan was by him called "A map of Drake's Reservation in the Village of Owego." The streets, with one or two exceptions, were named for his children and grandchildren, hence the village thoroughfares known as Arianna, Theodore, Charlotte, Adaline, Delphine, and others. Judge Drake intended to build up a village on "the flats," but an attack of paralysis prevented him from carrying out the work.

Bell street, named for Joseph C. Bell, was laid out in August, 1843; Green street in the same year; Erie street in January, 1859; South Depot and North Depot streets in 1851; "Little John" street in 1851; Central avenue, which runs just west of the line of the old Ithaca and Owego horse railroad line, in May, 1862; Talcott street (named for George Talcott) in August, 1862; Hill

street (named in allusion to James Hill) in May, 1870; East avenue, originally known as "the mountain road," in September, 1840. Franklin street was so named by Hiram A. Beebe in honor of Benjamin Franklin.

BUILDING UP THE HAMLET.—Returning again to the period of pioneer history, it is proper to recall the names of some other of the early settlers on lot number twenty-three and its immediate vicinity, the location in which the hamlet was established. In 1790 Emanuel Deuel settled in the north part of the village tract, and during the same year Captain Lemuel Brown came from Berkshire county, Mass., and built the first tannery in the settlement, and one of the first in the Susquehanna valley. In 1791 Mason Webster, from Lenox, Mass., settled here. He died in 1854. Dr. Samuel Tinkham, the first physician, came in 1792, and Captain Mason Wattles, the pioneer merchant, in the same year. Captain Luke Bates came about the same time, possibly a year later, and in 1795 built the first tavern, that sure index of village settlement.

From undoubted authority it is known that in 1791 the settlement contained but six families, and during the next seven years the number must have increased nearly threefold, as in 1798, Guy Maxwell, assessor, noted nineteen houses, nearly all of which were built of logs. However, the then few residents determined to build up a village, and through the efforts of the leaders, James McMaster was persuaded, in consideration of ten pounds, to convey to Captain Mason Wattles, John McQuigg and Luke Bates, as "Trustees of Owego Settlement," a tract of land containing a little more than three acres for the purpose of a park.

The present village park, on which stands the court house, with the lands taken for Park and Court streets, together with the lands now occupied by the jail and sheriff's residence, the old clerk's office, and the old academy building, comprise substantially the three acres deeded to the trustees. Tracing briefly the subsequent history of the park, we learn that on September 4, 1813, Eleazer Dana and John H. Avery succeeded trustees Bates and McQuigg, and on the removal of Captain Wattles from Owego, General Anson Camp was chosen his successor. That portion of the park tract occupied by the jail and clerk's office was conveyed by

the trustees to the county, October 29, 1822, while the academy lot was in the same manner deeded to the trustees of that institution, April 8, 1828. Still later, on January 9, 1871, the citizens of Owego consented that the village deed to the county the public square for the exclusive purpose of a court house. The site was adopted by the supervisors, January 12, 1871; the legislature authorized the transfer January 20, 1871, and on February 14, following, the conveyance was made.

OLD OWEGO MERCHANTS AND BUSINESS MEN.—When Captain Mason Wattles opened the first store in Owego, his stock in trade was limited to such merchandise as was actually necessary to the settlers. Goods and wares of all kinds were brought up the river from towns in Pennsylvania, and payment was made in lumber rafted down in spring and fall. The Susquehanna was the only outlet to this locality until the construction of the Owego and Ithaca road in 1808, and then Owego as a commercial centre began to assume a position of some prominence among the growing trade villages of this part of the state. After that road was completed large quantities of salt, plaster, and other commodities were brought down Cayuga lake by boat, thence drawn by team to Owego, and here loaded on arks and shipped down the river to market. The old turnpike was daily thronged with loaded wagons, and it is said that as many as eight hundred teams passed over the road in a single day. However, after the Erie canal was completed all merchandise for Owego came by canal from New York to Cayuga lake and thence to Ithaca by boat; thence was hauled with teams to Owego. The merchants travelled by stage, but merchandise was transported via Albany and the canal.

