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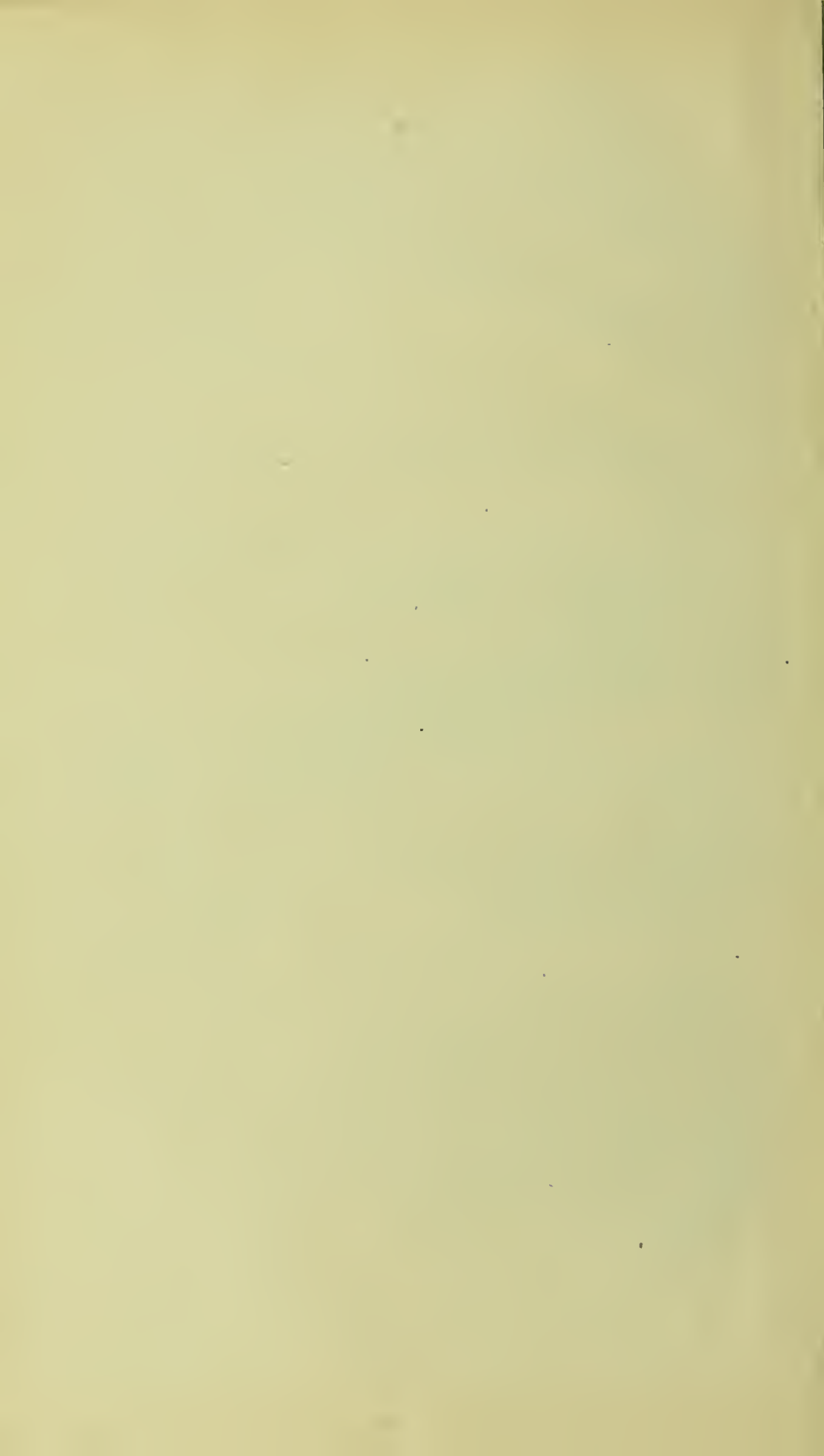
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HISTORICAL

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SOUVENIR



OF

MEXICO, N. Y.

