

county for a number of years. His efforts in life were rewarded with a good measure of success, and in 1865 he returned to Owego village and lived in comfortable retirement to the time of his death, June 10, 1868.

In the year 1804, Chauncey Woodford, eldest son of Bissell Woodford of Farmington, Conn., a soldier of the Revolution and a pensioner under the act of 1832, settled in the town of Candor, in this county. He was soon followed by three brothers, Ira, Cyrus and Romeo. Romeo was twice married, his first wife being Mary Gridley of Candor, who died leaving one son, Henry, who died June 4, 1896. Romeo's second wife was Rhoda Hulburt. He settled in Owego and entered the hardware business in 1814. He died 1819, leaving a widow and two sons; Bissell, born October 23, 1816, and Romeo, born January 3, 1820. Romeo died July 8, 1856. These brothers started a hardware and tin manufacturing business in Owego in 1837, selling out in 1854 to Storrs & Chatfield. Bissell married Mandana Fortner in 1845. To them were born three children, Adaline P., George R., and Evaline M. Romeo was married twice. His first wife, Elizabeth Martin, of Owego, died leaving one son, Charles B., who lived one year. His second wife was Augusta E. Sackett, of Candor, who died December 18, 1855, leaving a daughter, Carrie Augusta, who married Charles H. Hyde. They settled in Tacoma, Wash., in 1891. They have one son, Robert Henry.

JOSEPH OGDEN came from Orange county to Owego about 1830, driving the entire distance with a team. He bought and lived several years on a farm, but later moved to the village and took up the trade of mason, and was also a watch repairer. His children were Selina, who married with Ambrose Townsend; Jehial, a gunsmith, who lived and died in Owego; Sarah, who married with John Gardner; Walter, Rebecca and Charles. Walter Ogden was a small boy when his father came to Owego, and when old enough was apprenticed to learn the gunsmith's trade, as also were his brothers. Later in life Walter was a merchant and a successful business man. His first wife was Mary Stroup, (of German

parentage), by whom he had these children ; Mary, who married with Chauncey L. Raymond ; Sarah, now dead, and Elizabeth, who married with George Lainhart. His second wife was Harriet Smith, who bore him three children ; Fanny, Anna and Walter. Walter Ogden died February 25, 1879. George Lainhart, who on November 17, 1876, married Elizabeth Ogden, was partner in business with Walter Ogden, and was one of Owego's men who was the friend to all its people, and to his wide circle of acquaintance his death was regarded as a personal loss. Mr. Lainhart died in Owego, June 11, 1894.

GEORGE L. FORD came from Washington, Litchfield county, Conn., to the town of Owego in the year 1840, and settled on a farm near Gaskill Corners, where he afterward lived nearly all his life. He was a farmer, a substantial man and worthy citizen. He died in 1891. His wife was Anna Thompson, with whom he was married in Ithaca. Their children were Lewis, Lucius, Kate, Goodsell, Mary, Charles, Frank, Frederick, Emma, and three others who died in extreme infancy. Lucius Ford, the contractor, of Owego, was the son of George L. Ford. He married with Ladorna Riker, July 31, 1879.

CHARLES BEERS, who became a resident of Owego village in 1848, and who from that time to his death, December 29, 1890, was numbered among the straightforward and substantial business men of the locality, was born in Danby, and was the son of Abner Beers, one of the early settlers of that town. The other children of Abner were Harmon, who died in Memphis, Tenn. ; David, who died in New York ; Eli, who died in Danby ; Abner, who died in Owego, though his home was in Yazoo City, Mo. ; Mary, who married John McNeil and moved to California ; Edward, who died in Memphis, Tenn., in 1863 ; John J., who died in Owego, and Frances, who married John Wheeler. Charles Beers was a stable keeper in Owego for many years, a self made and successful man and one who helped others that they might succeed in life. He also assisted in the erection of various church edifices in the vicinity. On September 23, 1849, Mr. Beers was married with Catharine Ganoung, daughter of Daniel Ganoung, of Ulysses, Tompkins

county. They had one son, Charles, who died in infancy. Mrs. Beers is well known in Owego through her active interest in W. C. T. U. work. Since 1884 she has been a member of the union and has held offices of responsibility in the organization.

AARON W. STEELE was a native of Owego and was nine years old when his father, Aaron Steele, came to the town. In his business life he was both a farmer and lumberman, a successful man and one who accumulated a fair property. His wife was Marinda Ross, a native of Pennsylvania, by whom he had four children : Philetus, who lives on the old homestead farm ; Lesbia and Annette L., both of whom still live on the farm, and Gregory O., a merchant in the village. Aaron W. Steele died in December, 1880, at the age of 69 years. He was a strong democrat, but not a prominent figure in political affairs. He was commissioner of highways for several years. Gregory O. Steele opened a grocery store in Owego in 1882, but previous to that time had acquired a knowledge of the business in the employ of B. L. Truman. On October, 20, 1880, Mr. Steele married Jennie Mayor. They have two children.

ALEXANDER JOSEPH THOMAS was born in Baden, Germany, in 1835, and there was brought up and trained to the occupation of gardening generally and to the work of a florist specially. In 1866 he came to this country and worked nearly two years in Rochester, and then went to Binghamton and was gardener at the old inebriate asylum for four years. He then bought a small farm, worked it three years and sold out, then worked in a florist's garden five years. He came to Owego in 1879 and started at work on the Pumpelly lot. In 1884 Mr. Thomas bought the land on which his present large and complete green-houses stand, and here he has built up a successful business ; and his success has been due to his own industry and perseverance. While living in Binghamton Mr. Thomas married Mary Colgan, who died in 1881. In Owego on January 8, 1884, he married Anna Merck, by whom he has four children.

ELI B. DRAKE was born in the town of Vestal, November 17, 1826, and was the son of William T. Drake who came from Dutchess county to Binghamton and looked for a location on the old Brandywine creek, but he was induced to change his mind and finally went to Little Snake creek in the town of Vestal. In his family were eleven children of whom Eli and John M., moved to Owego. Eli learned the cooper's trade with Robert Service in Binghamton, then went to Susquehanna county, Pa., and run a shop about two years. He then worked on the construction of the Erie railroad between Binghamton and Owego, after which he went to Ithaca and worked on what is now the D., L. & W. railroad construction. In 1849 he came to Owego and opened a cooper's shop on North avenue on a site then owned by Squire Cameron. In the next year he bought the property he now occupies and has been engaged in business on the same site for almost fifty years, in fact Mr. Drake is one of the oldest business men of Owego village. He began poor and by industry and frugality has accumulated a good property. He has always been a democrat but has taken no active part in politics. His wife was Sarah J. Middaugh.

CHARLES MARTIN HAYWOOD, who died in Owego village June 13, 1892, was, during the period of his business life, one of the foremost men of the county seat. He was a leading workman and organizer among the local masonic and odd fellow bodies and was deeply interested in all that pertained to the welfare of Owego and its people. He was a native of the Green Mountain state, born at Ludlow, August 16, 1833, and was the son of a farmer. At the age of sixteen he began learning the trade of marble cutting and finishing, and made his first start in business at Littleton, N. H., in 1856. Four years later he came to Owego and opened a shop and from that time on he was one of the most active men in either town or village. He was an earnest republican, and the town and village civil list will disclose the fact that his prominence in local politics often brought him before the people as a candidate for some important position, to which he was nearly always elected. His connection with the masonic and odd fellows bodies gave him a peculiar prominence in Owego, and in whatever position he was

chosen to fill he always acquitted himself with credit to those whom he represented. The late marble firm of Haywood & Baldwin was formed in 1888, and, after the death of the senior member, Harry C. Haywood succeeded to the business, both in Owego and Waverly. Mr. Haywood, their father, was married in 1854, with Hannah Kneeland, of Proctorville, Vt., of this marriage four children were born, viz: Myron, who died in infancy; Arthur, who died at twenty; Harry Clinton, present proprietor of the business and successor to his father, and Alma Lucelia Haywood, of Owego, Harry Clinton Haywood was born in Owego, September 13, 1862. He was educated at the free academy and began work in his father's shop in 1879 where he learned thoroughly the trade of marble cutting and finishing. On March 27, 1890, he married E. Lena, daughter of Samuel Goodrich. They have two children.

SIDNEY WELLES THOMPSON, M. D., son of Clarence A. and Dorinda E. (Truman) Thompson, was born February 10, 1873. Mrs. Thompson is a daughter of the late Lyman Truman. She was born in 1843. Sidney Welles Thompson received his early education in the public schools of Owego and later graduated with the class of '92 from Riverview military academy, at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. The next year Mr. Thompson was instructor on military tactics and in the primary school branches at the same institution. In the fall of 1893 he entered the New York University of Medicine in New York city, graduating from that place in the spring of 1896 with the degree of M. D. Since then Mr. Thompson has successfully practiced medicine in his native village. He is a member of the Tioga County Medical Society, of Sa-Sa-Na-Loft tribe of I. O. R. M., also of Tioga Lodge, No. 335, I. O. O. F.

LYMAN TRUMAN was one of the early settlers in the town of Candor. He came from Berkshire county, Massachusetts, in 1808, was a carpenter and farmer, and died in this county Nov. 2, 1822. His wife was Lucy Barlow, who bore him eight children. They were Levi, who lived and died in Candor; Sybil, who married William Stone; Leroy, who died young; James, who died in

Candor at the age of sixty years ; Stephen, who died in California ; Eliza, who married Frederick Weed and died in 1865 ; John, who died young, and Benjamin L. Truman, a merchant in the village of Owego. Benjamin L. Truman was born June 23, 1822, and was brought up by his mother on the farm in Candor. He was early put to work and when a young man began business as a lumberman. He was afterward in a grocery store in Owego, then lived for a time in Missouri, from which place he returned to Owego. In 1848 the old firm of Truman & Buckbee was formed and continued to 1852, when the senior partner retired. In 1860 S. S. & B. L. Truman began a general dry goods and grocery business and continued until 1867, when Mr. Truman sold out. He then engaged two years in butter and wool business and in 1869 moved to Missouri, where he remained until 1874, returning to engage in hay business four years, and in 1878 established the grocery now owned by him on Front street. Although in his business life Mr. Truman has seen many changes and vicissitudes, he has nevertheless been successful and is to-day regarded as a safe and prudent business man. In 1852 he was married with Maria Dean, by whom he had one child, born 1858 and died in 1865. His wife died May 30, 1882, and on February 28, 1884, Mr. Truman was married with Saphronia Long.

DANIEL DODGE came from Schoharie county in the year 1825 and settled on a farm in the town of Owego opposite Apalachin, the same formerly owned and occupied by Joseph Gaskill. He was a good and successful farmer and a man well respected throughout the town. His children were Samuel, who lived for a time in Tioga, but who died in the west ; Edmund, who lived and died in Owego ; Mary Ann, who married Henry Griffin and died in Owego ; Moses, who died in Campville ; Lorinda, who married Dr. Chapin and is now dead ; Alfred, for many years a farmer in Owego but now retired from active work and a resident of the village ; Joel, who died in California ; Ellen, who married John Pearsall and now lives in Buffalo ; Elizabeth, now living in New York, and Phoebe, now dead. After the death of his first wife Daniel Dodge again married, of which union nine children were born, six of whom

grew to maturity. They were Benjamin, now in Union ; Amos, now in New York city ; Catharine, who married Charles Woughter and lives in Union ; James, now in Washington ; Caroline, wife of William Cole of Union, and John, now living in New York city.

SAMUEL SMITH was a native of Rhinebeck, N. Y., born about the year 1820. When a young man he went to Newburgh and learned the tailor trade and worked on the bench until failing health compelled him to abandon that pursuit. He then learned the trade of hatter and in 1849 started west intending to locate at Elmira, but on arriving at Owego was prevailed upon by business men to take up his residence in the village. With him were his wife and daughter. From that time he is identified with local interests, except for a period of about two years, during which he lived at his old home on the Hudson. His first shop was on the site of the present Tioga National bank and was burned in the great fire of 1849. He was in business in Owego until the time of his death in January, 1891. His wife died two years later. Their children were Mary A., (who died in 1891) wife of Eugene B. Burdick, and James L., of Owego. The latter was born in Newburgh in 1854, and was brought up in a store as clerk. At the age of twenty-one he began keeping books and was so employed for about eight years. In 1890 he purchased the City Steam Laundry in Owego which he has since conducted and he has enjoyed a liberal share of public patronage. In 1876 Mr. Smith married with Flora Luce. They have one child.

GEORGE W. BARTON was born in Binghamton, June 10, 1826, and died in Owego, July 1, 1893. His father was James Barton, under sheriff of Broome county during the period of its early history. At the age of thirteen George went to Richford to learn the trade of cigar making with Bayette & Ayers, but ill health soon compelled his return to Binghamton where he worked in a bakery about two years. He was then apprenticed to learn cigar making with one Dewitt. He afterward went to New York, thence removed to Newark Valley and began the manufacture of cigars with Charles Wilson. Two or three years later he moved to Ithaca

and continued business until the summer of 1865 when he came to Owego and with Aaron Ogden formed the well known firm of Ogden & Barton, manufacturers, jobbers and dealers in cigars and tobaccos. The building occupied by the firm was burned in April, 1868, after which they temporarily used the old Baptist church edifice, on the Brant block site. This structure was also burned and the firm then occupied a building on the east side on Lake street, north of the present postoffice. Here the partnership was dissolved, after which Mr. Barton continued in business alone until the time of his death. He was an earnest and ardent republican ; was commissioner of excise in 1875, and supervisor in 1883 and 1884. His wife was Catharine M. Muzzy, whom he married May 1, 1849. By her he had four children ; George W. Jr., cigar manufacturer of Owego ; James H., a farmer at Newark Valley, Watson A., and Eugene F., partners in business under the firm name of G. W. Barton's sons. His first wife died, after which Mr. Barton married second Helen Chamberlain of Newark Valley. Of this marriage three children were born ; Catharine, who died in childhood ; William E., living in Kansas City, Mo., and Fred, a resident of Owego.

EBENEZER HIBBARD came from Norwich, Conn., in 1825, and was a farmer in the town of Owego, his dwelling stood not far from the site of the now called Dean tannery. Mr. Hibbard had been an old school teacher, and had taught from an arithmetic of his own preparation, all printed and written by his own hand. In this county he was a farmer, and at death his body was buried in the Presbyterian church yard. He had three children, of whom Ralph alone came with the family to Owego. Ralph Hibbard was born in Norwich, Conn., and was a trooper or cavalryman, in the U. S. service during the war of 1812-15, and after his death his widow drew a pension on account of his service. In this county Mr. Hibbard was a farmer. His wife was Jemima Maynard, and by her he had three children ; Ralph, Jr., of Owego ; Maria, who married with Dwight Curtis, and Charles, who lives in Granville, Mich. Ralph Hibbard, Jr., was born October 12, 1818, and when old enough was apprenticed to and learned the cabinet maker's trade

His shop was on Park street, in Owego, and he was known in local business circles for many years; and he was also known as a thoroughly honest man, a good citizen, and one who always made his own way in life. He is remembered as having been a good singer and was always heard in the choir of St. Paul's church. His wife was Elizabeth Sweet, of Owego, by whom he had three children; Frances, who married with James E. Jones; Jane, who died in infancy, and George R. Hibbard, a merchant of Owego. Ralph Hibbard, Jr., died September 7, 1892. George R. Hibbard was born in Owego in 1858, and was educated at the free academy. He began business in 1884 as successor to George Sweet, general crockery dealer, and is now one of the business men of the county seat. On February 4, 1885, Mr. Hibbard married Jessie M. Pierce, daughter of H. G. Pierce, of Waverly. They have one child.

