MAP OF SENECA COUNTY NEW YORK

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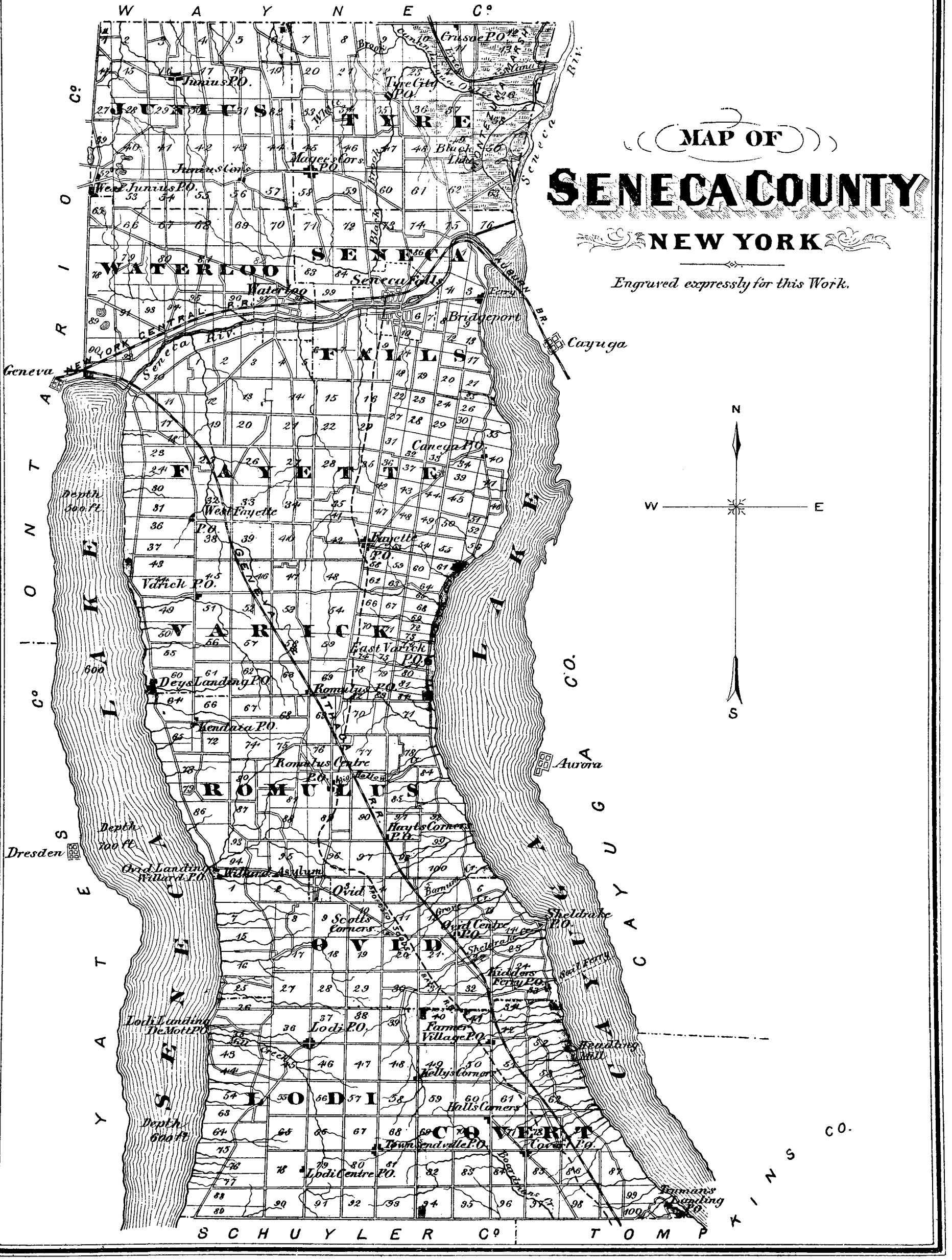


THE ORIGINAL COURT-HOUSE IN OVID VILLAGE.

HISTORY

OF

SENECA COUNTY, NEW YORK.

Truth is the mother of history, the preserver of great actions, the enemy of oblivion, the witness of the past, the director of the future.

INTRODUCTION.

To write the history of an Eastern power, the recorder follows the ruler as the representative of government, exposes his intrigues, blazons his deeds, and measures his renown by the number and severity of his wars. In America, the nation is a conclusion, and true history begins with the people acting as the arbiters of their own destiny, and framing their fabric of free government by the action of communities in frequent meetings, and delegating certain powers to the State and General Government. Viewed in this light, the history of a county rises in importance; and while it affords a laudable gratification to the citizen, it serves as an index of the source and means by which a free people have become great. All classes are arousing from their apathy concerning the past, and men are asking, What part have our ancestors played in this drama, and where does our county, as a community, stand? To foster local ties, to furnish examples of heroism, to exhibit the results of well-applied industry, and to mark a period of national existence, literature, art, and topography—an attractive trio—are freely employed to embellish and make of interest a practical and valuable work. Herein we essay a brief outline of State history, and then the detail of Seneca's development from the exit of the Iroquois, the settlement by migrations from the coast and immigration from Europe, the gradual assimilation of heterogeneous elements, the diversified changes wrought by labor and the happy results of industry. Gleaning from the memories of aged pioneers and the manuscripts of the provident, we aim to describe successive aspects of early and later society, characters prominent in art, literature, the pursuits of peace and the arena of war. It will be found instructive to note the character of primitive settlers,—their culture, habits, and health as influenced by a life in a region environed by beautiful lakes and dense with the growth of centuries. The presence of game, the prospective occupation of lands, and the founding of centres of trade are seen to originate the various classes of hunter, speculator, and actual settler. The many themes essential to true delineation of local interests impart variety, and are relieved by unison with sketches of scenery illustrative of architecture and surroundings in the quiet of the productive farm and in the busy marts of trade. Perforce the field of research, limited in area, finds its material in the narratives of colonization, border warfare, and all the minuteness of biographical detail. Epochs pass, and races disappear. The generation of to-day, halting in their race for supremacy, look around and behind them, and, tardily recognizing the incalculable service of the first settlers in central New York, seek ere too late to reclaim their lives from a threatened oblivion. A few octogenarians in each town are all that are left of them,—left of the pioneers,—white-haired reminders of a heroic age which has had its rise, growth, maturity, and decay, and given place to an age of transition which in its turn must yield to permanence, prosperity, and the highest stage of enlightenment. Prominence is given to the pioneer all the more because his impress was the germ of the present; his endowment was an example of high courage and unabated energy; a race of settlers sprung from blended nations has durably stamped its characteristics upon worthy successors. Sterile coasts, frozen plains, and mountain cliffs have endeared themselves by the ties of home, but the region embraced by the boundaries of Seneca County fastens a spell by historic association upon native and stranger through the attractions of a beautiful and diversified scenery. Undulating hills melt away into flat alluvial plains. Innumerable small streams, originating midway between the elongated lakes of Cayuga and Seneca, contribute their waters to replenish those natural reservoirs. Belts of timber, cleared field, and manor are seen at intervals, while town and city, advantageously placed, reveal their presence by the spires of churches and the hum of industry. The panorama of art and nature changes as the combinations of the kaleidoscope, and what this region was and is the future will discover only from the historic page. Ninety-two years ago the first white man established by his rude cabin an outpost of civilization in a vast wilderness west of Albany. Till then and later, individuals and parties of adventurous hunters only had disturbed the solemn quiet of the forest, the smoke from the towns of the Six Nations circled lazily upward, and the light birchen canoe sped along the surface of the lakes. Three-quarters of a century have established an unrivaled civilization in those solitudes. Despite privation, danger, and misfortune, farms multiplied and towns grew. The Erie Canal linked Albany with Buffalo, and along this water-way the tide of settlement moved westward. Then came the railways, swift and sure, and progress knew no hindrance. Improvements of the century find here a use in field, workshop, and office, while the speedy trains, proceeding east, west, north, and south, convey the traveler to his destination, bear away the products of the fields, and return laden with the commerce of the seas. Added to a description of the rise and growth of education, religion, trade, and manufacture is the attractive and encouraging biography of the successful. It becomes a memento of triumphant energy, and pledges a like career to corresponding enterprise. The delineations of history pertaining to eminent and worthy men impart pleasure, excite ardor, and illustrate character to the advancement of the capable of this and coming generations. It cannot be unimportant and devoid of interest to trace the outlined progress of Seneca's surprising and gratifying development from crude beginnings to her present creditable rank among her sister counties; hence the following clues to the labyrinths of past existence, leading downward to the arcana of the present.

CHAPTER I.

PRE-COLUMBIAN DISCOVERY—NATIONAL CLAIMS TO TERRITORY OF NEW YORK AND BASES OF CLAIMS.

AGE succeeded age since the world was ushered into being, and America, unnamed and unknown, a home of nations yet to be, remained, so far as pertained to the Eastern Continent, as though she had no existence. Then, as now, the noble Hudson swept past the Palisades, the thunders of Niagara reverberated far amid the dim aisles of the forest, our lakes spread out their vast expanse of waters. Brine and oil gathered their stores beneath the surface, while the coal, the iron, and the treasures of the mines awaited the lapse of time. To what people were these grandeurs presented and these resources offered? What moral changes had occurred while Nature, grand and vital, moved on in her unvarying course? Tradition is shadowy, legends are fabulous, and history is silent. Standing amid the ruined cities of Yucatan or upon one of the numerous mounds common to the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi, the antiquary indulges in vain conjecture. He questions whether mighty nations have ever existed here, whether arts or letters have been cultivated, or did the savage Indian for untold centuries reign sole lord of the New World? Whence, when, and how came hither the first inhabitants of this Continent? These are questions naturally arising while tracing the historic page, until the Western Continent bursts upon our vision. Various speculations have from time to time been harbored respecting the proba-

ble history of America before its discovery by Columbus, but the subject is shrouded in darkness and obscurity. In 1147, while the fanatics of the Second Crusade were surging towards Palestine, a party of eight persons, sailing to discover the limits of the "Sea of Darkness," the Atlantic, finally reached an island whose inhabitants told of a "dense gloom" beyond, and the terrified explorers hastened to return. In 1291 two Genoese mariners set sail westward, and never returned. Discoveries and settlements have been claimed in behalf of the Northmen; but, if made, were transient and ineffectual. In 1492, Columbus, sailing westward, discovered land off the east coast of Florida, and opened a highway over the broad Atlantic to the down-trodden and oppressed of Europe.

Three nations claimed an ownership in the region embraced in part by the State of New York. They founded their title in the rights of discovery and occupation, and severally yielded only to the supremacy acquired by force of arms. Authorized by letters patent from Henry VII., John Cabot, a Venetian, accompanied by his son Sebastian, set out on a voyage of discovery. He struck the sterile coast of Labrador on June 24, 1497, and was the first to see the Continent of North America. In 1498, Sebastian Cabot, returning, explored the coast from Newfoundland to Florida; hence arose the English claim to territory eleven degrees in width, and extending westward to the Pacific. Francis I. of France, emulating the enterprise of Spain and England, sent upon a voyage of exploration John Verrazzani, a Florentine. This persevering navigator, visiting America in 1524, was the first European whose feet trod the soil of the Empire State. He sailed along the coast a distance of twenty-one hundred miles in frail vessels, and safely returned to report his success and establish for France a claim in the New World. The Dutch East India Company employed Henry Hudson to seek a northern passage to India. In a mere yacht, he ventured among the northern bergs, skirted the coast of America, and, sailing up the noble river which perpetuates his name, cast anchor in the stream and opened up a traffic with the Indians. From them Hudson obtained corn, beans, pumpkins, grapes, and tobacco,—products indigenous to the clime; and to them he imparted the baneful knowledge of the effects of whisky. Holland laid claim to territory from Cape Cod to the southern shore of Delaware Bay, basing its right upon these discoveries of Hudson made in September, 1609. To this thrice-claimed region the Dutch gave the name New Netherlands. They planted a fort upon Manhattan Island in 1614, and in 1623 made settlements at New Amsterdam and Fort Orange. For a time on amicable terms with the Indians, the colonists lived in security, but the cruelty of Keift, one of the New Netherlands' four Governors, awakened the fires of revenge and threatened the colony with extermination. Restricted in rights, and desirous of the privileges accorded the English colonists, the Dutch refused to contest supremacy with the fleet of Admiral Nichols, sent out by the Duke of York in 1664; and the warlike Stuyvesant, reluctantly yielding to the English, resigned his command, and the province received the name of New York. The settlement of New Amsterdam was given the name New York, and Fort Orange, Albany, the present State capital. Hailing with satisfaction the change of masters, the Dutch and English colonists, whose plantations had been devastated by the Raritans and their allies, and whose lives had been saved by the interposition of the friendly Mohawks, soon found themselves involved in a protracted struggle with the royal Governors. Repeatedly defrauded of their means, they raised revenues under their own officers, and stoutly battled for their rights.