AND VICINITY

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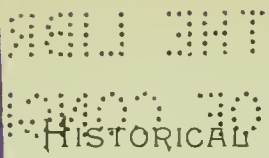
“GRIP’S”

Historical Souvenir of Mexico, N. Y.

*Edw. W. Washburn*

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HISTORICAL SOUVENIR SERIES, No. 15

# MEXICO, OSWEGO CO., AND VICINITY

"THE ARBOR VILLAGE"

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ILLUSTRATED



Dunwick, Photo.

MAIN STREET, SOUTH SIDE.  
Between Church and Jefferson Streets.

**M**EXICO, located as it is in the center of a wealthy agricultural region, has steadily risen in importance until today it is one of the prettiest and most thriving villages of Oswego county.

Its citizens point with a just pride to its fine churches, hotels, schools, mills, stores, creamery and canning factory; its machine and wagon shops.

And especially are its citizens proud of their well paved streets and the large amount of cement sidewalks that attract the attention and elicit the unfeigned admiration of all visitors to this beautiful village.

But where Mexico, the loveliest village of the north, excels, is in her beautiful modern homes and their clean, orderly and attractive environments, together with an abundance of foliage and shrubbery—in fact the arboreal beauty of this enticing place should give to it the designation, indeed most appropriate, of Arbor Village.

Her residents include a large class of people well known in Society of Central New York. They are, as the rule, people who have prospered and are well provided with this world's goods.

Many of them are retired from active business life, whose children—the men and women of the future—are getting the best of modern educational facilities.

For many years Mexico village, a center of refinement, has been a leader among the villages of Oswego county in education. The academy, founded in the beginning of the last century, has sent to all parts of this country the graduates from her class rooms, who have distinguished themselves in many high walks in life and reflected credit on their alma mater and the village of their youth.

It was here that an officer in the United States army, Col. Richards, whose home is in this village, came under authority of the war department, a few years ago, and established and conducted a military school, which, until it was succeeded by the present public school, was carried on in an admirable and intelligent manner.

The region which contributes to the prosperity of Mexico consists of splendid farms and an intelligent agricultural community. The roads in the town, itself, as well as the village, are kept in good condition.



Mexico is a station on the Oswego and Richland branch of the R. W. & O. railroad system, leased by the New York Central & Hudson River railroad. It is 9 miles west of Pulaski and 16 miles east of Oswego, situated but 3 miles from Lake Ontario at the forks of a stream which empties into the lake at Mexico Point, and 45 miles (by rail) north of Syracuse.

**HISTORY OF MEXICO**

[T. W. SKINNER]

The town of Mexico, once the largest of towns [See “Mexico Mother of Towns” on another page] is now reduced to Township No. 20 of Scriba’s Patent and a small portion of Townships Nos. 19 and 21, and contains 28,217 acres of land.

1798, when by the loss of their vessel, seven strong men, heads of families, were drowned near Mexico Point, had a depressing influence on the early settlers and the number of families dwindled to six. No other vessel was built there; but the store and mill remained, and in a later year, it was stated, more goods were sold there than at Oswego or Utica. The early settlers located along Scriba’s road and this was their most convenient trading point. It finally became the resort of successful smugglers and tradition implicates some of the inhabitants of the town in that illegal traffic. Nathaniel Rood was the first white settler inside the corporation limits of Mexico village, and his son, Truman Rood, was the first white child born in this town. Nathaniel was one of the victims of the lake disaster, and Truman died at Colosse in 1877.

In the year 1804 there was a large influx of



Dunwick, Photo. MAIN STREET, WEST FROM JEFFERSON STREET.

The first road was one opened by Mr. Scriba in 1795, from what is now Mexico Point to the village of Constantia. Mr. Scriba received his patent Dec., 1794, and the land was surveyed into townships. The first settlement in the town was made in 1795, the same year that great road was opened.