JOHN SWEET was one of the old families of Owego, and was a lumberman living for a time on Big Island in the early history of the region. He had five children, viz: Elizabeth, who married with Ralph Hibbard; George, a former merchant of Owego but now deceased; Ambrose, who was drowned; John, a merchant on North avenue, and Maria, who died in infancy.

JAMES E. JONES, who has lived in Owego since 1857, was born in Newark Valley, February 1, 1841, and was the son of James Jones, an early resident of that town. When less than seventeen years old James E. started out to make his own way in life. He came to Owego and for a year was employed in a wagon shop, but was afterward in the Erie bridge shops and the Lehigh Valley shops, and was there employed for a period of twenty years. Then for five years he worked at pattern making, and in 1883, in company with B. C. Springsteen, he started a planing mill in the old Sackett soap works building. After two years Mr. Jones succeeded to the business, and with the exception of a short time has since been sole proprietor. His shop employs from five to ten men, and produces a superior quality of interior and exterior wood finishing. The affairs of business occupy Mr. Jones' whole attention and he finds but little time to engage in local pol-

itics. On November 4, 1874, James E. Jones was married with Frances Hibbard. They have one child, Miss Flora A. Hibbard.

A. CHASE THOMPSON, founder and active manager of the Standard Butter Co., of Owego, one of the largest industries of its kind in the world, was a native of Tompkins county, born in the year 1844. He came to Owego in 1865, from which time to 1888 he was in the dry-goods business, but he had also been in the produce business for a number of years. In the spring of 1888, in company with George Truman, Jr., Mr. Thompson began the manufacture of a superior grade of butter, and, as the product met with ready sale in New York high-class hotels and restaurants, the business was increased to very large proportions, the present annual output being 3,000,000 pounds. However, the history of this enterprise is so fully written in the village chapter that not more than a passing allusion to it is necessary in this place. In 1868 A. Chase Thompson was married with Sarah F., the daughter of George Truman, of Owego, they have two children.

LYMAN DURPHY, born March 14, 1792, came from Pittsfield, Mass., about the year 1814, and settled in Berkshire. Later on he moved to Newark Valley (1828), and thence to Michigan in 1854, and afterward lived and died in Ottawa county. His children were Henry C., Lyman D., Lois Angeline, Emily Peck, and Mary Ann, all of whom removed to Michigan except Lyman D. He was born in Berkshire, October 2, 1819, and when old enough learned the millwright trade, and also became a good workman in general mechanics. His connection with the Erie railroad began in 1850, and for the next twenty-five years he was both bridge builder and inspector, working his way up from foreman to division builder or inspector. He retired about 1875 and has since lived in comfortable enjoyment of the benefits of a life of industry and perseverance. He lives in Owego and is the owner of some good property in the village. On October 22, 1844, Lyman D. Durphy was married with Mary Elvira Blackman, of Candor, daughter of Abraham. They have had three children: Harvey Dwight Durphy, who died in St. Louis, November 20, 1892; Adelaide Elvira

Durphy, wife of Frederick N. Sackett ; and Alice Carrie Durphy, wife of Henry D. Beach, of Bridgeport, Conn. The children of Abraham and Sally Jewett Blackman were William Greenleaf, Melinda Jewett (wife of Henry Durphy), Mary E. (wife of Lyman D. Durphy), Rhoda (who married with Daniel Joslin), Sarah Jane (who married William Phelps), Ann Eliza (who married with Rev. John A. Phelps), Roxie Amelia, and Augusta, who married with Roxie Pike. Abraham Blackman died December 13, 1869.

EZEKIEL JEWETT was one of the pioneers of Berkshire, though the date of his settlement in town is now unknown. His wife was Sarah Blackman, of another of the old families of the town. Their children were Harris, Sally (who married Abraham Blackman), Asahel, Melinda, Mary, Barker, Harris, Orrin E., and Harriet (who married Marshall Allen). Ezekiel Jewett, born July 24, 1810, went to Michigan in 1859, and became wealthy as a lumberman. He died March 21, 1897, (87 years old) and was buried in Owego.

PATRICK LEAHY, whose recent death was a serious loss to the mercantile interests in Owego, was born in Tipperary, Ireland, in 1833. At the age of fourteen he came to the United States with his uncle and went to Wisconsin, but after less than two years' residence in that state came to Owego (in 1853) where he had friends. He was employed in the Erie freight depot five years and afterward became clerk to the firm of Thurston & Bishop, then with Mr. Bishop, later with D. G. Taylor. About 1876 the grocery firm of Leahy & Dean was formed and began business on North avenue. Later they removed to the corner of the avenue and Main street where they did business five or six years more, and where Mr. Leahy finally succeeded and became sole proprietor. He continued the business alone for about ten years, when his son James J. Leahy, became his partner. Mr. Leahy was twice married. His first wife was Ann Tierney by whom he had five children, all of whom are now living. His second wife was Eliza Reading, who bore him one child. Mr. Leahy was always a firm democrat but took no active part in politics. His time was devoted to business affairs and the result has been the accumulation of

a good property and as well gaining an excellent standing among the business men of the county seat.

FRANCIS SPORER, senior member of the firm of Sporer, Carlson and Berry, and who has been known in business circles in Owego since 1857, was born at Wurms on the Rhine, March 28, 1837, being one of a family of five children of Joseph Sporer. The father was a cabinet-maker and Francis was kept at work in his shop when not at school, but at the age of seventeen our young man left Germany to avoid enforced service in the army. He came to New York where he found employment for a time but soon went to Elmira and thence to Owego in May, 1857. He worked for the firm of E. Hosford & Co, in a shop on Front street and also at Camp's furnace. Later he was with Norton & Deland, but in the spring of 1861 the war drove that firm out of business, after which the firm of Sporer & Carlson, piano makers, was formed. Mr. Norton acquired an interest and the firm became H. Norton & Co. The senior member died in 1864 and soon afterward the firm of Sporer, Carlson & Berry was organized, and have been in active and successful operation from that to the present time, and is now the oldest business firm in the village. In Owego Francis Sporer is regarded as one of the substantial and reliable business men, and an earnest republican but not a seeker after political office. He was, however, one term village trustee. On November 3, 1878, Mr. Sporer was married with Emma, the adopted daughter of Nathaniel Burton. Four children have been born of that marriage.

WATSON L. HOSKINS, better known, however, in Tioga county as Captain Hoskins, was born in Simmsbury, Conn., January 22, 1830, and was the third of eight children in the family of Norton and Candace Hoskins. Watson was brought up on a farm till he was 17, then, in September, 1847, came to Owego, and for the next two years peddled notions and light merchandise all through this region. In 1849 Matson's store was robbed, and our young man's goods were also taken, and he was thereby stripped of all his assets save a limited amount of cash. He next bought a jew-

eler's "kit" and began work, but from 1849 to 1852 was clerk in Mr. Matson's store, then went to Erie. Pa., where he was in the jewelry and notion business four years. Returning to Owego, Mr. Hoskins sold goods on the road two years, and in 1858 bought out and succeeded Mr. Matson. From that to the present time he has been identified with local mercantile interests, and is now one of the oldest merchants in the village. In 1861 he began underwriting and has built up an extensive insurance business in the county. However in 1862, he recruited 120 men in eight days for Co. C., 137th N. Y. Infantry. He was commissioned captain and served at the front until February, 1863, when he resigned and came home to resume charge of his mercantile business which, in the meantime, had been intrusted to his brother. In local political circles Capt. Hoskins is well known although he has not sought paying office; nor has he sought any office, but has nevertheless been member of the board of education many years, and was its president twelve years; was village supervisor two years. He is also a member of St. Paul's church, and was warden and vestryman 27 years, until he declined to further serve. In 1853 Watson L. Hoskins was married with Frances, daughter of Atwood Allen, of Tioga. Five children have been born to them, only one of whom is now living, Marie Louise, wife of Horace F. King.

THOMAS PERT is remembered in connection with the milling industry in this county, in which he was engaged for many years. He was the son of Thomas Pert, senior, and brother to Rev. Luther Bascom Pert, and was a native of Spencer. His business life began as clerk for Charles Chatfield, at Painted Post, but later on he became his partner and was with him several years. Mr. Pert came to Owego in 1856 and was a miller, but afterward moved to Waverly and bought a mill. After this mill was burned he returned to Owego, resumed milling, but in 1878 became express messenger between Owego and Auburn. Still later he was transferred to the D., L. & W., running between Owego and Ithaca. He was thus employed at the time of his death, October 20, 1893. In 1853 Mr. Pert was married with Mary E. Chatfield, a native of Great Barrington, Mass. Their children

were Fred Chatfield Pert, who died January 28, 1896, and Willis Ives Pert, of Owego. Willis I. Pert married with Fannie A. Babcock, of Windham, Penna. Fred C. Pert married with Ida Cornick. He was survived by his wife and two children now living—Mary E. and Marguerite B. Pert.

ELLERY COLBY was born near Litchfield, Conn., May the 8th, 1845. His parents were Lucius H. and Rosette (Perkins) Colby, and his grandparents, John and Annis Colby, were of Goshen, Conn. Lucius H. Colby was a prosperous farmer and raiser of blooded stock, and of influence in the community in which he resided. He was an ingenious man of an inventive turn of mind, and as an illustration of this it may be worthy of mention that having purchased one of the first mowing machines sold in that section, he found upon trial that it was a very crude affair and worked heavily ; so the following winter he set to work to improve it. This he did, by so changing the mechanism as to add another wheel to the machine, which greatly improved it, and thus constructed what was probably the first two wheel mowing machine ever built. Letters patent on various inventions were also granted to him. About 1848 he removed with his family to Scipio in Cayuga county, where he continued his former occupation of farmer and stock-breeder. Four years later he again changed his place of residence, this time to Groton, in Tompkins county. He was the father of a large family of children (twelve in all), and when Ellery was nine years of age he went to live with his father's brother, in Fabius, Onondaga county, and here he remained till he was twenty-two years of age. This uncle was the owner of two hotels as well as about 1,300 acres of land. An energetic man himself, he believed in keeping those around him busy, so young Colby's boyhood was not spent in idleness ; upon the other hand he wrought early and late, and at one time had charge and supervision of the entire 1,300 acres. At the age of twenty-two Mr. Colby returned to Groton, and soon afterward married Miss Hattie E. Cornwall and engaged in the business of farming, which he continued till 1875, when having secured two different patents pertaining to bridge structure, he abandoned agricultural pursuits and



W. A. Ferguson & Co.

Ellery Colby

devoted his entire time to bridge building. This may be said to have been the pivotal point in Mr. Colby's career. He had inherited his father's mechanical genius and that he possesses that quality in a remarkable degree is best shown by the fact that without special schooling or training he entered a field where he was brought into direct competition with scientific men and graduates of our best polytechnic schools and succeeded from the beginning. He had taken out two patents, one on bridge trusses and one on pile foundations, and these patents were the basis of his entry into constructive bridge work. He organized the Groton Bridge Co., and was its president. He began at once to take orders and build bridges over water ways, etc., and his improved methods soon began to attract attention in various parts of the country. Among the more notable bridges built by Mr. Colby may be mentioned the iron bridge across the Potomac river at Washington, D. C., (extension of Pennsylvania avenue). He also built for the United States government the first iron pier ever constructed, the one at Fortress Monroe. Mr. Colby's business in bridge building and other structural iron work has reached a half million dollars worth per year. In 1891 Mr. Colby sold out his interests in the Groton Bridge Co., and coming to Owego established the Owego Bridge Co., of which he is now president. The business has been successful from the start, and now ranks as one of the leading industries of Owego. Mr. Colby has been for many years a F. & A. M. (K. T.), is a member of the Congregational church, and in politics a republican. He has but one son, Ray, who is associated with him in business. He has been too busy to take much active part in political or official matters, and the only offices he ever held were president of the village of Groton when he lived there, and he is now one of the trustees of Owego. Mr. Colby is entitled to much credit for what he has accomplished in life under the conditions that existed. He never attended school after he was fourteen years of age, and when he took up bridge building he set to work to master the theoretical as well as the practical features of the work, and to such good purpose that he is now an authority on that branch of engineering. He is a genial, courteous gentleman and a man highly respected in his community.

EPHRAIM H. HOUSE was born in Sussex county, New Jersey, October 21, 1833. He was brought up on a farm, and at the age of twenty-one years learned the carpenter's trade. He came to New York state about 1855 and was employed in the car department of the New York and Erie railroad, both at Hornellsville and Port Jervis. He came to Owego in April, 1857, and took charge of the car-repair shop of the company, but in 1860 went into the bridge shop and was foreman until 1877. In 1877 he left the service of the company and began the coal business, which is now carried on by the firm of House & Co. He is also extensively engaged in farming, and is the owner of excellent farming lands in the vicinity of the county seat. As must be seen from what is here stated, Mr. House has been a successful business man, and one whose success has been wholly due to his own personal effort. He is a firm democrat, and was a trustee of the village in 1868, 1869, 1873, 1883, and 1884, and president in 1874. He was also chief engineer of the Owego fire department in 1873 and 1874. Mr. House was married with Kate E. Brown. They have three children; Elnora, wife of Edward H. Miller; Frances, wife of Robert K. Mackey, and Edward H. House, a physician living at Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

DAVID H. EMERY was born April 12, 1848, and was the son of John J. Emery, a New Jersey farmer. At 16 David began work as an apprentice at wagon making, and at the end of three years was a thorough mechanic in his line. For several years he worked as "Jour" both in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, but in 1873 came to Owego and found employment with the old firm of Moore & Ross, with whom he was connected 12 years, a part of the time as foreman in the smithing department. He then left and bought George Raymond's interest in the firm of Raymond Brothers, and thus established the present firm of Raymond & Emery, which, with some changes in management, has since been known in business circles in Owego. A busy man at all times, Mr. Emery has nevertheless found time to take part in public affairs in the village, always on the democratic side for he is one of the leaders of his party in Owego. He was once elected trustee and has fre-

quently been a candidate for his party's good. In business life Mr. Emery has been successful. In Newton, N. J., he was married with Mary J. Wilcox, by whom he has one son, Lewis Emery.

JOHN L. DURUSSEL and LOUIS FREDERICK DURUSSEL were from Switzerland, who came to the United States in May, 1850. In Switzerland, John was an officer of the law, while his son Louis, born in the Canton of Neufchatel, December 22, 1831, was a skilled watchmaker in early life serving an apprenticeship at manufacturing Swiss watches in a large factory. In this country John L. Durussel was a farmer, living on his own farm, the so-called Kenyon farm, in Newark Valley, and there he died, a highly respected citizen. In 1852, after a single year of life on the farm, Louis opened a watch repairing shop in Newark Valley. A year or two afterward he removed to Owego and entered the employ of Mr. Marguerand, who kept a jewelry store in the Ahwaga House block on Front street. Some time previous to 1860, Mr. Durussel commenced business on his own account in a corner of the post-office, which then occupied the building in Lake street now owned by the Owego National bank. In October, 1862, he took his brother-in-law, R. A. Allen, into partnership. A few years afterward they enlarged their business and removed to the west side of the street. In August, 1867, the firm of Durussel & Allen was dissolved and Mr. Durussel continued the business alone until September, 1868, when he formed a new partnership with L. F. Rockwood and removed to the Wilson opera house block. This partnership was not long afterward dissolved. In January, 1877, his son, George, became his business partner, and the firm of Durussel & Son continued until his death in 1888. Mr. Durussel was a prominent member of the M. E. society and active in all church affairs. He was one of Owego's most respected citizens—a man of sterling integrity, possessing many friends and no enemies. While living in Newark Valley Louis was married with Polly M. Allen, and by her he had these children; Ella, who became the wife of D. M. Slater; George A., the jeweler of Owego, and Anna M., wife of C. J. Hancock. George A. Durussel learned the trade of watchmaking with his father and was a journeyman until 1877, when he became a part-

ner of his father. He is now engaged in active business having succeeded to the business of Durussel & Son. In October, 1878, he was married with Rose A., daughter of E. F. Johnson, of Alleghany county.

