

Dutchess there was a town of Washington, created March 13, 1786, therefore the revolutionary patriots who lived within the proposed new jurisdiction adopted the name of Candor ; but why so named, or at whose suggestion, no past writer of local history assumes to state. The present writer, too, confesses to lack knowledge on the subject, and so far as inquiries have been directed among the oldest and best informed men in the town no satisfactory answer is obtained. The honor of suggesting the name is said to have been delegated to Thomas Gridley, better known as "Squire Hemlock" Gridley.

In area Candor is the largest but one of the towns of the county, and contains 51,334 acres of land. Owego has 53,651 acres. The topographical conditions and natural physical features in Candor are not specially remarkable. The surface is generally a high, broad rolling upland, separated into ridges by the valleys of several streams, the streams flowing generally in a southerly direction. The west branch of Owego creek forms the eastern boundary, and is the principal water course of the town. Catatonk creek flows through the centre of the town, and near the central western part has two branches, one from the north and one from the west. The soil generally is a gravelly loam, very fertile in the valleys and moderately so on the highlands, where shaley loam prevails.

Such were the natural conditions in Candor three-quarters of a century ago, and such are they to-day. Yet it must not be assumed that the town has not progressed from the condition of things in the pioneer times, for such is not the case ; and it is a well known and conceded fact that Candor at this time, and for all time since its organization, has been regarded as one of the best and most productive of the county's sub-divisions, and has furnished as many men of mark and of moral, public, and professional worth as has any town in the county when we consider conditions, advantages and numbers.

The act creating the town directed the freeholders and electors to meet at the house of Captain Abel Hart March 5, 1811, and elect town officers. This was done, and the result was as follows :

Supervisor, Joel Smith ; town clerk, Asa North ; assessors,

William Scott, Orange F. Booth, Samuel Smith ; commissioners of highways, Nathaniel Sackett, Seth Bacon, Charles Taylor ; constable and collector, Truman Woodford ; overseers of the poor, Abel Hart, Asa North ; constables, Eldad Pickett, Daniel Park ; fence viewers, Joseph Delind, Charles Taylor, Eli Bacon, Job Judd ; poundmasters, Thomas Park, James McMaster, Ezra Smith ; overseers of highway districts (of which there were thirteen), Jacob Harrington, Seth Bacon, Ozias Woodford, Joseph Kelsey, Daniel Cowles, George Allen, Reuben Hatch, William Taylor, Joseph Schoonover, Thomas Baird, Daniel H. Bacon, Jacob Clark, Alexander Scott.

Having thus mentioned the names of the first officers, it is appropriate that there also be given the succession of incumbents of the supervisorship, that being regarded as the chief office in the town. In Candor this succession has been as follows :

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| 1812-17—Nathaniel Sackett. | 1856—N. L. Carpenter | 1875-76—Jerome Thompson. |
| 1818-21—Asa North. | 1857—Thomas Forman. | 1877-78—John Ryan. |
| 1822-28—Samuel Barager. | 1858—Jerome Thompson. | 1879—Chas. F. Barager. |
| 1829-30—Orange F. Booth. | 1859—Thomas Forman. | 1880-82—Dr. Daniel S. Miller. |
| 1831-37—Samuel Barager. | 1860—Jerome Thompson. | 1883—Enoch S. Williams. |
| 1838-39—Dr. A. W. McKey. | 1861—Solomon Oakley. | 1884—John R. Chidsey. |
| 1840-43—Horace Booth. | 1862—Edwin A. Booth. | 1885—George A. Matthews. |
| 1844-45—Rich. H. Sackett. | 1863-64—John R. Chidsey. | 1886—Enoch S. Williams. |
| 1846—E. Comstock. | 1865-66—Edwin A. Booth. | 1887—Dr. W. E. Roper. |
| 1847-48—Dr. A. W. McKey. | 1867—Abel H. Booth. | 1888-91—E. S. Williams. |
| 1849—N. H. Woodford. | 1868-69—Edwin A. Booth. | 1892-93—Epenetus Howe. |
| 1850-52—Horace Booth. | 1870-71—Wm. H. Hubbard. | 1894-96—Jas. H. Jennings. |
| 1853-55—Josiah Rich. | 1872-74—U. P. Spaulding. | |

POPULATION, GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.—In his brief centennial history of the county and its towns, William Fiske Warner says that in 1800 the population of the territory now comprising Candor was 135, and at that time the voters of the same region numbered 23. This would indicate at the time the presence within the town of about fifteen heads of families, a few more than are mentioned in our early settlement record. Mr. Warner also says that in 1800 the number of acres of land under cultivation was 390, and in 1825 had increased to 8,350 acres. In 1855 the number of acres under cultivation was 30,769, about three-fifths of the town's area.

However, if it is assumed that Mr. Warner's calculations are correct, and that the territory contained 135 inhabitants in 1800, it will be seen that the next fourteen years witnessed a somewhat remarkable growth in population, as in 1814, at the first enumeration of inhabitants under recognized authority after the town was erected, the reports show a population of 1,098. Turning to the census reports we may note the fluctuations in population in the town, as through this means the reader gains a fair idea of its growth and development.

In 1814 the inhabitants numbered 1,098 ; 1820, 1,655 ; 1830, 2,556 ; 1835, 2,710 ; 1840, 3,370 ; 1845, 3,422 ; 1850, 3,433 ; 1855, 3,895 ; 1860, 3,840 ; 1865, 4,103 ; 1870, 4,250 ; 1875, 4,203 ; 1880, 4,223 ; 1885, no count ; 1890, 3,674 ; 1892, 3,525.

From this it will be seen that the maximum population in the town's history was attained in 1880 and that the growth between the years 1865 and 1880 was hardly more than 200 inhabitants. Indeed, the fact appears that the zenith of prosperity in the town was reached in the period indicated, and that since that time there has been a gradual decrease in many local interests, and particularly in agricultural and kindred pursuits. But this condition, whether unfortunate or otherwise, is not single to Candor alone for few indeed are the farming towns in this state where like changes have not been witnessed during the period mentioned, only in a more marked degree. It is a fact that Candor has been a progressive town generally since the days of pioneership, and such depressions as have come upon its people have also come to other localities and are due to exactly the same causes as have prevailed elsewhere. Farming in the east, conducted as our husbandmen understand it, is no longer a profitable pursuit, for the lands valued at from \$20 to \$100 per acre, with labor at from \$1.50 to \$2.00 a day, cannot be made to successfully compete with lands in the great west worth from \$2.00 to \$6.00 an acre, and labor at from 75 cents to \$1.25 a day. Still, the writer is not disposed to seriously lament the condition of the farming classes in the east, much less in Candor, but these observations are made from the fact that certain classes assert that eastern farming is profitable if the farmer shows proper energy and thrift. The inhabitants of Candor for

the last century, since the pioneers first came to this densely wooded region, have been noted for thrift, for energy, for progression. The one great cause above all others which has been a factor in bringing about this condition of affairs on the farm is that the youth of the present day are too susceptible to the allurements and pleasures of life in the city to remain contentedly at the old home in the country.

The pioneers of Candor previous to 1800, and indeed for many years afterward, were both lumbermen and farmers. Many of them were attracted to the region by reason of the remarkable quality of standing timber which so densely covered the land, giving in itself abundant evidence of a superior soil underneath. Nor were the pioneers mistaken in their belief, for when the lands were cleared fine farms appeared and often in early days was the thrifty husbandman able to provide for his family a pretentious framed house, and for his cattle and crops a substantial and comfortable barn. They came here from the well settled localities of New England, chiefly from Connecticut, and a few from Massachusetts, and as descendants of Yankee stock knew something of the comforts and pleasures of life. They came to make new and better homes for their families and success marked their efforts from the beginning; and the result was that even in the early years of the century Candor was remarked as one of the most substantial farming and lumbering towns of the county.

Among the pioneers was a strong contingent of Congregationalists and Baptists, and as early as the year 1796 that faithful christian missionary, Rev. Seth Williston, came and preached to and taught spiritually the inhabitants of the region. In the east part of the town the Baptists formed a society in 1802, the second of that denomination in the county, and a few years later the Congregationalists organized their church. Other denominations followed as soon as strong enough, and from these primitive elements the christian church in the town has grown and developed.

SCHOOLS.—As to the first school past writers are in conflict, one authority saying that in 1798 Joel Smith built a log school house on his farm and in which he taught in that year, while Mr. Warner's narrative has it that pioneer Smith's school was not opened

until after 1800. All the early settlers are now gone and the question cannot be determined accurately; nor is it important, but the fact appears that in Candor the settlers were as mindful of the educational welfare of their youth and made as generous provision for schools as did other towns. Of course, previous to 1811 the schools of this locality were a part of the system then in force in the mother town, Spencer, but after Candor was set off, and after the adoption of the first state system, schools were organized in conformity with the new law. The first meeting for this purpose was held at the dwelling of Abel Hart, Monday, October 4, 1813. Joel Smith, Nathaniel Sackett, and Joseph Delind were chosen commissioners of common schools, and Asa North, Ebenezer Woodbridge, Daniel H. Bacon, Walter Hermit, and Russell Gridley were elected inspectors of common schools.

During the fall of that year the commissioners divided the town into nine districts and made provision for a school in each; and from the informal system then established the educational institutions of the town at the present time have developed, of course subject to and modified by the changes put in force by the state authorities from time to time. To follow them all in this narrative would be both difficult and uninteresting, but the fact appears from the town records that Candor has ever made ample provision for all educational work within her borders. For more than thirty years Candor village and the surrounding district have supported one of the most advanced higher grade schools in the north part of the county, and the township at large has likewise liberally maintained its district system.

Under the present arrangement and disposition of school interests the territory of the town is divided into 25 districts, of which Nos. 4, 16 and 19 have no school building. As shown by the commissioner's report for the year ending July 31, 1896, the amount of public money apportioned to the town was \$3,156.50, added to which was \$328.39 received from the regents for the benefit of district No. 9. During the year the town raised by tax for school support \$3,443.98. The number of children of school age was 753, for whose instruction 35 teachers were employed, and were paid \$5,717.95. The value of all school property is estimated at \$18,070.

and the assessed valuation of the town for the year was \$1,247,975.

RETROSPECTIVE.—Glancing back into the period of early history in Candor, we find a population of about 1,000 inhabitants in 1812, all earnestly engaged in the peaceful arts of agriculture and lumbering. At that particular time when this town had just been separated from Spencer, and the affairs of the new jurisdiction were taking tangible form, there came the second war with Great Britain, for which this struggling people were ill prepared. However, the martial spirit born with the revolution was still alive and the call to arms met with ready response from the loyal sons of Candor. The militiamen from the town are mentioned elsewhere in this chapter, and the only effect of the period on the people was to strengthen their faith in American institutions.

At that time and indeed for many years afterward the people of Candor were not given the advantage of the internal improvements made in the southern portions of the county. True, in 1810 the old Ithaca and Owego turnpike was completed and opened for traffic, and a great advantage at once accrued to all local interests. The little settlement of Candor village was on the line of the road, and being ten miles distant from Owego, the southern terminus of the road, this was a natural and convenient resting place. It was not an unusual thing for as many as 500 teams to pass along the turnpike in a single day, carrying loads of salt and other merchandise from Ithaca to Owego, from which point it was shipped to markets down the Susquehanna. Then came the stage and mail coach with all their bustle and business and the settlers were regularly greeted with the familiar figure of Stephen B. Leonard carrying the mail pouch and also the copies of the Owego Gazette along this old familiar highway.

At a little later period the inhabitants were promised a still greater blessing in the incorporation of the Cayuga and Susquehanna railroad company (in 1828), although it was fully six years more before the road was completed and opened for traffic. It extended from Ithaca to Owego and passed through this town. Horses were used for power for several years, but in 1837 financial disturbances worked disaster to the enterprise, hence the franchise was sold. Its existence and operation, however, have always

been maintained, and a part of the old line is now held under lease by the D., L. & W. R. R. company, and is known as the Cayuga division and also as the Ithaca branch.

One of the brightest pages in its history was the record made by volunteers from Candor in the war of 1861-65. A glance at the military chapter in another part of this work will show that this town contributed men to the formation of nearly every important command recruited in the county, from the third to the 179th infantry; but among them all by far the strongest contingent of men were in the veteran 26th, the famous 109th, the fighting 137th, or the 179th infantry. Still, in the artillery and cavalry arms of the service were volunteers from the town in fair numbers, while a few were found in the navy. In the aggregate the town sent into the service about four hundred men, or the equivalent of ten per cent. of the total population in 1865.

During the period of its history, there have been built up within the limits of the town several small villages for the accommodation of the inhabitants who were living in parts remote from the centre. As is well known, Candor is a large town and it became necessary to establish trading points where people might find the articles most needed in domestic country life. Indeed, Candor has been called the town of many villages, and in this respect it outnumbers the county town. Named about in the order of importance these hamlets are Candor, Willseyville, Weltonville, Catatonk, West Candor, Gridleyville, South Candor, East Candor, and Perryville. None of these, however, has ever attained to the corporate character, although Candor has business interests and population sufficient to warrant such a measure. A brief mention of each of these settled localities in this chapter is appropriate.

THE VILLAGE OF CANDOR.

Candor is the largest unincorporated village in Tioga county, and, excepting Owego and Waverly, it ranks among the first in point of business and commercial importance. Indeed, it is doubtful if incorporation would in any substantial degree add to the worth or materially contribute to the welfare of the people, for such improvements as are sought by incorporation have been accom-

plished through the voluntary action of the residents and taxpayers. However, about 1873, the electors of the village voted on the question of incorporation, and rejected the proposition.

According to record and established tradition, Elijah Hart and David Whittlesey came to the village site in the winter of 1794-95 and laid the foundation for the settlement in building a small grist and saw mill on the site of the present Ryan lumber yard, or about where Mr. Ryan's tannery building formerly stood. However, we must not forget that Smith, Luddington, Hollister, and Judd made the first clearing here in 1793, on the cemetery site. The first mill here was burned, in 1813. In 1796, Abel Hart and son Abel came to the settlement from Union, and from that time the several members of this family by their work completed in fact the foundation for the subsequent village. Thomas Hollister was also a factor in the work and built the first tavern in 1795. In 1810, Captain Hart, the son, built a good framed house, which he opened as a tavern. Later on he built a blacksmith shop, erected a distillery, and also built a "weave house" for the accommodation of the settlers in the town. In 1806, in company with Thomas Gridley, he built a saw mill further up the stream. Other factors in early village history were Horatio Durkee, who came from New Hampshire and built a tannery on the site of the present blanket factory; Dr. Horatio Worcester, the first physician, and Joel Smith, the first school teacher, who also gained much celebrity in his office of justice of the peace.

However, in 1813, the settlement was visited with a destructive fire, by which many of the primitive industries were swept away. They were at once replaced with other and more substantial buildings, and by this time Candor became a hamlet of importance on the line of the old turnpike leading from Owego to Ithaca. Indeed, between these points were in operation at one time more than twenty public houses, all doing a successful business. Caleb Sackett came into prominence about this time as the builder of a grist mill and as proprietor of a tavern, the tavern on the corner where is now Ryan's lumber yard. In this old hostelry James McMaster died, and his bones lie buried in an unmarked and solitary grave in the back part of a residence lot in Main street. The Sackett

mill was replaced with a better one by Kirk & Tryon. In 1824 Artemas and Isaac V. Locey built a woollen mill, the same afterward owned by Joseph Matthews. Isaac Locey was also a manufacturer of machinery used in wool carding.

In the early history of the village the settlement was divided, one portion being in the upper part, which took the name of Candor Centre, while the settlement lower down the creek was known as Candor Corners. Nature provided two excellent water power privileges within what was then the settlement and these enterprising Yankees were ready to avail themselves of its advantages. This fact, and not an unfriendly rivalry, made necessary the divided hamlet. At the Centre Elijah Hart built the grist mill on the site of the present Gridley mill. The brick mill was built about fifty or more years ago and was at one time owned by Smith & Thomas. The present owners are S. E. & D. E. Gridley. Beyond the north end of the dam was the Sackett Tavern, a later landlord of which was Stephen T. Smith. A school was kept in this part of the settlement at an early day, and when a boy Edwin A. Booth was a pupil there. The Ryan tannery was built in 1861, and was operated by John Ryan until 1887 and then made into a saw mill. The old hotel land adjoining is also owned by Mr. Ryan and is used as a lumber yard.

Notwithstanding these early interests of the upper hamlet, the place did not have any special prominence previous to about 1850, and other than the mills there was little in the way of business. The first merchant was Sherman Barber, whose store was across the bridge. John Sackett and S. S. Downing were also early storekeepers at the centre.

In 1851, Jerome Thompson, a former merchant and resident of Catherine, Schuyler county, came to Candor and opened a stock of general merchandise at the Centre, and from that to the time of his death he was one of the foremost men of the town in business enterprises. In 1856 John W. McCarty, a former clerk in the store, became partner with Mr. Thompson, and for the next thirty years they were associated in business enterprises in this part of the county. Indeed, it is conceded that the members of the firm, by their enterprise and public spiritedness practically

built up the upper village and gave to it a place of importance in the town; and it is equally true that no one man has been a more potent factor in maintaining the established standing of the village at large than John W. McCarty, senior member of the present firm of McCarty & Payne.