Calvin Tiffany and Phineas Davis became residents of the town, Jan. 20, 1799. They moved from Connecticut on a sled drawn by two yoke of oxen and for a year occupied jointly a single log cabin. Mr. Tiffany settled on the above named road on Lot No. 55 and opened his house as a tavern near the present Dewey cheese factory. Here was held the first town meeting and the first meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Oswego county; and many of the early religious services were held there.

Mr. Davis settled in the bounds of the present village and died in 1844. The great calamity of

settlers, and among them were Asa Beebe, Joel Savage, Joseph Lamb, Peter Pratt, Noah Smith, Oliver Richardson, Leonard Ames, Solomon Huntington and others. Asa Beebe became a prominent business man of the village of Mexico. Oliver Richardson was the father of Alvin and John M. Richardson, the latter of whom became member of assembly from this county. Solomon Huntington settled near Union Square in this town and erected a tavern which he kept during the war of 1812. He came from Connecticut and as slavery had not been abolished in that state or in New York he brought with him a young colored boy about 16 years of age, whom he owned as a slave and treated with great kindness until he died a few years later and was buried on the family burial lot in the Union Square cemetery.

The village of Colosse in this town at an early date was a very prosperous place of business and



Donwick, Photo. MAIN STREET, EAST FROM LAWTON RESIDENCE.

a great rival of the village of Mexico. The post-office at Colosse was one of the first in the county, it being on the old mail route between Syracuse and Watertown, and on the mail route to Camden. The mail was carried each way once a week by Dexter Howard, on horseback. Colosse also had the first cheese factory in the county. The Baptist church built there in 1820 was the first church in town and the first Baptist church in the county. Afterwards, when Mexico village took the lead, many of the business men of Colosse came to Mexico, among whom were Henry and Charles Webb and Dr. G. A. Dayton.

Mexico village was originally called Mexicoville and Nathaniel Hood was the first settler. In 1812 there were only seven houses. The first frame house was built by Shubal Alfred and his house and barn were both used at different times for school purposes. The house was the place where the Masons held their first meeting.

The first mill for grinding grain was built by John Morton, who was succeeded by M. Whitney and Dennis Peck. William S. Fitch kept the first store and Mr. Whitney the first hotel; Bazaleel Thayer the first carding and cloth dressing mill and John Wood the first tannery.

The town of Mexico has been honored with a good share of state and county offices. Elias Brewster, of Prattsburgh, was the first surrogate, in 1816; Peter Pratt, of Prattsburgh, was the second sheriff, in 1819; the other

sheriffs from the town were Alvin Lawrence and Edwin L. Huntington. The county judges have been Avery Skinner, Orla H. Whitney and Maurice L. Wright. The surrogates from this town after Mr. Brewster were Joseph Torrey, Orville Robinson, Orla H. Whitney and Timothy W. Skinner. The members of assembly were Orville Robinson, Avery Skinner, Luke D. Smith, Leonard Ames, Dewitt C. Peck, Alvin Richardson and John M. Richardson.

George G. French was district attorney and Dewitt C. Peck, W. S. Goodell, John W. Ladd and Ida Griffin were school commissioners. Dr. Gilson A. Dayton was state canal auditor and

Avery Skinner was state senator and a member of the state "court for the correction of errors," which, under the old constitution was analogous to the present court of appeals. Mexico being the geographical center of the county all the county conventions of both political parties were always held in this town until a few years ago when, in consequence of the convenience of railroads the conventions have met at Oswego and Pulaski.

**Mexico, Mother of Towns.**—The grandeur of the domains of the town of Mexico, embraced in the boundaries presented by the legislature in 1792 and rearranged in 1796, can best be appreciated by glancing at a modern map and taking an inventory of the remarkably great number of civil divisions—counties, parts of counties and towns—which have been carved therefrom.



Donwick, Photo. RAILROAD STREET, NORTH FROM CEMETERY STREET.





Dunwick, Photo. WASHINGTON STREET, SOUTH FROM MAIN STREET.

It will be seen that Mexico has fairly earned the distinction of “Mother of Towns.” Not only that, but the most fertile acres, the most historic localities and to-day the most popular section of Central New York was first comprised in the town of Mexico.