In October, 1683, the first Colonial Assembly for the Province of New York held session. It consisted of a Governor, Council of Ten, and seventeen members chosen by the people as the House of Representatives. In conflict with their French enemies on the north, the timidity and delays of Governors brought the English into contempt with their fierce allies, the Iroquois, on the west. This misfortune was averted before treaties were annulled by the activity of Schuyler and Fletcher in the winter of 1693. The changes and revolutions in England extended to the royal province, and occasioned an event very important upon the subsequent affairs of the State. The circumstance of the hanging of Leisler and Milbourne, so familiar to many, opened a chasm between a people whose hardships in a new land entitled them to a voice in their own government, and proprietors of large tracts of land and intended aristocrats, who aimed at a complete usurpation of all rights and privileges. The antagonism here fostered kindled to a flame upon the breaking out of the Revolution, and under the appellations of Whig and Tory the people were ranged in nearly equal numbers. During the Revolution, eastern New York was the scene of various severe struggles. The defeat of the Americans on Long Island was the commencement of a period of gloom and depression, but the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga inspired a hope and resolution which never ceased till the conclusion of the war. With the arrival of peace and freedom from foreign influence, and during a cessation of internal dissension, many soldiers, receiving grants of lands in lieu of bounties, proceeded westward to find and settle upon their tracts. Large areas of lands were bought, and sometimes, after many changes of ownership, the proprietors or company, offering liberal terms, invited settlers, and laid the foundation of towns now grown to cities important and populous.

CHAPTER II.

THE INDIANS OF CENTRAL NEW YORK—THEIR TREATIES, WARS, CHARACTER, CIVILIZATION, AND FATE.

As was the Indian when Hudson sailed up the river which bears his name, so is the Indian of the present day. The approach of the white race was the signal for the migration westward of game. The savage, who subsisted by the products of the chase, was compelled to follow, and the Modocs in the Lava Beds and the Sioux of the Black Hills, save the demoralization occasioned by contact with the pale-faces, are the same as the warriors of the East who disputed dominion with the English.

There is reason to believe that central New York contained a large Indian population at a period far in the past. A favorite resort for various tribes, as early as 1535, was the vicinity of Onondaga Lake, then called Gannentaha. Knowledge of them begins in their defeat by a party of their Algonquin foes, led on by Champlain during the year 1609, at which time the Iroquois, called by the Dutch the Maquaas, first experienced the terrible effects of fire-arms, and imbibed that lasting resentment which barred their coasts to the French Jesuit, and made them a wall of defense to the English.

The Confederates, consisting of the Onondagas, Oneidas, Mohawks, Cayugas, and the Senecas, had formed their compact when Europeans first saw them, and the time of their union is lost in antiquity. Opposed to Indian custom, these tribes gave their attention to cultivating the soil, and exchanged with other tribes the products of their fields for the fruits of the chase. The Canadian Algonquins were powerful and inveterate rivals; and, in self-defense, the Confederates learning the arts of war, soon gave ample proof of ability and carried fearful retribution to the villages of their enemies. The territory dominated by the Iroquois extended from Lakes Erie and Ontario along the St. Lawrence around Lake Champlain, and the basin of the Hudson and its tributaries as far southward as the Highlands. The principal settlement and the capital of the league was at Onondaga, where councils were held and movements planned. Prior to the arrival of Europeans, their sagacity was shown by the construction of extended and strong works of defense. These fortifications consisted of a double row of palisades, inclosed by an earthen embankment. Living in a fertile region, the soil returned ample yield of supplies, and, uniting their strength, thousands of warriors set out on distant raids, from which they generally returned successful. Observing the homes of the whites, they abandoned their rude huts for good dwellings, planted orchards, and cultivated large fields of corn. Their form of government was an approximation to the federal. Separate governments were upheld by each tribe, and the Grand Council settled the affairs of the tribes as one people. In the council, the utmost decorum prevailed, and speeches of their chiefs evince a high degree of eloquence. In war, they knew no fear; and, if captured, met their death with lofty resolution.

We have earlier spoken of the rival claims of France and Great Britain, and despite the intrigues of the former nation and the treachery toward them of the latter, the Iroquois remained faithful to the British. Three several French armies, commanded respectively by De La Barre, Denonville, and Count Frontenac, came against them in vain, while a force of twelve hundred warriors moving into Canada swept the country with a severity which threatened with extinction its people. On January 22, 1690, a council was held at Onondaga, at which eighty chiefs were present. During the year 1710, Colonel Schuyler took with him to England five sachems, and the treatment received was a step in that loyalty which, later, cost the colonists so dear. During 1725, the Tuscaroras, having met signal defeat from the colonists of North Carolina, came north, and were received by the Iroquois into the Confederacy, and henceforth the League was known as the Six Nations. The Governor of New York had established a trading-post at Oswego in 1722, and five years later erected a fort at the same place, with the intention of securing the Indian trade. The encroachments upon their territory by the colonists were viewed with dissenting, revengeful mind, and when the war of Independence took place the Confederacy sided with the British. Agents at Oswego and Niagara plied their allies with gifts of blankets, liquors, and finery; tories flying from the revenge of the patriots added to their strength, and massacres like Cherry Valley and Wyoming stain the pages of history. For years renegade white and merciless savage laid waste with knife and torch the settle-

ments of the frontier and drove their captives to the strongholds, the forts previously mentioned; but there came a time when stern retribution should be meted out and the power of the Confederacy irretrievably broken. Congress resolved to send an expedition to lay waste the Indian country, and intrusted its command to General Sullivan, who was directed to march northward along the Susquehanna, to Tioga Point; there being joined by a force under General Clinton, he proceeded upon the proposed campaign. On the 26th of August, 1779, the united force, consisting of Continental troops, with fifteen hundred riflemen, four six-pounder guns, two three-pounders, and a small mortar,—in all a body of five thousand men,—began their march with one month's provisions. Sullivan was ordered to burn the Indian towns, cut down their corn, and do them all the harm possible, and so avenge the barbarities inflicted upon the frontier settlements. The Indians scouted the idea of a regular army penetrating the wilderness and ruining their homes, but when the danger became real they gathered a large force, and, fighting bravely at Newtown,* were defeated, fled in a panic, and left the route to their village open. Sullivan pressed cautiously forward; the road taken is still pointed out where his pioneers leveled obstructions; old men tell us of the bridge built at the head of Seneca Lake and a cannon lost in the waters, while on the tables of the Waterloo Historical Society may be seen grape-shot and canister fired from his artillery. Down the eastern shore of Seneca and upward to Geneva they made their way, large corn-fields, vegetable-gardens, and fine orchards being totally ruined, and the smoke of burning dwellings rising from the principal villages of the Seneca. The women and children fled in crowds to Niagara, while the warriors, concealed in ambush, vainly waited an opportunity to rush upon their relentless foe. Here two Oneidas, guides to Sullivan, were captured, and the hatchet of a brother laid one of them dead at his feet. Lieutenant Boyd and a Virginia rifleman named Murphy, with thirty men, advancing seven miles to reconnoitre, were ambuscaded by Brandt and Butler with savages and rangers, five hundred of each, on their return. With brandished weapons and horrid cries the attack was made, yet thrice did that heroic band attempt to force their way. Murphy, by a stroke of his fist, felled an assailant and escaped, while Boyd was taken and cruelly tortured. Sullivan returned from his expedition successful, while the Indians, deprived of their all, sought food and shelter with the British. The campaign of Sullivan destroyed the Confederacy, but many a defenseless family was murdered upon the frontiers between 1783 and 1789. The Senecas looked longingly upon their old homes and hunting-grounds, and stipulated by treaty that the burial-grounds of their tribe should be sacred from the plowshare. Individuals and parties were occasionally seen by the white settlers for years later, but rather as pilgrims to a shrine than as natives to the land. The remnants of the Nations were located on the Genesee, the Allegheny, Buffalo Creek, and at Tuscarawas, and received annuities from the Government in lieu of their lands, and a specified sum annually from the State. They tilled farms, raised cattle, and accumulated property of considerable value. In 1809, eight or ten leading Indians resolved to drink no more strong drink, and within the year the whole body had taken the same pledge, and have never broken it. They are peaceable, tender to their families, and devote themselves to agriculture. They raised their first wheat, about thirty bushels, in 1809, and harvested one hundred acres in 1811. Thus briefly we have outlined the history of the Indian and shown his fate.

CHAPTER III.

LAND PURCHASES—CHARACTER OF COUNTRY—TERMS AND MANNER OF DISPOSAL TO SETTLERS—COURSE OF TRAVEL—COURSE OF MIGRATION—LOCALITIES FIRST SETTLED—CLASSIC NOMENCLATURE—A BROAD DOMAIN AWAITING OWNERS—DISSIMILARITY OF ITS PEOPLE TO ALL PREVIOUS PRECEDENT.

At the close of the Revolution northern and western New York was a wilderness, but the march of armies and the forays of detachments had made known the future promise of these erst untrodden regions, and companies, State and Government, took immediate steps, as policy and duty seemed to dictate, to acquire their ownership. It is notable that the seasons seemed to conspire to render the woods untenable to the Indians when the time approached for the first few isolated settlements of adventurous pioneers. The winter of 1779–80 was marked by its unprecedented severity. All western New York lay covered by a blanket of snow full five feet in depth. Wild animals, hitherto numerous, perished by thousands. The dissolving snow in spring disclosed the forests filled with the carcases of the deer, and the warlike Senecas became dependents upon English bounty and hoped for British success. The conclusion of that peace by which American Independence was acknowledged secured no terms to England's savage auxiliaries, although their ancient possessions passed by the treaty of 1783 into the hands of the United States. The new government desired to make peace with the Six Nations, and a cession of their rights to the vast territory claimed by them. By Act of April 6, 1784, Governor George Clinton, President of a Board of Commissioners consisting of four persons, was authorized to ally with them other persons deemed necessary, and proceed to enter into compact with the Indians. Fort Stanwix was appointed as the place for assembly. Pending proceedings, Clinton learned by letter that Congress had appointed Arthur Lee and Richard Butler Commissioners to negotiate treaties with the same parties; thus the undefined powers of the United States opened ground for conflict of interest and authority between State and Confederation. The General Government maintained its prerogatives, and concluded a treaty at Fort Stanwix on October 22, 1784. Its provisions were the terms of a conqueror, as the penalty of opposition. It has been asserted that among the sachems whose speeches on that occasion moved their hearers by their eloquence was the renowned Red Jacket, but the evidence is unworthy of credit. This warrior of the Senecas, promoted to a chieftaincy by the influence of his grandmother, became renowned among the whites for oratorical ability, and stands prominent, rather as the last of a line of natural speakers than as illustrious among them. His death occurred in 1830, at the age of about seventy, and while we find many who had seen him in life, it is a mooted question what immediate locality was honored as his birth-place: perhaps Seneca has grounds as strong as any, and may with justice present her claim. The conclusion of the Stanwix treaty threw wide open the doors to sale and occupation of a large extent of territory. Pending State and national negotiation, companies of active and influential men were organized to evade the law and obtain for themselves a lease of land, equivalent to actual ownership: these companies were defeated in their schemes, their leases were pronounced void, and their final resort was the purchase from the States of New York and Massachusetts of such portions of the desired lands as they had the ability to acquire. In the western part of the State the work of settlement was undertaken by the Holland Land Company from 1797, prior to which date an immense tract of land, a part of whose eastern boundary ran through the middle of Seneca Lake, had been sold to Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham, and by them disposed of to Robert Morris, an Englishman, who in turn sold a large portion of it to Sir William Pulteney and others, of London, England, and the settlement of Montgomery County in its western portion began. We have remarked that military expeditions had attracted the attention of soldiers to lands, beautiful, fertile, and extensive, and, on their discharge from service, their descriptions of the scenery, soil, and valuable water-power of the Seneca region induced restless families, principally at first from New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and later, Yankees from New England, to set out upon the line of march of Sullivan's army and locate themselves along its route. From an elevation where is now the town of Ovid, the immigrant could stand and look upon an extensive and magnificent view. Nine counties are included in the prospect, which has been changed from an unbroken forest to the valuable homes of a great people. In comparison with other localities of the Empire State, central New York constitutes one of her most attractive sections. Upon ridge, bluff, slope, or plain, the settler could fix his habitation, while from the lakes adjacent could be obtained savory and ample food from the choice fish which teemed in shoals amidst their healthful waters.