JAMES M. HASTINGS, senior member of the dry-goods firm of Hastings & Stratton, of Owego, was a native of Tompkins county, and was born in 1843. His young life was spent on a farm, but in 1863, with his mother, brothers and sisters, he came to Owego to live. He was first employed as clerk in H. N. Hubbard's store, and in 1873 his active business life began, as successor to the still older house of Goodrich & Cady. In fact Mr. Hastings was one of this firm for a time before he became its successor. The new firm of Hastings & Pendleton was soon formed and did business until succeeded by Hastings & Stratton in 1880. The firm carries a line of general dry-goods and carpets, and has always held a fair share of public patronage. Mr. Hastings is a thorough business man, and finds little time to give to affairs outside the store, but for all that he has not been wanting in interest in local prosperity, as his long and useful connection with the Owego board of education fully shows. He takes no active part in politics, but is a firm republican. In 1867 James M. Hastings was married with Persis Jenks. Mrs. Hastings died in 1877, leaving four children. In 1889 Mr. Hastings was married with Emma Tate, of Hartford Co., Conn. Of this marriage two children have been born. The family are members of the Congregational church, and for thirty years Mr. Hastings has been superintendent of the Sunday school. He is also deacon of the church and treasurer of the society.

JULIUS HOLLISTER was born at Glastonbury, Conn, January 9, 1818, and at the age of fifteen years was apprenticed to Asa Rogers to learn the trade of silversmith. He served five and one-half years, worked as journeyman about four years more, and then went into business in Hartford, Conn., with O. D. Seymour as partner in the old and well-known William Rogers' shop. He sold out in January, 1846, came to Owego and started into business. From that time until 1895 he was constantly engaged in the man-

ufacture of silverware and spoons, a period of fifty years, which entitles him to recognition as one of the oldest business men of the village. At times he has employed as many as ten or twelve workmen. He is now proprietor of a grocery store and also a sewing machine repair shop. In Auburn, N. Y., Mr. Hollister married with Mary M. Havens. Their children were Charles J., of Owego, and Arthur E., who died at the age of eighteen. Mrs. M. M. Hollister, wife of Julius, died March 25, 1895, aged 79 years. Charles J. Hollister was born June 21, 1851, and Arthur E. was born March 23, 1853, and died January 1, 1871.

CHARLES NICHOLS, second son of Simeon and Esther (Fairbanks) Nichols, was born September 3, 1824, in the town of Owego. Simeon Nichols and his father, Caleb, came to Tioga county in 1791, locating on the Jewett Flats near Apalachin where they had purchased several hundred acres. The family at that time consisted of eight children, of whom Simeon was the second child. Caleb Nichols died in 1804, and soon after Simeon sold the farm and purchased what is now the Mersereau farm near Mutton Hill. In 1820 Simeon married Esther, daughter of Samuel Fairbanks. They had six children ; George, Charles, Mary Ann, died at twenty-one years of age ; Olivia (Mrs. George Fox), Rachel (Mrs. Amos Knapp of Apalachin), and Justus, who is the only surviving member of that family. On January 4, 1837, Mrs. Nichols died, and two years later Simeon married Merca, a daughter of Matthew Billings. They had two children ; Enoch, living at Olean, N. Y., and Washington, living on Mutton Hill. Simeon died May 16, 1856, aged 93 years. In the spring of 1839 Charles left home with his sister Rachel. They rented a house, and he made his beginning by working farms on shares. He soon purchased a farm and added to his possessions each year until at his death he was one of the most extensive farmers in the county. He was married on November 24, 1850, to Abigail, daughter of Morris and Elizabeth Barton. Four children were born to them : Althea, Gerden and Gerden J. died in infancy, and Emma Louise, born May 28, 1865. Mr. Nichols was a member of Friendship Lodge, No. 333, F. & A. M. He died October 27, 1889, at his home farm on the south side near

Hiawatha Island. Emma Louise, his surviving child, was married June 27, 1890, to Truman, son of Henry and Hannah Orton, who moved to Owego in 1886 from Lisle, N. Y. Mr. Orton was born June 26, 1865. In 1892 Mrs. Orton erected a handsome dwelling upon the homestead, and has christened the farm "Fairview."

JAMES A. DEAN was born in Caroline, Tompkins county, June 4, 1820, and was the son of Samuel Dean, a prominent man and pioneer of that region. James was brought up on a farm, but at the age of sixteen began to learn the carpenter's trade. At twenty he was a journeyman and from that until the present time, with a brief exception of five or six years, he has been a carpenter and contractor. In 1841 he came to the town of Owego and has since lived in the village or town. Mr. Dean has been twice married. His first wife, with whom he married on April 25, 1844, was Julia L. Beecher, by whom he had nine children, six of whom are now living. His second wife, whom he married July 28, 1892, was Huldah Phelps, daughter of Bradford Phelps, of Owego.

ASA PHELPS, father of Bradford Phelps, came from Albany county in 1834, and located in the Park settlement north of Owego. His sons also came and settled in the same vicinity. Asa Phelps was a large and successful farmer, a highly respected man, and one whose influence in the county was always for the good. He had fourteen children. They were Electa, Lucy, Bradford, Jason, Harriet, Hiram, Asa, Sally, Jesse, Salina, Melissa, Othniel, Joel, and Amanzo.

HUGH DUGAN, well remembered as proprietor of the old Exchange Hotel in Owego for 17 years, and who was well known in the village for nearly a quarter of a century before his death, was a native of county Armagh, Ireland, and was the son of a physician of much note. He was also the grandson of an Irish lord, but the doctor having married against the wishes of his father, was discharged and disowned. At the age of 18 Hugh came to the United States, but not until about 1869 did he reside in Owego, having previously lived at Montrose. He was employed at the Central House barns about ten years, then himself bought and carried on

a barn two years. In 1867 he became landlord of the Exchange Hotel, with which he was connected until his death, October 12, 1884. Hugh Dugan is well and favorably remembered in Owego. His beginning in life was humble and he had many obstacles to overcome ; but overcome them he did, and rose to be a man generally respected. Mr. Dugan was twice married, his first wife being Orpha Brown, by whom he had one son, John, now in Binghamton. He married with Janette Henderson in 1863. Their only child was Charles B. Dugan, now proprietor of the Dugan House in Owego, and of the Hotel Crandall in Binghamton. On December 23, 1888, Charles B. Dugan married with Caroline A. Phillips. They reside at Binghamton.

SCOTT HARRIS, who for thirty and more years has been identified with business interests in Owego, was a native of Susquehanna county, Pa., born May 30, 1830. At the age of 21 he began business life in the employ of the now-called Erie railroad, in the capacity of brakeman and conductor, continuing about fifteen years when, in the spring of 1866, he became partner with John Barre in wagon and sleigh making on North avenue, in Owego. After about a year he returned to the road and for eighteen years was express agent. For four years beginning in 1888 Mr. Harris was partner with J. L. Matson as undertakers and furniture dealers. In 1895 the present firm of Fairchild & Harris, general shoe dealers was formed. Whether in the store, on the street, or at home, Scott Harris is the same genial, companionable person, and one upon whom nearly seventy years of active life have left no serious mark. In politics he is a republican, and has been twice a member of the village board of health. For many years he has been a member and trustee of the M. E. church. On December 3, 1857, Mr. Harris was married with Phebe Lamb. Three children have been born of this marriage, of whom two are living ; William, of New York, and Frederick P., of Owego, both employes of the Erie railroad company.

SAMUEL F. FAIRCHILD was born in Guilford, N. Y., July 20, 1832, and lived on a farm until about 25 years old when he went west.

After a year and a half he returned and came to Owego in 1860, from which time he has been in some manner identified with its business life ; first with the railroad company, then as clerk for Luce & Anthony, on Lake street, and afterward he opened a hat, cap and fur store for James Wilson, with whom he was connected until 1888 ; later for another proprietor until 1893, when he went into the coal business. In 1895 he became partner with Mr. Harris, dealer in boots and shoes. Mr. Fairchild is a straight, firm republican, but has held no office other than member of the local health board. He has been married three times ; first with Seressa M. Hedges, of Newark Valley ; second with Janette Hooker, and in 1889 with M. Augusta Townley, widow of R. A. Allen.

GEORGE PLATT, son of Nehemiah Platt, was born March 17, 1834, in the village of Nichols. He was educated at the public schools in Nichols. He left school upon the death of his father at the age of seventeen years and worked the old farm for his mother. He remained there until at the age of twenty-two he went to Lynn county, Iowa, and engaged for four years in farming. He returned east and went to Rattlesnake Run, Clinton county, Pa., where for eight years he was engaged in the lumber business. In 1871 he came to Owego, where he has since resided. On March 13, 1856, he was married to Sabina Hill, a daughter of Oren H. Hill, of the town of Tioga. She was born January 23, 1837. Mrs. Platt attended the academy in Owego, later studied medicine, and became a noted specialist in the treatment of cancers. Her life ended in Owego, October 4, 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Platt had one child, Hattie Louise, born October 26, 1864. She was married in December, 1886, to Edward Darrow, of Owego, and has one child, William Henry Darrow. Mr. Platt is a member of Owego Lodge, No. 54, Knights of Honor.

FAYETTE S. CURTIS, eldest child of Allen and Catherine Cook (Steele) Curtis, was born December 16, 1846. The Curtis and Steele families are of early New England stock, Henry Curtis, the emigrant and first American ancestor of this line, coming to America from Stratford-on-Avon in 1643. He located at Wind-

sor, Conn.; was married in 1646, moved to Northampton, Mass., in 1653, where he died in 1661. Allen Curtis, born in July, 1812, was the youngest of twelve children of Samuel Curtis, who married Olive Fowler in 1789, and came to Tioga county in 1823 from Stockbridge, Mass. Allen was a merchant and farmer. He married his wife Catherine (born 1819) in 1842. Their children were Fayette S., George Henry and Kate Steele Curtis. George Kellogg Steele, born 1778, married Catherine Cook, born 1786, and Catherine Cook Steele (Mrs. Allen Curtis) was the fifth of their seven children. Fayette Curtis, educated at district and private schools and Owego Academy, in 1873 began business life as a rodman on the Albany & Susquehanna railroad. After eighteen months' service as rodman and transit man, he attended a commercial college in New York for several months, and in 1865 entered the employ of the Southern Central railroad, then extending between Owego and Albany. In 1868 he was assistant engineer in making surveys for the town of Morrisania, now embraced in New York. A few months later he was an assistant engineer engaged in locating the Lake Ontario railroad between Oswego and Niagara. About 1870, he, in the same capacity, was making surveys for streets, etc., in what is now New York city. In 1871 he was assistant engineer of the New York & Harlem railroad, but was soon employed in the same capacity by the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. in locating a line from New Rochelle to New York. When this work was accomplished, he was again (in November, 1871) employed by the New York & Harlem railroad to make surveys and plans for eliminating its grade crossings through New York city, and on what was later called the "Fourth Avenue Improvement." After the plans were made Mr. Curtis was engaged in the construction of this work, first as principal assistant engineer, and later as chief engineer, until its completion in 1876. From this time he was in the employ of the New York Central until 1882, when he received the responsible appointment of chief engineer of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad. This position he now holds. Mr. Curtis married in October, 1872, Miss Mary Justine Bishop. Children: Wallace Bishop, Mary Justine and George Henry.

FRANK M. BAKER is the son of John D. Baker, and was born in Owego March 26, 1846. He was educated in the village schools, and afterward entered and graduated from Ames's business university in Syracuse. For a short time thereafter he worked as apprentice to the carpenter's trade with his father, but this work being distasteful he abandoned mechanical labor, and in February, 1864, entered the Erie railroad freight office as clerk under John C. Worthington. While chief clerk in this office he was appointed station agent of the Southern Central railroad, September 1, 1872. He resigned his position November 1, 1882, to become general superintendent of the Addison & Northern Pennsylvania railroad. He filled this position with ability until December 17, 1896, when he was appointed by Gov. Morton a railroad commissioner of the state of New York, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Michael Rickard, and was reappointed by Gov. Black. Mr. Baker has always been greatly interested in village affairs. He was a member of the board of trustees in 1873, 1874, 1876, 1879 and 1880, and president of the village in 1877. He also served three years as one of the village school commissioners, to which office he was elected in 1881. He has also taken great interest in fire matters. He served three years as president of the board of trustees of the Owego fire department, and was chief engineer in 1881; and he was instrumental in organizing the New York state firemen's association, of which he was secretary from 1874 to 1884, inclusive, and president in 1884 and 1885. In 1893 he was the leading spirit in the organization of the Central New York volunteer firemen's association, of which he has been president since its organization. While superintendent of the Addison & Pennsylvania railroad, Mr. Baker was from 1887 to 1891 also in charge of the Bradford, Eldred & Cuba railroad, as agent and receiver. He also spent the winter of 1894 and 1895 in Georgia, where he constructed the Darien & Western railroad, of which he was general manager. In 1895, he was appointed by Gov. Morton a member of the commission to represent the state of New York at the cotton states' exposition at Atlanta, Ga., and was subsequently chosen treasurer of the commission. In 1895, he established his son, George H. Baker, in the hardware business in Owego, in



W. A. Fergusson & Co.

Frank W. Baker

company with George S. Chatfield, and after Mr. Chatfield's death, in 1896, he purchased his interest in the business, and the firm is now known as Frank M. Baker & Son.

COL. EUGENE BUELL GERE, son of Isaac B. and Adaline B. (Drake) Gere, was born December 4, 1841, at Havana, N. Y. His early education was attained in the Owego academy. He studied law in Owego in the office of Warner, Tracy & Walker, and graduated from the Albany law school in May, 1861, after which time, in 1861, he enlisted in the 5th New York cavalry, and was a second and first lieutenant in Company G of that regiment. In a cavalry charge at Orange C. H., Virginia, August 2, 1862, he was shot through the left shoulder. He served till the latter part of the year, 1862, participating in a number of engagements, but owing to exposures, was obliged to return to his Owego home, where he remained a few months and then raised Company B, of the 21st New York Cavalry, and remained in the service until after the close of the war. He practiced law in Owego 16 years. Mr. Gere was justice of the peace in the town of Owego for five years, district-attorney of Tioga county for three years, and member of assembly in the legislatures of 1876 and 1877. He was frequently a delegate to state, congressional, and county conventions. He delivered many addresses on public occasions, especially on Decoration days and on the Fourth of July. He was for nearly six years the editor and proprietor of the *Owego Daily and Weekly Blade*. On June 18, 1867, he was married with Emily A. Truman, daughter of Lyman and Emily M. (Goodrich) Truman. Mr. and Mrs. Gere now make Owego their summer home, and spend their winters near Bealton, Fauquier county, Virginia, on a large farm where they have Jersey cattle and speedy horses.