In Owego, as the surrounding country began to be settled, stores were built as the demand for them seemed to suggest. The early merchants were speculators, purchasing and dealing in lumber, salt, wheat, plaster, pot and pearl ashes, and much of their time in rafting season was spent on the river. The majority of them were successful, and from small beginnings accumulated fortunes, while a few were unfortunate and lost their entire capital.

The first stores in Owego were built on the river bank, and the

water's edge was constantly lined with arks, which were loaded with wheat from "spouts" above. A road extended along the shore, and was reached by alleys between the stores from the main street to the river bank. These alleys were private property, but after the fire of 1849 the ground was entirely covered with new brick buildings, and the former evidences of early village life were forever obliterated.

The construction of the old horse railroad between Owego and Ithaca lessened travel on the turnpike. The road was built down through the park and extended up Front street beyond Church street and then turned to the right, down the bank of the river and thence down stream as far as was necessary to transfer the goods from the car to the arks.

Previous to 1834 sidewalks were unknown in Owego, and only an occasional flat stone was laid in front of either store or dwelling for the convenience of pedestrians. The first walk was that in front of James Dougherty's premises, in Lake street, but about the same time walks were laid in front of the residences of James and Harmon Pumpelly in Front street.

The first brick building erected was a double store, on the bank of the river, opposite the present Ahwaga Hall. It was built and owned by Jonathan Platt and David Turner, comprising the firm of Platt & Turner, who occupied half of it, while Gurdon Hewitt occupied the other half. At the time its construction was begun there was no brick building in this part of the state and much doubt was expressed as to its safety when completed. It was looked upon as a doubtful experiment and the local wiseacres fully believed that the winter frosts would disturb the foundations and that the whole structure would come tumbling to the ground. But it stood the storms and frosts of all years down to 1849, and then, with all the business portion of the village, was destroyed by fire.

Captain Mason Wattles was the first merchant in Owego, and was the owner of a large portion of the land whereon now stands the business part of the village. Where his store stood is a question of doubt, but was probably on the river bank just below Church street. He owned the entire square now bounded by

Front, Lake, Main and Court streets, except the academy and jail lots. He also owned an acre lot at the east corner of Main street and North avenue, and another acre at the east corner of Lake and Front streets. He owned the tier of lots on both sides of Front street between Church and Paige streets, and many other lots in the residence part of the village. Captain Wattles was an active, energetic business man, prominently identified with the early history of the village, and wealthy for the period. Nevertheless his business life here was unfortunate, and his property was sold by the sheriff in February, 1799. He then practised law for a time, was associate judge of Broome county from 1807 to 1812 and clerk of the same county from February 18, 1811, to November 9, 1812. His house stood on the south side of Main street, a short distance east of North avenue. Captain Wattles removed from Owego to New York, where he died, in 1819.

Thomas Duane was the second merchant. He built a store and dwelling on the bank of the river a short distance east of Lake street. It was a frame building with a "lean-to," and painted yellow. Mr. Duane came to the village in 1800, and with him also came a young man named Archibald White, who was for a short time his clerk. John Laning was afterward Mr. Duane's clerk. Mr. Duane originally came from Kingston, N. Y., and for many years lived in the east part of the village. Mr. White married with Nancy, daughter of Dr. Elisha Ely, of Owego, (settled here 1798), and their daughter, Maria P., married with Elihu Parmenter. Mr. White died of yellow fever in New York city. Harry Duane, son of Thomas, was also an early village merchant, and one of the firm of McQuigg & Duane. They were in business from 1812 to 1822, on the west side of Lake street, two doors from Front.