By Act of May 11, 1784, Land Office Commissioners were created, whose duty it was made to carry into effect the promises made to soldiers of the Revolution by the Legislature of 1780 of bounty lands for reward of services. State lands, on being surveyed and appraised, were advertised for public sale, and any lot unsold could be taken by any applicant by a one-fourth payment and security for the remainder. By the treaty with the Onondagas made in 1788, all those lands originally composing Onondaga County, and now divided and organized as the Counties of Seneca, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Cortland, with portions of Oswego, Wayne, and Tompkins, were set apart by the Land Commissioners for bounties to soldiers, and became known as the Military Tract. This tract was surveyed into twenty-five townships of sixty thousand acres each, and each township was then re-surveyed into lots of six hundred acres each. Three additional townships were subsequently added, to provide for persons in the Hospital Department and others not accommodated; and the townships of the tract were thus twenty-eight in number. As a matter of curiosity, showing a reference to or knowledge of Roman history for names of these townships, we give the reader the primitive list, as follows: Lysander, Hannibal, Cato, Brutus, Camillus, Cicero, Manlius, Aurelius, Marcellus, Pompey, Romulus, Scipio, Sempronius, Tully, Fabius, Ovid, Milton, Locke, Homer, Solon, Hector, Ulysses, Dryden, Virgil, Cincinnatus, Junius, Galen, and Sterling. From those townships the present towns of Seneca are derived in the following order: Junius constituted Junius, Tyre, Waterloo, and the north part

* Now Elmira.

of Seneca Falls; Romulus is now known as the west parts of Fayette, Varick, four lots in Seneca Falls, and the town of Romulus; and Ovid as Ovid, Lodi, and Covert.

The original course of travel was by way of Oneida Lake and River, and from the south upon Cayuga Lake; but when a State road was cut through by way of Auburn, from Whitestown to Geneva, in 1796, and the famous Cayuga Bridge was built in 1800, this route became the great highway of western emigration. He who rides to-day upon the smooth track, at a fare of two cents per mile, and passes safely and swiftly from one side of New York to the other,—he who performs a journey of a thousand miles perusing the news of the day, or slumbering in the luxurious retreat of a palace car,—may find it interesting to learn of journeyings some eighty years ago. Those emigrants entitled to military lots came chiefly from the eastern part of the State of New York. Others, however, were from Rhode Island and her sister States, while a large proportion of the families settling on the south side of the outlet were from the Keystone State. The road referred to above was, in 1792, but a slightly improved Indian path, along whose sides, at varying intervals of ten to twenty miles, for a hundred miles, a few rude cabins were scattered. The road was little used, the Erie Canal was not projected, the Cayuga and Seneca Canal was not in existence, and even the Seneca Lock Navigation Company was yet in the future. The emigrant had still a choice of methods: he could follow the Indian trail on foot or horseback, or use the water-course formed by nature, and which in the far background of history had been traversed only by the Indian canoe. If he came from Long Island, he launched his bateau upon the Sound and came to New York, thence up the Hudson River, whence, transporting boat, passengers, and effects to Schenectady, he passed up the Mohawk to Fort Stanwix, or Rome; thence crossed by land a brief portage to Vilrick, or Wood Creek, and by that reached Oneida Lake. Sweeping slowly along the lake, the Oswego River was entered, and by that stream he found access to the lake-bound region of Seneca and the Genesee plains beyond.

To one who made that voyage, looking back after an interval of poling, rowing, floating, and transporting, for a period of four to six weeks, his former home seemed very distant, and present ills preferable to a like return. Another, and southern route, brought the emigrant along the Susquehanna and Tioga Rivers to Newtown, now Elmira; thence, after transporting boat and effects, he reached the Seneca Lake, and through its outlet came to the port of Scauyes, or, mounting his horse and following Indian trails, he traversed the dense wilds for many leagues to reach this, his future home. Yet a few remain with us who realized these modes of travel; but most of these pioneers have "fallen asleep." Farther on, the detail of actual travel will be given, of which we have presented the true ideal. The cause of westward migration deserves consideration. The annals of colonial days reveal the fact that, while the Spaniard ravaged the New World in his lust for gold, the Puritan, Huguenot, Catholic, and Quaker came here to enjoy the rights of conscience and freedom to worship in their own way. From 1620 to 1776 the sterile Atlantic coast received these voluntary exiles. Families increased in numbers, and the scanty soil gave little return for labor. A rich soil, a large farm, a belief in the growth of the future, the desire of a comfortable home with children tilling their own fields around them, and a love of novelty, urged on by the example of others, all conspired to scatter a population in this region of a varied character. It is on record that Seneca's pioneers who changed her hunting-grounds to cleared and productive farms were in general a hardy, energetic race. They were influenced by like motives and circumstances, and acknowledged a common dependence, a deep sympathy, and a necessity of co-operation. In cutting roads, building bridges, erecting public dwellings, and defending themselves from mutual danger, they cheerfully shared labor and promoted sociality.

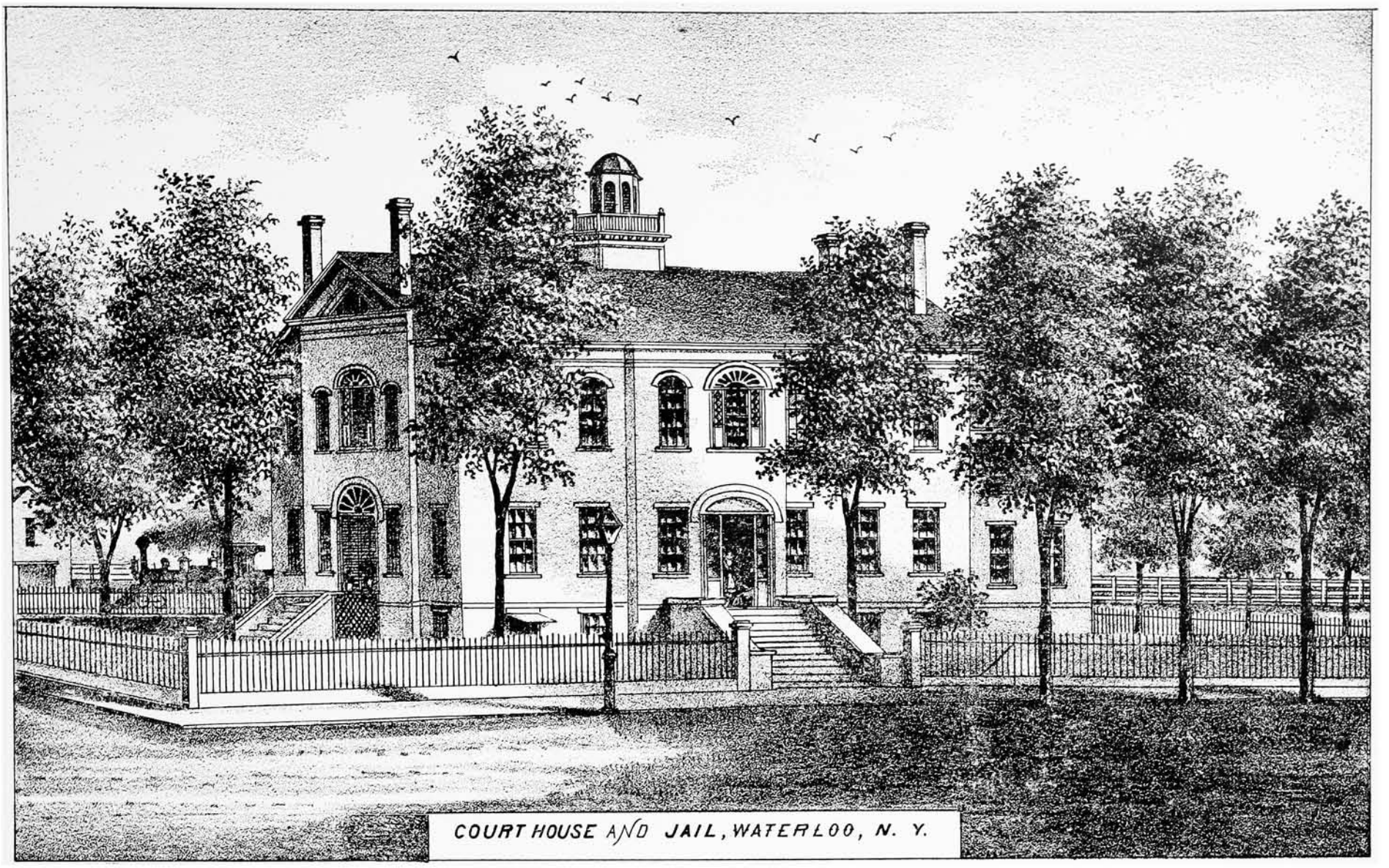
The southern part of Seneca was first settled, and George Faussett, of Pennsylvania, was the enterprising man; while the first recorded resident in northern Seneca was James Bennett, likewise a native of the Keystone State. The narrative of these and of those who soon followed them is material for a future chapter, but this much here is given, that the early settlers of every town in the County were not only industrious and full of energy, but were men of rectitude, who knew and practiced moral duties, and instinctively perceived and practiced right.

CHAPTER IV.

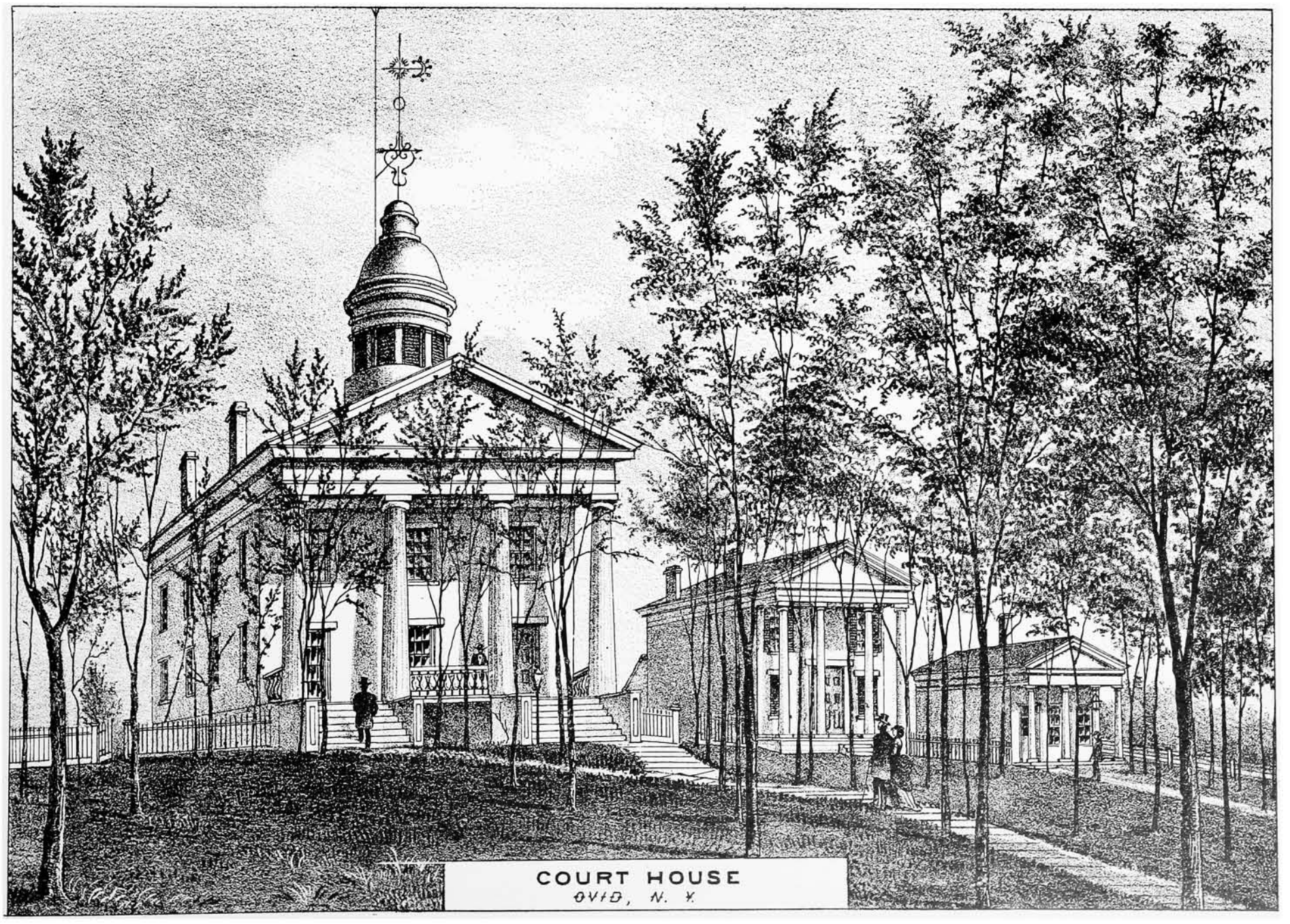
LINE OF ORGANIZATION—EVENTS CONNECTED THEREWITH—PROGRESS OF SETTLEMENT WEST—REDUCTION OF AREA AND GRADUAL CHANGES FROM A GENERAL TO A LOCAL CHARACTER.