HENRY YOUNG, who will be remembered with feelings of respect on the part of the older element of Owego's population, and who will also be recalled as one of the most thrifty and forehanded farmers of that town, was a native of England, living not far from the city of Bristol. He was placed in an agricultural school at the age of five years and remained there until he was graduated there-

from. He married twice, but his first wife bore him no children. He was 40 years old when he came to this country, in 1821, and he brought with him an excellent education, a good supply of improved farming implements, and a fair sum in cash to make a beginning in the region so new to him. The farm which he bought and settled upon in 1824, and built up and improved so well was called the "Hickories," and is now owned by George Young of Owego village. On this farm Henry Young, the settler, showed himself a successful agriculturist, a man of thorough understanding on general subjects, and here, too, he did his literary work as contributor to agricultural papers. Here he also died, September 3, 1865. Mr. Young's first wife was Elizabeth Thomas. His second wife was Elizabeth Cullmore, by whom he had two sons, Henry and George Young. George Young was born March 11, 1834, and was always a farmer in Owego until he removed to the village; but he still owns and has worked the old farm at the "Hickories," so long the home of his father. Mr. Young came to the village in 1889. He was married December 24, 1862, with Sarah Pauline, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Mersereau) Catlin. Their children were Juanita, wife of Chester Comstock; Anna Maria, wife of Dr. G. B. Lewis, and Fanny Pauline Young. In politics Mr. Young is an earnest and active republican, and has held the office of assessor since 1892. All his family are members of the Presbyterian church.

GEORGE S. NICHOLS, dairy farmer, son of Justus and Cerene (Smith) Nichols, was born September 22, 1863, on Mutton Hill, town of Owego. Justus Nichols, his father, born July 24, 1831, on Mutton Hill, is the only surviving child of Simeon and Esther (Fairbanks) Nichols. On March 9, 1855, Justus was married with Cerene, daughter of Benjamin and Lucy (Goodenow) Smith. She was born at Apalachin, N. Y., February 8, 1837, and died in Owego, April 16, 1897. They had six children; Lucy E., George S., Charles H., Andy L., Gertie A., wife of B. F. Dodge, and Leila H., wife of John J. Anderson. George S. Nichols lived with his parents on the farm on the south side of the river, two miles east of the village of Owego, until five years ago, when, on April 20,

1892, he was married with Helena, daughter of John and Sarah (Rowe) Yates. Mrs. Nichols was born February 2, 1870.

WHEELER STEDMAN, son of Lyman T. and Polly (Joslin) Stedman, was born at Flemingville June 4, 1848. He was educated in the district schools of Flemingville and studied a year in the Owego academy. He left school when 16 years of age and worked with his father on the farm until 1871 when he started farming for himself about five miles south of Owego on the Montrose turnpike. He worked on several farms until 1873 when he returned to his father's farm and remained until 1879 when he purchased 80 acres of timber land of the old Camp farm in Newark Valley. He then engaged in the lumber business in partnership with J. C. Brownell for 12 years. Mr. Stedman then returned to Flemingville and located in his pleasant home and became a dealer in hay, feed and produce and also coal. He served one term as town commissioner from 1885 to 1888. On March 8, 1870, Mr. Stedman was married with Jennie M. Reed, a daughter of James and Elnora (Fox) Reed. She was born December 4, 1850, near Apalachin. Mr. and Mrs. Stedman have one daughter, Stella I, born September 11, 1881.

JOHN JONES was born in Cardiganshire, South Wales, January 29, 1833. He came to America at the age of 8 years with his parents locating in Susquehanna county, Pa. Mr. Jones was educated in the district schools of his adopted home and later in the Owego academy. On leaving school he returned home and worked at farming for several years, and in 1865, came to Owego and entered in partnership with Michael Bergin as a grocer. In 1882 he sold his Owego interests and entered the lumbering business at Nanticoke, Pa., which he continues to-day. Mr. Jones still retains his Owego home. He has taken much interest in the affairs of this village, and was at one time its "mayor" and has been also trustee. He also served one term as town supervisor. On November 24, 1864, he was married with Emma Cooper, daughter of Robert and Ann (Steanberg) Cooper, of Warren Center, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have one child, Grace, the wife of George S. Tarbell, of Ithaca, N. Y.

JONAS SHAYS, was born April 26, 1855, son of Hiram and Lucinda (Stanton) Shays. He left school at the age of eighteen and entered his father's store as book-keeper, which position he held until 1880 when he started in the grocery business. He continued in that business for twelve years when he sold out and entered into a partnership in wholesale groceries, under the firm name of Shays & Leahy. Mr. Shays continued in that business for one year, when he sold out and was appointed postmaster of Owego, on June 28, 1893. This was the year during the factional contest in New York politics and many New York postmasters appointed by President Cleveland were not confirmed by congress. Mr. Shays was reappointed postmaster immediately after the adjournment of congress, on November 6, 1893, and held over until December 1, 1894, when his brother-in-law, Wm. J. Atchison, received the appointment of postmaster and appointed Mr. Shays his assistant. Mr. Shays has always taken an active part in politics and cast his first vote for Samuel J. Tilden. He held the office of town clerk for three successive times; was supervisor one year and also served on the board of trustees for the village of Owego one year. Mr. Shays was married November 4, 1885, with Ruth H. Barnes, born September 17, 1862, a daughter of Reed A. and Eliza Champlin Barnes. They have three children living; Laura W. Shays, born June 27, 1888, Wellington Barnes Shays, born July 29, 1890, and Clarence Stanton Shays, born November 18, 1894.

HENRY BILLINGS, was born November 1, 1826, in the town of Owego, near Hiawatha island, a son of John Billings, who came to Tioga county an early settler. Henry Billings attended the Canawana school and assisted his father in teaming lumber when a boy. In 1847 he began his career as a railroad man, by driving a team hauling the passenger coaches of the Owego and Ithaca railroad, as the present Cayuga branch of the D. L. & W. railroad was then known. In 1849, when steam supplanted horse power on the railroad, he became a brakeman and was soon promoted to baggagemaster. In 1853 he became a passenger conductor and ran between Owego and Ithaca for a period of thirty-two years. In 1885 he resigned his position and lived a retired

life until his death July 5, 1890. On January 14, 1851, he was married with Susan Higgins, born January 21, 1828, daughter of John Higgins. They had two children, Libbie, who died in 1854, aged three years, and William, who died in 1868, aged thirteen years. Mrs. Billings is still living in her home on Main street in Owego. Mr. Billings was three times elected president of the village of Owego (1887-88-89) on the republican ticket.

PROF. EZRA J. PECK, principal of Owego academy, was born December 19, 1830, at Seneca Castle, Ontario county, N. Y., a son of Dr. Enoch and Julitta A. (Jones) Peck. Professor Peck is a graduate of the public schools of Phelps, N. Y., and of Williams college, in Massachusetts, of the class of '51. He began his career as an instructor in the district schools of Cayuga county, N. Y., near Auburn. He was two years a teacher in the Springside school for boys, near Auburn, until 1856, when he went to live on the old homestead in Ontario county, where he remained two years. He then became principal of the Union and Classical schools at Phelps, N. Y., and remained there until the war when he enlisted in the Eighth New York Cavalry as first lieutenant in Troop D. After serving a year, Lieutenant Peck was prostrated by a fever and obliged to resign his commission. He returned home where he remained an invalid for a year. A short time later Prof. Peck resumed his position as principal of the Phelps schools where he remained until 1869 when he was elected school commissioner of the first district of Ontario county. On the expiration of his term of office he became associate principal of Canandaigua academy, where he remained for two years. In 1874 he became principal of Homer academy in Cortland county, N. Y., where he remained until 1886, when he became principal of the Owego academy, his present position, making a total of thirty-five years as an instructor of classics in public and private schools. On March 31, 1856, Prof. Peck married Annie L. Bartlett, born July 31, 1830, a daughter of Dr. John and Ann (Lingan) Bartlett, of Hartford, Conn. They have five daughters and one son, all living. Professor Peck is a mason, a knight templar and G. A. R. man. Both professor and Mrs. Peck are members of the Presbyterian church.

CAPTAIN EMMOTT HARDER was born July 8, 1835, in the town of Cobleskill, Schoharie county, son of Jacob and Polly Lamebecker Harder. He removed with his parents in 1837 to Broome county, near Binghamton, N. Y. Captain Harder received his education in the public schools of Broome county, and, at the age of sixteen, came to Owego and started to learn the machinist's trade in Camp's foundry and machine shops. He remained there three years, when he went to Athens, Pa., working at his trade in that place for two years ; then went to Scranton, Pa., working in the Dickson machine shops for two years, and from there to Candor, in this county, where he had charge of the machine department in the Candor Iron Works. On May 14, 1861, after assisting in the organizing of a company of volunteers of that place, he enlisted in Company K., 26th New York, volunteer infantry, and was elected second lieutenant. After the battle of Bull Run, Lieutenant Harder was promoted to first lieutenant, and a short time before the expiration of his service received his commission as captain. Among Captain Harder's engagements of the war were first battle of Bull Run, Cedar Mountain, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. In June, 1863, he received his discharge from the service at the expiration of his term, and returned to Candor and resumed his old occupation. A year later he came to Owego and purchased a boot and shoe business, which he has continued to the present time. Captain Harder was married on May 4, 1864, with Lucy A. Chamberlain, daughter of Lee N. and Lydia A. (Campbell) Chamberlain. They have no children. Captain Harder is a member, and was one of the eight organizers of Babcock Post, G. A. R., and is also a member of Friendship Lodge, F. & A. M.

REV. WASHINGTON GLADDEN, D. D., LL. D., was born in Pott's Grove, Northumberland county, Pa., February 11, 1836, son of Solomon and Amanda (Daniels) Gladden. In 1843, after the death of his father, who was a teacher at Lewisburg, Pa., Mr. Gladden removed to Tioga county where he lived upon a farm with his uncle, Ebenezer Daniels, until 1852 ; he then became an apprentice to the printer's trade in the office of the *Owego Gazette*, and contributed to the local columns of that paper. In 1855, he began to

prepare for college in the Owego academy and entered the sophomore class at Williams college in 1856, graduating in 1859. In 1860 he became pastor of the State Street Congregational church in Brooklyn. He subsequently was pastor of the Congregational church in Morrisania, N. Y., from 1861 to 1866, and of the Congregational church in North Adams, Mass., from 1866 to 1871. He then removed to New York and was on the editorial staff of the *New York Independent*, until 1875. From 1875 to 1883 he was pastor of the North Congregational church, at Springfield, Mass., and for some time edited "Sunday Afternoon," a monthly magazine. He then went to Columbus, Ohio, to be pastor of the First Congregational church in that city. Mr. Gladden was married, in December, 1860, with Jennie C. Cohoon in Brooklyn. They have had four children; Alice, Frederic Cohoon, Helen (wife of George R. Twiss, died in 1890), and George. Mr. Gladden has been a frequent contributor to papers and periodicals and a successful public lecturer. Among his published writings are: "Plain Thoughts on the Art of Living" (Boston, 1868), "From the Hub to the Hudson" (1869), "Workingmen and Their Employers" (1876), "Being a Christian" (New York, 1875), "The Christian Way" (New York, 1877), "The Lord's Prayer" (Boston, 1880), "The Christian League of Connecticut" (New York, 1883), "Things New and Old" (Columbus, 1884), "The Young Men and the Churches" (Boston, 1885), "Applied Christianity" (Boston, 1887), "Parish Problems" (New York, 1888), "Burning Questions" (London, 1889), "Who Wrote the Bible?" (Boston, 1891), "Tools and the Man," and "The Cosmopolis City Club" (1893), "The Church and the Kingdom" (Chicago, 1894), and "Ruling Ideas of the Present Age" (Boston, 1895).

EDWARD O. ELDRIDGE, cashier of the Owego National bank, was born August 21, 1861, at Slaterville, Tompkins county, N. Y., a son of Edward H. and Mary S. (Ball) Eldredge. The father, Edward H. Eldredge, was born September 11, 1806, at Salisbury, Conn., and removed when quite young with his parents to Berkshire, Tioga county. He graduated from a Philadelphia medical college, and, after practicing several years at Slaterville, he removed

to Berkshire in 1860, and returned a year later. He was married October 19, 1857, with Mary Sophia, daughter of Stephen and Polly (Leonard) Ball of Berkshire. She was born February 2, 1821. Their children were ; Mary L., born February 28, 1860 (Mrs. Romeo Brown, of Binghamton, N. Y.), Edward O., Frank A., born January 13, 1863, and Richard L., born November 1, 1866. Dr. Eldredge died in 1869. Edward O., on the death of his father, left school and went to live with an uncle, Levi Ball, on a farm at Berkshire. At the age of 12 he entered the store of another uncle, C. P. Johnson, at Berkshire, and soon rose to a clerkship, and in 1879, on the death of his uncle, became the manager. In 1882, he was taken as a partner by his aunt in the business under the firm name of E. O. Eldredge & Co. Nine years later he purchased Mrs. Johnson's interest, and, at the same time, came to Owego as cashier of the Owego National bank, which position he now occupies. In 1894, Mr. Eldredge sold his store. He was in 1895 appointed by Governor Morton one of the loan commissioners of Tioga county, and in 1896 was elected county treasurer for the term of three years. He was married January 23, 1885, with Cornelia Waldo Royce, daughter of John L. and Cornelia E. (Waldo) Royce. She was born April 9, 1863. Mr. and Mrs. Eldredge have one daughter, Elizabeth, born July 2, 1892 ; an older daughter, Anna, having died in February, 1895. Mr. Eldredge retains his residence at Berkshire, where his mother still lives.

LARUE H. CONKLIN, who has been connected with some department of the county government since 1885, and who in every capacity has proved a competent and efficient officer, was the grandson of Hiram Conklin, an early settler in Owego on Stanton Hill. Later on he removed to Big Island, where he died. His children were Ephriam, Henry, John, Frederick, David, Lewis D., Joseph, Charles, Nancy and Caroline. Charles was born in Owego in 1832, and has generally been a farmer, although he built many arks and run the river for years. He was one of the best pilots on the Susquehanna in his time. His wife was Julia A. LaMonte, by whom he had five children, LaRue H., Frank H., Cornelia E., Carrie A. and Minnie. LaRue Conklin was first appointed under

sheriff in 1885, serving three years, and was then keeper at the county farm from 1887 to 1893. In the fall of 1892 he was elected sheriff, and at the expiration of his term was made under sheriff. Mr. Conklin married Gussie A., daughter of William Mitchell, of Smithville, N. Y. They have three children.

WILLIAM COYLE, who has been known in Owego among business men since 1849, was a native of Manchester, England, and came to this country in 1849, and to Owego during the same year. For several years he worked in the railroad shops, and also for Frederick Parmalee. But in 1858 he became one of the firm of Clark, Coyle & Perry, Mr. Coyle being by trade a coachsmith and carriage ironer. The new firm was fairly started in business when an unfortunate fire swept away all of its property. But the generous people of Owego raised \$1,000 by subscription to rebuild the shop, and at the end of two years Mr. Coyle again became connected with the firm. After several years he sold out and established a livery business on North avenue, with which, until quite recently, he has since been connected. Mr. Coyle began his business life with no capital other than his trade and a strong constitution, and as a result of his work he is in comfortable circumstances and enjoys the respect and esteem of his fellow townsmen. In Utica, Mr. Coyle was married with Sarah Jane Embody. They have no children, but by informal adoption Thomas Croak is a member of the family, and now has charge of the livery.