The First National bank of Candor, No. 353, was chartered March 3, 1864, with a capital of \$50,000. The persons who were chiefly instrumental in securing to Candor this enterprise were the first board of directors, who were also the largest stockholders, viz: Norman L. Carpenter, Jerome Thompson, Edwin A. Booth, John W. McCarty, Lyman Bradley, Hiram Smith, Romanta Woodford, Frank R. Preston and Edward C. Coryell. The first officers were Norman L. Carpenter, president, and John J. Bush, cashier. Mr. Carpenter was president to the time of his death, and May 16, 1865, Mr. Booth, the present president, was chosen his successor. Mr. Bush was cashier until February 10, 1865, when he resigned, and was succeeded by Jerome Thompson, who served in that capacity until his death, December 5, 1892. The present cashier, Fred W. Smith, was then elected.

December 18, 1868, the bank was entered by burglars, and money, securities and other property to the value of almost \$20,000, were taken from the safe. A second attempt in the same direction was made in the night of April 29, 1892, but was unsuccessful. The First National of Candor, as it is frequently called, is looked upon as one of the reliable financial institutions of the county, and has been at all times in its history under safe and careful management. Its present surplus and undivided profit account is nearly \$5,500. The directors are Edwin A. Booth, president; Fred W. Smith, cashier, and John W. McCarty, J. P. Fiebig, William B. Smith, M. A. Beers and George H. Hart.

The principal business interests of this part of the village at the present time comprise the large general store of McCarty & Payne, Gridley's flour, grist and planing mill, John Ryan's saw mill and lumber yard, the Ashland house, the glove factory, and several other stores and shops, as are found in all small village settlements.

The Wands Glove company was incorporated May 4, 1895, with a capital of \$10,000, and was brought to the village through the

efforts of business men at what is commonly called the Centre. The officers are J. W. McCarty, president; E. H. Wands, vice-president; H. P. Potter, treasurer, and W. J. Payne, secretary. In a measure the introduction of a glove factory in Candor was looked upon as an experiment, but so far as practical results show, the management has no cause for dissatisfaction. Buck, kid, calf, horsehide, hog, sheep, and oil-tanned gloves are made here, and constant employment is furnished to about forty persons.

Down at Candor Corners, which place is distant less than half a mile from the Centre, pioneer Hart laid the foundation for the village by erecting mills and building a dam across Catatonk creek. He owned much of the land in the vicinity, and in addition to the mills he built a tavern and made this the chief business centre of the town in the early settlement times. The mill stood on the site of the present mill building, but the latter was erected by John J. and Richard Sackett. It is now owned by Mr. Ellis. Among the old merchants here were Henry W. Sackett and Bottsford Bacon, both of whom were in trade all of sixty and perhaps more years ago. Other and later business men were Leonard Fisher (son of Gen. Fisher, of Spencer), Joseph VanVleck, Samuel Barager, John J. Sackett, Ira Keeler, Hubert A. Barager, P. M. Thompson (brother to Jerome), Booth & Potter, Chidsey & Holmes, Matthews & Ward, North & Hemingway, Tuttle & Neal, W. H. Andrews (still in business), and Booth & Williams (now in trade). Mr. Williams began here as a tailor, in 1856, and has since been in active mercantile life. The firm of Booth & Williams was formed in 1875. In the drug business at the Corners was Dr. Sutherland, followed by Dr. Harris, Edward Jennings, and the sons of Mr. Jennings, till the store was burned. The present local druggist is J. H. Jennings.

The "Ironclad Blanket" factory of the present day stands on the site whereon once was the Durkee tannery of old times. A little later it was known as the Sturgis tannery, but still later John J. Sackett erected on the site the "Candor Woollen Mills." The plant came into the hands of John Southworth, who sold to Senator Barager and he changed it into a blanket factory and conducted it with good success for several years. At his death the

property was sold to the present proprietors, Fiebig & Hart, manufacturers of the celebrated "Ironclad Blanket," a commodity which has brought profit to the owners and fame to Candor.

The once noted Humboldt tannery was built by Elmendorf & Sackett in 1859, but it is said that Mr. Carpenter had an interest in the enterprise. In 1865 it passed into the hands of E. S. Esty & Sons, who, with the Hoyts, of New York, conducted the works as long as they were operated. J. W. Henderson was superintendent of the tannery for many years. The buildings were burned in 1868, but were at once rebuilt. This was for many years the leading industry of the village and furnished employment to at least 25 men. The tannery was closed in 1894.

The Candor Iron Works was another of the industries of the lower village, established in 1854 for the manufacture of general castings and machine work. Plows were also finished here, the castings being brought from elsewhere.

From what has been stated it will be seen that from first to last Candor village has been a busy hamlet, and notwithstanding the general depression which has come upon many inland villages of the same class and condition, Candor is to-day in as good standing from a business and manufacturing point of view as at any time in its history. True, several important industries have run their course and are now out of use, but in their places local public enterprise has established others of equal magnitude and employing a like number of men in their operation; and it is a fact that business of all kinds in Candor is in as healthful condition as ever, the lamentations of discontented man to the contrary notwithstanding.

During the last twenty-five years of its history the village has grown, and now, except for purposes of particular designation little is heard of Candor Centre or of Candor Corners. All is Candor and all interests and efforts are united for the general welfare. In the course of time the once separated hamlets have grown together, and now a continuous row of dwellings and business houses line Main street on both sides. The station of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad is centrally located in the village, and there, too, is the village hall, the postoffice, a good

hotel, and several mercantile business houses. Public enterprise has provided a hand fire engine, and while the fire-fighting organization is wholly informal, the people are content to work under the direction of Frank Doty in subduing any fire which may occur.

The Candor Free Academy is one of the important and worthy institutions of the village, and among the academic schools of the county enjoys an enviable reputation and standing. The free district was established in 1864, in conformity to state laws, and nearly all the leading business and professional men of the village were instrumental in securing the benefits of such an institution. The first principal was Prof. Denson, followed in 1867 by Prof. L. D. Vose. The academic department was added in 1867. The library of the district (No. 9) contains 642 volumes, and the school is furnished with good chemical and philosophical apparatus. The district received from the regents in 1896 the sum of \$328.39. The present principal is Prof. James W. Alexander. The members of the board of education are George H. Hart, president; A. H. Krom, clerk, and S. E. Gridley, John R. Chidsey, Charles F. Fiebig and W. S. Moore.

The Congregational Church of Candor, as now known, was the outgrowth of "the Farmington society," organized by the pioneers of the region at a meeting held in Sylvester Woodford's barn June 29, 1808. However Congregational services were held in the town long before either Candor or Spencer were erected, and those old christian workers Seth Williston and Jeremiah Osborn preached to the inhabitants and occasionally administered the ordinances. The first members of the society were Ebenezer and Rhoda Sanford, Asa and Laura North, Eli and Sarah Bacon, Job Judd, and Ozias and Theda Woodford. The meeting house stood about on the site now occupied by McCarty & Payne's store, and was built in 1818. The second was erected in 1824, north of the creek. The present church edifice was built in 1868. The first parsonage was built in 1837, and the present in 1870. Previous to 1811, and after Spencer had been set off from Owego, this society was known as the Second Congregational church of Spencer, and after this town was created it took the name of Congregational church of Candor. The pastors and ministers in charge have been as follows: Revs.

Seth Williston and Jeremiah Osborn, occasionally in 1808 and 1809 ; Daniel Loring, the first regular pastor, followed in succession by Mr. Bascom, Jeremiah Osborn, Samuel Parker, Jeremiah Osborn, Alfred White, Mr. Shafer, Zenas Riggs, Edwin Benedict, M. C. Gaylord, Wm. H. Hayward, Geo. N. Todd, Geo. A. Pelton, Augustine Barnum, Alexander B. Dilley, Charles C. Johnson, J. P. Richardson, John Marsland, Henry G. Margetts and Ferdinand West Dickinson, the latter the present pastor who came to the church January 1, 1895. The members number 195, and on the roll in the Sunday school are about 185 names.

The Methodist Episcopal church in Candor dates back in its history almost to the pioneer times, although it was not until 1827 that an organization was effected. From that to the present time the church has enjoyed a healthful and generally increasing existence and is now one of the strongest in numbers in the town. The first meeting house was built about 1835, and the present edifice on the same site in 1865. The original members in this church were Judge Barager and wife, James Smith and wife, Hannah Gilbert, Thomas Hewitt and wife, George Hubbard and wife, A. Hubbard and wife, Jared Smith and wife, Mrs. Asaph Colburn. They also formed the "class" of which Mr. Hewitt was leader. The present pastor of the church is Rev. T. R. Warnock.

The Candor Village Baptist church was organized at a meeting held at the house of Hiram Allen, March 11, 1852, but Baptist services were held in this town away back in the early years of the century ; and churches of this denomination were formed and meetings regularly conducted in Candor long before the village society was organized. The first pastor of the village church was Rev. J. W. Emery, followed by D. C. Marshall and E. L. Benedict. The present pastor is Rev. V. M. Seagers ; clerk, Chas. N. Tubbs. The members number eighty-four. The church edifice was built in 1855 and is still in good repair.

St. Mark's church, Protestant Episcopal, of Candor, was organized April 23, 1832, at a meeting of churchmen and churchwomen held at the Masonic hall in the village. Rev. Lucius Carter was made chairman, and after the organization was perfected he was the first rector. The wardens were Seth and William Bacon,

and the vestrymen were Daniel Bacon, Harvey Abbott, William Hand, Richard H. Sackett, Samuel Barager, Stephen F. Smith, Thomas Buell and Hiram Smith. A lot was purchased in 1835, and two years later an edifice was erected. The church was reasonably strong for many years, but after the death of the older members the number of regular communicants gradually decreased. The present rector, Rev. D. A. Parce, has recently removed to another village.

In the history of the town the hamlets outlying from the principal village are of small consequence as factors during the last half century. However, previous to that time they were of great importance and added materially to growth and prosperity of the whole region ; in view of which it seems necessary that some brief mention should be made of each.

Willseyville is a small settlement in the northwest part of Candor, in the locality originally designated as "The Big Flatt," and otherwise as the Cantine location. It is on the north branch of Catatonk creek, in the neighborhood where Jacobus Senich, Dr. Joel Tallmadge, and Christian Hart were among the pioneers. At Mr. Senich's house the first town meeting of the town of Spencer was held. Ezra Smith was another pioneer here and founded a settlement by building a tavern and keeping it open to the public until it was burned, about 1812. The principal business in early days was lumbering, and at one time within a radius of five miles it is said that not less than six or seven saw mills were in constant operation. The hamlet was named in allusion to Jacob Willsey, who came from Fairfield, Herkimer county, at an early day and was identified with many of the most important events of local history. He was one of the founders of the Baptist church, was justice of the peace, and also associate judge of the old common pleas court. Morgan A. White was also associated with interests here for about 25 or 30 years, and was indeed one of the best men of the hamlet in his time. However, after the timber was cleared from the lands, Willseyville began to lose its former prestige, and even the construction of two railroads through the settlement had not the effect to restore prosperity. The public buildings are the

Baptist church and the district school. The merchants are Raymond Strong and Irving Johnson.

The Willseyville Baptist church was organized in 1837, as noted in church reports, and in 1839, according to other records, the meeting house was built in 1840. The original members numbered 15 persons. The present number is 25; pastor, Rev. V. M. Seegers.

Gridleyville is a hamlet containing a small cluster of dwellings and situate about two miles north of Candor, in the location where the pioneers of the Booth family made their first purchase of land in the town. The settlement here was due almost wholly to the construction and operation of the old turnpike, and the subsequent horse railroad on the same route. In those days this was a place of much importance, for here all drivers stopped for rest and to change horses, and all the current news of the day was obtained only through that worthy, the driver; and it has been said that the denizens of Gridleyville felt highly honored by the presence of her learned Jehus, and an intimation in some manner got abroad that the average citizen here was just a little better informed on general subjects than residents in some other parts of the county. However, in writing of Gridleyville mention must be made of Captain Russell Gridley, the pioneer of the family in the town and who became a permanent settler in 1803. He preferred land in this town to that further south, as the timber was far better, for Captain Gridley was a lumberman and in later years an extensive operator. After the famous period of horse railroading and the day of stage coaches had passed our little hamlet began to decline, and still later, when the timber lands were cleared, the glory of the place departed forever.

East Candor is a little hamlet in the eastern central part of the town, in the vicinity where the Blinn family settled in early days. The locality was also known by other names, among them being "Blinn's Settlement," and "Honey Pot," and occasionally as "Upper Fairfield." A postoffice has been kept here for many years. The Union church at East Candor was built in 1854.

West Candor is a hamlet and postoffice in the west part of the town, on the highway leading from Candor village to Spencer. In

fact the settlement here, so far as it can be described by bounds, is partly in this town and Spencer. It was in this locality that Israel Mead settled in 1796, and here, too Selah Gridley and Captain Ira Woodford were among the early settlers. The hamlet is also a station on the now called Lehigh Valley railroad, and is in the centre of a rich agricultural region. The store is kept by Luther Sawyer.

Weltonville is a post hamlet in the east part of Candor at the mouth of Doolittle creek, where that stream discharges into Owego creek. The hamlet was named in allusion to Rev. A. J. Welton, a former resident, but later of Binghamton. The local merchant is Mr. Graves.

The West Owego Creek Baptist church at Weltonville is one of the oldest religious bodies in the county, and it has also been called the mother of churches from the fact that several other societies have drawn members from it. This was the second church in the county, the date of its formation being May 1, 1802. Among the first members were Lewis and Lovina Mead, Jasper and Catharine Taylor, John and Hannah Bunnell, George and Sarah Lane, Peter and Sarah Gorbet, Abram and Deborah Everett, Samuel and Alvin Steward, and Elizabeth Jacobs. The church of course drew its members largely from Candor and Newark Valley, and a few from Owego. The edifice was built in 1844. The members now number 57. The pastor is Rev. R. K. Hammond; clerk, S. R. Barrott.

Catatonk in the early history of the town was a place of more than passing importance, and it was not until with the last half score of years that its prestige has been lost. The hamlet is pleasantly and conveniently situated on Catatonk creek, on the line of the D., L. & W. railroad, and in early times was the first stopping place of any note on the old Ithaca & Owego turnpike after leaving Owego village. In this locality there settled some of the most worthy pioneers of the town, notably Captain Thomas Park, who opened a farm and also built one of the first saw mills in the county. Here, too, was a fertile agricultural region, and a store at Catatonk became necessary to supply the wants of the inhabitants. In 1852 Sackett & Forman built a tannery and furnished

employment to about twenty men. The property afterward passed through various ownerships and was finally closed. The last storekeeper here was A. H. Smith. A small but convenient union meeting house for religious worship was erected in 1861.

Perryville is the name given to a settlement in the north part of the town, distant about one mile southeast from Willseyville.

South Candor is a cluster of dwellings on Catatonk creek between Candor and Catatonk.

Prospect Valley is the latest hamlet in this town of many settlements, and is located about a mile south of Willseyville. A store is kept here by William Owen.

Among the many church and religious organizations of the town, not previously mentioned in this chapter, is the Fairfield Baptist church, an offshoot from the old society on West Owego creek, and was formed in 1858, and provided with a church home in 1871. The members number 23, and are under the pastoral charge of Rev. R. K. Hammond, of Weltonville.

The Baptist church at Strait's Corners, sometimes called the Pipe Creek Baptist church, was organized in 1842 with 38 constituent members, many of whom were residents of Tioga. The members now number 39. The church is under the pastorate of Rev. Seth Hammond, of Strait's Corners.

The Methodist church at Anderson Hill, a locality named from the Anderson family, was formed in 1860 with 20 members. The Pipe Creek M. E. church is a still older organization, and was formed in 1830, under the pastoral care of Rev. Gaylord Judd.

A society of the Free Will Baptist church was formed in the town as early as 1816 and held meetings in convenient school houses. The first pastor was Rev. John Gould, who gained notoriety by departing for the west about 1830 and joining with the Mormon church. The local society dissolved about 1831. Another society of the same denomination was formed on West Owego creek about 1820, but had only a brief existence.

CHAPTER XXV.

THE TOWN OF TIOGA.