The original town, erected in 1792, extended in the greatest direction to the north and south, with a coast line on Lake Ontario of about thirty miles and reaching almost to the state of Pennsylvania. Four years later, the legislature deeming a readjustment of its boundaries necessary to better accommodate the several groups of settlements for the purpose of civil government, elongated the town to the east and west, adding twenty-five miles of lake shore in the east and cutting off all west of the Oswego river. This netted Mexico forty-five miles of lake coast, more than the state of Pennsylvania possesses on Lake Erie or New Hampshire on the Atlantic. At the same time Mexico was chopped off along Oneida lake and river, and stretched out on the east to include the new settlements along Black river and the paths leading into the intervening sections from Fort Stanwix.

Whereas it had formerly included the counties of Onondaga and Cortland, it now being detached from that territory was united with the vast stretches of glades and woodland now comprised in the counties of Jefferson, Lewis and Oneida. One reason for the annexation of this new territory (1796) was to include all of the Scriba patent, the owner of which had then begun

extensive plans for erecting a city on the shore of Lake Ontario at VeraCruz which he intended to connect with his new city of Rotterdam on the shore of Oneida lake with a broad, well constructed highway and which favored the enlargement of the limits of the town of Mexico to bring both places within the same town. The village of Rotterdam (Constantia) was made the capital of the new town and it was there at the house of John Meyer that the first town meeting was decreed by law.

Beginning with the dismemberment of Mexico in the south, two years earlier, when Onondaga county was formed (1794), there followed an inter-

val of two years during which Mexico was restricted to boundaries within the present county of Oswego. Then with the annexation of the eastern and northern territory began the breaking up of Mexico into new towns, continuing year after year until it was finally in 1836, reduced to its present size, a still large and flourishing town almost in the heart of the old town; giving birth to a numerous progeny of municipalities, three counties and eighty towns, which to-day include a population of nearly 400,000, having a boundary of about 400 miles in extent.

The names of these several municipalities, which should call Mexico mother, are as follows:

Oswego Co., Amboy, Albion, Boylston, Constantia, Hannibal, Granby, Hastings, Mexico, New Haven, Oswego, Orwell, Parish, Palermo, Redfield, Richland, Schreppel, Scriba, Sandy Creek, Volney, Williamstown, West Monroe.



Dunwick, Photo. WATER STREET, SOUTH FROM MAIN STREET.

Onondaga Co., Clay, Cicero, Camillus, De Witt, Elbridge, Fabius, Geddes, Lafayette, Lysander, Manlius, Marcellus, Otisco, Onondaga, Pompey, Salina, Spafford in part, Skaneateles, Tully, Van Buren.

Cortland Co., Cortlandville, Cuyler, Cincinnatus, Freetown, Harford, Homer, Lapeer,

Marathon, Preble, Solon, Scott, Taylor, Truxton, Virgil, Willet.

Oneida Co., Anusville, Camden, Florence and Vienna and parts of Ava, Lee and Rome.

Lewis Co., Denmark, Harrisburgh, High Market, Lowville, Leyden in part, Martinburgh, Montague, Osceola, Pinckney, Turin, West Turin.



Dunwick, Photo.

#### MAGNIFICENT STREETS.

Spring Street, between Washington and Church Streets.—Black Creek Pond, from Main Street.  
 Main Street, West End; Fulton and Oswego Roads.—Pulaski Road, looking from East Hill.  
 Main Street, East of the Creek (site of Park Hotel); Pulaski and Union Square Roads.—Little  
 Salmon River, north from Main Street Bridge.  
 Main Street East from Black Creek Bridge. Main Street, East from Church Street (old Town Hall).



Jefferson Co., Adams, Champion, Ellisburg, Hounsfield, Henderson, Lorraine, Rutland, Watertown and Worth.

In this work the distinction between Mexico erected in 1792 and reerected in 1796, is made by the use of the terms, Mexico of 1792 and Mexico of 1796, each of which is described more fully on other pages.