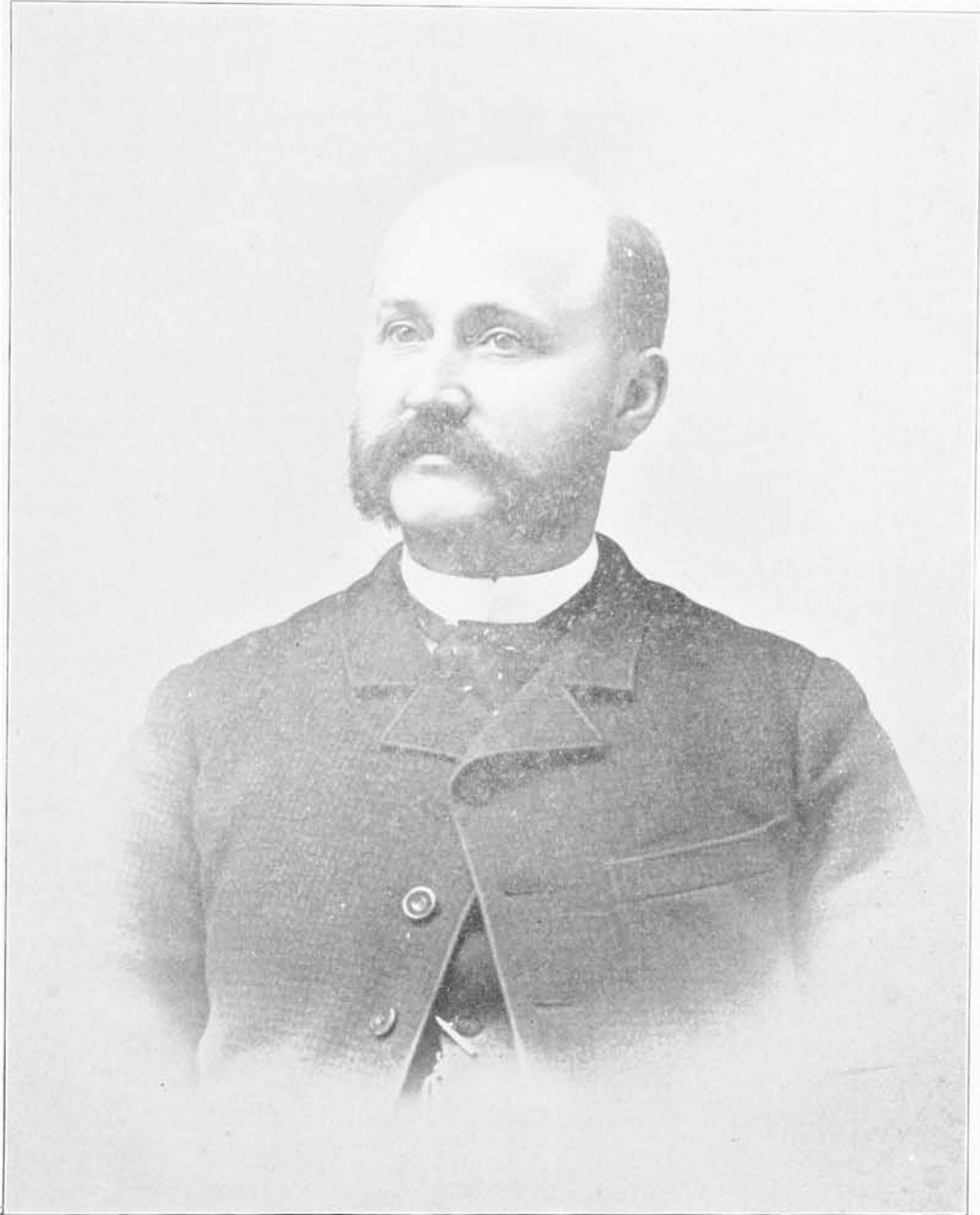
WARD DECKER, son of Anson and Phœbe (Washburn) Decker, was born in Owego, August 11, 1865. He was educated at the free academy, and was afterward in the book and stationery business about ten years. On April 16, 1895, he patented an automatic telephone appliance and an automatic switchboard, for the manufacture of which he erected a substantial building in the eastern part of the village. The business here is conducted by the Decker-Hinckley manufacturing company, of which Ward Decker is the active manager. Anson Decker was one of the old residents, and a native of Owego, born in the east part of the town, and through the period of his business life was one of its substantial and pro-

gressive citizens. On June 2, 1856, he married with Phœbe A. Washburn, by whom he had three children, George and Ruella, both of whom died in childhood, and Ward, of the Decker-Hinckley manufacturing company. Anson Decker was once deputy sheriff of Broome county and three times supervisor of the town of Owego. He died in the village May 23, 1880.

LEROY W. KINGMAN was a son of Col. John Kingman, one of the first settlers of Cortland county, N. Y., and was born August 9, 1808, at Cincinnatus, N. Y. He married May 8, 1837, with Maria Livermore, daughter of Col. William Livermore, of Spencer, Mass. In early life he was a merchant at Speedsville, N. Y., removing thence, in 1849, to Owego, where he continued the mercantile business. He was clerk of Tioga county, holding the office two terms from 1853 to 1859. He died in Owego March 2, 1861. His children are, LeRoy W. Kingman, editor of the *Owego Gazette*; William L. Kingman, general freight agent of the New York Central & Hudson River railroad; Mrs. Henry Campbell, Mrs. Charles K. Eastwood, and Miss Emily L. Kingman.

JOHN RIPLEY was born in Covington, Connecticut, March 17, 1792, of genuine sturdy stock exemplifying the Yankee's true characteristics. He came to Tioga county at an early day; was its sheriff sixteen years and held other offices of public and political trust. His wife was Diana Westfall, born in Orange county, N. Y., May 23, 1796. Four children blessed their union: Eliza Smith (still living in Illinois) married Ebenezer Woodbridge of Candor; Sarah Pierce (died in 1894); Charles Pomeroy, who has a son now, (May 1897) living in Owego. He died in Illinois December 1863; Frances Clarissa (who became the wife of Ezra Stone Buckbee in October, 1849.) John Ripley died January 22, 1860, and his wife died December 31, 1868.

EZRA S. BUCKBEE was born in the town of Owego, about three miles north of the village, in the year 1827, but when an infant his parents removed to Albany county where his father soon afterward died. The widow then came to Geneva to live. At the age



Asa F. Potter

of sixteen Ezra was a clerk in the grocery store of Lucius Truman and William P. Stone, with whom he became partner in 1850, under the firm name of Truman, Stone & Co. Stephen S. and Benjamin L. Truman were also members of the firm. Five years later the business was changed to dry goods, the firm name being Stone & Co. The store was called "The Empire Store." After Mr. Stone's retirement in 1870 Mr. Buckbee formed a partnership with Asa N. Potter of Owego and Edwin Booth of Candor, the firm-name then being Potter, Buckbee & Co. In March 1883, the firm of Buckbee, Peterson, Wood, Schoonmaker & Burgess was formed, Mr. Buckee being senior partner and active business man of the house. He was in business to the time of his death, August 10, 1883, and that event was regarded as a serious loss to Owego, for during the long period of his business life in the county Ezra S. Buckbee was looked upon as one of the staunch and straightforward men of the county, as well as one of Owego's most public-spirited citizens; an upright christian man, upon whose career there was no stain. Several children of relatives (and of those who were not) found a pleasant home in Mr. Buckbee's house. Truly the world was the better for his living.

THOMAS B. STEPHENS, son of John Stephens, was born in 1818 at Pawtucket, R. I. In 1820 or 1821 John Stephens became one of the first early settlers of Bradford county, Pa., at Warren Center. Thomas married there Mary G. Whittaker. They had nine children. Mr. Stephens purchased a farm at South Apalachin in 1863, which was his home until his death on July 4, 1875, and where his widow now lives.

JAMES ARCHIBALD will be remembered as one of the old business men of Owego. He was of Scotch parentage, born July 4, 1776, at Caldwell, Warren county, N. Y. Although not among the earliest settlers, he was an early resident of Owego, removing here February 22, 1822, with his family, consisting of wife and six children, Martha, Alvah, Almon, Samuel, Maria and Allen. He was a tanner, and started a small tannery in the village. He obtained a patent for a large tract of land on the south side of the

river, which he and his two sons cleared up. Later in life he became engaged in farming. He died February 8, 1857.

SAMUEL ARCHIBALD, born June 12, 1810, at Caldwell, Warren county, N. Y., accompanied his father to Owego at the age of ten years. From 1832 to 1851 he, in partnership with his brothers Alvah and Almon, became extensively engaged in lumbering, sale of boots and shoes, and also in the manufacture of gloves and mittens. In 1838 he built the tannery on the south side of the river, where for over forty years he carried on a large business. The same year he married Adeline Mason, of Kelloggsville, Cayuga county, and to them were born six children, five of whom are still living. He was known in the days of general training as "Major" Archibald, he having successively held the ranks of lieutenant, captain and major in the state militia. In politics he was a democrat. His death occurred November 25, 1891. His wife died January 28, 1887.

ASA N. POTTER is remembered as one of the most enterprising business men of Owego. He was born in Candor, N. Y., August 17, 1838, the son of Deacon Harvey and Mary Hart Potter. Before coming to Owego he was engaged in the mercantile business in Candor. After his removal to the county seat he was engaged in the same business, which he carried on with much success for about twenty years, associated with different partners, best known as a member of the firm of Potter & Buckbee. In 1882 he retired from active business, owing to failing health. Mr. Potter was married in 1863 to Georgianna, eldest daughter of Samuel Archibald, whose death occurred in 1875. In 1878 he married Delphine Archibald, a younger sister of his first wife. In politics he was a republican. He was elected president of the village in 1875, later was one of the board of school commissioners, and, at the time of his death, which occurred on December 9, 1890, he had been for many years a trustee of the First Presbyterian church, of which society he was a member.

JAMES T. ROGERS was born in April, 1864, in Owego, two miles north of the village, son of Dr. C. R. and Henrietta H. (Tracy)

Rogers. When Dr. C. R. Rogers was four years of age his father removed with the family to Whitney's Point in Broome county. Here he studied medicine and commenced its practice. Several years later he removed to Newark Valley where he now resides. James received his early education at the schools of Whitney's Point and Newark Valley, and completed his school course in the Owego academy in 1881. He became a clerk in the Owego post-office, and in 1883 was appointed assistant postmaster. It was under his supervision that the free delivery system was inaugurated in the village. In January, 1889, he commenced to study law in the office of Howard J. Mead, and held the offices of clerk of the surrogate court and village clerk of Owego until the fall of 1891, when he resigned and entered the law department of Cornell university. In his junior year at college he was unanimously chosen president of his class. On September 16, 1892, Mr. Rogers was admitted to the bar at Ithaca, before completing his studies. Later receiving the appointment as librarian of the law school, he returned to Ithaca college and was graduated in June, 1893, with the degree of bachelor of laws. Mr. Rogers was one of six members of his class selected by competition to participate in the annual law school prize debate, one of the events of commencement week; and at the contest he was awarded first prize. Before he graduated Mr. Rogers had accepted a clerkship in the law office of White & Cheney, at Syracuse, where he remained seven months after leaving school. In March, 1894, he formed a partnership with S. Mack Smith, of Binghamton, N. Y., which still exists. In May, 1895, Mr. Rogers was appointed police attorney at Binghamton. Mr. Rogers is a member of Friendship Lodge, F. & A. M., and is past sachem of Ahwaga Tribe, I. O. R. M., at Owego. He is also a member of the great council of the Red Men of the state. He is an honorary member of Defiance Hook & Ladder company, and during his residence in Owego was its assistant foreman.

JAMES HILL was born in the town of Tioga, December 14, 1816, a son of Chauncey and Lucy (Sexton) Hill. At an early age he learned the carpenter and joiner's trade, and subsequently became a well known and prosperous contractor and builder of Owego.

On April 4, 1839, he was married with Harriet Emily, a daughter of Edward S. and Lydia (Curry) Madan. Their children were; Sarah E. (Mrs. Albert H. Keeler), Lydia (Mrs. Ernest de Vallier), Charles O., and Ida E. (Mrs. G. A. Morton). Mr. Hill died January 5, 1887. Mrs. Hill married, second, N. E. Neal, of Nichols. Mr. Neal was born March 18, 1827, in Pennsylvania. In his early youth he located at Nichols and became a contractor and builder. Later in life he became a furniture dealer at Nichols, until he retired from active business life and removed to Owego.

EMILY ELIZABETH PLATT, seventh child of Wm. Platt, born April 28, 1829, married October 14, 1852, with Charles P. Skinner, born at Massillon, Ohio, August 12, 1827, son of C. K. Skinner, one of the early settlers in that country. Charles P. was educated at Gambia and the Western Reserve college, at Hudson, Ohio. He was in the mercantile business at Massillon for some years, and then engaged in shipping at Milan, Ohio, and, for a time, in New York city. He came to Owego in 1859, and in April of that year went into partnership with his brother-in-law, Fred E. Platt, in the clothing business. That partnership existed a year, and on March 1, 1862, he joined partnership in a grocery with T. A. Chatfield, which continued until the spring of 1866. When the extension of the Chenango canal was built he secured profitable contracts for the construction of portions of that work. He subsequently engaged as a government contractor for cascade locks at Portland, Oregon, and at various other places in the country as railroad contractor for a number of years. He was cashier of the National Union bank of Owego and had charge of the closing of the business of that institution in 1890. Mr. and Mrs. Skinner had one son, Frederick Platt Skinner, born October 31, 1858. He is now living with his mother in Owego. Mr. Skinner died June 10, 1882.

ROBERT COLE came from Cambridgeshire, England, in the year 1824, and settled in the town of Owego, up the creek three miles. Here he afterward lived many years, a good farmer and worthy citizen. He brought to this country a wife and six children, and

two others were born after the settlement in town. The children were James, who died in Iowa ; Harriet, who married with William C. Talcott ; John who died at seventeen ; Thomas, who moved to Iowa ; Abram, who lives on the old home farm ; Ann, who died in infancy ; Robert, now living in Missouri ; and Mary Ann, who married with Eugene Hammond and lived and died in Owego. Robert Cole died in Owego in 1874, at the age of 82 years. His wife died in 1854. William C. Talcott and Harriet Cole were married September 10, 1845, and to them was born one child, who died in infancy. Mr. Talcott was a farmer and a man much respected in the town. His farm was near Robert Cole's in the north part of the town. He came to Owego to live in 1874, and he died two years later.

REV. FATHER RYAN, Pastor of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic church at Owego, was born October 25, 1847, in County Kearney, Ireland. He came to this country when fourteen and lived with an uncle at Milwaukee, Wis., where he began his studies for the priesthood at St. Francis de Stael's school. In 1865, he went to the Niagara Falls university, completed his theological course and was ordained by Bishop Ryan in 1871. His first pastorate was as an assistant to Father Clark in the Catholic church at Elmira. He remained six months, and was transferred to assist the Vicar-General, Father Gleason, at Buffalo. A half year later he took charge of the Cauba at Allegany, St. Bonaventure college. Six months later he became pastor of the Catholic church at Addison, where he remained five years. He has also had pastorates at Ellicottville, Cattaraugus county and at Watkins Glen ; at Watkins he remained fifteen years, and came to Owego in 1893, the successor to Father Johnson. On June 3, 1896, at Owego, Father Ryan celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination. It was a brilliant event in the life of this devoted divine. The church was beautifully decorated and the ceremonies, conducted by old friends prominent in the Catholic clergy, were very impressive. Among the eminent clergymen present were Rev. Dr. Quigley of Buffalo and Rev. Dr. McHale, President of Niagara university.