ALL hail, old Tioga town, home of the pioneer! Closely interwoven with the early history here were many of the most important pioneer events of the beautiful Susquehanna valley. Here, too, was the home of the once dreaded red man and only the devastating army of the intrepid Sullivan drove the fierce Iroquois from the soil he loved so well. Here nature yielded abundantly of her fruits, while the ever-flowing river likewise gave plenty in food with no other labor than the simple act of taking. Small wonder, therefore, that the hardy white-faced New England soldier of the revolution was charmed with nature's endowment to this country when Sullivan's men found growing here grass, and corn full six feet high, while various fruits on heavy laden trees still further testified to the rich qualities of the soil. Up and down this valley in the summer and fall of 1779 marched Sullivan's conquering army, burning and destroying as it went, driving the merciless and offending savages from the region. However, both record and tradition inform us that this part of the valley was previously, though imperfectly, known to the whites, for the Moravian missionaries traversed the country in the vain endeavor to christianize the natives; and record also informs us that previous to Sullivan's invasion two white prisoners escaped from their savage captors on the south bank of the river opposite this town. Many indeed are the interesting reminiscences associated with Indian and pioneer life in this locality, but being recounted in an earlier chapter, need no repetition here.

Past writers of Tioga history have also stated that the valley of the Susquehanna, within the limits of this town, was occupied by white adventurers or traders previous to the permanent settlement by the pioneers. This is undoubtedly true, as the published jour-

nals of several of General Sullivan's officers attest the fact that one Fitzgerald had an abiding place on the bank of the river. Yet this occupancy was of a transient character and in no manner reflects either the times or the quality of the pioneers.

The first civilized white settlement within the limits of what now forms the town of Tioga was made when the territory was a part of the old county of Montgomery, a jurisdiction comprising more than ten million acres of land. In Tioga county the towns of Tioga and Barton were a part of the comparatively small area which was not ceded by New York to Massachusetts in compromise of the conflicting claims of those states growing out of irregularities in the charters by the crown. Therefore the state of New York caused to be made a survey of this land and sold it to individuals and companies at a modest price per acre. However, there appears to have been a small settlement of whites in the Chemung valley and disturbances frequently arose among them regarding their squatter claims to title; and to such an extent were these disputes carried that a new town was created in Montgomery county, including nearly all the territory south of the Military Tract, west of the Boston Purchase and Coxe's manor, east of the pre-emption line and north of the state line, to which was given the name of Chemung, but which by common designation has ever been known as "the old town of Chemung." By this organization the authority of Montgomery county was directly exercised over the region, and officers were chosen for the new town. The act erecting the town was passed March 22, 1788, and in that and the next three years the lands in what is now Tioga were principally granted to individuals and companies, as we have mentioned. Few of the patentees or grantees became actual settlers and it is not necessary to reproduce their names or a description of the lands granted them.

Samuel Ransom was, however, one of the grantees, and also one of the pioneers of the town. His father was a captain in the American army during the revolution and was killed in the battle at Wyoming, July 3, 1778. From the best authority obtainable, although accounts differ somewhat, Samuel and William Ransom, sons of Capt. Ransom, the patriot, with Prince and Andrew Alden,

came up the Susquehanna from Wyoming some time during the year 1785 and made the pioneer settlement and improvement in what is now Tioga. They located near the mouth of Pipe creek, William Ransom and Andrew Alden quite near the stream, and Samuel Ransom and Prince Alden two miles further down.

Samuel Ransom was born at Canaan, Conn., Sept. 28, 1759, and when about 24 years old was married with Mary Nesbitt. However, he met an untimely death by drowning in the river, near Tioga Centre, in 1807, by the overturning of his boat. Later on his family removed west. During his brief life in this town, Mr. Ransom was a leader in all measures for improvement, and to him is credited the honor of having built the first tavern and the first school house. He owned a good property but before his death reverses swept away nearly all he had.

William Ransom, brother to Samuel, was born in Canaan, Conn., May 26, 1770, and was only fifteen years old when he came with his brother to this part of the valley. In 1792, he married with Rachel, the daughter of pioneer James Brooks. This was the first marriage in the town. Like his brother, Major Ransom, as he was best known, was an important factor in early history in this region and a man of influence in the county. His children were Ira, Sibyl, David, Benjamin, Rachel, William, Charles, Harriet, Mary and Printice Ransom. Nearly all these children were residents in Tioga county and their families were prominent both in the civil and social history of the region. Major Ransom died at Tioga Centre, January 8, 1822.

Colonel William Ransom, fourth son of Major Ransom, was born at Tioga Centre, April 9, 1801, and from the age of eighteen to the time of his death, Feb. 7, 1883, was one of the foremost men of the town and one who did as much for the welfare of the locality as any man in all its history. He began as farmer and lumberman, and in 1827, in company with David Wallis, his brother-in-law, started a large mercantile business at Tioga Centre. He was interested in other business enterprises, and took an active part in local politics. He was a strong democrat, and through his efforts and influence Tioga was many years held in the democratic column. His title of Colonel came from his connection with the

53d regiment of state militia, of which he had command. Col. Ransom married with Angeline, the daughter of Amos Martin, of Owego. They had several children all of whom died in infancy. In 1854 Col. and Mrs. Ransom adopted the daughter of his brother Ira. She married with Jonathan C. Latimer, of Tioga Centre.

Prince and Andrew Alden were companions and fellow workers with the Ransoms in founding the settlement in this town, but any extended record of their antecedents or history is not to be found. The name is not known in Tioga, and few indeed are the facts to be learned of them in the town to-day. They came up from Wyoming and are believed to have come originally from Connecticut. Prince Alden died in 1808, and Andrew removed to Ohio in 1808 or '9.

Jesse Miller, the pioneer head of one of the most respected families of the town, was born Oct. 3, 1747, and came to this locality during the winter of 1786-87, with his sons Jesse and Amos, then aged respectively, 16 and 14 years. They came from Bedford, Westchester county, on horseback, and all their effects were carried in like manner. They stopped for a time in Nichols, but soon crossed over to Tioga and built a cabin between the hamlets now known as Tioga Centre and Smithboro, where Mr. Miller had a large tract of land. This tract was known as the Light and Miller location, and the settlement which grew up around where Mr. Miller built his cabin was soon known as New Bedford; and as pioneer Miller's house was the stopping-place for all travelling ministers, and also the place for holding religious worship, the historic old "Baptist church of New Bedford" was organized there. After the Miller log cabin was completed the pioneer returned to his old home for his family. The family consisted of his wife Keziah, two sons (besides Jesse and Amos), Ziba and Ezra, and his daughters Jerusha, Lucy and Polly. Another son, William B., died just before the family started for the west. Jesse Miller, the pioneer, is remembered as an earnest christian, and a sturdy plodder along life's path. He, with Lodowick Light, Thomas Thomas and Enos Canfield, purchased from the state 2,765 acres of land, and to each of his sons Mr. Miller gave 150 acres. He died

of apoplexy April 9, 1812. For many years he was justice of the peace.

Lodowick Light, the associate and co-worker of Jesse Miller, located lands in Tioga county in 1788, but not until 1791 did he come to this town as a settler. He, too, came from Bedford, Westchester county, where he had carried on a tannery and shoemaking business. Indeed, Mr. Light made shoes for the American soldiers during the revolution. From family recollections it is learned that Pioneer Light was also a "minute man," and "served on the line" during the war. On one occasion Gen. Washington visited his house and remained over night. In the New Bedford settlement in Tioga Mr. Light was an enterprising, energetic man, and one who possessed strong common sense. His manner was always dignified, and to strangers he sometimes appeared stern, yet he was kind and generous. He was a native of Germany, born July 23, 1752, and came to Westchester county with his brother and sister. He married with Martha Seely, and to them were born these children : Orlie, who married with Stephen Dodd ; Amy, who married with James Brooks ; Seely, who died unmarried ; Sara, who married with Ezra Miller ; Hester, who died at 17 ; John, who married with Hannah Allen ; Elizabeth and Catharine, twins, the former of whom died unmarried and the latter in infancy ; Lewis, who married with Lydia Layton ; Henry, who married with Sibyl Ransom, and Catharine, 2d, who married with John Kress. Lodowick Light died Aug. 26, 1830, his wife died Sept. 28, 1842. Both were buried in the old graveyard on meeting-house hill. The Light homestead and farm were west of and adjoining Enos Canfield's land.

John Light, brother to Lodowick, and Eli and Thaddeus Seely, his brothers-in-law, came to the settlement at the same time, 1791, and took up tracts of land. They sold their claims after a short time and removed to other localities.

Enos Canfield, the pioneer, whose homestead adjoined that of Lodowick Light, and who among the pioneers of the town was regarded as one of the best men of his time, was also a previous resident of old Bedford, and came to the new region to make a more comfortable home than he had in the east. He was prominently

identified with the history of the Baptist church and in fact was one of its founders. Pioneer Canfield died December 14, 1822, aged 55 years. His wife was Polly Robinson, who died May 7, 1849. In their family were fourteen children.

Ezra Smith was the pioneer on the site of Smithboro. He came here in 1791 from Westchester county and took up the land which had been assigned to his brother, Jesse, by the proprietors of the so-called Poirs & Koles tract. Pioneer Smith kept a tavern on the village site, but about 1809 removed to Candor.

James Brooks was the pioneer head of one of the oldest and most respected of the early families of Tioga, where he settled in 1791. He was one of three brothers who sailed from Dublin to America, but came originally from the west coast of England. The brothers were Cornelius, John and James. Cornelius settled in Delaware, John in New England, and James in Hunterdon county, N. J. From there he came to Tioga and took up lands. James Brooks served in the American army during the revolution as private in Captain Giles Mead's company, 1st regiment of New Jersey Continentals. His wife was Mary Johnson. Both were possessed of firm Christian character and their influence was always for good. In their family were eight children, viz.: Cornelius, who married with Mary Johnson and settled in Olean; John, who married with Bertha Goodspeed and removed to Ohio; Rachel, who married with Major William Ransom and settled at Tioga Centre; Anna, who married with Gilbert Farrington and settled in Ohio; James, who married with Amy Light; Benjamin, who married with Patty Warren; Polly, who married with Ebenezer Centre and settled in the West; David, who became a clergyman of the M. E. church, and who late in life left Tioga county and removed to Michigan. James Brooks, the pioneer died at Tioga Centre January 7, 1812, aged 83 years. After his death John Brooks, son of the pioneer, came from Cincinnati and took his aged mother to Ohio, she riding the entire distance in a wagon. She died May 21, 1831, aged 92 years.

James Brooks, 2d, fifth child of the pioneer, married with Amy, the daughter of pioneer Lodowick and Patty (Seely) Light, and to them were born four children, one of whom died in infancy. Pat-

ty, the eldest, died unmarried. Chloe, the youngest, married with John H. Yontz, at one time a prominent merchant at Smithboro. Benjamin Van Campen Brooks, only son of James and Amy Brooks, married with Lucy G. Miller, daughter of Amos Miller. Their children were Horace Agard, who was county clerk twelve years; Martha, George, Henry, Eliza, Eliza Amelia (widow of Henry A. Mitchell), Charles Benjamin, Chloe M. (present deputy county clerk), Mary Mandane, Chester Prentice, Lucy Adele (wife of Edward A. Price of Media, Pa.), and Alice Cornelia, wife of E. L. Wyckoff of Elmira.

Colonel David Pixley, who is mentioned at length in the history of Owego, was a pioneer in Tioga, and was, withal, one of the foremost men in the county in his time. According to the best obtainable information, Col. Pixley came to the region in 1788, although the time may have been a little later. He was identified with many pioneer measures and also was one of the proprietors of the Boston Ten Towns. In 1802 he sold his lands in Tioga to Noah and Eliakim Goodrich and removed to Owego Settlement.

Dr. Samuel Tinkham came to Tioga at about the same time as Col. Pixley, about 1791 or '92, settling in the eastern part of the town. He, too, soon removed to Owego settlement.

Joel Farnham is also to be mentioned among the pioneers of Tioga, and in some respects he was one of the most useful of the early settlers. He was born at Windham, Conn., Jan. 3, 1774, and emigrated from his native state to the Wyoming valley in company with his mother and other settlers who sought to better their condition in that new and then little known country. In 1792 young Farnham left old "Forty Fort," and with his mother and others came up the Susquehanna in a "dug-out," and made a brief stop at the little settlement of Owego. However, they soon started up Owego creek, travelled about two miles and on the west side of that stream Mr. Farnham found lands suited to his purposes. He bought several hundred acres in this beautiful valley, and to the honor of his descendants it may be said they are still its owners. Pioneer Farnham was a wheelwright and cabinet maker, a native Yankee who possessed all the ingenuity of his people, and it was not long before he had built a dam across the

creek and erected mills for the manufacture of spinning wheels and other domestic articles then much used by the settlers. His business was successful and he sent wagons loaded with his wares all over the region. Several of his inventions Mr. Farnham caused to be patented, and among them one of the most remarkable was a horseless carriage propelled by the use of strong springs. It worked well and one day Mr. Farnham took his wife to Owego, but on returning a neighbor's team became frightened and ran away, whereupon the inventor destroyed his vehicle. Mr. Farnham was also a surveyor, but his wool carding, cloth dressing and finishing mills were of the greatest practical benefit to the settlers. He also invented a cider mill, and a turning lathe for making wooden utensils. In 1797 Mr. Farnham was married with Ruth, the daughter of Enoch and Sarah Slosson, of Newark Valley. The children of this marriage were Sylvester, Fidelia, Ann Maria, Joel, Jr., Charles, Caroline, George, Sarah Catherine, Enoch, and Frederick Augustus Farnham. Joel Farnham, the pioneer, died August 15, 1853. His wife died August 30, 1862.

John Hill came from Pittsfield, Mass., in the spring of 1793, in company with one or two of his sons, and took up land in the eastern part of the town. In the fall his family came. About 1800 pioneer Hill built a large plank and timber tavern on his land and kept public house until about 1816 when all the family except two sons removed to Orwell, Pa. The children in his family were Sullivan, John, Harvey, Chauncey, Chester, Daniel, Samuel, and four girls whose names are not recalled. Harvey and Chauncey Hill remained in Tioga, and both were millwrights by trade, as indeed were all the sons of pioneer John Hill. Harvey married with a Catlin and had three children. Chauncey married with Lucy Sexton and had twelve children, one of whom died at birth. The others were Susan, James N., Amanda M., Lucy D., Sabrina, Mary Ann, Sarah, Charles, Emily, Sir William Wallace, and Frances Adeline Hill.

Francis Gragg was also one of the pioneers, although the exact date of his settlement is unknown. He came from Pennsylvania and soon after arrival occupied the old hotel stand which John Brooks had built, but later on removed to the site of the Kuyken-

dall house of later days. Still later he lived on the site of the Van-Norstran property. Mrs. Gragg died in 1824, and her husband in 1854. The Van Norstran family came into the region soon after the century began, and in 1819 moved into the old Brooks tavern. Sally Gragg married with John Van Norstran, and to them were born eight children.

William Taylor, who settled in this town in 1794, came into the Susquehanna valley with James McMaster and companions in 1785, and has ever been mentioned in history as "the bound boy" in the McMaster family. However, he became one of the most thrifty farmers in the town and was one of the very first to "raft" corn to Wilkesbarre to mill. In 1801 Mr. Taylor removed to Candor, and in that town he died in 1849. The Henry Young farm of later years, known as one of the best in the county, was the site whereon pioneer Taylor made his settlement.

The same year, 1794, also witnessed the arrivals in the town of Daniel Mercereau, Jeremiah White, and Cornelius Taylor. Mr. Mercereau had served with the British during the revolution, being pressed into the service, but all his sympathies were with the Americans. He was one of the substantial farmers of old Owego, later Tioga, and died here in 1848. Cornelius Taylor came up the valley from Wyoming and lived next to Mr. Mercereau, who took part of the Taylor farm. He died in 1848. Mr. White was a mechanic and a useful man in the settlement. He was the first husband of Mrs. Whitaker, who was made captive by the Indians at Wyoming, and who was held by them and their white allies for two years. It was the fruitful memory of Mrs. Whitaker that gave to history many interesting facts of early Indian and other accounts of life in the valley of the Susquehanna. Mr. White afterward lived at Catatonk, and there he met an accidental death in a mill, in 1805.

Among the other early settlers in the town, chiefly along the river, all of whom are believed to have been here previous to the year 1800 were John Gee, Kobus and James Schoonover, Nathaniel Goodspeed, Moses Fountain, and Josiah Cleveland, good worthy men, all of whom came to make new and better homes for their families. Between Tioga Centre and the west town line the first

settlers were chiefly from Westchester county and the Wyoming valley region, while between the centre and the eastern line Massachusetts and Connecticut Yankees were in the majority among the pioneers. However, all were sturdy and determined workers, and as a result of their efforts the lands were cleared and fine farms were developed in this part of the valley. Their work also gave the town an enviable standing in the region even in the earliest years of the century. Indeed, for several years in the early history of this region the little settlement west of Owego creek was regarded as the rival of the Owego settlement east of that stream. It is a fact known in local history that previous to 1800 the pioneers of what is now Tioga sought to build up a settlement similar to that at Owego, and after that time the attempt was continued although a fatal blow was struck against the western locality by the removal to the east town of some of her foremost men. However, let us turn from these scenes and note the coming of other early families to the town, for they are worthy of at least a passing mention although not pioneers.