SENECA traces her genealogy from an honorable and ancient source. Her reduced area is the natural result of a growing population and a republican form of government. On November 1, 1683, Albany was organized as one of ten original counties of the New York province, and was by legal enactment bounded north and west by the provincial limits. At Albany, on June 19, 1754, the first Congress of the colonies met for purposes of union and defense, and the plan as drawn by Dr. Franklin was rejected as too advantageous to the other by both the colonies and the British king. Montgomery County was formed from Albany on the 12th of March, 1772, and at that time bore the name of Tryon County. The name Montgomery was given during April of 1784, at the close of the war, in honor of Richard Montgomery, a gallant officer in the Continental army. The cramped settlements and over-crowded Eastern towns and villages began to send out families and colonies northward and westward, and speedily required a further division of counties for convenience of jurisdiction and fair representation of interests. Accordingly we find Montgomery reduced in 1789 by the formation of Ontario, and her territory yet further diminished in 1791 by the erection of Tioga, Otsego, and Herkimer. It is not our purpose to dwell upon the continued changes of counties, by which their present number and area was obtained, further than they apply in the exhibit of a line of organization by which Seneca can be readily traced. Whether there seemed to be disadvantages connected with settlement, or whether, as is more probable, the tide of emigration followed its ancient custom of following the course of river and lake, Seneca still lay undisturbed, and portions were late in occupation. There came in the year 1784, from Middletown, Connecticut, the first lone settler in the forests of western Montgomery. Resolute and decisive, this man, Hugh White, planted himself in a log habitation at what is now the village of Whitesborough, and, mingling with the Indians to win their approval, found relief from his labors of improvement in the society of his wife and children. One afternoon, White being absent, his wife saw a party of Indians coming along the trail towards her habitation. Following a natural impulse, she gave them cordial greeting and proffered food. Presently one of their number, whose bearing showed the chief, asked permission to take her daughter with them on a visit to the red man's home. To trust her darling child to the ruthless savages was a hard requirement, yet to refuse might bring some far worse fate. While the heart of the mother was troubled by conflicting emotions, and the stoical foresters looked on and awaited a reply, a step was heard, and White came in. He saluted his visitors with frank and open countenance, and, learning the object of their call, consented instantly, and directed his child to go with them.

The Indians disappeared in the forest, and the hours were made long by anxiety. Evening drew near, and with it the time for the return of the child. In the distance were seen the waving plumes of the chief, and by his side tripped the proud girl, arrayed in the ornaments of Indian life. The test of confidence had been made and withstood, and henceforth White knew no friends more faithful than his red brethren. During the year 1786, a trading-house was opened near Waterloo of to-day, by a man whose history is all the more of interest here since he was recognized as the first white settler west of the Genesee River. Captain Horatio Jones was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, November, 1763. His father was a blacksmith and frequently repaired rifles. The son was daily in the habit of seeing and trying them, and hence while quite young he became an expert marksman. Energetic, bold, and skillful, he seemed born with a disposition for adventure, which was stimulated to activity by the frequent passage of troops by his home on their way to the Indian country. Fourteen years of age, he was a man in spirit, and joined the soldiers as a fifer in the regiment commanded by Colonel Piper, with whom he remained during the entire winter. During the month of June, 1781, his desire for more active service induced him to enlist in a company of riflemen called the Bedford Rangers, recruited by Captain Boyd, of the United States army. After a scout of a few days, one morning about sunrise, while a fog hung heavy over the ground, the rangers, thirty-two strong, encountered a body of Indians, numbering about eighty, upon the Ragstown branch of the Juniata River. They soon found themselves ambuscaded, and a destructive fire from unseen rifles speedily laid nine rangers low in death; eight more were captured, and the whites were completely defeated. The battle being ended Jones retreated rapidly, and, ascending a hill, discovered but a few feet in front two Indians armed with rifles aimed at his person. Having no reason to regard their intentions as friendly, he diverged from his course and ran for dear life. He would undoubtedly have distanced his pursuers, but unluckily his moccasin-string became untied and caught around a twig, which threw him to the ground. The Indians at full speed ran by him before they could stop, the one nearest him raising a claim to him as his prisoner. Distrusting their ability to retake their captive if their fleetness should again be called into action, the warriors bound their blankets around him and allowed them to trail behind. The wet grass saturated the blankets and thereby frustrated any attempt at escape. He was brought back to the battle-ground where the prisoners were arranged, and immediately marched into the woods. It was



COURT HOUSE AND JAIL, WATERLOO, N. Y.



COURT HOUSE
OVID, N. Y.

JOHN SULLIVAN.

observed by an Indian that Captain Dunlap of the militia, being wounded, faltered in his tread as he ascended a hill. The savage struck his hatchet deep into the disabled soldier's head, drew him over backwards, and, scalping him, left the poor fellow to die with his face turned upward. Two days they marched on and had no food; then a bear was killed, and to Jones fell the entrails for his portion. With scanty dressing, these were emptied, hastily cooked, and, without other seasoning than the promptings of hunger, hastily eaten. The captives were tied by night, and the journey continued under close guard by day, until they arrived at what is now Nunda, Livingston County, New York. During the ascent of Foot Hill, Jack Berry informed Jones that he must run the gauntlet to a house in the distance, and, if he was successful in reaching it, his safety would be secured. Indians and squaws, swarming from their huts, formed themselves into two parallel lines, between which Jones began his perilous race. Numerous blows were struck at him, with clubs, tomahawks, and stones, as he dashed along. A noted chief, named Sharpshins, struck at him desperately with his hatchet; and then, as Jones passed unharmed, he threw the deadly weapon after him: the blow was evaded and the goal safely reached. William McDonald came next, and as Sharpshins prepared to throw again at Jones, McDonald came by, and the merciless savage, burying his tomahawk in his back, drew him over, cut off his head, and placed it, scalped, upon a war-post. The rest escaped with little injury. The smallpox broke out during the following winter, and Jones, suffering in the hospital from the loathsome disorder, saw men borne away for burial while yet living. Speechless, he yet was able to exhibit signs of life, and finally recovered health. Young and handsome, Captain Jones was a great favorite, and was early adopted into an Indian family, and shared all the privileges of Indian hospitality. He received the name of Ta-e-da-o-qua, and was always claimed as a prisoner by his Indian cousin Ca-nun-quak, or Blue Eyes. Captain Jones established a trading-house within the borders of Seneca, thence removed to Geneva, where he located under the hill on the bank of Seneca Lake, and sold to John Jacob Astor his first lot of furs. He was married in Schenectady by Rev. Mr. Kerkland; and, in 1789, leaving Geneva, he settled near Beard's Creek, in the town of Leicester, raised the first wheat west of the Genesee River, and was the first white settler in the valley of that stream. An Indian hut was his habitation for the first year. In this rude abode himself, his wife, and three children found shelter. Appointed by President Washington, he held the position of interpreter with the Iroquois for a period of forty years, and died in 1836, at the age of seventy-five years.

The name of Job Smith appears next as that of one of that class whose liking was a region wild and full of game, who felt an irksome restraint in the companionship of his fellows, and who might be aptly termed a guerrilla in the warfare of civilization with nature. This character emigrated from Ulster County in 1787, and was the first settler upon the military tract. He erected his cabin upon the flats at Seneca Falls, near the later site of the Upper Red Mill, owned by Col. Mynderse. Historians ascribe to Smith a roving, unsettled character and an absence of certain necessary elements of genuine manhood. Rumor reported that his retreat in these wilds was more of an act to shun the clutch of the law than a love for the scenery of the locality. His route was along the Mohawk and Seneca streams, and his food upon the journey consisted of corn pounded in an old-fashioned mortar, wild game from the woods, and fish from the river. He lived alone, trafficked somewhat with the Indians, and was the owner of a yoke of oxen. A party of travelers, passing up the river in 1788–'89, was transported by him around the falls upon a cart whose wheels were sawed entire from logs. Smith moved to Waterloo, married a Miss Gorham, and returned to the flat. Soon he disappeared and dropped from remembrance, until in 1813 he was subpœnaed as a witness at the court, in relation to the settlement of several pending and important law-suits. Two Connecticut traders, bearing with them on their journey packs of goods, visited the Canoga reservation in 1785, and traded their merchandise for furs, and returned. James Bennett, from Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, reached the borders of Seneca in 1789, and was soon engaged in running a ferry across Cayuga Lake, not far south of the later bridge. On the return of General Sullivan's army from their work of spoliation, a detachment of one hundred men was sent out from the main column, which had reached the present site of Geneva, to march through the lands of the Cayugas, Onondagas, and Oneidas towards Albany. This command, in charge of Major Gansevort, went into camp the first night at Seneca Falls, on the north bank of the river. Not a few were impressed by the natural advantages about them for settlement, and one Lawrence Van Cleef, an old Continental, on receiving his discharge, returned hither in the spring of 1789, and, choosing a site for a dwelling upon the flats, not far from Job Smith, erected upon it a double log house. This durable but humble abode stood as the first of its class in that region, and in himself was known the first permanent settler. The first desideratum to the immigrant—a shelter—having been prepared, the next proceeding was the preparation of ground and the planting of corn upon the flats. Jealous of intruders and smarting under a sense of wrongs suffered, Indians gave him petty annoyances and rendered difficult his endeavors to raise a crop. An understanding and friendly feelings were secured through his generosity and abundant good nature, and from that point he was unrestricted in his plans for private emolument and the public good. We have outlined the long route, and hinted at the hardship not unmixed with peril connected with pioneer journeys between the cabins and camps in the wilderness and the settled regions of the East; but necessity knew no law, and the tramp of Weston upon chosen roads to distant Chicago was no more to be admired in comparison with the journeys of the pioneers of this section than the fast train, with a clear track, to the steady movement of the canal-boat, delayed by the locks, upon its course. Van Cleef established or followed the custom of individual exploration for a home, and then went east for his family to Albany. During the fall of 1789 he is found associated with Job Smith in the ownership and use of a team and a truck, the latter their own handiwork, formed from forest material alone, and subserving a good purpose in transferring the goods of western-bound emigrants around the falls. At a later date, Van Cleef and Smith turned their attention to the construction of boats upon Seneca Lake, and the former achieved renown for his success in running boats over the rapids,—a business he continued to follow till brought to a close by the construction of the locks, in 1815. It was his pride that in all his experience he never occasioned loss or damage to a boat, which could not be said by his cotemporary pilots. Generous and hardy, well fitted for pioneer life, Van Cleef was the projector of various affairs of public enterprise, and, dying in 1830, was buried upon the spot where as a soldier he had built his camp-fire fifty-one years before. Turning our attention to the southern part of the County, we learn from "Smith's Gazetteer," of 1860, and "Transactions of New York Agricultural Society," of 1850, that the pioneer of that locality was George Faussett, of Pennsylvania. Bidding adieu to his wife, he left herself and child at the old home, and set out in the spring of 1789 to select a home within the present limits of Seneca County. Choosing a favorite and pleasant locality in Ovid, he founded a claim upon the place by right of tomahawk improvements: these consisted in the building of a pole cabin thatched with bark, the deadening of timber in the vicinity, and the clearing of a small patch of ground. Legally these acts had no force, but among pioneers they gave a patent to the claim which a purchaser was bound to respect both on account of local agreement and the good will of the occupant. These preliminaries being arranged, Faussett returned to Pennsylvania, and passed the following winter. In the spring of 1790, with the melting of the snow and ice, he set out with his family upon the extended journey, and finally reached their home in the wilderness. With what feelings did that wife survey the scanty provision for her shelter, what a depression of feeling to look around upon a solitude however beautiful, what wonder if the lip trembled and tears fell as the endeared remembrance came of friends and kindred far removed, and perhaps forever! Custom ameliorates condition, and each year saw their circumstances improve. Frugality and labor brought a competence, and with the lapse of time came heavier crops, enlarged fields, and extended ownership. Unsatisfied with undisputed possession, Faussett sought out the legal owner to lot No. 88, and from him purchased two hundred acres of the tract. Husbanding his resources, a few years elapsed, and another two hundred acres was added to the first. For many years this worthy man engaged in farming, and finally left the stage of action at the ripe age of eighty-three. There were other settlers during the period of which we write than those we mention, but our chapter intends but allusion to prominent pioneers to this part of Montgomery up to 1791. Pennsylvanians were early settlers of States northward and westward, and if Virginia may wear the title of Mother of Presidents, the Land of Penn may well lay claim to the appellation of Founder of Colonies. Among others who sought a home in southern Seneca during 1789 were the Dunlap brothers, Andrew and William, and with them came James Wilson. Arriving in May, Andrew Dunlap located upon lot No. 8, in the town of Ovid, and is known as the man whose plow turned the first furrow in breaking for cultivation the soil between the lakes. It was in the latest days of the month that a half-acre of surface was turned and the area planted with potatoes brought by him for that purpose from his former home upon the Susquehanna. But a brief interval elapsed before Mr. Dunlap was enabled to make full payment for his lot, and he thus became the possessor of a fine farm of six hundred acres, whose value constantly became enhanced as time passed on, and enabled the proprietor to live in comfort and independence in the winter of his days.