IRVING J. DELAVAN, produce and stock dealer at Owego, was born April 27, 1834, at Willett, Cortland county, N. Y., a son of Charles and Maria (Adams) Delavan. Mr. Delavan was educated in the common schools of his native village and at the academy at Cincinnatus, Cortland county. After leaving school, he worked with his father on the farm and remained there until 1874, when he came to Owego and engaged in buying and selling general produce and live stock. Mr. Delavan was married November 16, 1868, with Eleanor A. Newcomb, a daughter of Samuel E. and Emily (Tyler) Newcomb, of Cortland county. She was born March 3, 1848, at Willett, and was educated in the academy at Cortland and Barton seminary at Binghamton. Mr. and Mrs. Delevan have two children; Emma Tyler, born March 16, 1880, and Bertha Newcomb, born January 27, 1882.

LUCIEN HORTON, son of Homer and Jane (Davidge) Horton, was born at Bethel, Sullivan county, N. Y., December 14, 1836. Mr. Horton was reared and educated at Liberty Falls in Sullivan county. He left there in 1858. He entered business with Mr. John Davidge under the firm name of Davidge, Horton & Co., and operated a tannery in Pennsylvania. He came to Berkshire in this county in 1865 when the firm purchased the T. C. Bidwell & Co.'s tannery at Berkshire, and remained there until his death on November 10, 1892. Mr. Horton was twice married. His first marriage, on November 12, 1861, was with Harriet Burr, a sister of Mrs. John Davidge. She was born August 21, 1836. They had seven children. In 1885 Mr. Horton married Alatheia Ball, daughter of Asa and Esther (Manning) Ball, of Berkshire. By this union there were two children. Since 1895 Mrs. Horton has resided with her children at Binghamton, N. Y.

FRED HAMILTON, optician, son of Joel A. and Sarah E. (Taylor) Hamilton, was born April 5, 1873, at Halsey Valley, Tioga county. Joel A., born November 30, 1833, was a son of Thomas A. and Sally Hamilton. Joel Hamilton is a contractor and builder, and resides at Owego. Mrs. Hamilton, wife of Joel, was born in 1830 at Enfield, Tompkins county, and came to this county with her

parents when a child, and was married with Joel Hamilton on February 10, 1858. Fred came to Owego with his parents, and his education was attained in the Owego public schools. In 1887 he left school and entered the employ of W. A. Lawrence, jeweler and optician, and four years later he purchased a half interest in the firm. In January, 1896 (on the death of Mr. Lawrence), Mr. Hamilton became sole proprietor of the business. On October 1, 1896, Mr. Hamilton married Harriett E., daughter of Edwin and Sarah F. Bush, of Lansing, Tompkins county. They live on a small farm just east of Owego village. Mr. Hamilton is a member, and also the assistant foreman, of the Owego hook and ladder fire company, and also of Ahwaga Tribe, No. 40, I. O. of R. M.

GEORGE S. HANSELL was born February 11, 1841, at Philadelphia, Pa., a son of William S. and Elenor (Forde) Hansell. Mr. Hansell was educated in the public schools of his native city, and later under a private instructor. He entered business with his father, under the firm name of William S. Hansell & Sons, leather and harness manufacturers. In 1879 Mr. Hansell removed to Owego, where he has since resided. He was married August 7, 1873, with Laura W. Storrs, a daughter of Aaron Putnam and Frances Abigail (Camp) Storrs. She was born at Owego January 10, 1854. Mr. and Mrs. Hansell have one son, Francis Storrs Hansell, born May 5, 1874. He is a graduate of Owego academy, of the class of '90, and also of Cornell university, taking the degree of Ph. B. in the class of '96.

ISAAC W. GROESBECK, son of John N. and Sarah (Becker) Groesbeck, was born September 28, 1822, in the town of Owego, one-half mile south of the village, on the Montrose turnpike. His father, a farmer of Dutch ancestry, was born in Washington county, N. Y. He moved with his parents when a child to Rensselaer county, where he lived until April, 1822, when he came to Tioga county, accompanied by his wife and five children. He purchased and located on what is now the Archibald farm on the turnpike. Eight years later he sold that place and bought a large tract opposite Hiawatha island, on the south bank of the Susque-

hanna. This farm has been the homestead of the family and occupied by Isaac W., the younger son, for sixty-six years. He inherited a portion of the old farm, and by hard work and careful saving has added to the old place, accumulating in all over two hundred acres, which he has divided among his children. Isaac Groesbeck, on January 7, 1851, was married with Sophia Probasco, born March 1, 1829, a daughter of Samuel and Lydia Probasco. Mrs. Groesbeck came to Tioga county with her parents from Port Jervis, N. J., about 1835. Mr. and Mrs. Groesbeck have three children, Charles H., William E. and Theodore, all now living near the old home. Mr. Groesbeck has always been a republican and has held the offices of pathmaster and school trustee. While not a member, he has always been a devout attendant of the Methodist church in Owego.

AARON STEELE, agent for the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad at Apalachin, was born at that place January 9, 1835, a son of Ranson and Rebecca (Dean) Steele. Aaron was educated in the public schools at Apalachin and studied at the Owego academy, and afterward took a more advanced course at the Collegiate Institute at Towanda, Pa. He left school in 1855 and entered his father's store at Apalachin and was its manager until 1860. On the death of his parents he became proprietor. Mr. Steele remained in Apalachin until 1876, when he removed with his family to Binghamton, where they remained one year and returned to their native home. Mr. Steele was appointed postmaster of Apalachin in 1860, succeeding his father, and held that office until 1884. He served one term as town supervisor, elected in 1884. Mr. Steele was married on April 29, 1856, with Anna C. Camp, a daughter of Asa and Margarett Camp, of Owego. Mr. and Mrs. Steele have nine children; Mary, Helen Gertrude, Laura A. (Mrs. Frank J. Knapp), Grace R., Clara S. (Mrs. Frank Holmes), Charles R., Raymond D., Leonore F., and Florence B. Mr. Steele was appointed agent of the D., L. & W. railroad at the opening of the Buffalo division in 1880. He is also agent for the Scranton Coal Company and the U. S. Express Co.

NATHANIEL CATLIN, son of Nathaniel, born September 24, 1796, in New Jersey, came to Tioga county with his parents when very young. The family located three miles below Owego in the town of Nichols. Nathaniel, Jr., married Jane D. Brodhead, and reared six children; Delinda (Mrs. Benj. F. Tracy), Maria (Mrs. Avery Olmstead), Avery B., Isaac S., George L., and Hannah, deceased. Mrs. Catlin died in 1875 and Mr. Catlin, September 26, 1893.

GEORGE LANE CATLIN, son of Nathaniel (Jr.) and Jane D. (Brodhead) Catlin, was born in the town of Owego, March 10, 1836. He attended in his youth the district schools and also the academy at Owego. In 1859 he left school and commenced work on his father's farm. In 1869 Mr. Catlin was appointed internal revenue inspector for New York city, an *attache* of the district attorney's office. This office he held for two years, returning to his native home in 1871, and for fifteen consecutive years thereafter he was superintendent of Gen. Benj. F. Tracy's stock farm "Marshland." In 1876, and again in 1892, Mr. Catlin was elected justice of the peace at Apalachin. In 1873, he served also as commissioner of highways. Mr. Catlin purchased a farm of 150 acres, on Chestnut ridge, in 1886. Mr. Catlin was married March 30, 1880, with Cora A. Brown, of Towanda, Pa. They have one child, George Brodhead, born December 22, 1890. Mr. Catlin is a member of Tioga county agricultural society, a life member of the New York state agricultural society, and also of Friendship Lodge, F. & A. M., Owego. Mr. and Mrs. Catlin are members of the Methodist church.

RANSOM S. PEARSALL, postmaster at Apalachin, was born in that village, January 23, 1838, a son of Wm. S. and Eliza (Balcom) Pearsall. Mr. Pearsall attended the public schools at Apalachin and also studied in the academies at Owego, Binghamton and at Oxford, N. Y. He started in business at the age of 18 years with his brothers, succeeding his father in the milling business at Apalachin. In the spring of 1865 he met with heavy losses by flood and from that time he was engaged in farming and lumbering. In 1884 he was elected justice of the peace at Apalachin and re-elected in 1888. He was appointed postmaster in 1893. Mr.

Pearsall was married on February 22, 1865 with Adaline V. Billings, a daughter of Clinton and Ann (Bronson) Billings. She was born January 1, 1846. Mr. and Mrs. Pearsall have four children ; Grace L., born December 20, 1865 ; William C., born January 22, 1868 ; Anna L., born June 27, 1871, wife of Edgar S. Lane of Apalachin ; and Emily G., born July 15, 1879. Mr. Pearsall is a member of Els-Kwa-Ta-Wa Tribe, No. 261, I. O. R. M. of Apalachin.

JAMES HOLMES, son of John and Evaline Holmes, of Apalachin was born in that village December 8, 1845. He was educated in the public schools of Apalachin and in 1862 attended Eastman's business college at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. In 1865 he started in life in the mercantile business at Apalachin which he continued until 1869. Mr. Holmes traveled in the west for two years and on his return in 1872 received an appointment in the New York State Insurance Department at Albany. He continued in that office until 1882 and in 1884 went west to South Dakota where he remained two years. On his return to Apalachin in 1885 he entered extensively in the lumbering and milling business which he continues to-day. In the fall of 1885 he was elected commissioner of highways and served until 1891. Mr. Holmes was postmaster of the state senate at Albany in 1890 and 1891. On May 1895, he was appointed state fish and game protector which office he now holds. Mr. Holmes is a member of Friendship Lodge, F. & A. M., at Owego, and of Els-Kwa-Ta-Wa Tribe, I. O. R. M. of Apalachin. On September 10, 1869, he was married with Louise Camp, a daughter of Asa and Margarett Camp, of Owego. Mrs. Holmes was born February 21, 1847.

RANSOM S. HOLMES, superintendent of General Benj. F. Tracy's stock-farm "Marshland," was born at Apalachin, January 13, 1855, a son of Stephen and Susan (Jewett) Holmes. Stephen Holmes was born in Dutchess county, N. Y., in 1812 and came to Tioga county with his parents when a young man. On December 31, 1845, he married Miss Clarinda Morey, of Orwell, Pa. She died in 1849. Their only surviving child, John Holmes, Jr., resides in Apalachin. He was a farmer and about 1850 was proprietor of

the Exchange hotel at Apalachin. His second marriage occurred on October 13, 1853, with Susan W. (Hilton) Jewett, born April 29, 1824, a daughter of John and Anna (Kelly) Jewett. They had two children; Lydia Hilton, born July 16, 1849, and Ransom S. Mr. Holmes died in 1875. Ransom was educated in the public schools at Apalachin. At the age of twenty-one, he commenced farming for himself, which occupation he continued until 1889, when he became superintendent of the Marshland stock-farm. He was married April 27, 1884, with Nettie E. Giles, daughter of John S. and Martha (Glover) Giles. She was born August 31, 1868, at Apalachin. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes have had three children, one surviving; Marcia S., born November 14, 1884, died August 4, 1885; Dora A., born February 1, 1889; and Lancy J., born March 10, 1892, died May 16, 1892. Mr. Holmes is a member of Els-Kwa-Ta-Wa Tribe, No 261, I. O. R. M., at Apalachin.

CHARLES P. DOBLE, stock dealer and trainer at Apalachin, was born at Trenton, N. J., July 27, 1855, a son of William H. and Lina Doble. His father was the proprietor of an extensive stock farm and owner of many noted fast horses. Mr. Doble at an early age left school and entered business on his father's farm. Devoted to the horse, he soon became a proficient driver, and at the age of fifteen years began business for himself as a trainer of trotting horses. In this capacity, and in company with his brother, Budd Doble, he has had in his care some of the fastest trotting horses of the present age. In 1875 Mr. Doble came to Tioga county, locating at Apalachin, where he became trainer of the fast horses of Gen. Benj. F. Tracy's Marshland stock farm. He remained there eight years, when he removed to Owego. Two years later he went west with his brother, Budd Doble, remaining six years. Returning to Apalachin in 1895, he opened a stable and began training a large string of horses. On April 30, 1882 Mr. Doble was married with Mary M. Dingman, daughter of Abram and Adaline (Hill) Dingman, of Campville. She was born March 3, 1857, at Campville. Mr. Doble is a member of Friendship lodge, No. 153, F. & A. M., of Owego, N. Y., and Els-Kwa-Ta-Wa tribe, No. 261, I. O. R. M., of Apalachin.

DEAN.—From *Den* or *Dene* has arisen the surname Deane. A *Den* was the Saxon appellation for a depression or narrow valley below the level of the surrounding country. There are many such depressions in County Devon and Somerset. The name is preserved in Taunton Dean, etc., and the Deanes of that valley showed their pride in that fertile locality by the saying, “Where should I be born else than in Taunton Dean?” The Deanes had lived for centuries in and near Taunton, Somersetshire, England; from which place John and Walter Deane, brothers, emigrated to Taunton, Mass., in 1637. They were made freemen of Plymouth colony in 1638. Walter was prominent in town affairs and a representative to the general court. He was a tanner, and tanning has been carried on by members of the family for many generations. Walter Deane, (1) born in Chard, near Taunton, England, between 1615 and 1620, married Eleanor, daughter of Richard Strong, of Taunton, England. Their third son, Benjamin Deane (2), married 1680-81, January 6, Sarah, daughter of Samuel and Jane (Gilbert) Williams, of Taunton, Mass. Their second son, Benjamin Deane (3), born July 31, 1699, at Taunton, married Zipporah Deane, a great-granddaughter of John Deane the emigrant. Their second son, Isaac Dean (4), born about 1735, at Taunton, Mass., married Rachel Staples. In the revolutionary archives in Boston this Isaac Dean appears as corporal and sergeant with service done his country in 1775—1778 and 1779. In this generation the “e” is dropped from the name, though the Deanes of Taunton yet retain the original spelling. Isaac Dean (5), second son of Isaac and Rachel Dean, born 1781, February 12, in Taunton, Mass., moved to Berkshire county and there married Roby, daughter of Simeon and Esther (Mason) Martin, 1804, May 28. Isaac Dean afterward made Adams, Berkshire county, Mass., his home, and there carried on the traditional business of tanning. Among his children were twins, Horatio Nelson Dean (6) and Alanson Porter Dean (6), born 1812, February 19. Horatio continued his father’s business in Adams, and Alanson had a tannery for many years in Cheshire, Mass., from which place he came to Owego, and September 15, 1862, purchased from Elihu Parmenter the property since known as “Dean’s Tannery.” Alanson P. Dean (6), married Caroline M.