Jonathan Catlin, of whom mention is elsewhere made, came in 1800, locating in what is known as the Goodrich Settlement. He bought the Taylor improvement, but in later years his sons, Stephen, Jonathan, Joseph, James, and Nathaniel settled on Catlin hill, a name which is preserved to this day. From this head the Catlin family in Tioga county is descended, but several of its best representatives have removed from the town and have helped to make histories in other localities.

Judge Noah and Captain Eliakim Goodrich came from Glastonbury, Conn. in 1799, and purchased from Colonel Pixley 400 acres of land in Owego and Tioga, paying therefor \$3 an acre, and taking hill and flat together. These pioneers were for years identified with the best history of the towns of Tioga and Owego, as their purchase included lands in both. Noah Goodrich was born August 30, 1764, and died July 19, 1834. His sons were Erastus, Anor, and Norman by his first marriage, and Ephraim by the second. Eliakim Goodrich, who was cousin to Judge Goodrich, married with Sarah Leland, and to them were born these children: Ansel, Ira, Cyprion, Lucy, Alanson, Silas, Sarah, Fanny, Jasper, William, and Fanny, 2d, the first child so named having died.

Rev. David Jayne came to Tioga county from near Tunkhannock, Pa., about the year 1795, and from that time he was identified with the best history of the region. His deed of land came from Col. Pixley and conveyed to the pioneer 330 acres just below Smithboro. Later on Mr. Jayne deeded to Anne Layton all of this tract except two acres. On February 20, 1796, at the house of Jesse Miller, near Smithboro, Mr. Jayne organized the first church society in Tioga county, that commonly known in early local history as "the Baptist Church of New Bedford." He was pastor of this church for fourteen years. He had purchased a farm on Shepard's creek, ten miles from Watkins Glen, to which he removed with his family, but at the same time this worthy christian worker thought little of travelling thirty miles from his home to the church to preach. About 1815 Mr. Jayne gave the farm to his son, David, and then removed to Steuben county, where he died at the age of 86 years.

Among the other and perhaps later settlers in Tioga whose names are worthy to be mentioned were John DuBois, Frederick Castle, Henry Primrose, Jacob Crater, Dr. David Earll, James Garrett and others whose names are equally worthy to be preserved in this record, but which have become lost with passing years. John DuBois came to the town about the year 1800 and made a purchase of land one mile west of Tioga Centre. He was a strong business man and one of the best known in the town for several years. Among his children were John, Joseph, Ezekiel and Abel, the first of whom, John Jr., afterward removed to Pennsylvania and engaged in extensive lumbering operations, and with such remarkable success that he was one of the wealthiest men in that state. He founded DuBois city, which was named for him. He died in 1886. The DuBois homestead at Tioga Centre still stands and is to-day one of the most attractive dwellings in that pretty little hamlet.

John Gilbert Smith was another of Tioga's prominent and successful men, and one of the county's most active Democrats. He had a large saw mill at the Centre and was a valuable man for the place. He died in 1885. Josiah Stowell came up from Smithboro about 1835 and built a saw mill at the Centre. He was also interested in a hotel and store at the same place.

Glancing over the pages of old, time worn records and documents, the names of still other early residents of Tioga are brought to light, and while they were not identified with pioneer events their names have been so associated with later history in the town that at least a passing mention of them seems necessary. In this connection we may recall John Waterman, who came to the town about or soon after 1800 and lived at Smithboro. From him descended a family well known in later years. Jared Foote and Stephen Jones are also to be mentioned in the same connection. Mr. Jones came from Massachusetts and John Whitley from Vermont, the latter settling first in Candor.

In this chapter, so far as progressed, we have endeavored to bring to mind the names of as many as possible of the pioneers and early settlers in Tioga as now constituted. Among them were many men of strong character and personality, and it was through their efforts that the town assumed the prominence it held for many years during the close of the old and the beginning of the new century. On the east and west sides of Owego creek and situate about equi-distant from that stream were rival settlements, each striving for the greater importance and population. All along the valley of the Susquehanna were the most desirable farming and lumbering lands of the region, and the proprietors were men noted for enterprise and thrift. At that time, as the reader knows, the present town of Tioga was known as Owego, and Owego was known as Tioga. Settlement in each was begun about the same time, with the advantage perhaps in favor of the eastern locality. Both, however, progressed rapidly in all that tended to benefit, and the result was that in the course of a very few years all the lands along the valley were taken and improved, and Tioga county had at the beginning of the century at least two towns as prosperous as any along the south border of the state. Whatever there may have been of rivalry between the settlements was passed when that on the east was designated as the place wherein should be kept the county records, and when Owego became the county seat its prominence was acknowledged.

Among the towns of the county which have furnished men of mark Owego stands first, and Tioga second. The pioneers who

laid the foundation for the later success have been mentioned on preceding pages, and those who were factors in its intermediate history have also been recalled, but there were still others who were not pioneers nor were they early settlers, but were nevertheless men of mark, and worthy to be briefly noticed in this chapter.

Charles Frederick Johnson, scholar, linguist and literateur, came to Tioga and purchased the Meadow-Bank farm in 1837, two years after his marriage with Sarah Dwight Woolsey, the daughter of William Dwight Woolsey, one of the old-time merchants of New York. Mr. Johnson lived in the town until 1876, when he removed to the home of his daughter, Mrs. Anna J. Bellamy, of Dorchester, Mass., where he died July 6, 1882.

Nathaniel P. Willis, the poet, was a resident of this town for a period of about five years, but aside from the fact that he was the founder of "Glenmary," one of the most beautiful homes and estates in the county, Mr. Willis was not closely identified with local history. He came to the town at the solicitation of George J. Pumpelly, and undoubtedly through the same influence made the purchase of property across Owego creek, opposite the foot of Talcott street, to which he gave the name before mentioned, and which is now in part the Glenmary home. Mr. Willis came here in 1837 and left in 1842; and while he was an author of unusual talent he was ungrateful in the treatment of those who had favored him with friendship and loans.

Wheeler H. Bristol, who occupied "Glenmary" after the departure of Mr. Willis, was one of the most worthy and one of the most honored men of Tioga town or county during the period of his residence therein. He was a native of Columbia county, born January 16, 1818, and after an active business life in other fields came to Tioga with the construction of the Erie railroad. Later on his business interests called to other localities, and during the period of the war he was building bridges for the government. In politics he was an ardent democrat and one who stood high in the councils of the party in the state. He was twice supervisor of the town and was elected state treasurer in 1867. Mr. Bristol was also associated with some of the best local industries, notably the Bristol Iron works with a place of business in Owego village. In

1886 Mr. Bristol and family removed to Florida, where he now lives and where he has also been honored with election to positions of trust and importance. However, the reader must understand that the domicile which Mr. Willis occupied and that in which Mr. Bristol lived were separate dwellings, and both are now standing. The Willis home is on the east side of the street, while the Bristol house is the same now used as the main building of the Glenmary home.

Nicholas Kittell, famed throughout the land as one of the foremost portrait and landscape painters, was a native of Columbia county, and with his parents came to Tioga about 1830 and settled opposite the "deep well." The small stream called "Kittle creek" was named after the head of the family. The artist himself changed the pronunciation of the name from "Kittle" to "Kittell." While living in Tioga Mr. Kittell painted portraits and views, but his fame as an artist was achieved in the east and chiefly in New York. Among his best portraits were those of Governor Marcy and General Grant, and just before his death he had finished a portrait of Dr. Parkhurst. Mr. Kittell died June 28, 1894.

The mention of these celebrities by no means exhausts Tioga's list of noted sons, for the roll might be continued and placed in strong rivalry with the county town on the east. Recapitulating briefly, let us make passing mention of the names of Tioga's strong men, each and all of whom have been factors in the best history of the town. There were Samuel, Major William and Col. William Ransom, Chauncey Hill, Colonel Pixley, Dr. Samuel Tinkham, Ezra Smith, David Wallis, Joel Farnham, Judge Noah and Captain Eliakim Goodrich, Ephriam Leach, Caleb Leach, Israel S. Hoyt, Jacob Catlin, John Du Bois, Dr. David Earll, John Gilbert Smith, Gen. D. C. McCallum, Nathaniel P. Willis, Charles Frederick Johnson, Robert Charles Johnson, Wheeler H. Bristol, Peter Herdic, Zephaniah Halsey, Edward V. Poole, Luther B. West, Walter C. Randall, and a host of others whose names are perhaps equally worthy of mention in this connection, but all of whom, together with the great majority of the town's people, have helped to build up and maintain Tioga as one of the foremost towns in the county. Such was the standing of the town half and three-

quarters of a century ago and such is its reputation to-day ; and that despite the fact that many obstacles and disadvantages have been encountered and overcome.

POPULATION.—In 1800 the territory comprising this town had a population of 750 inhabitants, about 530 less than the adjoining town of Owego, at the same time the territory of Barton on the west had 180 inhabitants. As evidence of subsequent growth reference is had to the federal and state census reports from which is gleaned the following statistics : In 1800 the inhabitants numbered 750 ; 1810, 857 ; 1814, 1,262 ; 1820, 1,816 ; 1825, 991 ; 1830, 1,411 ; 1835, 1,987 ; 1840, 2,464 ; 1845, 2,778 ; 1850, 2,839 ; 1855, 3,027 ; 1860, 3,202 ; 1865, 3,094 ; 1870, 3,272 ; 1875, 3,159 ; 1880, 3,192 ; 1885, no count ; 1890, 2,455 ; 1892, 2,373.

ORGANIZATION AND CIVIL HISTORY.—On March 22, 1788, the legislature created the town of Chemung as one of the civil divisions of Montgomery county, and included within its boundaries all that is now Tioga, together with a large area of territory on both sides of the Susquehanna and between the pre-emption line on the west, and Owego creek on the east. The necessity of this town formation are fully referred to on a preceding page, but the authority of the “old town of Chemung ;” as ever mentioned in history, was the first attempted to be exercised over what is now Tioga.

In 1791 the number of inhabitants in the Susquehanna and Chemung valleys was such that the legislature passed an act, which was approved February 16, creating the county of Tioga, and at the same time divided its territory into towns, or provisional districts as sometimes called. By this act the original town of Chemung was continued in name but reduced in territory ; and out of its eastern region was erected a new jurisdiction by the name of Owego, which included within its boundaries all the lands between Cayuta and Owego creeks on the west and east ; the county line on the north, and the Pennsylvania line on the south. This was the original town of Owego, and within its limits was all now known as Tioga. At that time such a town as Tioga was unknown, and what is now Owego was within the bounds of the original town of Union. However, from this town a new town

called Tioga was set off in 1800, and was so known and called until 1813.

The erection of the town of Owego from Union gave rise to considerable confusion as the village of Owego was in the town of Tioga when naturally it should have been within the town so named, and the result was that in 1813 the legislature passed an act by which the towns of Tioga and Owego changed names. They were then regarded as the most important civil divisions of the county, and have maintained their relative positions to the present time. In 1806 all that is now Spencer and Candor were set off from this town (then known as Owego) and called Spencer. On March 23, 1824, Nichols and Barton were both erected from Tioga, by which act the town was reduced to its present area.

Within its present boundaries Tioga includes 35,805 acres of land ; and as good land as can be found in all Tioga county. The Susquehanna forms the southern boundary, while its principal tributary streams within the town are Pipe and Catatonk creeks. Owego creek forms the eastern boundary. The soil is a fine dark loam in the valleys and a gravelly loam on the hills.

The act creating the town made provision for the first town meeting, and accordingly the inhabitants met and elected officers. Unfortunately, however, the record of meetings previous to 1835 were taken to the county seat and used as evidence in a litigation then being contested in court, and through some fault they were never returned, nor are their whereabouts now known. However, having access to previous publications and county records, we are able to furnish to the reader a complete list of the supervisors of Tioga except the incumbents of the office between the years 1828 and 1835 :

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1795—Emanuel Coryell. | 1821-23—Wright Dunham. | 1848—David Taylor. |
| 1796—Lodowick Light. | 1824—Ziba Miller. | 1849-52—Gilbert Strang. |
| 1797—Samuel Tinkham. | 1825—George Matson. | 1853—William Ransom. |
| 1798—John Smyth. | 1826-27—Ephraim Leach. | 1854—David Taylor. |
| 1799-1800—Jesse Miller. | 1828—Erastus Goodrich. | 1855—David Earll. |
| 1801-3—Joshua Ferris. | 1835-40—Jesse Turner. | 1856—Gilbert Strang. |
| 1804-9—Emanuel Coryell. | 1841-43—Erastus Goodrich. | 1857-58—Richard Spendley. |
| 1810-12—Noah Goodrich. | 1844—Jesse Turner. | 1859—Harris Jewett. |
| 1813-17—G. H. Barstow. | 1845—Israel S. Hoyt. | 1860—Richard Spendley. |
| 1818-20—Emanuel Coryell. | 1846-47—Jesse Turner. | 1861—Abel DuBois. |

1862-64—Gilbert Strang. 1874-83—Stephen W. Leach. 1891-93—J. C. Latimer.
 1865—Luther B. West. 1884-86—J. C. Latimer. 1894-97—Ira Hoyt.
 1866-70—W. H. Bristol. 1887—S. W. Leach.
 1871-73—Josiah Pickering. 1888-90—W. Hulse Shaw.

From first to last the history of Tioga forms an interesting and instructive chapter, in many respects resembling the history of the county from which it is named. The pioneers here were as substantial in their foundation work as were those of other towns, and their beginnings were as humble and as primitive. True, the first settlers made choice of the rich valley lands along the river and up Owego creek, and it was not until several years later that settlement was extended to the more elevated districts of the north and northwest portions of the town; but at length all the lands were taken and proved desirable for the purposes of agriculture and kindred pursuits. The pioneers found in the valley many cleared places on which the Indians had planted gardens and grown fruits, but farming as an avocation was with the savage quite unknown.

According to the local tradition, the first settlers were lumbermen as well as farmers, and from 1800 down to about 1840 Tioga was one of the first towns in the valley in the shipment of lumber and rafts down the river. Indeed, it was this that established the early reputation of the town as a producing locality, and a glance at the recollections of pioneer life as recorded in the first part of this chapter will disclose the fact that many of the leading settlers were both lumbermen and farmers. Fortunes were made in this pursuit and to the present day lumbering has been one of the industries of the town. The waters of Pipe and Owego creeks and their tributaries afforded abundant water power, while the still larger Susquehanna has been an important factor in the same direction.

However, in the early history of the town the settlers according to New England custom established a trading centre and a place for meeting on public occasions. The little settlement called New Bedford was the result of this custom, and also that of Pipe creek, as called in the early days of the town. At New Bedford settlement, as early as 1796, Rev. David Jayne began preaching to

an informal society of worshippers, and the outgrowth of his efforts was one of the first religious organizations in this part of the state.

Tioga Centre is perhaps the most important of the hamlets of the town, yet in its most palmy days it is doubtful if the local population was more than 300 inhabitants. Major William Ransom and Andrew Alden were the pioneers on the village site, or just below where the settlement was afterward built up, and the pioneer first mentioned in 1792 built a small saw mill on Pipe creek. To the settlers this place was for many years known as Pipe creek and the name Tioga Centre came with the increased importance of the place. In 1840 the saw mill was made into a grist mill and in 1884 the grist mill was changed to a steam flouring mill. Major Ransom laid the foundation for the village, and his sons completed the work begun by their father. Indeed, the chief factor in Tioga Centre history for many years was Col. William Ransom, and second to his efforts were those of his partner, David Wallis. They began mercantile business in 1827, and for years were the most extensive dealers in the region west of Owego creek. At that time the Centre was the best trading point in this part of the valley, and from far up Pipe creek and even across the river lumbermen and farmers came here to trade; and many indeed were the transactions, and deals of importance consummated at the old hotel and the Ransom & Wallis store. However, Mr. Wallis at length entered politics and was elected county clerk, which necessitated his removal to the county seat. Col. Ransom continued business until a few years before his death, and his interests were afterward managed and carried on by Jonathan C. Latimer. The old store is now occupied by Fred Martin, and the mills are operated as necessity requires.

In 1849, the Erie railroad was built through the town and by this acquisition all local interests were improved and an additional importance was given to the village. At that time there were in operation within a radius of five miles about four large saw mills and the rafting period was at its height. In 1868, the firm of Ransom, Maxwell & Co. built a sole leather tannery, and for the next twenty years tanning was perhaps the leading industry of the vil-

lage. After a year the plant was changed to an upper leather factory and was operated by J. & P. Quirin. In 1871, the buildings were burned, but through the public spiritedness of village residents were at once restored. In October of the same year one of the boilers exploded, killing two and seriously injuring several other persons. Indeed, could its history be written in full, all the facts and incidents connected with this tannery would make an interesting chapter, for in local annals it has been a remarkable institution. However, in the summer of 1891 its operation was suspended, and where formerly from 70 to 100 men were employed all were compelled to seek other fields.