CHAPTER V.

THE PIONEER—SENECA, WHILE A PART OF HERKIMER, FROM 1791 TO 1794 —CAYUGA BRIDGE—GRIST MILLS—PUBLIC MEETING—AN OLD-TIME ARTICLE—THE OLD PRE-EMPTION LINE—THE ALBANY TURNPIKE.

HERKIMER COUNTY was formed from Montgomery on February 16, 1791; its name was given to commemorate General Nicholas Herkimer, who received wounds which caused his death at the battle of Oriskany, where he battled bravely for the liberty of the States. We have to do in this chapter with Seneca's history and surroundings for the brief period of three years. When we search the memories of the living, glean the brief allusions of the press, and ponder the paucity of facts, we realize the transitory character of American life, and are ready to exclaim,—

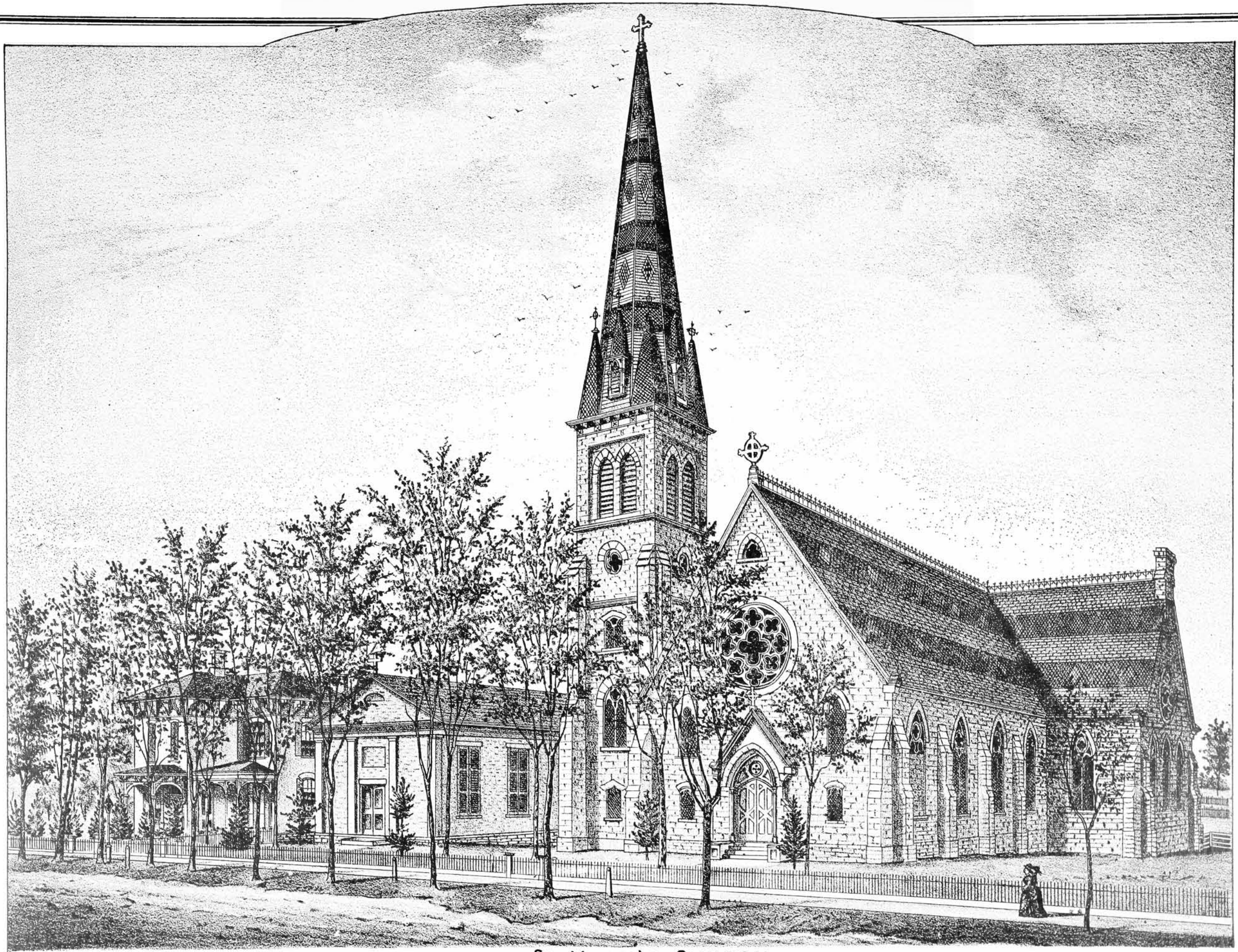
"A shadow, a vapor, a tale that is told. Ah, where is the figure so true
As justly to picture the bygones of old repassing in dreamy review?"

Within the limits of a lifetime a marvelous change has swept over the face of all this region. Farmer's Brother, Cornplanter, and Red Jacket have vanished before the swelling tide of western-bound humanity, and the last of the Senecas was borne down upon the flood. Their fields are cultivated, as of yore, by the sons and grandsons of the pioneers, whose last surviving members totter upon the verge of dissolution. Fine farms and growing cities and an advanced society are the outgrowths of pioneer enterprise; yet the shadows of oblivion are gathering. The memory of what these enterprising and hardy men were and of the parts they acted, though lingering in the minds of a few cotemporaries and handed down to their descendants, is, nevertheless, daily losing its distinctness, and will soon be gone beyond recovery. What will be known a few years hence of Samuel Bear, John Green, and Jabez Gorham? of Elder Rorison, Disbrow, the Yosts, Mynderse, Van Cleef, and the Dunlaps? What of Halsey, Asa Smith, the ill-fated Crane, and scores of others whose labors broke the solitude and changed the features of this then wilderness? It is no puerile task to wrest from obscurity a record of early events and those who caused them. It amazes the student of history to note the discount laid upon the life of our older citizens during the last quarter of a century. Familiar faces are sought which can never more be found. The harvester has gathered the pioneers; a few remain as the gleanings, even as some fruit clings to the branches when the time of the vintage is past. These are the veteran survivors of life's battles, the witnesses of strange mutations. Gathered a little band, the pioneers of Seneca are thus addressed by S. H. Gridley, D.D., Historian of Waterloo Historical Society: "A kind word to the few earlier settlers of the village and vicinity who still linger among us. You remember the privations and hardships of pioneer life,—the hard blows needed to reduce the wilderness to a fruitful field, and something of the heart and brain work which have been the cost of the privileges conferred upon your descendants. You have labored well in your several spheres; and, in behalf of the generations which follow you, I give you assurance of their appreciation of the heritage you have bequeathed to them. No service of ours is sufficient to requite the work you have done for us, or reward the cares and burdens which have been the price of this inheritance. We can only assure you that what we have received shall be held in memory of your names, virtues, and labors. If, in our cultivation of the moral virtues, we may give you some pledge of our proper use of what you bequeath; if, as the wrinkles upon your brows grow deeper, and your steps are less elastic, and you shrink from life's burdens, we may lighten your cares and gladden the evening of your earthly history, we shall count it both a duty and a privilege. And if the Father of Mercies shall deign to hear our prayer, then shall your sun decline slowly towards its setting, its closing beams shall be its richest and most effulgent, and it shall set only to rise to a higher orbit in that pure world in which God's presence is the central light and glory." Worthy words these, well spoken and fully deserved, and here embalmed to recall in after-times an occasion fraught with interest. Where individuals had been seen to take up homes in Seneca, now small parties of twos and threes and more, frequently arriving, the population increased, until the spring of 1793 saw full thirty families established in the southern portion, groups gathered at Seneca Falls and Scauyes, and isolated families scattered at distant points in other localities. At Goodwin's Point Philip Tremaine made a beginning, and was soon joined, in 1793, by the Kings,—Reuben, Bassler, and Nathaniel; in another year that nucleus was augmented by Jonathan Woodworth, accompanied by his sons Nehemiah, Charles, and Oliver, and his daughter Deborah, fresh from Norwich, Connecticut. In 1790 James Jackson settled on lot No. 35, in Ovid. In the western part of the town, prior to and in 1794, were Elijah Kinne, from Dutchess County; John Seeley, from Saratoga County; Peter Hughes, Nicholas and Richard Huff, Abraham De Mott and James, his son, Abraham Covert and his son Abraham A., William and Robert Dunlap, and Tennis Covert, the last settlers of 1794. James McKnight settled about 1790 in what is now Varick, David Wisner in Romulus, and Ezekiel Crane, of New Jersey, in the town of Tyre in 1794. At this period the privations of settling a forest were very trying. With mortar and pestle Indian corn was broken into a coarse meal and boiled as mush; venison, fresh or dried, added to the simple fare, and bear's meat was a luxury. Cattle ranged the woods in droves, grazing or browsing as grass or twigs predominated, and deep-toned bells of different note proclaimed to boys or older ones, who went to bring them home for milking, their whereabouts. About the year 1790, the settlers went to Newtown, now known as Elmira, a distance of forty miles, to buy groceries, seed, and provisions; and could we obtain the incidents of those long and wearisome journeys through the woods on winding roads to tell them here, it would be read with feelings akin to pity and astonishment.