John Hollenback, the son of George Hollenback, of Mill Creek, Penna., came to Owego in 1801 or '2, and began a general mercantile business on the south side of Front street, above Lake street. He was a man of frugal habits, but of great business capacity. He frequently slept in the store, his bed being a side of sole leather. In 1813 or '14 he had a lease of the Montezuma and Onondaga salt works, and in the year last mentioned had all the salt that

was in the market in arks on the river at Port Deposit, Md. It was held at from \$16 to \$20 a barrel, and had the war continued a few months longer, his profits would have been very large, but the declaration of peace cost our enterprising merchant about \$20,000. Soon afterward Mr. Hollenback opened a hardware and tin store in James Pumpelly's building on the north side of Front street, west of Paige street. The upper part of the building was used as a printing office by Stephen B. Leonard. About 1832 Mr. Hollenback moved to Judge Drake's store in Front street, opposite Lake, and soon afterward to Main street, opposite North avenue. In 1840 he removed to the Camp store, below the bridge in Front street, and soon afterward to Charles Pumpelly's old store, opposite the Owego hotel, where he was in business at the time of his death, June 13, 1847. John Hollenback by his will left the greater portion of his property to his nephew, the late George W. Hollenback, who for many years had almost entire charge of his uncle's extensive lumber business on the river.

Among the early business men who by their works and acts, by their enterprise, progressiveness and industry, helped to lay the foundation for future success and prosperity in which the whole town was benefited, was that bearing the surname Pumpelly. John Pumpelly, the immediate ancestor of the family in Owego, served with honor as a soldier in the American army during the last French and Indian war, and was at the side of the gallant Wolfe when he fell mortally wounded before the walls of Quebec, in 1759. In the month of May, 1802, John Pumpelly, his wife, and five of their children, James, Harmon, William, Harriet (who married with David McQuigg), and Maria (afterward Mrs. Abner Beers), removed from Salisbury, Conn., to Beers's settlement, in Tompkins county, N. Y. Here John Pumpelly died in 1820, aged ninety-three years.

James Pumpelly, eldest son of John, born at Salisbury, Conn., December 20, 1775, was a surveyor and came to Owego in 1802. He surveyed into lots of two acres each the land whereon the village was subsequently built up. He then surveyed the West-half township into lots of 143 acres each, being assisted in this work by his younger brothers, William and Harmon. Subsequently

Mr. Pumpelly became agent for large tracts of land in Owego and elsewhere in the vicinity, owned by non-resident proprietors, and as well invested largely in lands on his own account. Indeed, he was for many years regarded as one of the most extensive operators in the region, and also as one of the most enterprising men of the county; and it was chiefly through his efforts, assisted by able associates, that Owego attained so great a prominence among the villages of the state during the early years of the century. He was the first village president after incorporation, in 1827, and held that office five consecutive years. He was member of assembly for Broome county in 1810 (Owego then being in that county), and it was largely through his influence that the first academy building was erected, in 1827. He was the first president of the board of trustees of that institution, and held the office several years. James Pumpelly died in Owego, October 4, 1844, leaving two sons, George J. and Frederick H. Pumpelly; and two daughters, Mrs. Ezekiel Lovejoy and Mrs. William H. Platt.

Charles Pumpelly was born at Salisbury, Conn., in 1780, and came to Owego in the winter of 1802-3. He was a lumberman and merchant, an extensive business man and successful dealer. Moreover, he was interested in all the public measures proposed for the welfare of the village and its people, and earnestly supported them with his means and influence. He was supervisor of the town in 1809 and '10, and also from 1821 to 1824, inclusive. He was a member of the constitutional convention of 1821, and represented Tioga county in the assembly in 1825. He died in Owego, January 6, 1855.

William Pumpelly came to Owego in 1805 and was in the employ of his brother in surveying the McMaster half-township and other tracts. About 1815 he began business in the village, successor to Sparrow & Crocker, and continued until 1844, when he retired. He was born in Salisbury, Conn., June 17, 1789, and died in Owego, November 17, 1876. His sons are John Pumpelly, of Albany, and Professor Raphael Pumpelly, a distinguished geologist and mineralogist, of Newport, Rhode Island.