The saw mill of Mr. Latimer at the Centre was built in 1820 as a water power mill and was equipped with steam in 1872. Among the others of the vicinity may be mentioned the Schoonover & Todd mill up the creek, built in 1834, and sold to Nealy & Smith in 1838. In 1879 C. H. Tribe built a planing mill at the village, but among all the past industries of the place none is now in constant operation.

The first ferry across the river at this point was in use previous to 1800, owned by Decker & Cortright, and near the Light farm Caleb Lyons started a second in 1811. Col. Ransom put up a wire cable for a ferry in 1842.

As at present situated Tioga Centre is a hamlet of about 300 population, and is pleasantly situated on the west bank of the Susquehanna, and on the line of the Erie and the Lehigh Valley railroads. On account of the decline of its manufacturing industries all interests are correspondingly depressed, and only two stores and the saw mill, and the abandoned tannery building, remain as evidences of old-time prosperity. The present merchants are Fred Martin, in the old Ransom store, and C. H. Bonham, successor to Bonham & Brooks. In the village are the Baptist and M. E. churches, a good school, a large creamery and milk station, and two hotels. The old Tioga Centre hotel is kept by Moses Ohart, and the Hotel Fountain near the Lehigh station is conducted by N. A. L'Amoureux.

A union free school has been in operation in the village for more than twenty years, in which respect the Centre leads in the county when population is considered; and the school here conducted has

always ranked with the best educational institutions of the county. Oscar Granger, now county school commissioner, was for about fourteen years its principal. The present principal is Prof. C. J. Rider. The members of the board of education are J. C. Latimer, president; J. G. Quirin, Eugene Schoonover, Peter M. Johnson, Edgar Holt, and C. J. Goodenough. Secretary, A. G. Hill.

The present Baptist church of Tioga Centre is the indirect outgrowth of the society founded in 1796 by Rev. David Jayne, although the present one is many years removed from the mother organization. The first name was the Baptist church of New Bedford, but later "Tioga" was substituted for "New Bedford." A union meeting house was built by the Baptists and Methodists, and was used in common several years, when differences arose which threatened disaster. In 1827 the edifice was struck by lightning and destroyed. In January, 1838, the society at the Centre was given an organization as a branch of the Owego society, and in October following a separate church was formed. In 1840, the location was changed to Nichols, upon which eleven members on this side of the river united with the Tioga and Barton society. On October 12, 1844, the name was changed to the Baptist church of Tioga Centre, and in 1849 a church edifice was built, costing \$2,000. The members number 65. The pastor is Rev. W. H. Sobey; church clerk, James G. Quirin.

The Tioga Centre M. E. church was formally organized October 20, 1870, and a house of worship was built in 1872. However, Methodism in Tioga dates back to the time when Lorenzo Dow visited and preached among the scattered inhabitants of the region; and to the time when Bishop Asbury held camp meetings on pioneer Lodowick Light's lands. In truth it may be said that Methodism in Tioga is almost as old as the town itself. The present church has a strong membership and a successful Sunday school. The pastor is Rev. M. W. Barnes.

Smithboro is second in importance among the hamlets of the town. Here Ezra Smith settled about 1791, and it was proper that the settlement should be named in his honor. However, among the villages of the river valley Smithboro has attained but little prominence. Mr. Smith opened public house at this point and

kept it until about 1809 when he removed to Candor and was succeeded in business by landlord Isaac Boardman. A hotel and one or two stores have always been maintained at Smithboro although business in later years had been limited to such trade as naturally centres at some convenient point in a fertile farming region. Two bridges have been built across the river here, but high water carried both away. The Smithboro and Nichols Bridge Company was incorporated April 18, 1829, and Isaac Boardman, Nehemiah Platt and John Coryell were appointed commissioners to prepare the way for the structure. The bridge was washed away the year after it was built, and a second was erected in its place, that, too, fell a victim to the elements, the last portion in 1880. A ferry has since been maintained across the river at Smithboro. Ezra Smith founded the hamlet but Isaac Boardman was perhaps the most active man in its later development. Among the other early residents in this immediate locality were Mr. Lyon, who started the first ferry across the river. There were also the Fountain family, Wait Smith (who came up from Wyoming soon after 1800), Ezekiel Newman, Benj. Smith and James Schoonover, Jr. In this vicinity Beriah Mundy was a pioneer, he having come about 1787.

In writing of the early settlers in this locality mention should be made of John Smith, who came up the river from Pennsylvania in a canoe, in 1793, and made the first improvement on the farm more recently owned by James Steele, not far from Smithboro. John Smith's children were Richard, John, and Henry Smith.

John Waterman came from Peekskill, in 1800, and settled on what in later years was called the Wright farm in Smithboro locality. James Waterman married with Lucinda, the daughter of Wait Smith.

Wait Smith came here, in 1802, set up a shop, and began blacksmithing, his shop being the only one then between Owego and Athens. Among the other Smiths in the locality at an early day were Ward and James Smith, brothers, and Benjamin Smith. Joshua Smith, the millwright, Jared Smith, stone mason, Gabriel Smith, preacher, and Daniel Smith, but among them all none was related except Ward and James.

Among the most successful and prominent men at Smithboro,

especially within the last half century, were Walter C. Randall and Edward V. Poole. Mr. Randall came to the place in 1852, was bridge keeper 31 years, merchant eight years, and farmer about twenty-five years. He was justice sixteen years; was also chiefly instrumental in founding the masonic lodge at Smithboro. Mr. Poole came to the village in 1865, and was for many years identified with mercantile and other enterprises.

The present mercantile interests of Smithboro are the stores of H. H. Perry and Isaac Wheeler, and one grist and feed mill. The other auxiliaries of village life are the district school, the hotel, the shops usually found in all hamlets, and two churches.

The M. E. church at Smithboro was formed at a meeting held Nov. 19, 1832, and John Light, Andrew Bonham, and Benjamin Brooks were chosen trustees. The first edifice was built in 1833 and was burned May 24, 1887.

Emmanuel church, Protestant Episcopal, at Smithboro was organized in 1866, and the edifice was erected in 1874.

North from Smithboro about four miles is a settlement known by the name of Ross Hill, and so called in allusion to one of the most prominent families of that locality. The people here are an earnest and industrious class, and for their accommodation a M. E. church was organized and an edifice built about 1860.

Halsey Valley is the name of a little village situate in the extreme northwest corner of the town in the centre of an excellent farming country, and a locality whose inhabitants have for many years been noted for thrift and enterprise. In the early history of the town this region was hardly considered, and it was not until about 1825 that a settlement was made there. The lands were of excellent quality and the region was desirable, but not until about that time could a good title be secured. About 1790 the state engaged one Thomas Nicholson to survey and partition these lands, and he being pleased with the location, purchased 2,000 acres in what is now called the valley. However, Mr. Nicholson died in 1792, and a short time after his death a daughter was born to the widow. The girl died at the age of eighteen years, and in allusion to that event this locality came to be known as "The Girl's Flat," from the fact that she was the prospective

owner of the land. Later on the widow Nicholson married with Zephaniah Halsey, and the children of that union became the owners of the lands hereabouts, and for them the name Halsey Valley was applied.

The settlement and development of this part of the town did not begin until about 1825, but when once begun it progressed rapidly, for notwithstanding its comparatively remote location from the river region, Halsey Valley and vicinity forms a fertile district and one as productive as can be found in the county. The isolated condition in which the hamlet happens to be situated has taught its inhabitants to live in truly democratic manner; their interests are to a great extent identical and mutual good will has prevailed in domestic concerns.

The manufacturing and mercantile interests of the place have not been extensive, but at all times sufficient for local requirements, and the surplus has found ready market in the cities. One of the most successful and oldest business men of this locality is Luther B. West, who opened a store at the valley in 1846, and who from that time has been in some manner associated with the history of the place. However, Mr. West has retired from active business life and gives his attention to banking and private affairs. A store or two has been maintained at Halsey Valley since Mr. West made the beginning in that direction, and such mills and factories have been operated as local interests seemed to require.

Within the limits of the village are perhaps 250 inhabitants. Here also are two churches, a good school, three stores, a hotel, and a butter tub factory and cider mill. The merchants now in business are Cooper & Fisher, Thomas Fleming, and William Gould. Landlord Kellogg is proprietor of the hotel, and Ira Hoyt, present supervisor of the town, owns the combined tub factory, cider mill and factory for making cider vinegar. Two good physicians make the valley a place of residence and practice. They are Drs. Hollenbeck and Vosburgh. The village proper is located on the line between Barton and Tioga, a part in each town.

The Tioga and Barton Baptist church is one of the oldest religious organizations of either town or county, and while situated within the limits of Barton has ever been regarded as one of the institu-

tions of Halsey Valley. The church and society here were in fact organized in 1847, the edifice was built in the next year, but the society itself was the direct offshoot from the old Baptist church of New Bedford, organized in 1796 by that faithful old missionary worker and pioneer, Rev. David Jayne. As the story is told in another place the old society divided as the settlement of the region advanced, and several churches were the result. The local church has a present membership of 111 persons and is under the pastorate of Rev. L. S. Green; clerk of the church, James H. Drake, of Glencairn.

The Methodist Episcopal church of Halsey Valley was formed and an edifice was erected in 1854. This society has ever maintained an active existence and is now one of the largest in the locality.

The Christian church of Halsey Valley was organized in 1847 through the efforts of Rev. A. J. Welton. The society flourished for a time but afterward dissolved.

Goodrich settlement in the early years of the century was a place of considerable importance and at one time threatened rivalry with Owego settlement on the east side of the creek. However, with the removal of several of the men of the western hamlet to the eastern the former began to lose prestige; and other than having been the locality in which lived many prominent men Goodrich settlement has been hardly more than a name and an excellent farming region.

A short distance north of Goodrich settlement is the location for many years known as Glenmary, the home of Willis, of Bristol, of Gen. McCallum, of Col. Dorwin, and now known as the Glenmary Home, a refuge for suffering humanity, founded and conducted by Dr. Greenleaf, with competent assistants.

Leach's Mills in the early history of the town was another place of note, for here were the mills of various kinds built and operated by members of the Leach family, of which Caleb and Ephraim were the active factors. Caleb Leach built the mills in 1806 and in later years other prominent persons of the place and of Owego were interested in them. A carding and grist mill were first erected, and a machine shop and foundry were added later. All the

industries of this once busy place are removed and little now remains as evidence of former prosperity.

Strait's Corners is the name of a settlement in the north part of the town, partly in Candor, which was established as a trading centre for the accommodation of the farmers of the vicinity. The people here were thrifty, enterprising, and comfortably situated, and as early as 1853 secured a postoffice for their hamlet. They also organized two church societies and built substantial edifices for them. The Christian Church society at this place was formed in 1850 and in 1855 the meeting house was built. The Baptist Church was organized in 1842, and the edifice was located on the Candor side of the line.

German Settlement is a name which has been known in Tioga history since about 1830, and was applied to the locality in which there settled a number of German families. They were thrifty and well-to-do, and lived both in this town and in Candor. The settlement has always been regarded as a part of Tioga.

CHAPTER XXVI.

THE TOWN OF NICHOLS.

THROUGH the Moravian missionaries who traversed the Susquehanna and Chemung valleys long before any organized civil jurisdiction was attempted to be exercised over the region, information was brought to the chroniclers of Colonial history in New York that in various portions of the valley mentioned there dwelt an occasional white man among the Indians. In this locality such occurrences were rare, but in the upper Chemung and Canisteo valleys they were more frequent, and on one occasion Colonel (afterward Sir William) Johnson sent a detachment

of frontiersmen to drive certain offending white renegades from that region, for their influence had such a contaminating effect upon the savages that they became seriously annoying to the provincial government. However, history does not give any record of undesirable occupancy in this part of the country, although on the south bank of the Susquehanna and within the borders of the present town of Nichols was an Indian village of considerable importance. In the immediate vicinity of the mouth of Wappasening creek was one of favorite resorts of the red man for hunting and fishing, and on the broad and fertile plain land in the same town the Indian raised as good corn and vegetables as did the whites in the east, and great indeed was the surprise of Sullivan's men when they discovered the productive qualities of the soil in the region.

Many stories of the Indian occupancy are handed down to us through past writers of early history, and such as have been told of the locality now known as Nichols are well verified and do not rest on the unstable foundation of tradition. In the general chapters of this work relating to the period of Indian occupancy will be found the narrative of the unfortunate experience of two deserters from the British army who were pursued, overtaken, and ruthlessly shot on Maughantowano flats. They were left where they fell, but the more humane Queen Esther sent from her settlement and gave the bodies a decent burial. History also informs us that during the revolution two American soldiers were captured by the Indians and while being taken up the valley to a secure place of confinement at the once called Fitzgerald flats (in what is now Nichols) the captives made a sudden attack upon their custodians, killed two of them, and made good escape from probable death.

However, through the accounts written by General Sullivan's officers and men, the best early descriptive history of the valley country has been given to succeeding generations. Indeed, it was through these reports taken back and spread throughout New England that this part of the state came to be settled by the Yankees at such an early period; and it has been said that it was also through the medium of these very reports that Massachusetts

learned that the Genesee country and western and southern New York contained superior land, and therefore clung tenaciously to the strict construction of the royal charter and finally became the owner of the pre-emptive right to several million acres of the most fertile lands in this state. All of Tioga county north of the Susquehanna and east of Owego creek was ceded to Massachusetts under this claim.

General Sullivan's army destroyed all buildings, and as far as possible all vestiges of the Indian occupation in the Susquehanna valley during the summer and fall of 1779; and, although the savages remained under the protection of Fort Niagara during the later years of the war, many of them returned to their former habitations after peace was declared, and were found here by the white pioneers who came first into the valley. They came back to their hunting and fishing grounds at the mouth of the Wap-pasening, and not until settlement was well advanced did they leave the region to live on the lands which the state and the general government set apart for their use. At a point opposite the mouth of Owego creek lived an Indian named Nicholas, a Mohawk, who was a successful farmer among the pioneers, and who accumulated considerable stock in cattle and horses; but he, too, after the whites became more numerous, left the region and was no more known in local annals.

Soon after the Indian occupation was at an end and before the state made final disposition of the lands, there came and lived for a time within what is now Nichols several squatters, adventurous pioneers from the east, who took and held lands without claim of title, for they were poor in purse and sought to make a home in the new country. They were neither law-breakers nor disturbers, and settlers of their class were in almost every town in the county. From this occupancy there has ever been a question as to whom belongs the honor of having been the pioneer in Nichols, the squatter without title and whose only capital was energy and determination to succeed, or the settler under regular title, who bargained for and bought the land from its owners. However, before referring at length to the period of settlement, a brief allusion to the land titles in Nichols is desirable.

According to statistical reports there was only one royal grant to an individual which conveyed title to land in this county, and that was a charter of lands in the towns of Owego and Nichols, dated January 15, 1775, to Daniel, William, and Rebecca Coxe, John and Tabor Kemp, and Grace Kemp, wife of Tabor Kemp. This grant carried title to 100,000 acres of land, and was made in compromise of a claim the grantees held on lands in the Carolinas and elsewhere. Another and a large portion of lands in Owego and Nichols was known in history and on the public records as the township of Hambden, and was disposed of as follows: To Nicholas Fish, 6,400 acres in Owego and Nichols; to William Butler, 3,000 acres in Nichols adjoining Coxe's manor on the west; and to Colonel Nichols was also granted a large tract of land in both Owego and Nichols, and in allusion to this worthy the town received its name. Hooper's patent included a large tract of land in the western part of the town, and was named in allusion to the patentee, Robert Lettice Hooper.

EARLY SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.—One of the earliest and most reliable writers of contemporary history in Nichols was the late Judge Charles P. Avery, author of the series of articles published in *Saint Nicholas* in 1853 and 1854. In his article on this town Judge Avery says: "Among those who first settled in this town were the families of Ebenezer Ellis, Peletiah Pierce, and Stephen Mills, two of whom, Ellis and Mills, removed to Barton, George Walker becoming occupant by purchase of the premises left by Mr. Ellis." He also says that Daniel Pierce and Daniel Mills, sons of the pioneers, were born in the town, Pierce in 1787 and Mills in 1788. Alexander Ellis was also born in the town, in 1788, and Judge Avery remarks that they were, probably, the first whites born in this part of the county. He further writes of Captain Thomas Parks, living just over the Pennsylvania line, but says that he was not the Captain Park, the pioneer of Candor. It is also recorded by the same authority that in 1787 or '88 James Cole, from Wyoming, was living in the town, and that Judge Coryell and Robert Lettice Hooper visited the valley country in an exploring tour and were entertained at Cole's house, on the land which, in 1853, was occupied by Emanuel Coryell. However, Judge Avery

explains that the settlers mentioned "claimed but a possessory interest in the land occupied by them, no title yet having passed from the patentees."