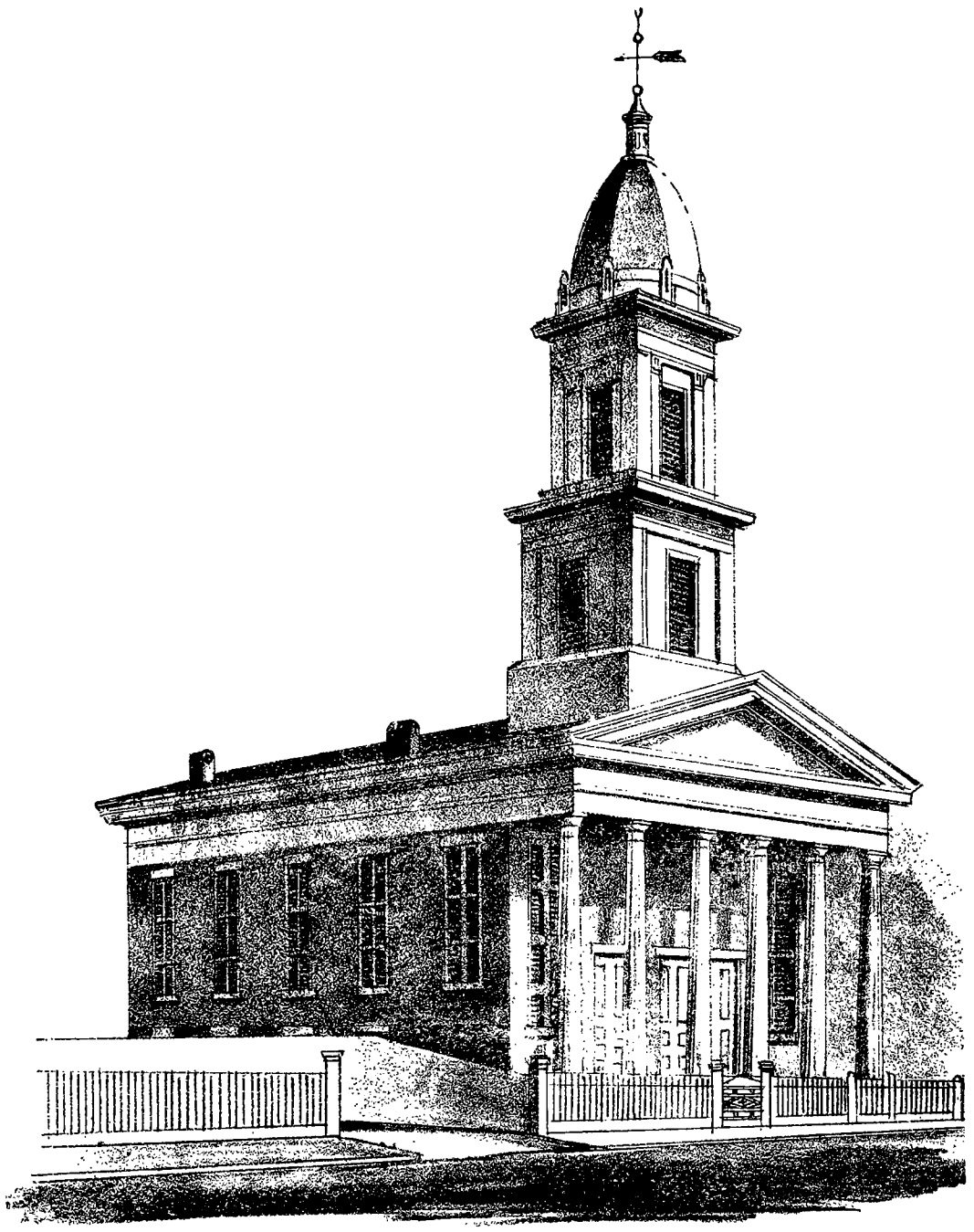
We are disposed in these days to look upon a former generation as wanting in that spirit which projects affairs of moment, and herald the changes of recent date as the only ones worthy of mention. It affords pleasure to be able, in connection with this history, to give brief mention of the Long Bridge over the Cayuga Lake. A company, known as "The Cayuga Bridge Company," consisting of John Harris, Joseph Annin, Thomas Morris, Wilhelmus Mynderse, and Charles Williamson, was incorporated in 1797; their purpose was the construction of a bridge across the northern end of Cayuga Lake, to further and expedite the passage of travelers and emigrants west. The work was commenced in the month of May, 1799, and completed September 4, 1800. Its dimensions were as follows: length, one mile and eight rods, and width, twenty-two feet, there being twenty-two feet between trestles, and sufficient space on roadway to allow the movement of three wagons abreast. The time occupied in its construction was eighteen months, and the entire cost is given as one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Eight years it performed good service, and was then destroyed. It was afterwards rebuilt, and for a great many years the Cayuga bridge was generally regarded as one of the greatest public improvements in the State, and was taken as the dividing line between the East and West. The bridge was finally abandoned in 1857, and the lake was crossed by a ferry. Portions of the ruins are yet to be seen, and mark its original site.

Prominent in the history of early settlement appear the erection of mills and the trials of their patrons. The families between the lakes, having no home mill, were accustomed to go with their grists in canoes or boats across Seneca Lake to a mill near Penn Yan. Grain could be floured at Rome and at the mill just named. Although beyond the limits of Seneca County, it is identified with her history, as for years the pioneers came to it to get their grinding done. Among the strange characters who made their appearance among the early settlements was a woman named Jemima Wilkinson, who rode in style through the streets of Geneva in a coach, on whose panels were the mystical characters "U. F.," —translated, we have "Universal Friend." Some flocked to see her to satisfy curiosity, and some became her followers. Among these latter was a party of settlers who, leaving Connecticut in 1789, followed the road made by Clinton on his march to join Sullivan, and, reaching Geneva, cut for themselves a road to Crooked Lake outlet, where they settled and erected the mill above mentioned. Here was ground the first bag of grain milled in Western New York.

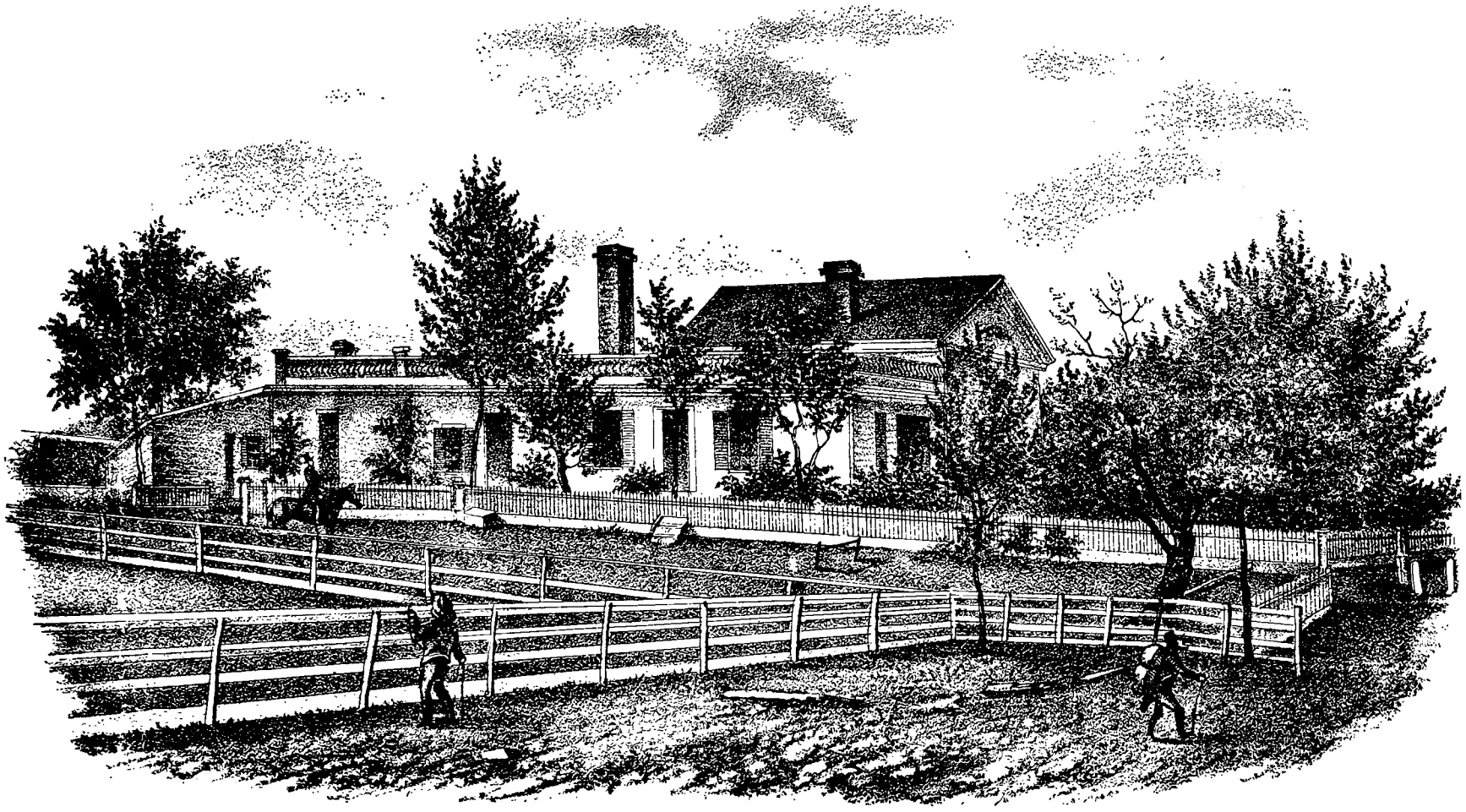
A mill in that day was a place of importance; mill-builders were recognized as persons of prominence, and first roads were cut to the mills, which, as we have shown, were few and distant. Stormy and severe weather, and busy seasons at times, prevented the accustomed journey or voyage to the mill. In this dilemma the pioneers were compelled to resort to the family hand-mill or the hominy block. The hand-mill, described in brief, was a three-foot piece of a log from a beech or a maple, hollowed from one end by free use of chisel and auger into the form of a cone. This hollow, made smooth and hard by a fire of coals kindled therein, was scraped clean, and the mortar prepared. A stick, wrist-thick, split at one end, holding in the cleft an iron wedge, with edge to the split, and kept in place by an iron ring, formed the pestle. Corn was placed in the mortar and beaten by the pestle. The finest, being sifted, was corn meal; the balance, minus the bran, was hominy. Another form of this rude appliance, used in the open air, was similar, as regards the mortar, in make and appearance, only possessing more stability when hollowed in a stump; the pestle was swung over the block from a horizontal pole, whose elasticity gave it the effect of a spring and lightened the labor of the operator. It is not for us to say which of two mills built, the one in the northern, the other in the southern part of Seneca, claims priority. So far as can be learned, their construction took place during 1794. Each built by representative men, the circumstances attending are full of interest. As a measure of justice and a matter of history, the builders of these mills, together with their work, are spoken of as follows: Silas Halsey, living at Southampton, Long Island, determined to "go West." Accordingly he took passage in a sloop for New York some time in 1792, having with him a hired white man and a colored servant. From New York he embarked, with such material as he pur-



ST. MARY'S CHURCH,
WATERLOO, NEW YORK.