Harmon Pumpelly was born at Salisbury, Conn., August 1, 1795, and came to Owego from Tompkins county. He also assisted his

brother James in land surveying in this locality, but later engaged in lumbering, at which he amassed a fortune. He, too, was a prominent factor in early life in the town and village, and was one of the first board of trustees of the corporation, and was re-elected four times. In 1835 he was president of the village. In 1841 he removed to Albany, and was a prominent figure in financial circles. He died there September 29, 1882.

Col. David Pixley was one of the foremost men of the county during the pioneer period of its history. His title was real, and his military honors were earned on the battlefields of the revolution. His commission as colonel in the colonial army bore the date of July 1, 1775, and also bore the famous signature of John Hancock. Col. Pixley first came to the Chenango river in 1786 as one of six commissioners representing Massachusetts sent to extinguish the Indian title to the Boston purchase. He came to Owego in 1791, at the age of 51 years, and from that time to his death, August 25, 1807, he was identified with many of the prominent events of the county history. He built the first tavern in Tioga county, on the west side of Owego creek; and the old building still stands. He also built the first grist mill in the vicinity, west of the creek, near the old Indian spring. In 1802 Col. Pixley sold his interests in Tioga and removed to the Owego settlement, where he died.

John Laning, better known as General Laning, opened a store in Owego in 1803, partner with Guy Maxwell. They were also engaged in lumbering and were extensive land owners on Owego creek. Their mercantile partnership was dissolved in 1807, and four years later Gen. Laning purchased the real estate and saw mill, and continued the entire business. The store was kept in the bar room of the old Franklin House, which stood at the northeast corner of Front and Court streets. Among General Laning's clerks were Asa H. Truman, Jonathan Platt and Benjamin Durham, all of whom afterward became active business men. Gen. Laning was the father of John C. Laning and Mrs. John J. Taylor. He was a successful business man, dealing extensively, and at one time had five hundred teams drawing plaster from Cayuga lake to Owego. His large storehouse was on the bank of the river,

just above where the bridge now stands, and from this building the plaster was loaded into arks for shipment down the river. Gen. Laning met an accidental death in his store on February 12, 1820.

Dr. Samuel Tinkham, of whom an extended sketch will be found in the medical chapter, was for several years a merchant in Owego, his store standing on the second lot below the entrance to the bridge. Dr. Tinkham was both merchant and physician. David P. Tinkham, son of Dr. Tinkham, did a general mercantile business in the village, in a store standing at the northwest corner of Lake and Front streets.

General Oliver Huntington was the pioneer of the drug business, and, withal, one of the most substantial men in the village in his day. He was born December 22, 1771, and came to Owego as early as 1801, and was clerk for Thomas Duane. Three years later he opened a drug store at the northeast corner of Lake and Front streets, and from that time he was a permanent resident. He was also an extensive shipper on the river, dealing in produce of various kinds. He lived in a little red house on the east side of North avenue, where in later years stood James Dean's brick store. In 1812 Mr. Huntington was commissioned brigadier-general of the 41st brigade, New York infantry. In 1815 he was appointed sheriff of Broome county, and was re-appointed in 1816. Huntington creek, the north boundary of the village, was named in allusion to Gen. Huntington. He died in Owego, November 13, 1823.

William, Nathan, Anson and Hermon Camp came to Owego from New Preston, Conn., in 1804, or '5, accompanied by their half sister (who became the wife of Stephen B. Leonard) and her mother Mrs. Sperry. William and Nathan began a general mercantile business, on the south side of Front street, below the bridge, and opposite Cameron's corner. Nathan died May 19, 1819, and William continued the business. He was associate judge of Broome county in 1812 and again in 1817, but on May 5, 1826, he was killed by the explosion of the boiler of the steamboat *Susquehannah*, at Nescopeck Falls, opposite Berwick, Penna. Nathan Camp was a man of literary tastes and founded the village library. His sons were George, Frederick and Nathan.