Another authentic writer of local history was the late William Fiske Warner, who, discussing early settlement in Nichols, says: "The first settlement was made in 1787 by John and Frederick Evelin (or Eveland, as now *spelt* by their descendants), A. Van-Gorder and his sons Leonard and Benjamin. These all settled near Canfield's Corners. Ebenezer Cole, Peletiah Pierce, Stephen Mills, and James Cole came in the same year. Judge Emanuel Coryell and his family came in 1791 from Coryell's Ferry on the Delaware, in New Jersey. Caleb Wright occupied land where Nichols village is build up. Jonathan Platt and his family, and Major Jonathan Platt and his family, came from Bedford, Westchester county, in 1893. Col. Richard Sackett came in the same year. Miles Forman, a revolutionary soldier, and his family came from Westchester county in 1794 or '95. Major John Smyth, a revolutionary officer, and his sons General John, Nathan, and Gilbert Smyth, came in 1794."

"The Indians," continues Mr. Warner's narrative, "were at this time residing on the Maughantowana flats. Lewis Brown, Ziba Evans, Jonathan Hunt, Richard Searles, and Asahel Pritchard came about the same time. The last two moved to Union (now Owego). Daniel Shoemaker, a soldier of the revolution, came in 1801 or 1802 and settled on the flat lands he had purchased of Robert Lettice Hooper in 1792. John Pettis, Joseph and John Annable, Joseph Morey, David Briggs, William Thatcher, Daniel Lanning, John Russell, and Isaac Sharp, a revolutionary soldier, were also among the early settlers. All settled along the rich river flats, which had been a favorite corn ground of the Indians for many generations. These bottom lands have furnished a rich harvest of relics of the Indian occupation, turned up by the plow or the washing of the stream."

"The early settlers had the common experiences incident to pioneer life. They had abundance of game and fish from the streams, and in a short time corn and wheat were gathered. The wheat was pounded in a mortar made in a hard wood stump, and a pestle

was attached to a bent sapling which formed a spring-pole. After the first supply of garments was worn out those made at home of flax, wool, and deer-skins were used. At length Caleb Wright built a grist mill and also a saw mill, the first in the town. Pixley's grist mill at Owego, and another on Shepard's creek had been built only a short time before."

Mr. Warner's description of early life and his interpretation of the pioneer character were so original and so natural to him, and his simple style of writing was such that the present writer feels constrained to quote him at still greater length, but space forbids.

In Nichols the historian is necessarily at loss to determine what is correct and authentic in regard to the pioneers or the exact year of their settlement, for on this subject past writers do not agree, and it is hardly expected of the historian in the field to-day to determine which statement is the most reliable. The pioneers themselves are all gone and few indeed are their sons and daughters now living in the town. However, before leaving this branch of the subject the writer feels bound to respect the statements made by the most recent chronicler of early settlement in Nichols, Miss Mary L. Barstow, of Nichols village.

According to this authority, Emanuel Coryell was the first permanent settler in the town in the year 1791. He found squatters on the land in advance of him and among them were Mills, Ellis, Pierce, Walker and Cole, all of whom are mentioned on a preceding page. It was indeed fortunate that the honor of having been the first permanent settler should have fallen to Judge Coryell, for such honor was most worthily bestowed. In after years he became one of the foremost men in Tioga county and was called to many positions of trust in the early history of the region. In the bench and bar chapter of this work will be found an extended mention of both his public and domestic life and service, and the facts need no repetition here. Yet as he was an important part of the history of Nichols so must the name be mentioned in these pages.

General John Smyth was the second permanent settler, according to accepted authority, and took up his residence here in 1794. Nathan and Gilbert Smyth were sons of General Smyth, and the

former afterward owned the old home farm of the flats. Later generations of this family spelled the surname Smith ; a name still well known in the town. The children of the pioneer were Elizabeth, Nathan, Gilbert, David and John. Daniel Shoemaker, the old revolutionary patriot, came up from Monroe county, Pa., his family were at Wyoming when the terrible slaughter took place.

Jonathan Platt and his son Major Jonathan Platt, and the families of both, came to Nichols in 1793, as is elsewhere stated. Miles Forman, the son-in-law of the elder Platt, came a few years afterward. Both he and Major Platt held the office of sheriff of the county. Jonathan Platt, the elder, died a few years after his settlement. In 1805. Jonathan Platt, Jr., son of Major Platt, removed to Owego settlement and became a clerk in John Laning's store, and five years later began business for himself. William Platt, brother to Jonathan, Jr., was the third lawyer in Owego. He was also the father of Thomas Collier Platt, whose name and public life are known throughout the country. The family in Nichols was one of the most prominent in the river valley, and the name is still known in the town.

Caleb Wright, who has been mentioned as the builder of the first grist and saw mills in the town, was in many respects a prominent figure in early history. He also built a dam across Wappa-sening creek, and as an experienced millwright his services were in great demand all through this region. Edmund Palmer came in 1800 and afterward married with the daughter of Judge Coryell. He was a farmer of Nichols and a man of worth in the town. Stephen Reynolds, another early settler, came a poor man and located on a part of Judge Coryell's land. He was a cooper by trade, an honest and industrious man, and his sons were among the thrifty farmers of the town in later years.

James Cole, who was a squatter on the land when Judge Coryell and Col. Hooper first came to the region, was a settler here as early as 1787, and his brother, Elijah, was also here about the same time. James, Joseph, John, George, Daniel, Charles and Edward Cole were sons of Elijah, but all are now dead.

Miles Forman came into this region from Westchester county as

early as 1786, and settled on land about a mile and one-half from Nichols village. He is remembered as sheriff of the county in 1811 and again in 1821, and also as a man closely connected with the early history of the county as well as the town.

Jonathan Hunt, whose family name is still well known and numerous in Nichols, was a resident of Westchester county, and by former service a patriot of the revolution, having served at Bunker Hill and thence throughout the war. In this town he was a hard-working and earnest citizen and respected man. His children were Ebenezer, Mary, Willard, John, Adonijah, Jonathan, Irena, Seth, and Harvey Hunt.

Benjamin Lounsberry was a pioneer in Nichols, coming here in 1793 in company with the family of Jonathan Platt, Mr. Platt having married with the widowed mother of Mr. Lounsberry. This surname Lounsberry has since been prominently mentioned in connection with the best history of the town, and is still preserved in a station on the D., L. & W. railroad, and also in the residence in the eastern part of Nichols of several thrifty families. Benjamin, the pioneer, married with Elizabeth Platt, and to them were born Harriet, Hannah, Platt, Charles, Horace, Benjamin, James, William and Norman Lounsberry.

Stephen Reynolds, of whom incidental mention has been made, came to Nichols about 1800 from Washington county and settled on the site of Hooper's valley, or in that vicinity. He had thirteen children and from them has descended the Reynolds family of the town to-day, while many other of its representatives have settled elsewhere.

James Howell, who came to Nichols in 1806, was the pioneer head of a large, thrifty, and highly respected family who have ever since been well known in the town and identified with its best interests and history. Mr. Howell lived in various parts of the town during his life here, and by industry and energy acquired a large property in lands. His wife was Amelia Laning, and of their children six grew to maturity, viz: Elizabeth, William, Frances, John L., Mary A., and Robert, the latter enjoying considerable local celebrity as historian, geologist and naturalist. John L. Howell, another son, was for many years a merchant at Nichols

village, and was otherwise identified with the history of both town and village. He was supervisor in 1866-68.

David Briggs and Henry Washburn came to Nichols in 1808, from Washington county, N. Y., and Flat Brook, N. J., respectively. Mr. Briggs settled in Briggs Hollow, which was named from him, and Mr. Washburn was an early resident in Hooper's valley. Both names are known in town to-day, and both stand for respectability and thrift.

Ursula Dunham was the widow of Sylvanus Dunham, and came from the eastern part of the state in 1808 or '10, locating on the river road, less than a mile above the village. Of her ten children eight were sons, and from all of them has sprung a numerous family in the county.

Joseph Ketchum was another of the early settlers, possibly a pioneer, coming from Rensselaer county, and locating on the more recently known Pearl farm. His family and descendants are scattered through the county, but few are now in Nichols.

Judge Gamaliel H. Barstow, who came to Nichols in 1812, and who from that time was one of the foremost men of the county, was a former resident of Sharon, Conn. Three years after he came he was elected to the Assembly, and after another three years was appointed first Judge of the Common Pleas and was also elected to the State Senate. In the bench and bar chapter of this work will be found a biographical sketch of Judge Barstow's life; but what he was to the county, or to the state in his public life, so was he equally a factor in developing and building up Nichols to the position of importance it held among the towns of the county in the early years of the century. He was a physician as well as a judge and public man, and was also one of the first to open a store and stock of goods in Nichols village. The name Barstow is still known in the town, and among the later prominent representatives of the family was Oliver A. Barstow, of Hooper's Valley. He was supervisor several years and otherwise influential in town affairs.

George Kirby came to the town in 1814, from Great Barrington, Mass., induced to such action by the previous coming of Judge Barstow. He was a shoemaker and brought his tools. He worked

for a time, but soon built a tannery and afterward became one of the most successful men of the town. He also built the first steam mill in Nichols. His son, Selim Kirby, was also a conspicuous figure in business circles in Nichols for many years, and while the unfortunate results of his banking business at South Waverly was the occasion of much discussion, it cannot be called more than a misfortune which may and does overtake similar enterprises.

Henry and Wright Dunham, from Madison county, came to the town about 1814 or '15, and bought lands up the creek. Henry Dunham was the son-in-law of Cabel Wright, and a man of importance in the town. He built a grist mill on the Wappa-sening, in 1822, which was for many years owned by some member of the family. Silvenus Dunham, of the same family, came later and built a carding and fulling mill, thus establishing a settlement of importance in that locality.

Thomas White and Anna Hale came about the year 1814. Mr. White from Clinton county, and the widow Hale from Bennington, Vermont. She married with Dr. William Rood, and after his death with Jacob Totten.

Nathaniel Moore, a New Hampshire Yankee, settled in the town in 1816, on the place afterward known as the Moore homestead. Joshua White came in 1819. Joseph Morey, among whose descendants have been some of the most prominent men in the later history of the town, was a settler previous to 1825, while the Williamsons, John McCarthy, Joseph Densmore and others whose names are now lost, were here about the same time.

Oliver A. Barstow, whose name has been closely associated with the history of the town, especially since 1860, came to the region in 1825. He was prominently identified with the politics of the county and the town, and was also a merchant in the village many years. So far as the records are clear, Mr. Barstow was supervisor in 1864-65, and again in 1871-72; was Member of Assembly in 1866, and Justice of the Peace from 1862 to 1886.

ORGANIZATION.—The aim of the writer of this chapter has been to trace the pioneer and early history of Nichols from the time the squatters first appeared to the civil organization of the town

as a separate division of the county. Of course the reader will understand that previous to the creation of Nichols, and after 1813, this territory formed a part of the older town of Tioga, and that the town of Owego preceded Tioga and included what is now Nichols from the organization of the county in 1791 down to 1813, when for convenience the towns of Owego and Tioga changed names. Previous to 1791, whatever there was of the exercise of civil authority over the territory of Nichols was as a part of the "Old Town of Chemung," the latter then one of the divisions of Montgomery county.

As shown by the census report of 1825, the inhabitants of the territory of Nichols numbered 951, therefore it was only natural that the people of the region should ask for a separate town out of the mother town of Tioga. The necessary act of the Legislature was passed March 23, 1824, and all that part of Tioga lying south of the Susquehanna was erected into a separate town by the name of Nichols, and so named in allusion to Colonel Nichols, the patentee of a large tract of land within its boundaries.

The creating act also made provision for the first town meeting and the election of officers for the new jurisdiction, all of which was duly carried out. Town records, and especially the minute books of town meetings, are a fruitful source of information, both for the names of officers chosen annually and also for the light thrown on the facts of early settlement and the names of pioneers. However, in Nichols an unfortunate fire occurred in 1864, during the clerkship of Luther Conant, and the town records were burned. This misfortune cost us the customary list of first town officers and as well the succession of incumbents of the leading offices in the town. In 1864 the clerk began a new town book, from which is taken the following succession of supervisors from that year, while the names of persons mentioned as having held the office previous to that time are taken from a record kept by an interested editor living at the county seat. So far as obtainable the supervisors since 1847 have been as follows :

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1847—George Wilson. | 1851-52—H. W. Shoemaker. | 1856-57—N. Lounsberry. |
| 1848—Unknown. | 1853-54—Harvey Coryell. | 1858—Abram Westbrook. |
| 1849-50—Harvey Coryell. | 1855—Wm. R. Shoemaker. | 1859-60—Peter H. Joslin. |

1861-62—John L. Howell. 1870—Selim Kirby. 1878-84—Robert H. Morey.
 1863—Peter H. Joslin. 1871-72—Oliver A. Barstow. 1885—McKean McDowell.
 1864-65—Oliver A. Barstow. 1873-74—Fred C. Coryell. 1886-90—Elmore Everett.
 1866-68—John L. Howell. 1875—McKean McDowell. 1891-97—Chas. P. Laning.
 1869—Frederick C. Coryell. 1876-77—Selim Kirby.

Among the still earlier supervisors of Nichols we may recall the names of Emanuel Coryell, 1824; Nehemiah Platt, 1825-27, and John Coryell in 1828.

TOWN OFFICERS, 1897—Supervisor, Charles P. Laning; town clerk, John J. Howell; assessors, George Newman, Warren A. Lane, John C. Bensley; justices of the peace, Ransom W. Darling, George F. Lounsberry, Warren A. Smith, Elijah K. Evans; commissioner of highways, Robert H. Morey; overseers of the poor, John L. Hoyt, Michael Quilty; collector, Charles McNiel; constables, William Curkendoll, George K. McNiel, Philip S. Farnham, Charles McNiel.

POPULATION.—From the federal and state census reports are taken the following statistics relative to the number of inhabitants in the town in the years mentioned: 1825, 951; 1830, 1,284; 1835, 1,641; 1840, 1,986; 1845, 1,924; 1850, 1,905; 1855, 1,871; 1860, 1,932; 1865, 1,778; 1870, 1,663; 1875, 1,683; 1880, 1,709; 1885, no count; 1890, 1,701; 1892, 1,635.

From this record it will be seen that the greatest number of inhabitants was attained in 1840, when all the several interests of the town were, probably at their best. Since that time there has been a gradual, though not rapid, decrease in population, and at this time the number is about 350 less than in 1840, due chiefly to the same causes that have worked a similar decrease in a majority of the interior towns of the state, and not to the fact there has been a lack of enterprise on the part of the people of Nichols. Indeed, no such indictment could stand, for this little and comparatively isolated town has ever been noted for thrift and progression from the time when Judge Coryell came and made a residence here. But it was not the judge alone who made this a prosperous town during the early years of the century, but his example was followed by almost every one of the prominent settlers as they came.

In many respects Nichols is one of the most independent divisions of the county, and, taken altogether, its history forms one of the brightest pages in the annals of Tioga. First, it is the only town lying wholly on the south side of the Susquehanna, and that stream in a measure has had the effect to teach the people here the advantages of independence and self reliance, and the fact appears that this spirit has worked greatly to the benefit of the inhabitants, who at an early day made all their institutions permanent and substantial. Again, from the time of pioneership Nichols has been known as one of the best agricultural towns of the whole region, and it was the desirable quality of the soil that attracted many of the early settlers; and as one family came and found success in answer to patient endeavor, the coming of friends was induced, and before many years had passed the hill and back lands were taken and cleared, and fine farms appeared where but a little time before was a dense forest growth. To the aboriginal occupants the Maughantowano flats were known to produce abundantly under their primitive attempts at farming, and under the intelligent efforts of the white-faced pioneer that special region became known as one of the most fertile in the northern part of the state. About the central part of the town the high lands and the river are separated by only a narrow strip of land, but further east, in the vicinity of Canfield's corners, or Lounsberry, the lands are fertile and highly productive. The same is also true of the Hooper's valley region although here no special attempt at settlement and improvement was made previous to the time when the Pearsalls came and by building mills and operating extensively in lumbering developed the land for farms and built up a settlement which has endured and been progressive to the present day. (From 1830 to 1850 there were nineteen saw mills on Wappasening creek in Nichols and the adjoining towns of Pennsylvania.)

Thomas, Gilbert, and Nathaniel Pearsall were the real factors in developing the Hooper's Valley region, and were said to have made a beginning there as early as 1828, although soon after that time they were in the vicinity of Apalachin lumbering, milling, and otherwise developing the resources of the county. They came from Chenango county in 1828. Both Gilbert and Nathaniel died at

Hooper's Valley, and Thomas at Owego. Thomas was perhaps the strongest business man of the brothers. He built the mills here. He was also prominent in connection with other enterprises, notably building the bridge across the river to connect Smithboro and the valley. Later he went south, but returned to Owego, where he died in 1881. After reverses had overtaken the Pearsall enterprises at the valley the hamlet they built suffered a serious loss in population and interests. However, the mills were bought by Mr. Higley and made into a carding and fulling mill, but were soon burned. In 1875, L. Burr Pearsall, son of Gilbert Pearsall, built a steam saw and planing mill at the valley hamlet.