Presbyterian Church
Seneca-Falls N.Y



Residence of Lewis Bodine, Fair-View, Ovid

posed to take with him, on another sloop, and voyaged up the Hudson to Albany. He was necessitated to make a detour around the Cohoes Falls, on the Mohawk River, and transported his baggage and supplies to Schenectady across the intervening plains and sand hills. At this point Halsey bought a "bateau," and began to work his way up stream, employing pole, paddle, and oar, singly or all at once, and in time came to Rome, early known as Fort Stanwix. A portage was then made to Wood Creek, and their bateau, borne on wheels to that stream, was duly launched, and the little party successively navigated the waters of lakes and rivers Oneida and Seneca. Passing southward along the eastern shore of the Seneca Lake, Halsey noted the lands before him, and finally stopped at what has been known in turn as Cooley's, Goff's Point, and Lodi Landing. A desirable location was found on lot No. 37 in Ovid, and the hands set to work. In a short time, with favoring weather, a deadening of half a dozen acres was made, the brush was cleared away, and the ground, unplowed, was sown to wheat. A partial covering was effected by the use of a clumsy harrow with wooden teeth. This agricultural agency was drawn over the field several times from different directions to secure the advantages of cross-harrowing in reaching the immediate vicinity of the girdled trees. A settler's log cabin having been built, Halsey, learning that the apple was very fruitful in this region, obtained a quantity of seeds from an Indian orchard, saw them carefully planted, and, a beginning being made, once more embarked upon his bateau and set out on his return. While engaged in overcoming the natural obstacles to his progress, we temporarily leave him to note the strangeness of finding the apple of civilization in the heart of a far-off wilderness, thriving luxuriously, and furnishing subsistence to the lodges of an ancient tribe of aborigines. Wild fruits were abundant for unknown periods; but when the settlements of Montreal and on the Hudson were visited by the Iroquois, and the apple seen and eaten, these people carried to their towns the fruit and planted out large fields. These orchards yielded heavily, and from their number and size the apple crop was very large. The soldiery of Sullivan, obeying orders, cut down many trees, and when they reached Kendaia so many orchards were found that they gave the place the name of Appletown,—a term often employed by the old settlers to designate the locality. Some few apple-growers escaped notice, and from them the whites continued their propagation. Mr. Halsey had passed the winter east, and in various conversations with his neighbors had given so favorable a report, that on his return for permanent location during the spring of 1793 quite a party desired to go with him. A colony embracing besides his own family that of his son and of his son-in-law, eighteen in number, followed the same general route as that previously pursued by the energetic founder. Six weeks elapsed before Cooley's Point came in view, and then the gifts of nature, intelligently utilized, made life pleasurable and enlightened the future with hopefulness. The Halsey settlement was welcomed by the few neighbors, so called, although a half-score of miles away. Among those nearest were the cabins and improvements of James Jackson, a settler on lot No. 35, a mile and a half to the west; of Elijah Kinne to the northward four miles, upon the present site of Ovid; Andrew Dunlap, about the same distance to the northwest; George Faussett, six miles southwardly; Philip Tremaine, upon the Cayuga Lake, at Goodwin's Point; some fifteen miles away and nine miles northeast was the home of David Wisner. A dense forest was all this country, broken by these slight openings. Along the higher lands there was no break save where a trail wound its serpentine course amidst the underbrush overhung by primal forest-trees; upon the lake shore were met occasional corn-fields, but all was wild, picturesque, and suggestive of patient labor to make it productive. Mr. Halsey soon received an appointment as a Justice of the Peace and took prominent part in public affairs, not the least of which was to cause the erection of a grist-mill, during the summer of 1794, upon the waters of Lodi Creek, above the falls. The millwrights who executed this necessary and pioneer work were three brothers, named respectively Casper, John, and George Yost. It is a pleasure to state in this connection that Judge Halsey lived to see the transformation of forest to farms completed; he departed this life at the goodly period of ninety years. Turn we now to the rapids of the Seneca River, called in Indian dialect Scauyes, and interpreted "the dancing waters." Thither in the spring of 1793 came the first permanent white settler in what is now called Waterloo. Anticipating the growth of a prosperous community, and foreseeing the advantages to be secured from that knowledge, Samuel Bear, of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, set out alone on horseback for this point, located on the western border of the military tract. Streams were forded, provisions were carried along in saddle-bags, and nightly bivouac was made wherever darkness overtook him. He kindled his fire with tinder and flint, wrapped himself in his blanket, and lay down to refreshing slumber while his horse grazed near by. Each morning saw him on his way. Proceeding past Newtown, now Elmira, his thoughts were recalled to the dangers he might encounter by the block-house standing there, and the memories of the battle which broke the Indian power for all time. Continuing on up the western shore of Cayuga Lake, he pitched his tent in Scauyes. For some reason there was a marked difference in the lands north and south of the outlet, those on the south being regarded as much the more valuable. A journey was now made to Albany, where Bear purchased three hundred acres of lot No. 4, fifty acres of lot No. 5, and a portion of lot No. 3, all being bounded on the north by Seneca Outlet. These tracts had been previously surveyed by Simeon De Witt and placed by the Commissioners in the market. Returning to his old home the pioneer secured a helpmate, and together they set out on horseback on their bridal tour for their western New York home. A miller by trade, Bear at once set about the construction of a grist-mill. It was the first enterprise in Scauyes contemplating the social necessities of the people. Up to this time, 1794, the early inhabitants were obliged to repair to a mill at the foot of Crooked Lake. The mill was erected of logs, and stood on the site of the later "white mills" of Messrs. Pierson, Becker and Raymor. The race was dug in part by Indians, who also aided in the raising. A part of the building was used by Mr. Bear as a residence. The mill being in running order notice was given to that effect far and near, and the tidings were received gladly. On foot, carrying their grist upon their shoulders, or on horseback with a bag for a saddle, having one end filled with corn and the other at times with buckwheat, the customers came in along old or breaking new paths. An aged resident speaking from personal knowledge evidently regards the old mill in the same light that a passenger upon the Auburn Branch Railroad would a stage running upon the old Albany road,—good, where one cannot do better. Arrived at the mill every man had to take his chance, and sometimes had to wait a whole day or longer for his turn. They usually came with provisions provided for any emergency, using stumps of trees for tables, lodging in the mill when there was no other room, on the bags of grain. Some of the customers came from twenty to thirty miles to get grinding done. The mill soon became a point of settlement, and various persons located near by, so that, as we shall have occasion to mention, another mill was erected, a town plat made, and the foundations of Waterloo laid.

The real power behind the screen to the foreigner, who, fresh from the observance of all the machinery of arbitrary government, first looks around upon the bustle and energy of American every-day life, is unknown and unsuspected. It had its origin and maintains its full vitality in the equality and freedom of the town-meeting. The earliest known assembly of this character was held as indicated by the following copy of the proceedings:

"At a Town-Meeting, held in the Town of Ovid, in the County of Onondaga, on Tuesday, the first day of April, 1794, for chusing Town Officers, the Freeholders and Inhabitants of said town being meet, proceeded to their choise, as Follows, viz.: Silas Halsey, Supervisor; Joshua Wickhoff, Town Clerk; Elijah Kinne, Abraham Covert, and George Fassett, Assessors; Abraham Lebeun, Collector; Elijah Kinne and Andrew Dunlap, Overseers of the Poor; James Jackson, John Livingston, and John Selah, Commissioners of Highways; Abraham Lebeun, Constable; Elijah Kinne, Abraham Covert, and George Fassett, Overseers of Highways; Henry Scivinton, Daniel Everts, Elijah Kinne, John Selah, James Jackson, and Samuel Chiswell, Fence Viewers; Thomas Covert, Pound-Master; also voted that Hogs run free Commoned for the year Insuing; also voted that every fence be 4½ feet high to be accounted sufficient.

"The above Town-Meeting, held the first day of April, in presence of me,

"SILAS HALSEY, *Justice of the Peace.*"

It is observed in this document that, while there is a lack of education, there is an ability to express themselves understandingly. The fewness of numbers has compelled the choice of several persons to fill the same offices. It is also to be noted that the same freeholders voted the sum of six pounds for the support of their poor,—an ample donation, considering their resources. Of the town officers then elected Andrew Dunlap died in 1851, at the age of ninety-one. He died but a short distance from the site of his first log house, and on a farm familiar to sixty-three years of his existence. The last survivor of that meeting was Abraham A. Covert, whose vote on every recurring election was invariably cast, with an exception caused by illness, up to well-nigh his hundredth year.

We continue our chapter by the reproduction of an article on the Genesee country, published in the *Commercial Agricultural Magazine*, in London, England, August, 1799, both as a curiosity, and showing the explicit terms in which proprietary efforts were expressed and the strong inducements offered to colonists in this vicinity. It is entitled, "An Account of Capt. Williamson's Establishment on Lake Ontario, North America."

"This immense undertaking is under the direction and in the name of Captain Williamson, formerly a British officer, but is generally supposed in America to be a joint concern between him and Sir William Patence of London; in England Patence is believed to be the proprietor, and Williamson his agent. The land in the Genesee country, or that part of it which belongs to the State of Massachusetts, was sold to a Mr. Phelps for fivepence an acre; by him, in 1790, to

Mr. Morris, at one shilling per acre, being estimated at a million of acres, on condition that the money should be returned provided Captain Williamson, who was to view the lands, should not find them answerable to the description. Captain Williamson was pleased with them, and, on survey, found the tract to contain one hundred and twenty thousand acres more than the estimate, the whole of which was conveyed to him. This district is bounded on one side by Lake Ontario, and on the other by the river Genesee. Williamson also bought some other land of Mr. Morris, so that he is now proprietor of more than a million and a half acres. After surveying the whole he resolved to found at once several large establishments rather than one capital colony. He therefore fixed on the most eligible place for building towns, as central spots to his whole system. There were Bath, on the Cohetoon; Williamsburg, on the Genesee; Geneva, on the extremity of Lake Seneca; and Great Sodus, on Lake Ontario. The whole territory he divided into squares of six miles, or so near as local circumstances would permit. Each of these sections he forms into what he calls a district. Sure of finding settlers and purchasers when he had established a good communication between his new tract and Philadelphia, and as the old road was by way of New York and Albany, Williamson opened a road which has shortened the distance near three hundred miles. He has also continued his roads from Bath to Canandaigua, to Geneva, and to Great Sodus, and several other roads of communication. He has already erected ten mills,—three corn and seven sawing,—has built a great many houses, and begun to clear land. He put himself to the heavy expense of transporting eighty families from Germany to his settlements; but, owing to a bad choice made by his agent at Hamburg, they did little, and after a short time set off for Canada. He succeeded better in the next set, who were mostly Irish. They put the roads into good condition, and gave such a difference to the whole that the land, which he sold at one dollar an acre, was soon worth three; and he has disposed of eight hundred thousand acres in this way, so as to pay the first purchase, the whole expense incurred, and has made a profit of fifty pounds. This rapid increase of property is owing to the money first advanced, but the great advantage is Williamson's constant residence on the settlement, which enables him to conclude any contract or to remove any difficulty which may stand in the way; besides, his land is free from all dispute or question of occupancy, and all his settlement is properly ascertained and marked out. The land, which sold at one, has gradually risen to three dollars an acre; and a proviso is always inserted in the deed of sale, to those who purchase a large quantity, that a certain number of acres shall be cleared and a certain number of families settled within eighteen months. Those who buy from five hundred to one thousand are only obliged to settle one family. These clauses are highly useful, as they draw an increase of population and prevent the purchase of lands on speculation only. Captain Williamson, however, never acts up to the rigor of this clause where any known obstacles impede the execution. The terms of payment are to discharge half the purchase in three years and the remainder in six, which enables the industrious to pay from the produce of the land. The poorer families he supplies with an ox, a cow, or even a home. To all the settlements he establishes he takes care to secure a constant supply of provisions for the settlers or supplies them from his own store. Whenever five or six settlers build together he always builds a house at his own expense, which soon sells at an advanced price. Every year he visits each settlement, which tends to diffuse a spirit of industry and promote the sale of lands, and he employs every other means he can suggest to be useful to the inhabitants. He keeps stores of medicines, encourages races and amusements, and keeps a set of beautiful stallions. He has nearly finished his great undertaking, and purposes then to take a voyage to England to purchase the best horses, cattle, sheep, implements of agriculture, etc. Captain Williamson has not only the merit of having formed, and that in so judicious a manner, this fine settlement, but he has the happiness to live universally respected, honored, and beloved. Bath is the chief settlement, and it is to be the chief town of a county of the same name. At this town he is building a school, which is to be endowed with some hundred acres of land. The salary of the master Williamson means to pay until the instruction of the children shall be sufficient for his support. He has built a session-house and prison, and one good inn which he has sold for considerable profit, and is now building another which is to contain a ball-room. He has also constructed a bridge, which opens a free and easy communication with the other side of the river. He keeps in his own hands some small farms in the vicinity of Bath, which are under the care of a Scotchman, and which appear to be better ploughed and managed than most in America. In all the settlements he reserves one estate for himself, the stock on which is remarkably good. These he disposes of occasionally to his friends and on some handsome offers. To the settlements already mentioned he is now adding two others on Lake Ontario, near Aondegut, on the river Genesee, and the other at Braddock, thirty miles farther inland. Great Sodus, on the coast of this district, promises to afford a safe and convenient place for ships, from the depth of water, and it may be easily fortified. The climate here is much more temperate than in Pennsylvania. The winter seldom lasts more than four months, and the cattle even in that season graze in the forest without inconvenience. These settlements are, however, rather unhealthy, which Captain Williamson ascribes to nothing but the natural effect of the climate on new settlers, and is confined to a few fits of fever with which strangers are seized the first or second year after their arrival. The inhabitants all agree, however, that the climate is unfavorable, and the marshes and pieces of stagnant water are thickly spread over the country; but this will be drained as the population increases. On the whole, it promises to be one of the most considerable settlements in America."