Anson Camp started a pottery in the village, but later went into business as a hatter. He was active in military affairs and a prominent democratic politician. He was brigadier-general of the 41st brigade of infantry; was elected to the assembly in 1825, was president of the village in 1832 and '33, and held the office of supervisor five terms. He never married. Gen. Camp died in Owego, March 22, 1838.

Hermon Camp went from Owego to Trumansburg to take charge of a branch store opened by his brothers in 1805, and he afterward became a prominent man of Tompkins county. He was the second postmaster at Trumansburg and held the office eighteen years. He was also sheriff and member of assembly, and for several years president of the Tompkins County Bank. He died June 8, 1878.

Major Horatio Ross, who came to Owego from Frederick, Md., in 1805, and began business as a merchant, is said to have then possessed \$90,000. He was accompanied by two of his sisters, and also by several slaves. He erected a large store building on Front street, and was in active business several years, but disaster came later on and he failed in 1818. His old store was burned in the winter of 1826-27. After the failure the store was occupied by William D. Coit, general merchant. Major Ross was deputy county clerk five years. He died in Owego in 1828.

Jonathan Platt, Jr., son of Major Jonathan Platt, was clerk in General Laning's store in 1805, but in 1810 began business as general merchant in the building known for many years as the "Goodman Coffee House," near the corner of Front and Court streets. Among his partners in later years were Ansel Goodrich, Gurdon Hewitt, David Turner and James Ely. Mr. Platt was in active business until 1849, when he retired. In 1820, with David Turner, he built the "red mills." In local affairs he was also prominent; was village trustee at the time of incorporation in 1827, and frequently afterward, and was president of the board in 1834. He was for several years president of the old Bank of Owego. Platt & Turner were extensive dealers in lumber and grain, and built the double brick store opposite the Ahwaga house. The firm dissolved in 1835, and Mr. Ely succeeded Mr. Turner. The firm of Platt

& Ely, among their various enterprises, conducted an iron foundry in company with Ephraim Leach, at Leach's Mills, in Tioga.

David Turner was the son of Abner Turner, one of the pioneers on Owego creek. David began business about 1818, when he purchased Charles Talcott's stock of goods. Mr. Talcott was at that time in business in "Cauldwell Row," on the north side of Front street. Mr. Turner died in Owego, March 30, 1861.

John R. Drake, of whom a more extended sketch will be found in the Bench and Bar chapter, came to Owego in 1809, and began business in the store in Front street previously occupied by Dr. Tinkham, adjoining the store kept by William and Nathan Camp. Later on Judge Drake built a large store further up Front street, directly opposite Lake street, and here he dealt in all commercial wares of the day, except whiskey. In front of this store he laid the first stone sidewalk in the village, and he was one of the first merchants to use lamps for lighting his store. In 1830 he sold his drug stock to Dr. Fay, and soon afterward retired from active mercantile business. Judge Drake built the Rollin block, at the northwest corner of Lake and Front streets, in which was "Concert Hall." In the great fire of 1849, nine stores owned by him were burned. He also built the "Hand mills," on the south side of the river, and which he sold to his partner, James Pumpelly.

William A. Ely, for fifty years a prominent business man in Owego, began as clerk for Gen. Huntington in the drug store, but later on became a merchant in Cauldwell row. He was senior member in the well known firm of Ely Brothers, which was dissolved in May, 1830, and was succeeded by Col. Daniel A. Ely, at the brick store in Front street, about half way between the bridge and Lake street. William A. Ely was a member of the first board of village trustees, and supervisor of the town thirteen terms. He died November 27, 1863.

Daniel Ely was for many years an active business man of the village, and was postmaster from February 4, 1842, to November 25, 1844, he having died on the day last mentioned. James Ely was born in Owego, in 1809, and was the junior member of the firm. He was supervisor four terms, and member of assembly in 1851. He removed to Grand Rapids, Mich., and died there De-

ember 20, 1862. William and James Ely built and for several years occupied the two-story frame building on the south side of Main street, opposite North avenue. The building was afterward occupied, in succession, by John Hollenback, E. B. Hurlburt and John Cameron.