Wood, 1835, May 7. Their children born in Cheshire were ; Ellen (Mrs. Stephen Crandall) ; Morton, of Pittsfield, Mass. ; Burdette, now of Buffalo, N. Y. ; Elnora (Mrs. George A. King), of Owego ; Sumner, of Owego ; Lydia (Mrs. John Carlson), of Owego ; and Caroline Dean, now living with her mother in Owego. Alanson P. Dean died in Owego July 28, 1888, and was buried in Cheshire. H. Nelson Dean was married October 6, 1835, in Adams, to Mary, daughter of Samuel and Mercy (Slocum) Bowen. He died in Owego August 8, 1872. Their children (7th gen.) were ; Mary Celestia ; Ransom Bowen Dean, died in Adams May 2, 1889, and was buried in Owego ; Isaac Nelson Dean, now a resident of Clark, Dak. ; Anna M., who lives in Owego with her mother, Mrs. Mary Dean ; and Samuel Sayles (died young). Mary Celestia Dean, November 16, 1858, married Thomas S. Arnold, esq., of Herkimer, N. Y., son of Nathan Arnold, of Fairfield, N. Y., and had a daughter, Etta M. Arnold. Thomas S. Arnold was in the 121st New York infantry in the civil war, serving as first lieutenant, adjutant and captain. He was wounded at the battle of Fredericksburg and died May 19, 1863, at Potomac creek hospital. December 28, 1880, his widow married Hon. Charles A. Clark, of Owego. H. Nelson Dean and son Ransom B. Dean, on October 29, 1869, purchased the Owego tannery property of Alanson P. Dean, and soon moved his family from Adams to Owego, leaving Ransom B. Dean in charge of the business in Massachusetts. The H. N. Dean & Son tannery property now belongs to E. M. Arnold, and the business is carried on in her name.

LEONARD, the name is Saxon, and was spelled in the sixth century as now. The Leonard family have been identified with Owego since pioneer days. In 1651, James and Henry Leonard came with the Second Winthrop to Massachusetts. Here, at Lynn, Braintree, and Taunton, they entered into iron industries. They were an "iron" family by training, coming from Pontypool, in Wales (Monmouthshire). The Leonards are of the family of *Lennard*, Lord Dacre. They bear the same arms and motto, viz : "Three fleur de lys, on a red band, upon a golden shield." The crest is a wolf-dog's head, and the motto, "*Pour bien desirer.*" The present

baron in England is Sir Thomas Barrett-Lennard, of "Belhus," Avely, Essex. Mr. Henry Barrett-Lennard, of Well Walk, Hempstead, London, is of the same family. The Owego Leonards are descended from the Taunton progenitors thus : Thomas, of Pontypool, England ; James, born 1610, James, born 1643, Stephen, born 1680, died 1743, of Taunton, Mass. ; Joshua, born 1724, of New Jersey, died 1760 ; Silas, born 1756, Whippany, N. J. ; Stephen Banks, born 1793 ; William Boardman, 1st., born 1821 ; Lewis Hermon, born 1850 ; William Boardman, 2d., born 1874. The elder Leonard, Silas, born at Whippany, N. J., 1756, came to Owego in 1813 from New York city, and here on April 15, 1793, was born Stephen Banks Leonard. Silas Leonard, a manufacturer of leather goods, was of dignified presence and esteemed for his piety. He was blind during the last years of his life. His son, while quite a youth, went to Albany and in the *Argus* learned type setting. His fellow compositor was Thurlow Weed, and they became fast friends for life. He later engaged in printing and newspaper publication in Owego, which he continued for twenty-two years (see page 198). He purchased land on the river and built a residence on the site now occupied by Mr. C. Campbell. From March 11, 1816, to May 15, 1820, he was postmaster, also from November 20, 1844, to April 18, 1849. He purchased the stage and post routes to Binghamton, Norwich, Penn Yan, Bath, and other points. He was an active and interested free mason and held high positions in the craft. On February 22, 1818, he married Esther Henrietta Sperry, a half-sister of William, Nathan, Anson, and Hermon Camp. Their children were ; William Boardman, Hermon Camp, Henrietta, George Sperry, Emily Caroline, Washington Irving, and Laura Ann. Mr. Leonard was a public spirited citizen. He aided in obtaining the incorporation of the academy. He went to Albany and secured grants of books and founded the Owego public library, and in other ways toiled for the development of Owego. In 1835 he was elected a member of congress and served until 1841. A fluent and graceful speaker, preparing his addresses with much care, his influence became potent in his large congressional district, which reached from Pennsylvania to the lake. He was honored with handsome appointments, and retired

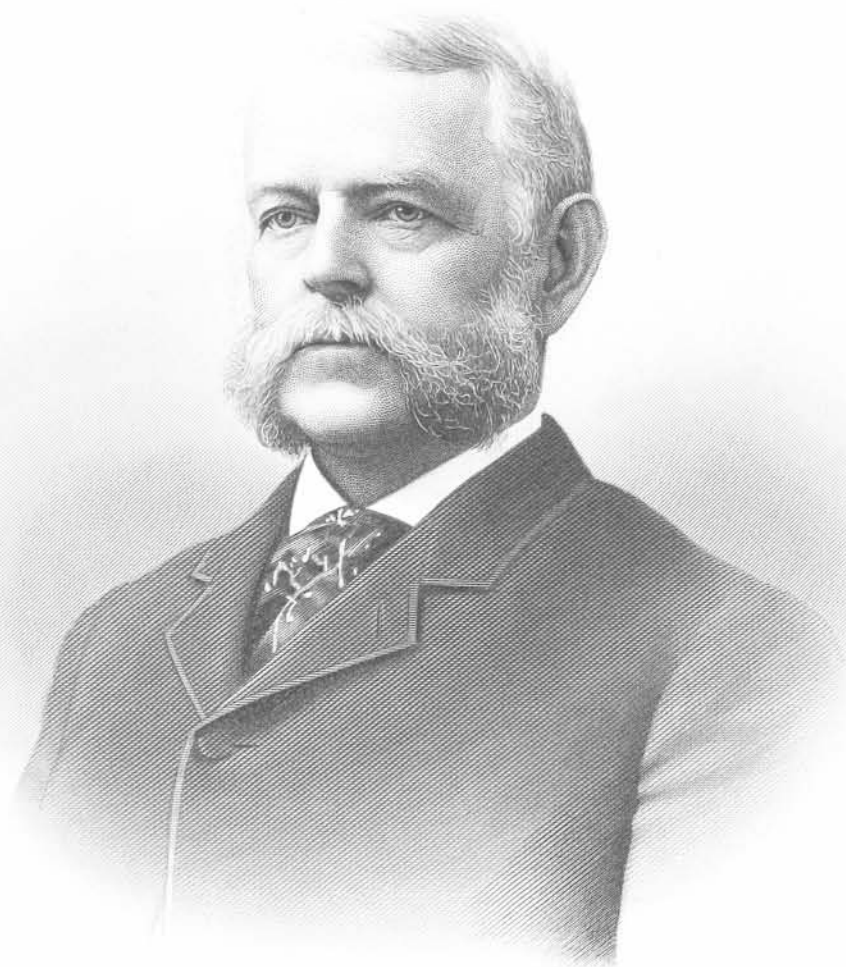
from congress with credit. On his return to Owego he engaged in farming, and here, at the "Locusts," east of the village, he lived for some years. Returning to the village he purchased the residence on Main street where his daughters now dwell. His venerable figure was well known by all in the streets. He was a model gentleman, and his urbanity was a frequent subject of remark. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard were consistent members of the Presbyterian church. Stephen Banks Leonard and Esther Henrietta, his wife, died in Owego, and they are buried in the cemetery adjoining the Presbyterian church.

WILLIAM BOARDMAN LEONARD, oldest son of Stephen Banks and Esther Henrietta Leonard, was born at Owego on June 17, 1821, in the house now standing immediately in rear of Mr. C. Campbell's house. He was prepared for college at the Owego academy, but at 17 years of age went to Trumansburg, and became a member of his uncle Hermon Camp's household, and a clerk in his establishment. Here he remained till he was 27 years old, when he became a salesman in New York. He soon went to Albany and entered the state auditor's office. Completing his term of work, he again returned to New York and with his brother-in-law, Benjamin Pomeroy, established the mercantile house of Pomeroy & Leonard, and later became successively a partner in the large dry-goods jobbing houses of Hurlburt & Sweetser, Hurlburt, VanValkenburg & Co., and P. VanValkenburg & Co. Some years after he founded the commission house of Leonard, Rhodes & Grosvenor, and then the house of Leonard & Farrington. After the close of the civil war in 1865, Mr. Leonard retired from mercantile pursuits, and founded the banking house of Leonard, Sheldon & Foster. It became a powerful financial office, changing its title to Leonard, Sheldon & Co., and, later, when Mr. Leonard gave up active pursuits, to Decker, Howell & Co. While in business Mr. Leonard was a director in important institutions. He was one of the founders of the American Surety Co., a director in the bank of North America, the founder and president of the Kings County bank in Brooklyn, vice-president of the society for protecting children, and was president of the Homeopathic hospital of Brooklyn

and one of its founders. He identified himself with the best interests of his city and community. Twice he was proffered the mayoralty of Brooklyn, and twice was offered nomination to congress, but refused to enter public life. He was a devout and devoted churchman, and for forty years held office as vestryman and warden of Holy Trinity church, Brooklyn. He was a member of the governing board of the "Church Charity Foundation" in Brooklyn for many years. One of the deserving honors bestowed upon him was his selection as a trustee of the famous "Brooklyn Bridge." His name is carved high on its towers as a memorial. During all these years his heart was in Owego, where his beloved parents and kinsfolk dwelt. Each year he returned to his native village and found its surroundings and its valley scenery the most satisfying and beautiful rest he could find. Here he made his summer home, and here he closed his eyes on July 1, 1893. The service of burial was held in St. Paul's church, Owego, and his body was thence taken to Greenwood cemetery on the edge of Brooklyn. William Boardman Leonard was named for his mother's favorite cousin, Judge William W. Boardman of New Haven. Handsome in his personal features, gracious and courteous, like his venerable father, his manners were easy and his bearing kindly. He had a generous heart, a loving nature, a christian walk and conversation. He bore no malice, and was beloved by all. His children are Right Rev. William Andrew Leonard, D. D., Episcopal bishop of Ohio, of Cleveland, Ohio., Lewis Leonard, of Brooklyn, and Louisa Bulkley Van Nostrand, also of Brooklyn.

WAVERLY AND TOWN OF BARTON.

HOWARD ELMER was born in the town of Wawayanda, Orange county, N. Y., on August 2, 1833, the eldest son of Richard A. and Charlotte B. Elmer. He descended from a worthy ancestry, dis-



Edward Elmer.

tinguished for steadfastness of purpose and unfaltering adherence to principle—the unflinching Covenanters of Scotland and the staunch Puritans of New England. He early developed, and sustained through life, the indomitable fixedness of purpose and the intense conscientiousness and devotion to the right, which were his by inheritance, and which characterized his every action. He was prepared for college at the Ridgebury and Goshen academies, but delicate health prevented the continuance of his course of study. He came with his father to Waverly in 1850, a lad of seventeen, and was soon employed in the old Waverly bank ; and his financial education was continued in the Chemung Canal bank at Elmira, and in the First National bank of the same place. In 1864 Mr. Elmer organized the First National bank of Waverly, was its cashier until 1868, then its president for the remainder of his life. He married in October, 1865, Miss Sarah P. Perkins, daughter of the late George A. Perkins, of Athens, Pa. Waverly was his chosen residence, and there his name was closely identified with the leading religious, benevolent and business projects of this section. He had a genius for the successful management of difficult enterprises, and while a man of varied and responsible affairs, no department of business was of more absorbing interest to him, nor evidenced more fully his superior executive ability and foresight, than the founding, building and developing of Sayre, Pa., now a railroad centre of importance and one of the most prosperous manufacturing points of northern Pennsylvania. This is situated just south of the New York state line, comprises a portion of the old estate of Mrs. Elmer's grandfather, the late John Shepard, and lies in the beautiful Susquehanna valley, midway between the villages of Waverly and Athens. Mr. Elmer had great faith in the geographical advantages of the territory, and conceived the idea of building a town at the junction of the Lehigh Valley and the Southern Central railroads, and making it the terminus of the two northern railroads then running to Athens, and in 1870 he associated with himself the late Charles L. Anthony, of New York city, the late James Fritcher and the late Richard A. Elmer (his brother) of Waverly, and purchased the Morley, Hopkins and W. H. Thomas farms, containing 321 acres, and commenced his work.

In April, 1871, he purchased the Leggett, Harris, and parts of the Hiram Thomas and Hayden farms, making the company the owners of 738 acres, at a total cost of \$140,000. A portion of the last mentioned land contained the railroad junction. In July, 1871, Judge Asa Packer, representing the Pennsylvania & New York railroad company, purchased of Howard Elmer & Co. about 100 acres of the land, including the junction, and in 1872 began here the erection of a large roundhouse. Mr. Elmer, feeling confident that the time had come, proceeded to lay out the town. The land was surveyed and the work of opening and grading streets was commenced. A contour map was made, delineating the proposed streets, blocks and lots, and work was begun in earnest under his immediate supervision and direction. The company, through Mr. Elmer as its manager, obtained permission in 1873 to erect at the junction a passenger station, and a number of dwellings were finished the same year. In 1873, also, the Southern Central and Ithaca & Athens offices were removed to the new station (named by Mr. Elmer "Sayre" in honor of Robert H. Sayre, president of the Pennsylvania & New York railroad company, and general superintendent of the Lehigh Valley railroad company). The same year the Cayuta car wheel foundry commenced operations. The panic of 1873, and the consequent depreciation of values, for a time retarded the growth and progress of Sayre and deferred the immediate building of the railroad shops and offices which were already contemplated; but Mr. Elmer did not swerve from his purpose, and continued to concentrate industries here, which the future would develop. A postoffice was established in 1874, and a hotel and several dwellings and shops erected. In 1875 Robert A. Packer, son of Judge Asa Packer, and superintendent of the Pennsylvania & New York railroad company, removed to Sayre, bought several acres of Mr. Elmer, and commenced a palatial residence (the town already having become of so much importance that the railroad authorities decided to make it the point of distribution for the northern traffic). Other officials of the road soon made their home here, necessitating the erection of the fine general office building, commenced in 1876. In 1878, after the death of Mr. Anthony,* Mr. Elmer induced the Packer family, E. P. Wilber,

*Which occurred in 1874.

president of the Lehigh Valley railroad, and Mr. Robert Lockhart, of South Bethlehem, Pa., all prominent in railroad circles, to purchase one-half of the Anthony interest, which resulted in centering at Sayre the great shops of the Pennsylvania & New York and the Lehigh Valley railroads. The Sayre land company was organized soon after. Mr. Elmer was made president and general manager, as also of the Sayre & Athens water company, and the Cayuta wheel and foundry company. In all this progress Mr. Elmer was a potent factor, and it was chiefly to his faith in its future, his planning, his encouragement, and his indefatigable and persistent efforts, that Sayre is indebted for its origin, its development and its subsequent prosperity. In 1875 and 1876 Mr. Elmer was receiver of the Ithaca & Athens and Geneva & Ithaca railroads, and a director of the Pennsylvania & New York railroad company, the Geneva, Ithaca & Sayre railroad company, and treasurer of the Buffalo & Geneva railroad company. With the numerous and heavy burdens of an active business life, Howard Elmer never neglected the cultivation of the finer qualities of mind and spirit. He was naturally a student, and with his extensive reading and remarkable memory his mind was stored with the erudition of a man devoted to letters, a knowledge not looked for in one who was daily in bank or office, leading and directing in the absorbing affairs of practical business life. His library was filled with choice volumes, and frequently replenished with new works of the best authors. These kept his mind abreast of the times, and afforded him the indulgence and relaxation he craved and needed. He loved the society of his books and treasured what they gave him. He enjoyed his extensive travel in the old world and the new, which (with his keen and accurate observation) gave authority to the remark so frequently made, that no subject of importance could be introduced with which he did not appear to be thoroughly conversant. As was remarked by his life-long friend, Judge Shepard, of Chicago, "He was a delightful correspondent, and in conversation was charming and fascinating to an unusual degree. Young and old were alike his admirers. Facetiousness acquired a new attraction when indulged in by him, and something was added to general knowledge by his remarks upon

most varied topics. And, best of all, the religion taught by Christ (of which he was an humble and devoted follower, both in profession and practice) was made to be the chief attraction of ripe manhood." He was a marked man of unusual strength of character and ability, reserved and yet of positive convictions, and with a courageous expression of what he thought and believed. It was this stalwart adherence to the right which constituted him a pillar of strength in the community, standing with firmness for all that was manly and high-minded in opinion and action. He was for many years an active member of the Presbyterian church, and, as was truly said by his pastor, "He was ever willing to give of his time and money to advance the cause of his Lord and Master." With all his interest this was uppermost, and to those in need he dealt with an open hand. His death, which occurred September 9, 1892, left a vacancy in the church, the community and business circles which could be filled only by loving memories in the hearts of the many whom by his sympathy and liberality he had helped to uplift, and by the boundless influence for good of his rarely unselfish and untarnished life, which will be lasting as eternity.