We note here a rise in value which has been far exceeded,—a growth attributable to the generosity of the proprietor and a laudable importation of choice live-stock. It is in evidence that although the frequent arrival of persons seeking homes created a demand for the surplus products of the pioneers up to 1800, from that date the farmers of Seneca began to seek a market for their wheat and corn. Elmira, once known as Newtown, was the market-town to which with extreme difficulty the products of the fields were conveyed. Rafts and floats were used during the floods of spring-time to convey the crops to points on the Susquehanna, and the producer realized a profit per bushel of half a dollar. Williamson evidently performed a great service for the people of this region, but failed in his endeavors to establish here that distinction of rank which, while a permanent feature of the old world, has no place and can have none in the new.

We have said that Seneca formed part of the western portion of the Military Tract: between this tract and the Genesee country was run a boundary line whose history is full of interest. Massachusetts, under its colonial charter, claimed all lands west of its western border to the Pacific Ocean. The charter of New York did not recognize this claim,—hence controversies arose which were finally adjusted at Hartford, Connecticut, on December 16, 1786, where it was mutually agreed between Commissioners from each State, that Massachusetts cede to New York all her rights in the latter State. New York, in turn, ceded to Massachusetts her rights to all land in the State west of a line running north from the eighty-second mile-stone, on the north boundary of Pennsylvania to British possessions in Canada, except a tract one mile in width along the Niagara River! The running of this line, known as the "Old Pre-emption Line," was a matter of much interest, but of mere speculation as to its accuracy so far as regarded the vicinity of Seneca Lake, and there were those who desired that the line should pass west of the promising village of Geneva, leaving quite a body of land between the two tracts. Two Indian traders, Seth Reed and Peter Ryckman, made application to the State for the satisfaction of a claim presented for services rendered in negotiating with the Six Nations, and made the proposition that a patent should be given them for a tract whose limits should be defined as extending from a certain tree which stood on the bank of Seneca Lake southward along the bank until a strip of land, in area equal to sixteen thousand acres, should be included between the lake and Massachusetts lands. Their claim was allowed, and a patent given. Massachusetts sold her lands in 1787 to Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham, they paying one million dollars for six million acres. The former moving on from Granville, Massachusetts, with a colony and outfit, extinguished the title of the Indians, by a treaty made at Kanadesaga in July, 1788, to the eastern portion of their extensive purchase.

Reed and Ryckman now proposed to Phelps and Gorham to unite in running the Pre-emption Line, each party to furnish a surveyor. The result was what is known as the "Old Pre-emption Line." The survey was highly favorable to the traders, and disappointed Messrs. Phelps and Gorham, who, however, made no re-survey, but sold their purchase to Robert Morris, and—influenced by their suspicions of fraud on the part of the surveyors, caused by an "offer" by one of the Lessee Company for "all the lands they owned EAST of the line that had been run"—specified in their deed to Morris a tract in a gore between that line and the west bounds of the Military Tract. Morris was satisfied that the survey was incorrect, and in his sale to Pultney and others articled to run a new line. Under the superintendence of Major Hoops, Andrew Ellicott and Augustus Porter performed the work. A body of axe-men were set to work, and felled the timber a width of thirty feet; down this line the survey was continued to the head of Seneca Lake, whence night signals were employed to run down and over the lake. The care taken to secure accuracy established credit in the survey, and in this manner the "New Pre-emption Line" became known as the true line of division between the two States' claims. Major Hoops then examined the former survey, and found that a short distance from the Pennsylvania line it had begun to bear off gradually till, reaching the outlet of Crooked Lake, it there made an abrupt offset. An inclination was then made in a northwest course for some miles; then the line inclined eastward till, reaching the foot of Seneca Lake, it struck out in a line nearly due north to Lake Ontario. Consulting an old map,

the site of Geneva included in Reed and Ryckman's tract is seen to have been the magnet which caused this unusual variation in the surveyor's compass. The old line reached Lake Ontario, three miles west of Sodus Bay, and the new line near the centre of the head of the bay. The space between the two lines, aside from the departure at Crooked Lake, became of a triangular form, having an acute angle near the Chemung, and its base resting on Lake Ontario, and was familiarly known as "The Gore." The State had permitted land warrants to be located on disputed territory under the impression that the first line was correct; hence the addition of what were called "Compensation Lands" to the Military Tract in what is now Wayne County. We conclude our chapter by a reference to the old turnpike road which eighty years ago connected Albany with Buffalo. This famous road pursued a line through State Street, Albany; Main Street, Utica; Genesee Street, Auburn; Fall Street, Seneca Falls; Main Street, Waterloo; and Main Street, Buffalo. We have said that the road was little else but a trail prior to 1794. From Geneva on to Avon there were no more than half a dozen log cabins in 1792 to cheer the vision of the weary western-bound traveler, but on the 22d of March, 1794, three Commissioners were appointed to lay out a road, which was authorized by legislative enactment, from Utica, formerly known as "Old Fort Schuyler," as nearly direct as possible to the Cayuga Ferry; thence to Canandaigua, and from that point to a settlement at Canawagus, on the Genesee River, where the first bridge spanning the Genesee River was erected. The road from Utica to the Genesee, which in June, 1796, was little else but a name, was improved, and travel upon it began rapidly to increase. In the year 1793, the first mail west of Canajoharie was transported from that point to Whitestown. In pursuance of an arrangement of the Post-Office Department, the route was made self-sustaining by leaving the expenses incident to be met by the people along the road. The distance was fifty miles, and the time twenty-eight hours. The contract passed into the hands of Jason Parker, Esq., the enterprising and well-known founder of a great line of stages which later traversed the country in every direction, whose main trunks have been superseded by railroads in the East, and whose career, following the rush of the emigrant and gold-seeker, is glorious in the reckless yet skillful driving down into the cañons of the rivers and skirting the precipices of the Rocky Mountains, and will be famous till there too the rushing car will outstrip the coach and consign it to a recollection and a reminiscence of the aged and the past. A stage was started from Utica on September 30, 1796, and on the afternoon of the third day out arrived with four passengers at Geneva before the old Williamson Hotel, whose appointments, in charge of landlord Powell, were then equaled by few inns in America. There are those yet living who have traveled along this old thoroughfare in the old stage coach. They will recall the long night rides, when each, subsiding into silence, indulged a growing drowsiness, half conscious of crossing the "Long Bridge," being jostled in passing over a piece of corduroy, and awaking chilled as the crack of the driver's whip, the increased motion, and the final stop before a group of spectators indicated the arrival at a terminus. Then each stepped out and exercised his stiffened limbs, enjoyed warm, pleasant rooms, and refreshed the inner man with well-cooked steak, hot coffee, and unrivaled liquor. Those who daily traverse the "old line" railroad little know the good and ill experienced in old-time travel on the Albany Turnpike. A few years, and this old road will be blotted from the memory of man. James Cotton, familiarly known as "King Cotton," was a contractor and the builder of that section of the road which passed through Seneca Falls, and as landlord of a tavern built in that place in 1800 by Parkhurst, on the present site of the Globe Hotel, received in patronage a second payment for services; but there were those whose toil and labor, given cheerfully, deserve the respect of posterity. John Salisbury was one who walked from his home on Melvin Hill to what was called the Narrows, in Waterloo, and there engaged in cutting out stumps, repairing, and improving, and returned weary from hard toil to his habitation. During the war of 1812 this road, continued by slashed track and corduroy to Niagara frontier, was burdened to its full capacity with four to six and eight horse teams used in the conveyance of goods for western settlers, and return of all produce which would bear the cost of transportation to Albany. These, with emigrant teams, and the constant passing of troops and munitions of war, made almost a continuous line. Nearly every house was a tavern, and every few miles was a gate to collect tolls. In 1814–15, peace being declared, the Governor of Upper Canada and suite, with a numerous retinue in carriages and on horses, carrying beds, silver, and conveniences, ladies, lap-dogs, and luxuries, made a journey along the road, eastward bound; but the caravans of emigrants, the trains of produce-bearing wagons, the stage lines and the taverns are already of past record.

CHAPTER VI.

1794 TO ORGANIZATION OF SENECA COUNTY IN 1804—THE STATE'S HUNDRED—COURTS AND OFFICERS—MIGRATORY HARDSHIPS—THE CAYUGA RESERVATION—THE BAYARD COMPANY—A REMINISCENCE OF WATERLOO IN ITS FIRST DECADE.

"OURS is a free republic where, beneath the sway of mild and equal laws framed by themselves, one people dwell and own no lord, save God." The war of the Revolution produced a great and favorable change in the State character. The prosperity which followed peace diffused an enterprising spirit. Individual freedom of action was unrestricted, yet infringement of social rights brought condign punishment. From 1794 till March 8, 1799, Cayuga formed a portion of Onondaga County, the first courts of which were held in barns and settlers' habitations at Onondaga; Levana, on the shore of Cayuga Lake, Cayuga County; and at Ovid, in Seneca County. The first officials of the then large county were Seth Phelps, first Judge; Benjamin Ledyard, Clerk; John Harris, Sheriff; and Moses De Witt, Surrogate. This County was the home of the tribe whose name it bears. Upon its lands were held the great councils of the Iroquois, and to the Onondagas, or "men of the mountains," was intrusted the care of the sacred council-fire. By treaties of various dates the remnant of the tribe has disposed of its lands until their reservation embraces something more than six thousand acres, located in Onondaga and Lafayette. Of that renowned and powerful tribe but a few hundred remain, yet these lay hold of civilization and show improvement. Cayuga was formed from Onondaga in 1799, and retained its area unbroken but five years; during this period it included the territory embraced east and west by Cayuga and Seneca Lakes. The population was sparse and busily occupied in projecting and carrying forward improvements individual and general. To accommodate all parts of the County, Aurora, on the east shore of Cayuga Lake, was designated as a temporary county seat, as being centrally located. The first and a truly primitive court-house was erected in 1799, the materials employed being poles for the walls and rafters, and brush for roofing in lieu of shingles or clapboards. Humble though it were, yet with it is associated the conclusion of a tragedy, of which this region has known but few, and whose recollection is all the more distinct from its rarity. The year 1803 still saw the Indians swarming in the forests. They were peaceable, but annoying as importunate beggars and inveterate thieves. Between them and white settlers there was little confidence, and many families lived in fear. There was one among the Indians who made himself at home in the cabins of the pioneers. He was aged; but "Indian John," the Seneca, had not learned to rule his temper, and this was not to his advantage. When the leaves fell and sharp frosts foretold the winter near, settler and savage set out to gather stores of meat, that when the snows lay deep they need not hunger. A settler named George Phadoc, in company with the Seneca, built a bark shelter on the waters of Black Brook, and both went out in search of game. Again and again the deer fell before the settler's deadly aim, while the Indian leveled his rifle at bird or beast in vain. On the evening of December 11 the savage returned with empty hand, and his fierce heart burning with thoughts of magic and revenge. Phadoc had killed a deer, for which next morning he early left the hut, and, coming back, was in the act of throwing down the carcass at the door, when a rifle-ball sped from the Indian's weapon through the deer into the white man's side. Phadoc drew his tomahawk to meet his enemy, then snatched his rifle, and hurried for relief to the cabin of Asa Smith, where much alarm arose from a knowledge of "Old John's" accustomed fits of rage. Like a wild beast in his lair crouching for a victim, the Indian watched in the hut with loaded fire-arm to shoot the first who came. Ezekiel Crane, with wife and children, had come from New Jersey in 1794, and made a settlement on lot No. 48. The woods around his habitation were felled, crops had been gathered, neighbors had moved in, and the chief difficulties of this pioneer of Tyre seemed overcome. On the morning of December 12, Mr. Crane and Ezra Degarmo, a settler on the same lot and a relative by marriage, together set out to select additional land. Crane resolved to go by the cabin where the Indian lay in ambush, and obtain some venison from the hunters. The white men came up, and Crane rapped at the door, and was immediately answered by the report of a rifle, and a ball passing through his left breast buried itself in his left shoulder, causing him to fall as though dead. Degarmo hastened away to spread the news and gather aid; meanwhile, the wounded man recovered consciousness, and found his way to Asa Smith's, where, after five days of suffering, he died. At dark of the day of the fatal shot the settlers gathered at the cabin, and cautiously stole near it. The savage, with the wily cunning of his race, expected an attack, and, catching sight of the backwoodsmen, raised a loud and ringing war-cry. Some of the party were for shooting him down, but this was opposed to the plan of giving him up to be tried by the