The Smithboro and Nichols Bridge company was incorporated April 18, 1829, and Isaac Boardman, Nehemiah Platt, and John Coryell were appointed a committee to supervise the construction of the bridge. The first was built in 1831, but within a year was swept away by the swollen river. A second bridge met a like fate, in 1837, and the third in 1865. A ferry has since been maintained across the river to afford communication between Hooper's Valley and Smithboro. Hooper's Valley was made a postoffice in 1854. Gilbert Pearsall was the first postmaster, and served in that capacity until 1861.

Among the other early settlers in this part of the town were Ira J. Parks, who came here with the Pearsalls, and also a branch of the Coryell family.

Osborn is the name of a postoffice and station on the line of the D., L. & W. railroad, about seven miles west of Nichols village. The settlement is a recent creation and not far advanced in the history of the town. A store is kept here by Charles L. Van-Gorder.

The Asbury Methodist Episcopal church is one of the historic institutions of the town, and was organized in 1817 with Elijah and Phebe Shoemaker and Daniel and Maria Shoemaker as constituent members. The first pastor was Rev. John Griffing. The church edifice was built in 1822. The members now number about 25. The pastor is Rev. H. L. Ellsworth, of the Nichols village church.

Canfield's Corners was a hamlet in the east part of the town, in

the locality where Ezra Canfield was an early settler, the cross-roads settlement being named for him ; and when a postoffice was established for the accommodation of the inhabitants of that part of the town Mr. Canfield was the first postmaster. However, except among the older residents who are little inclined to change from the order of things half a century ago, this locality is known as Lounsberry, a post station on the line of the D., L. & W. railroad. The locality, is rich in agricultural resources, is peopled with some of the most thrifty farmers of the town, but the commercial importance of the settlement is a small factor in local history. The store is now kept by Mr. Wheeler. R. B. Baker has a creamery. Previous to the construction of the railroad the inhabitants were without means of communication with the county seat other than teams. But at that time their trade was largely done at Tioga Centre at Col. Ransom's store. A ferry has been maintained across the river here for many years, as will be seen by reference to the history of Tioga, in another chapter. Here, too, is the River Valley M. E. church, the near-by district school, but little else except such buildings as are found around a station in a purely farming region.

The River Valley Methodist Episcopal church at Lounsberry is one of the oldest organizations of its kind south of the river, and in its history dates back to the year 1815 when a class was formed in that part of the town and meetings were held at the house of Joseph Utter and also in the schoolhouse. The present edifice was built in 1873 on land given to the society by Jonathan Hunt. The church has about 60 members, and is under charge of Rev. H. L. Ellsworth, pastor of the Nichols M. E. church.

East Nichols is a post hamlet in the extreme southeast corner of the town, in an agricultural district, the inhabitants of which required for their convenience a postoffice and local mail distribution.

NICHOLS VILLAGE.—This pretty little hamlet of about 550 inhabitants is located half way between the east and west lines of the town and on the Susquehanna river at the mouth of Wapasening creek. Here are all the requisites of an incorporated village, both in point of business and population, but that character has

not been assumed although the people have been discussing the subject several years.

Caleb Wright was the pioneer settler on the village site, he having come in 1793, as near as can be determined, and taking up lands at the mouth of the creek, extending up and down the river half a mile in either direction. Pioneer Wright built a saw mill at the mouth of the creek, and when James Howell came to the settlement, a few years later, he (Howell) built another, half a mile up the river. Others were soon built in other localities, as lumbering interests demanded, and in the early years of the century the "Corners," as the settlement was first known, was a place of importance, and if personal recollections be reliable even at that early day this was also an important lumbering point on the river, and in the general prosperity of the period Wapasening creek and the mills built along its banks, reaching over into Pennsylvania, contributed in a good measure.

Robert Williams, who was the son-in-law of Cabel Wright, became possessed of a part of the Wright tract, and he, in fact, laid the foundation for the settlement by cutting his land into acre lots and selling to new arrivals for a modest consideration. Dr. Barstow bought a corner lot and opened a stock of goods in 1812, doing a general trading business in connection with his medical practice. Simmons Clapp took another lot, but his particular occupation in the settlement is not now recalled. Proprietor Williams also lived on the tract and was quite active in his endeavors to dispose of his lots. However, when Dr. Barstow became satisfied that the Corners was a place destined to future prosperity, he built another store and occupied his first for living purposes, as in the meantime he had married with Judge Coryell's daughter. George Kirby came in 1814 and set up a shoeshop, but within a very few years had a tannery in operation and was an important factor in village history. Others soon followed and as early as 1820 it is said that Rushville had nearly two hundred inhabitants, and threatened rivalry with the county seat itself. The surrounding country was fast being settled and the settlement was a busy place. Drs. John Petts and John Everitt came and were practising medicine, while in the meantime Captain Peter Joslin, Isaac

Raymond, James Thurston, Joshua Brown and still others had established homes in the village and were in some active way identified with its early history and growth. In 1820 Major Platt came from his farm to live in the village. He built and kept a hotel until his death, in 1825, but the business and building have survived for very many years.

When the little settlement at the Corners had become a place of some note, the inhabitants determined to find a name more suitable and appropriate, hence, Dr. Barstow suggested the name "Rushville;" which was at once adopted; and the statement is of record that about 1812 or '13 a postoffice of that name was established here. This, however, is doubtful. The name Rushville was given by the worthy doctor in compliment of Dr. Rush, a Philadelphia physician of note, for whom Dr. Barstow had high admiration. When Nichols was set off from Tioga, in 1824, it soon became necessary to establish the institutions of the new creation on a lasting basis, hence the name of the principal village was made to conform to that of the town. Both were called Nichols, and in recognition of the compliment Colonel Nichols generously gave \$200, to be invested for the permanent good of the town and village. The fund was subsequently expended in the erection of a meeting house for religious worship.

A postoffice by the name of Nichols was established January 24, 1827, from which time the postmasters, in succession, have been as follows: Charles R. Barstow, appointed January 24, 1827; George Wilson, May 18, 1830; Daniel Ferguson, July 15, 1830; Sidney Dunham, May 21, 1834; Charles R. Barstow, May 26, 1841; John C. Barstow, January 22, 1844; Sidney Dunham, March 13, 1846; Cranston V. S. Bliven, May 19, 1847; John C. Barstow, June 22, 1849; Gamaliel Barstow, October 7, 1850; Timothy P. Alden, June 18, 1853; Miles D. Forman, August 13, 1857; James Tutton, June 28, 1861; Herman T. Joslin, August 22, 1863; Peter H. Joslyn, November 17, 1865; Timothy P. Alden, September 25, 1866; Coe Coleman, March 18, 1867; Henry Cady, March 22, 1870; Emmet Coleman, December 2, 1885; George M. Cady May 2, 1889; Isaac D. Fox, July 1, 1893.

While it is possible that life and business were better and more

interesting in this village during the days of its early history than within the last quarter of a century, it is doubtful if the diversity of interests at that time were as great or as useful as those of the more recent period. True, Nichols is to-day practically without a manufacturing industry of importance, and this is the only element wanting to establish permanent prosperity in the village. The other essentials, health, cleanliness, good order prevail, and a well-to-do and generally public spirited people reside there. As a shipping point for agricultural and farm products Nichols ranks among the best points on the line of the D., L. & W. railroad, and the amount of business of this kind done here each fall is surprising to any person not acquainted with the resources of the town.

For many years Nichols has been a well-ordered and pleasant village as a place of residence or one in which a family of children may be reared free from the misleading pleasures and temptations frequently encountered in more populous municipalities. A good school has been maintained here for many years, and in 1873 a union free district superseded the old system and an academic department added to the educational facilities of the institution. The first board of education comprised Dr. G. P. Cady, John Forman, C. Bliven, G. M. Cady, Selim Kirby, and H. W. Dunham. The present board, under whose management the academy is as prosperous as at any time in its history, comprises Sidney H. Lathan, president; William H. Clark, clerk, and A. B. Kirby, B. M. Waterman, S. R. Bixby, and Elmer Everitt.

In 1838, the Platt hotel on the corner was built, and about that time the village was at its height as a business centre. The first merchant was Dr. Barstow, who lived where is now Cady's brick building, and his house was further east. Emanuel Coryell, Jr., was his partner in 1841. Nehemiah Platt and George Wilson were also early merchants, the former beginning as early as 1825. Dr. Barstow also had a grist mill, a distillery, and a "potash." Coryell & Martin was another old firm. George Coryell and Selim Kirby were the tanners, but neither was in the village proper. Among other and perhaps later business men were O. A. Barstow, P. H. Joslin, John L. Howell, Eben Dunham, Harris Bros., C. Bliven,

Edward Joslin. About the period of the war business was carried on mainly by Peter H. Joslin, McLean & Howell, (succeeded by Howell & Morey), Barstow & Kirby, Miles Forman, Hiram Sherry, G. M. & G. P. Cady, O. J. Plum, the undertaker, while about that time Dr. John Everitt was an active medical practitioner in town. In the spring of 1865 Howell & Morey's store was broken open by burglars and about \$800 of the firm's, and \$400 of Mr. Howell's money was taken.

If it were possible to here recall the names of all the merchants and other business men who have in the past made Nichols village a seat of operations, the narrative might be both instructive and interesting. However, such a list is deemed unnecessary to this work, and this branch of our chapter may be concluded with the names of the present business interests of the village, viz: F. B. Baker, steam grist mill; F. H. Ross, general store; Joslin & Leasure, dry goods; S. A. Olmsted, grocery and feed store; C. Bliven, general store, coal and produce; W. A. Osborn, grocery and notions; J. R. Edsall, hardware; Thomas Dean, dry goods and groceries; Cady & Farnham, druggists; P. White & Son, clothing and groceries; S. H. Latham, drugs; H. A. & H. C. Latham, boots and shoes; Harris, De Groat & Co., produce dealers; G. H. Horton, agricultural implements; C. H. Rogers, meat market; Emerson Taylor, bakery; L. B. Ross, undertaker; Mrs. Almira Joslin, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Vernie Long, milliners; M. Everitt, variety store; D. J. Smead, harness maker; Lewis Brainerd, wagon maker; C. F. Bowen, commercial hotel; Wm. Yeardsley, American hotel.

Westbrook lodge, No. 333, F. & A. M., was chartered June 27, 1854, with officers as follows: Abraham Westbrook, W. M.; Daniel T. McDowell, S. W.; Oliver A. Barstow, J. W.; Edward Platt, treasurer; James Tutton, sec'y; Aug. L. Smith, S. D.; Samuel Clapp, J. D.; Peter H. Joslin, tiler.

The charter members of the lodge included many of the leading men of the region at the time, and were, with those mentioned, Gardner Knapp, Lewis W. Lockwood, Ozias Higley, Dr. Sylvester Knapp, Joshua Spaulding, Wm. Segison, Nathan Mitchell, Wm. O. Robinson, Ira B. Guernsey, Walter C. Randall, Mark Drake,

Dudley M. Bailey, Ransford B. Bailey, Philetus Lowrey, Ephraim F. Dunham, Wm. Wheelhouse, Miles Forham, 2d., Wm. S. Bravo, Sylvester Knapp, Jr., Wm. B. Stevens and Ebenezer Dunham.

The Methodist Episcopal church of Nichols village was the outgrowth of one of the primitive institutions of the hamlet which was organized at a meeting held at the house of Peter H. Joslin, February 14, 1824, and was then known as "The Free Meeting House Society of the Town of Nichols." The meeting house was begun in 1829 and completed in 1830. The society continued in existence until about 1865 or '66, and then dissolved on account of internal trouble. The old building was substantially wrecked and former pew-owners lost their claims. The structure then passed into the M. E. society's control. The Methodist class was formed in 1829 and has ever since been in existence, the Free Meeting, house being used for services until it became absolutely the property of the society. It was rebuilt by elder Brooks, and was formally dedicated in 1872. The present members number about 175, with about 200 names on the Sunday school roll. The pastor is Rev. Herbert L. Ellsworth.

The First Presbyterian church of Nichols was organized in 1859, with thirteen constituent members, under the pastoral care of Rev. Geo. M. Life. However, Presbyterian services were held in the village long before the formal church organization was effected, and meetings were assembled in the free edifice built by popular subscription and the gift of Col. Nichols. The early ministers of this society were Revs. Ripley, Ira Smith, John Gibbs and Henry Carpenter, all previous to pastor Life. The new church building was begun in 1865, and was finished and dedicated in the fall of 1867. This church has 65 members, with about 100 names on the Sunday school roll, and is under the present pastorate of Rev. William Jones Gregory.

CHAPTER XXVII.

THE TOWN OF BERKSHIRE.

THE proprietors of the historic Boston ten townships were very expeditious in surveying, mapping, and making disposition of their vast tract of land in New York state, and were perhaps the more active in their work by reason of the unfortunate delay in negotiating a treaty with the Indians occasioned by the interference of James McMaster and Amos Draper. This alone cost them a full half township of the most desirable portion of the purchase, and a repetition of the former experience might be equally expensive. The deeds of partition among the proprietors were executed in 1789, and in that and the next year the tract was explored by surveyors, speculators and prospective settlers, who sought to become acquainted with the character of the lands. These parties represented to their friends in the east the desirable qualities of the region, and a favorable impression was at once circulated all through old Berkshire county, Mass., and the result was that settlers from that region almost wholly peopled this special part of the purchase previous to the year 1800.

As is well known in Tioga and Broome county history, Samuel Brown and fifty-nine associates became proprietors of the Boston purchase, and nearly all these associates were residents of Berkshire county, Mass. In the settlement of that part of the purchase which is now called Berkshire the worthy pioneers must have seen something to remind them of the mother county and its surroundings. This is true in a measure, for there is a resemblance to the old Berkshire hills in the land elevations found in this town, although unlike the mother region, our hills are neither rugged nor in any place untillable.

In one of the surveying and exploring parties which came to this region soon after the purchase was made was Elisha Wilson, a native of course of old Berkshire, who was so favorably impress-

ed with the new country that at once upon his return home, in the year 1790, he made a purchase of a good farm tract, and when he came to live in the town he built a log house on his land. Mr. Wilson purchased from proprietor Elisha Blin. He made his first visit to the region in 1790, and being well suited with the situation of lot 184, bought it. Nor did pioneer Wilson fail to report to his friends the desirable qualities of the country in general in Tioga county, and the result was that February 23, 1791, he, in company with Daniel Ball, who was the son of one of the proprietors, and Isaac and Abraham Brown, who were nephews of Samuel Brown, the head of the proprietary, and also Daniel Ball, John Carpenter, and two others named Dean and Norton, left Stockbridge, Mass., to make new homes on the western frontier. Their goods were packed on two sleds and their teams were yokes of oxen. The route of travel was from their home to the Hudson at Coxsackie; thence across the Catskills and through Harpersfield and Franklin to the Susquehanna at the mouth of the Ouleout. They then followed the Indian trail to Oquaga, where a quantity of their stores was left, then crossed the river and journeyed over the highlands direct to the Chenango, at a ferrying place about a mile above Binghamton, near which was a little settlement. Here the party was detained several days, as winter was just turning into spring and the ice was breaking up. After the river became clear the goods were loaded in boats, the cattle made to swim the stream and were put in charge of Elisha Wilson. In this way the pioneers proceeded down the Susquehanna to Choconut, where Dean and Norton parted company with the others and made a settlement.

At Owego the company rested a few days and then began the task of cutting a road up the valley of Owego creek and its eastern branch to a point about three miles above the present village of Newark Valley. The work was in good time completed and on the first day of April, 1791, a camp was made on the homestead site of John Harmon and Rev. Mr. Fivaz of later years. After two or three days, Abraham and Isaac Brown, John Carpenter, and Mr. Ball went back to Oquaga for the goods left there, leaving Mr. Wilson alone in camp with no companion except his dog.

However, when the others had returned, eleven days later, Mr. Wilson had succeeded in making 150 pounds of maple sugar.

The spring opened early and our pioneers at once began to prepare the ground for wheat and other crops. Mr. Wilson did not sow wheat but planted corn and vegetables. The Brown brothers made a clearing for wheat and had an abundant crop.

Thus was established what has ever been known in local annals as "Brown's Settlement," the pioneers of which were Isaac and Abraham Brown, Daniel Ball, and Elisha Wilson, although within the next few years other settlers to the number of at least a score had come and made homes in the vicinity ; and it is of them that we must write in the next few pages of this chapter. At the time the party of four pioneers came and made the first settlement neither town nor county lines were known ; it was Brown's settlement in the Boston purchase, and that alone. However, at that time and for many years afterward the region was a settlement rather than a town, and when town lines were established they so separated the pioneers that in the proper division of our subject into town histories we are compelled to mention persons and families in the towns in which they were living after the division was made.

Isaac Brown was the acknowledged head of the pioneer party and also of the settlement. He was born at Stockbridge, Mass., October 25, 1776, and died in the new settlement April 10, 1797, his being the first death. His wife was Clarissa, the daughter of Josiah Ball. They had two children, the first of whom died when young. The other was Isaac Brown, Jr., a well known man in the town in late years.