Dr. Jedediah Fay, in company with Joseph L. Lynde, opened a general store in Owego, in December, 1812, under the firm name of J. Fay & Co., at the northwest corner of Lake and Front streets, but later removed to a building erected by Dr. Fay, the same afterward occupied by David P. Tinkham. In 1815 Lemuel Brown succeeded Mr. Lynde, but after several years the new firm failed, and Dr. Fay then took charge of Judge Drake's business. In 1830 he purchased a stock of drugs, which he removed to the store now occupied by Goodrich & Co. In 1835 Dr. Fay erected the three-story brick building on the site of Ahwaga hall, with his residence above and the old Bank of Owego on the ground floor. In the same building was his drug store, where he was in business until his death, April 23, 1848. He was succeeded by his sons George W. and Frederick J. Fay. The building was burned in 1849, and was replaced with Ahwaga hall, the first mercantile structure erected after the fire.

Col. Amos Martin opened a store in Candor in 1814, and in 1816 came to Owego and occupied a home which stood on the ground now occupied by Robert Bindler's house, in Park street, the front part of which he used as a store. In 1819 he leased the old Goodman coffee house, afterward known as the Franklin house, and was both merchant and landlord. In 1823 Lewis Manning became landlord, and in 1827 Col. Martin moved his store to the building formerly occupied by J. Fay & Co. He was a merchant in Owego to the time of his death, May 14, 1835. Col. Martin built the Owego academy in 1828.

Charles Talcott, the son of Elizur Talcott, acquired his business education as clerk in Major Ross's store, but in 1816 began for himself in Cauldwell row. In 1818 he built the "yellow store" in Front street, which was burned in 1849. In 1831, George B. Goodrich began as clerk in the yellow store, and in 1837 became Mr. Talcott's partner, under the firm style of G. B. Goodrich & Co., a

name ever since known in local business circles. Mr. Talcott died October 30, 1861. Elizur Talcott came to Owego from Glastenbury, Conn., in 1802, and soon afterward built a large house on his farm, on what is now McMaster street. He was an old revolutionary patriot.

After the yellow store was burned, G. B. Goodrich & Co. temporarily occupied the residence of Isaac B. Ogden, in Main street, but afterward bought their present store from the Odd Fellows. In 1864 Mr. Goodrich's son-in-law, William H. Ellis, and his son, James W. Goodrich, were admitted to the firm, and have continued business to the present day under the old firm name.

Latham A. Burrows opened a general store in Owego in 1828, in the old Goodman coffee house, formerly occupied by Col. Martin, but afterward removed to the south side of Front street. In 1839 he removed to the Rollin block. Judge Burrows is mentioned at greater length in the Bench and Bar chapter.

Lorenzo Reeves, a Vermonter, came to Owego on horseback in 1818, and soon opened a country store on the west side of Lake street, near Front, and was thereafter known in local business circles until his death, January 31, 1839. Deacon Reeves as he was familiarly known, owned the ground on which Wilson opera house stands. On this lot the old Croton house originally stood. It was kept by Col. B. B. Curry, who married Deacon Reeves's widow.

Elisha Bundy, the familiar "Judge" Bundy of early Owego history, was for a time partner with Deacon Reeves, their store being in Lake street, about where Aaron Ogden's cigar store now stands. Judge Bundy came from Vermont about 1815, and in 1826 removed to Schuyler county.

Joseph Berry and Judge Bundy were at one time partners, carrying on a meat market in Lake street, and they also conducted one of the numerous distilleries of the town. Mr. Berry came to Owego about 1804, and in 1822 was associated with the Elys in mercantile business. In 1826 he bought a farm in Newark Valley and there he died in 1830.

George W. Hollenback was the senior member of the old firm of Wm. H. Bell & Co., and began his career as clerk for his uncle,