RICHARD ALLISON ELMER, son of Richard Allison and Charlotte Bailey Elmer, was born in the town of Wawayanda, Orange county, N. Y., June 16, 1842. The family removed to Waverly in 1850, and he was there prepared for Hamilton college, from which he was graduated in 1864. He intended to study law and pursued his studies for that purpose, and was admitted to the bar. In 1867 the death of his father led him to abandon the practice of law and he joined his brother, Howard Elmer, president of the First National bank, of Waverly, and became cashier of that bank. This position he occupied for about twelve years, during which time the firm became one of the largest investors of private trusts in the state. In 1870, with his brother and two other associates, Mr. Elmer purchased the large tract of land near Waverly, which has become a great manufacturing and railroad centre employing large bodies of men and capital, and bears the name of Sayre, Pa. Busied with these and other enterprises which gave full occupation to his energies, Mr. Elmer, although he always took a promi-



W. T. Combs & Co.

Rich. E. J. Guier

ment part in political, local, and charitable movements, never sought political office. His fame as a banker and business man caused his name to be prominently mentioned in the republican state convention of 1879 for the position of state treasurer. In 1881, on the accession of President Garfield, the famous "star route scandals" demanded the president's earliest attention, and, after removing the head of that department of the post office in which the scandals had occurred, it was no ordinary task to find a successor of sufficient courage, business experience and executive capacity to fill the place of second assistant postmaster-general. Without Mr. Elmer's knowledge, several gentlemen, prominent and influential with the new administration, recommended him as the most competent man for this position, one able to conduct the exceedingly difficult work of reform. The president decided to nominate him, and it was only when this decision was announced that Mr. Elmer was informed of the intention. He had but a day to consider the question, and it was with his reluctant consent that his name was sent to the senate. On May 5, 1881, his nomination was confirmed, and he soon removed to Washington and entered upon his duties. The affairs of the post office department, particularly that part under charge of the second assistant postmaster general, known as the "star route and steamboat service," had fallen into such disorder under the previous administration as to become one of the greatest public scandals in the history of the government, attracting the attention of the whole country, and being exposed and denounced by the journals of both parties, as well as in congressional committees and debates. All demands for reform had been successfully resisted, and President Garfield realized that a thorough extirpation of this mal-administration and waste was absolutely essential to the success and good fame of his administration. He promised to render his unfaltering support to Mr. Elmer, and, thus encouraged, the good work was begun. Mr. Elmer found himself strongly opposed by those who profited by the corruption, many of them men of influence, supported by others as prominent. Almost unknown to the political leaders in Washington, and entirely unfamiliar with the department and with the capital, Mr. Elmer steadfastly pursued the work of reform

which he had undertaken. His administration overcame all obstacles placed in its way, and the great difficulties which met him at every step. In less than three years of arduous and unceasing labor, he fully accomplished the reforms undertaken. In February, 1884, Mr. Elmer resigned his office to attend to neglected private interests. On resigning he received the well-merited thanks of President Arthur, and of the head of the post office department. His administration had won the approval of the country, which saw with surprise and satisfaction the substitution of economy, honesty and efficiency in a branch of the service long notorious for the most scandalous abuses. During his incumbency of the office the mileage of the star route service and its efficiency were largely increased, and the annual rate of expenditure was decreased over \$2,500,000. The policy thus enforced resulted in making the post office department entirely self-supporting for the first time in thirty years, and by reason of these results congress reduced the letter rate from three to two cents. In June, 1885, the New York *Herald*, discussing editorially the condition of the postal service, praised Mr. Elmer's administrative capacity, courage, and honesty, and said: "As to Mr. Elmer, the second assistant postmaster-general, it was his task to reform the star route service, and weed out of it the extravagance and corruption which had filled it under his predecessor. Mr. Elmer did this, and deserves the thanks of the country for doing it admirably." Shortly after retiring to private life, Mr. Elmer organized the American Surety Co., of New York city, of which he became president, and built up in four years the largest surety company in the world. It was principally his keen business insight and careful study of and improvement upon the methods of European companies that placed the American Surety Co. in the advanced financial position it now occupies. Such an outcome under ordinary circumstances would require great executive ability, energy, patience, and pluck; but the conditions under which Mr. Elmer wrought his results were extraordinary, and in mastering them and achieving success in spite of them he displayed real heroism. For months at a time the American Surety Co. was managed from his bedside. There, directors, minor officials, and clerks called daily, communicating information, receiving advice

or instruction, leaving the president propped up in bed, well supplied with writing materials to prepare business for the next day's meeting. Mr. Elmer was then suffering from disease of the kidneys. It was hoped later that he had entirely recovered, but his death came unexpectedly on the evening of October 1, 1888, after a busy day at the office. He was buried from Calvary Protestant Episcopal church and now rests in Woodlawn cemetery. Mr. Elmer married June 16, 1870, Sara Foster France, daughter of the late J. Foster and Isabella Sears France, of Middletown, N. Y. He has three sons, Robert France Elmer, Richard Allison Elmer (third of the name), and Charles Howard Elmer.

At a meeting of the American Surety Co., on October 3, 1888, these resolutions were adopted :

The sudden death of our beloved associate and friend, the president of this company, comes to us with an appalling shock. Yesterday in our midst, strong, with that energy which was the admiration of all, and which vitalized every object that it touched, and to-day silent in death.

We record upon our minutes the irrepressible sorrow of our hearts at this sudden removal of one whom to know was to love and to honor, for all that was noble and generous in human nature. In the person of Richard A. Elmer was embodied almost the perfection of christian manhood. Noble by nature, the world as it passed him could not fail to stamp him as a leader of men. The majestic power with which he confronted the problems of daily life was well-nigh irresistible, and failure was a word unrecognized in his vocabulary. To be brought in contact with his generous nature was to yield a graceful submission to his will. His very presence was an inspiration and a power.

As president of this company his success was phenomenal. Of untiring industry and with consummate ability, from the very inception of this enterprise, he has devoted every day and hour to its success, never resting until what seemed to have been the ambition of his life accomplished and a result achieved which commanded the admiration of all.

We mourn him as a brother, and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved wife and children in this the hour of their desolation.

REV. NATHANIEL ELMER, brother of Richard A. Elmer, was born in Sussex county, New Jersey, January 31, 1816. He was graduated at Union college, Schenectady, N. Y., in 1840, and at Union theological seminary, New York, in 1843, and was ordained a minister of the Presbyterian church October 24, 1844. He was the first pastor of the Presbyterian church at Waverly, which position he held nine years. He married in 1845, Caroline, daughter of Rev. John Ford, of Parsippany, New Jersey. She lived but six

months after marriage. He married, second, in 1849, Mary A. Post, daughter of James Post, of Middletown, N. Y., and died in that city July 11, 1884, leaving one daughter, Elizabeth.

SAMUEL WICKHAM SLAUGHTER, second son of Dewitt and Caroline (Mills) Slaughter, was born at Hamptonburg, Orange county, November 8, 1837. He was educated at Chester and Middletown academies, and when twenty years of age, in 1857, came with his father's family to Waverly. He engaged in the drug business, and for over thirty years occupied the "corner drug store." In 1883, on account of failing health, he retired from active life. Mr. Slaughter married, on May 13, 1873, Miss Charlotte, youngest daughter of Mr. Alfred Wells, of Goshen, N. Y., a lady whose sterling qualities of womanhood were well fitted to make his home life pleasant and attractive. They have one child, Gertrude. During the long period of his business operations Mr. Slaughter was a leader in the commercial interests of Waverly, and all things tending to advance the prosperity of the village found him a ready helper. It has been truly said of him: "As a citizen Mr. Slaughter enjoyed to its fullest extent the confidence and respect of his fellow townsmen. Naturally of a retiring disposition, he always refused positions of public honor, yet he was ever interested in affairs, and with every plan whose purpose was the commercial or spiritual prosperity of the village, his name was closely associated in wise counsel and generous contribution." In the few civil and educational offices he was persuaded to fill, his promptness, clear judgment and accurate intuitions gave evidence of his pre-eminent ability to fill any station with credit and honor. His long connection with the Citizen's bank of Waverly, of which he was vice-president from its organization in 1874 until his death on August 24, 1894, demonstrated that he possessed the characteristics of a successful financier. His nature was both studious and artistic, and his beautiful home and place of business bore ample testimony to his correct taste and his love of the beautiful. His business sagacity and his skill in investing brought him wealth, which his generous nature forbade him to hoard. His ear was ever open to the tale of the deserving poor, and those who needed sympathy



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and aid were bountifully and delicately supplied. He was truly "the poor man's friend," and at his death among the most sincere mourners were the many whose lives had been brightened and cheered by his christian benevolence. His life for long years was dominated by the spirit of Christ, and in 1874 he made public profession of his christian faith by joining the First Presbyterian church. For many years he served as a member of the board of trustees, and to his business qualities and generosity this church is largely indebted for the high position it occupies. In his church life Mr. Slaughter was a man of few words, but of generous impulses and noble actions. His piety was unaffected, deep, reverent and full of sunshine. He was a diligent student of the bible, and pre-eminently a man of prayer. His faith in God was strong, his hopes for the future were bright. The end of such a life is peace. Mr. Slaughter was interred in the family burial-ground at Phillipsburgh, Orange county, where his body rests awaiting the resurrection summons.

JAMES RIKER, who is still well remembered in Waverly as a historian of rare ability, and also the author of several high class miscellaneous works, and who is also specially remembered and respected by reason of permitting his valuable library to be enjoyed by the public, was a native of New York city, and there attained his greatest celebrity as literateur. He came to Waverly about 1869, and lived in the village to the time of his death, July 3, 1889. He was a member of many noted historical and literary societies, and, withal, a man of marked ability and learning. This much, at least, in the annals of the county, is due to Mr. Riker's memory, although he was not specially associated with local history other than mentioned above.

HIRAM PAYNE was a native of Connecticut, and came to McKean county, Pa., about 1830. He was a surveyor, lawyer, and otherwise prominent man; was district attorney of the county, a member of the legislature and had an extended acquaintance all through central and western Pennsylvania. His wife was a daughter of Rev. Minor York, of Wysox, by whom he had six children. Five

of these came with the family to Waverly in 1854, at which place Mr. Payne afterward lived, and where he died March 30, 1882. Mr. Payne was in all respects a self made and self educated man ; a strong pro-slavery democrat, firm and unyielding in his belief. Still, he was broad-minded, of liberal views on general subjects, and his life in Waverly was such as to convince the observer that he was at least in comfortable circumstances, yet he died poor.

ARTHUR YATES, better known, however, as Judge Yates, and who was so well known in business and social history in Waverly from 1832 to the time of his death, was a native of Butternuts, Otsego county, born February 7, 1807. His father was Dr. William Yates, a native of England, a physician of distinguished prominence, and a philanthropist as well, and was the originator of the practice of vaccination in America. In 1832 Arthur Yates came to Factoryville and was a lumberman and merchant, a builder and proprietor of mills and other industries, thus being closely associated with early history in that interesting hamlet of the past. He was also a strong democrat, but not in any sense a politician ; was postmaster at Factoryville in 1836 and for nearly fourteen years afterward ; was justice about six years, and was appointed associate judge of the common pleas April 18, 1838. He was also closely identified with local educational and church affairs, and indeed with all the best interests of the village of Waverly. Judge Yates was married twice, first in January, 1836, with Zeba Washbon, who died in 1853, and second with Elizabeth, widow of Col. Noble and daughter of Judge Page, of Unadilla, N. Y.

ADOLPHUS G. ALLEN, son of Samuel and Miranda (Sheffield) Allen, the oldest practicing attorney of the Tioga bar, was born in Bradford county, Pa., November 8, 1830. The Allen family was originally from Long Island. His grandfather was taken prisoner by the British in the revolution. In 1806, his grandfather, Nathaniel, was appointed justice of the peace for Lycoming county, Pa., and was prominent there in many ways. Mr. Allen prepared for college at Troy, Pa., academy, but, commencing to read law with General Nye in Madison county, N. Y., he became so interested

that he relinquished his college plans and devoted himself to legal matters. He has been in practice in Waverly since 1853. He has held numerous official places, has been special county judge for three terms, and was member of assembly from this county in 1886. In March, 1853, Mr. Allen was married with Sarah S. Walker. Their children are D. Wellington Allen, born June 17, 1854, who is now an attorney in practice at Waverly, and Katie (Mrs. C. C. Campbell).

JUDGE FERRIS SHOEMAKER, born June 22, 1838, is a great-grandson of Daniel Shoemaker, a revolutionary soldier, who, about the year 1797, settled in the town of Nichols, Tioga county, N. Y., upon that fine tract of land known as the Maughantowano flats. Soon after his birth his parents moved from Athens, Bradford county, to Rush, Susquehanna county, Pa. There he grew to manhood, enjoying the benefits of the excellent schools maintained in the vicinity, and later pursuing his studies at Wyoming seminary, Kingston, and the normal school at Montrose, Pa. From 1857 to 1861 he engaged in teaching, but when the war broke out enlisted in the U. S. marine corps, and for four and a quarter years served his country, more than three years of the time at sea on a man-of-war. In the fall of 1866 he was elected register and clerk of the orphans court of Susquehanna county for three years; in 1870 was appointed prothonotary by Gov. Geary; in 1871 was admitted to the bar, having studied law for four years under Hon. W. H. Jessup, while performing the duties of office. In 1873 he came to Waverly, and since then has been actively engaged in the practice of law, in both New York and Pennsylvania. In 1886 he was elected special county judge of Tioga county. For six years he has served the village as its clerk and attorney, and enjoys the credit of having been an efficient officer in the several public positions he has been called to fill.

JACOB B. FLOYD was born in the town of Chemung, April 26, 1839, and was the fifth of ten children in the family of H. N. and Elizabeth Floyd. He was educated at Lima and Wyoming seminaries, after which he taught school in and near Scranton about