Daniel Ball, the pioneer, was born December 27, 1769, and was the son of Josiah Ball, who came to Berkshire in 1794 and settled on lot 337. Both had large families. In fact the Ball family has been prolific in the county, and the name has always stood for respectability and integrity. Josiah's children were William, Daniel, William (2d), Stephen, Clarissa, Samuel, Henry, Josiah, Isaac, Electa, Charles, Cynthia and Mary. Josiah Ball died July 26, 1810.

Daniel Ball, the settler, was born Dec. 27, 1769. He returned to Stockbridge in the fall of 1791, and at Lenox, married with

Lucia, the daughter of Col. William Wells. He came back to the settlement in 1794 and located on lot 336. In 1820 he removed with his family to Victor, N. Y., and thence to Michigan, where he died about 1833. His ten children were Ann, William W., Horatio, Henry, Hester, Sophia, Chester, Calvin, Davis and Myron Ball.

Stephen Ball, son of Josiah, came to Berkshire in 1793 to prepare for the coming of his father's family. He was then 19 years old, but he made a clearing, built a log house, planted crops, sowed a field with wheat, and then returned east. He came again in February, 1794, driving a cow the entire distance, and lived alone until June, when the family arrived. In later years Stephen Ball was equally thrifty and became associated with many of the most important events of town history. His home was on lot 337 and here he built the hotel which for more than three-quarters of a century has stood in Berkshire village, and he also built the house on the opposite side of the street. His wife was Polly Leonard, who bore him these children: Olive L., Mary, Harriet, Eliza, Ann, Richard L., James W., Caroline, Levi, Anson, Asa, Mary, Robert Henry, and Frances Calista Ball.

Daniel, Jesse and Joseph Gleazen, Jr., came to Berkshire about 1794. They were sons of Joseph Gleazen, Sen., who also came to the town, but at a later date. The other children of Joseph, Sen., were Caleb, Sarah, Ebenezer E., and Samuel Gleazen, all of whom were settlers in the town and identified with its early history.

John Brown, son of Capt. Abraham Brown, and Consider Lawrence came to the town in 1796. Mr. Brown was one of the first justices of old Tioga town, and also was the builder of one of the first saw mills in the region. He had six children, of whom John, the eldest, was a surveyor and millwright. Mr. Lawrence was a farmer on lot 338, and died Feb. 20, 1857. His six children were Maria, Isaac P., Miles L., William, Betsey, and Josiah Lawrence.

Asa Leonard was a prominent person among the early settlers in Berkshire, and his tannery was of much benefit to the community. He started for the town in 1793, but at Choconut the illness of his wife compelled his return to Massachusetts, and it was not until 1797 that his permanent settlement was made. His was one of the largest families in the town, the children number-

ing thirteen, viz: Polly, Solomon, Lucy, Anna, Levi, Nancy, Louis G., Henry, George W., Sabrina, Amanda, Chester and Leonard. Solomon, the eldest son, was partner with his father in the tannery and he, too, had a large family.

Ebenezer Cook, who was brother-in-law to Asa Leonard and who was also his first partner in tanning and shoemaking, came to Berkshire in 1797. He was justice of the peace many years and was dignified with the title of "Squire." In his family were eight children.

Azel Hovey, and his son Azel, and the families of both, came to the town in or about 1793. Both had children, the father eleven and the son thirteen.

Jeremiah Campbell settled in the north part of the town, about 1798, and set up a blacksmith shop. Ephraim Cook, Benjamin Olney, Josiah Howe and Josiah Seeley also came to Berkshire in the same year, as near as can be determined at this time.

David Williams and his family came in June, 1800. He built both saw and grist mills on the village site, and was a man of note in the locality. He died in 1867, aged 92 years. Judge Williams, as he was for many years known, was elected associate judge of the Broome county common pleas and served until this town was restored to Tioga in 1822, and thereafter in the same position in this county to 1826. He was supervisor nine years, and in 1827, and again in 1831, was elected to the assembly. His children were Lucinda, John C., and George Williams.

Ransom and Heman Williams, brothers of Judge Williams, were also early residents in Berkshire, and are recalled, Ransom as the singer of early days, while Heman met an accidental death in 1816, at a bridge raising.

Artemas Ward, Edward Paine, Elijah and John Saltmarsh and William Gardner came to the town as early as, or perhaps before, the year 1800, and were identified with the subsequent history of the vicinity. Elijah Saltmarsh kept a store near the Isaac Brown house and also made potash.

Dr. Joseph Waldo, who came to Berkshire in 1800, was in many respects one of the most prominent early settlers of the north part of the county. He was not only a pioneer physician but his

acquaintance was general in the country east of Owego creek and even west of that stream. However, the record of Dr. Waldo's life and death are so fully written in the medical chapter of this work that a repetition of its events at this time is unnecessary. His wife was Ann Bliss, with whom he was married July 17, 1788. Their children were Mary, Nancy Ann and Joseph Talcott Waldo, the latter also a physician of prominence half a century and more ago.

Colonel Absalom and Deacon Nathaniel Ford, brothers, and William Dudley, came to Berkshire in or about the year 1801, although the statement has been made that Colonel Ford did not settle here until 1820. The first wife of Mr. Dudley, who was Abigail Hovey, is said to have been the first woman buried in Brown cemetery.

Joseph Freeman and Nathan Ide were settlers here in 1802. Mr. Freeman hanged himself while suffering from sickness. He had a family of seven children.

Daniel Carpenter came in 1803, and as shown by Dr. Patterson's "Folk Book," was the only settler in that year. He had a large family of eleven children.

Samuel Collins and Noah Lyman were the settlers of the year 1805, and were a desirable acquisition to the town. Mr. Collins had a family of seven children. He died July 4, 1840, on the very day previously foretold as the date of his death. Mr. Lyman removed to Rawson Hollow in 1814 and died there in 1815. In his family were six children.

Captain Heman Smith, Henry Griffin and his brothers John and Osmyn Griffin, and also Peleg Randall, came to Berkshire between the years 1803 and 1806, although not all remained permanent settlers. Captain Smith had a family of twelve children. Henry Griffin had been a sailor, and after the war of 1812-15 returned to seafaring life. Osmyn Griffin died in Canada, but Mr. Randall lived in Berkshire. He had four children.

Joseph and Elijah Belcher, both New Englanders, were added to the town population in 1805. Joseph then had a family of nine children and three more were born here. In Elijah's family were five children.

Samuel Hutchinson came in 1805 or 1806, but after a few years removed to Wilson creek valley. Eight children comprised his household.

Samuel Johnson and John Gregory came to Berkshire in 1806, and in the next year Ichabod Brainard and his family also came. All were from Connecticut, and all had children.

Isaac Goodale and Captain Bill Torry came in 1808, and are believed to have been the first arrivals in the town after Berkshire was separated from old Tioga. Mr. Goodale was a substantial citizen, and the same was also true of Captain Bill, though the latter was a great wag in the town. In Goodale's family were twelve children, and in Torry's were nine.

In Berkshire, which town originally comprised all that is now the town so called and also the present towns of Newark Valley and Richford, the several preserved records and publications give accurate information as to the pioneers, but it is difficult to determine definitely when pioneership ceased. All past writers of local history have given attention to the pioneers of the town, and one authority, concededly better than all other—the late Dr. D. Williams Patterson, of Newark Valley has written exhaustively of the pioneers, and as well of the early settlers on the Boston purchase within Tioga county. The results of Dr. Patterson's long and arduous work are published and numerous distributed throughout the region, in view of which it seems unnecessary to refer at much length to the personal history of settlers in the town after its civil organization unless the subject of mention was in some manner prominently identified with the events of his time. However, it is appropriate in this connection to at least recall by name the later settlers in the town down to the time when pioneership and early settlement alike were known to have been lost in what may be termed modern local history.

In the year 1820 Chester Patterson, of Union, Broome county, made the census enumeration of inhabitants and industries in the county. Through the thoughtfulness of Dr. Patterson this record has been preserved to the use of future readers, and is of such value in recalling the names of old residents of Berkshire that we produce here the list, giving full credit therefor to Dr. D. Williams Patterson, historian and genealogist.

In the year 1820 the heads of families in Berkshire, as now constituted, according to the census enumeration, were as follows :

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Roswell H. Brown. | Daniel Jenks. | Isaac Goodale. |
| Jed Chapman. | Reuben Legg. | Stephen Butler. |
| Daniel Gleazen. | Larned Legg. | Asa Leonard. |
| Jonathan Belcher. | Daniel Carpenter. | Alden Baker. |
| John W. Bessac. | Isaac Bunnell. | Solomon Leonard. |
| Elisha Jenks. | Samuel Haight. | John S. Thorp. |
| Calvin Jenks. | Eleazer Lyman, Jr. | Isaac Hitchcock. |
| Luther Hamilton. | Thomas Keeny. | Anna Griffin. |
| Joel Smith. | Joseph Gleazen. | Selick Paine. |
| Jesse Smith. | Thomas Bunting. | William Moore. |
| Ephriam Reniff. | Joseph Belcher. | Andrew Reese. |
| Samuel Osborn. | William Whiting. | Anna Collins. |
| Schuyler Legg. | Eleazer Valentine. | John Ayres. |
| Amos Peck. | William S. Smith. | Lyman Hull. |
| Leman Case. | Ezra Landon. | Henry Ball. |
| Samuel Ball. | Abraham Hotchkin. | Stephen Ball. |
| Levi E. Barker. | Jeremiah Campbell. | William Ball. |
| Isaiah G. Barker. | Asahel Royce. | Elizabeth Cook. |
| Edmund Barker. | Deodatus Royce. | Ransom Williams. |
| Erastus Benton. | John Gregory. | David Williams. |
| Consider Lawrence. | Thomas Langdon. | Ichobod Brainerd. |
| Lyman Durfee. | Samuel Collins. | Ichobod Brainerd, Jr. |
| John Durfee. | Ebenezer E. Gleazen. | Samuel Hutchinson. |
| Samuel Torry. | Joseph Cook. | Marcus Ford. |
| Jesse Gleazen. | Peleg Randall. | Polly Gardner. |
| Moses Stanley. | Clarissa Smith. | Samuel Smith. |
| Hooker Bishop. | Cicero Barker. | Aaron Livermore. |
| Eleazer Lyman. | Sarah Ide. | Seth Akins. |
| Elias Walker. | Phineas Case. | Luke B. Winship. |
| John Rounsville. | Mehitabel Brown. | Joseph Waldo. |
| Nathaniel Ford. | Barnabas Manning. | Ralph Manning. |
| Isaac Ball. | | |

FIRST EVENTS.—Referring briefly to some of the first events of local history, nearly all of which took place before the separate organization of the town, there may be noted the fact that in 1795 Josiah Ball built a large double log house, in which he allowed new arrivals to live while they were erecting cabins for themselves. To this extent Mr. Ball was the first tavern keeper.

1795—Isaac Brown was married with Clarissa Ball.

1797—Isaac Brown died, April 10.

- 1797—John Carpenter died, April 13.
 1800—Ebenezer Cook built a tannery on the site where in later years stood C. P. Johnson's store.
 1800—This year also witnessed a law suit between Edward Edwards and Elijah Dewey.
 1802—Thomas Paine set up a loom and began weaving.
 1803—Captain Leonard began making boots and shoes.
 1804—Large frame barns were built by Josiah Ball and Isaac Brown.
 1806—Dr. Waldo and John Brown raised frame houses on the same day.
 1806—A carding machine was put in operation by Elijah Belcher, Barnabas Manning, and Isaac Ball, and for the next 40 years it was an industry of the town.
 1807—A distillery was built by Capt. Leonard, Ebenezer Cook and Stephen Ball, and was thereafter in operation for 20 years. An earlier distillery was over on the west creek.
 1808—Ebenezer Cook and Stephen Ball established a blacksmith shop.
 1812—Stephen B. Leonard brought the first mail to Berkshire; and at the same time Mr. Leonard also brought copies of the *Gazette* to the people of the town.
 1814—A tavern was opened by Josiah Ball.
 1817—Samuel Ripley began making harnesses.
 1827—Luke Winship began carrying the mail from Owego to Berkshire.
 1827—Stephen Ball opened a brickyard on his farm.

Josiah Ball also enjoyed the distinction of being an excellent schoolmaster, but David McMaster is credited with being the first teacher. Judge David Williams, built the first saw and grist mills on or near the village site. Luke Winship began keeping tavern in 1816 and was landlord twenty-five years. Josiah Ball opened a house for entertainment in 1814.

POPULATION.—Twice during the period of its history has the town of Berkshire suffered loss in population by reason of the reduction of its territory. Westville was set off in 1823 and took from the mother town more than 1,200 of its inhabitants, and again, in 1831 Arlington was created and took nearly 800 more inhabitants. However, we may refer to the census reports and note the changes in population, that being a fair index of growth or decrease in the town's interests.

In 1810, two years after the town was erected, the inhabitants numbered 792; 1814, 1,059; 1820, 1,502; 1825, 1,404; 1830, 1,711; 1835, 964; 1840, 956; 1845, 878; 1850, 1,049; 1855, 1,068; 1860, 1,151; 1865, 1,073; 1870, 1,240; 1875, 1,302; 1880, 1,304; 1890, 1,162; 1892, 1,157.

ORGANIZATION.—In 1791 the Legislature passed an act erecting

Tioga county and dividing its territory into towns. Under this act all that district known as the Boston purchase, although not so described or designated, together with other territory, was erected into a town by the name of Union, and so remained until 1800 when the present eastern boundary of this county was made the eastern line of a new town created from Union and called Tioga. The region commonly called by the pioneers Brown's settlement was of course within the tract referred to. In 1806 Tioga county was divided and Broome county erected and included all the territory of old Tioga which lay east of Owego creek, and therefore the town of Tioga. Again, on February 12, 1808, the town of Tioga, in Broome county, was divided, and all that now comprises Berkshire, Newark Valley and Richford was set off as a separate town, and was called Berkshire. In 1822 these towns, and also the town of Owego (for on 1813 the towns of Owego and Tioga exchanged names), were restored to Tioga county, and from that time Berkshire has been one of the civil divisions of that county.

When created in 1808 Berkshire was a splendid jurisdiction and was one of the most important and well settled of the civil divisions of the region. Within its original boundaries were more than 59,000 acres of land, or its equivalent in square miles a little more than ninety-two. Taken altogether no more fertile region was to be found in the county outside the rich bottom lands in the river valleys, and few indeed of the towns at that time were peopled by more thrifty and prosperous settlers than were found within the broad limits of Brown's settlement or its successor, old Berkshire.

In accordance with the creating act the first meeting of inhabitants of the new town for the purpose of electing local officers was held Tuesday, March 1, 1808, and was presided over by pioneer Ebenezer Cook in the capacity of moderator. The officers chosen were as follows :

Supervisor, John Brown ; town clerk, Artemas Ward ; assessors, Ezbon Slosson, Ebenezer Cook ; poormasters, Henry Moore, Elijah Belcher ; commissioners of highways, Noah Lyman, Hart Newell, Samuel Haight ; collector and poundmaster, Peter Wilson ; poundmaster, Elisha Jenks ; fence viewers, Asa Bement,

Nathaniel Ford, Asa Leonard, John Bement, Lyman Rawson, Elisha Jenks ; constables, Jesse Gleazen, Adolphus Dwight.

However, hardly more than a short half score of years had passed before the inhabitants of the south part of Berkshire were clamorous for a new town, and the result was an act passed April 12, 1823, by which the legislature took from the mother town 19,751 acres of her territory on the south side and erected a town by the name of Westville as then called, but now known as Newark Valley. Again, in 1831, the inhabitants in the north part of the town had recourse to the legislative power, and on April 13 another town was formed, and called Arlington, but changed in name to Richford, in 1832. This last division of Berkshire took 21,835 acres of land, and there were left to the old town 17,443 acres, considerably less than one-third of its original area.

From the time of its earliest settlement to the present, Berkshire has been distinctly and peculiarly an agricultural town, and as such has always ranked among the best in the county. During the long period of its history little attempt has been made to make the town a manufacturing centre, as its geographical position and its relation to the railway lines of the region have been such as to preclude the possibility of success as the result of efforts in that direction. True, the pioneers were nearly all lumbermen until their lands were cleared, after which the peaceful arts of general agriculture engaged the almost entire attention of the town's people. Nature has dealt generously in making this a farming town, for the principal streams, the east and west branches of Owego creek, and their larger tributaries, thoroughly drain the land surface. The soil itself in the valleys is a rich gravelly loam, while on the hills it is tough and hardy, with the average of hardpan. The highest elevations are from 1,200 to 1,600 feet above tide water.

Half and even three-quarters of a century has worked few changes in the town. The institutions of to-day are much the same as seventy-five years ago ; the old farms are about as they were then, and what is agreeably noticeable is the presence there of the descendants of the pioneer occupants. To be sure, for the last half score and more of years agricultural pursuits in the east have