**First County Officers.** The “Council of Appointment” named the first county officers for Oswego county in 1816, viz: Judge, Burnet Mooney; assoeiate judges, Henry Williams, Smith Dunlap, P. D. Hugumin, David Easton, Edmund Hawks; surrogate, Elias Brewster; county clerk, James Adams; sheriff, John S. Davis.



Dunwick, Photo.

BEAUTIFUL RESIDENCE STREETS.

- Jefferson Street, North from Main Street.—North Street, North from East Park (Main Street.)
- Railroad Street, North from Main Street.—Oswego County Poor House.
- Ames Street (fair ground road).—Mill Street, South from Main Street.
- South Jefferson Street, North from Spring Street.—Wayne Street, South from Main Street.

**Timothy W. Skinner** was born at Union Square, Oswego county, N. Y., April 24, 1827. His grandfather, Timothy Skinner, was a revolutionary soldier and his grandfather on his mother's side was Solomon Huntington, who came from Connecticut and settled in the town of Mexico in 1804, and who was a near relative of Samuel Huntington, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and president of the Continental Congress. His father was the Hon. Avery Skinner, one of the pioneers of the northern section of this state, having come to Watertown from New

in 1870 by the removal of Judge Whitney to Oswego, Mr. Skinner took his brother-in-law, Maurice L. Wright, now justice of the supreme court, as his partner, under the firm name of Skinner & Wright and the partnership continued until 1880. Since then Mr. Skinner has continued in the active duties of his profession and is to-day, at the age of 76, one of the oldest and most widely known members of the legal fraternity in active practice in this county. No one has been longer connected with the politics of the county than Mr. Skinner. He was elected surrogate in 1863, again in 1870 and re-elected in 1876, thus serving as surrogate three terms—the longest time that any who have filled that office have held it in this county. He has always taken the deepest interest in the affairs of the village of Mexico; has served as its president and was for many years one of the trustees of the old historic Mexico Academy. He is also prominent in Masonic circles and has been High Priest of the Mexico Chapter for a long term of years and is now the oldest Mason in town. Mr. Skinner is the oldest of a family of nine. His oldest sister, Eliza, now deceased, married Charles Richardson of Colosse; his brother, Albert T. Skinner, also deceased, was superintendent of Walter A. Wood Mowing Machine Co., of Hoosie Falls. Of the brothers and sisters now living, the Hon. Charles R. Skinner of Albany, is Superintendent of Public Instruction of this state; the Rev. James A. Skinner is an Episcopal clergyman in New York, and Mrs. Maurice L. Wright of Oswego is the wife of Hon. M. L. Wright of the supreme court. In 1856 Mr. Skinner married Elizabeth Calkins who died in 1861, leaving one daughter who is now Mrs. J. B. Stone of Auburn, N. Y. In 1862 he married Sarah L. Rose and their children were Anna Grace Skinner, who died Dec. 24, 1894, and Avery Warner Skinner who is now superintendent of the schools of the city of Oneida.



Borrowed Cut. T. W. SKINNER,  
Historian "Grip's" Historical Souvenir of Mexico.

Hampshire in 1816. He afterwards settled at Union Square and became one of the most prominent men of the county. T. W. Skinner spent the first twenty-five years of his life on his father's farm, teaching school in winter and having charge of the farm in the summer. In 1852 he was elected justice of the peace and served for two terms. In 1853 he moved to the village of Mexico where he has since resided. In 1857 Mr. Skinner was admitted to the bar and in November of the same year joined with Judge Cyrus Whitney in the organization of the law and banking firm of Whitney & Skinner. After this firm was dissolved

**Mexico of 1792;** its boundaries; including the first clear, accurate description of the original town ever published. Mexico, then the largest of all towns, was erected from Whitestown, then in Herkimer county, April 10, 1792, its boundaries being defined as follows: "All that part of Whites-town bounded on the East by the east bounds of the Military tract and a line drawn north from the mouth of Canaserago [Chittenango] creek across Oneida lake to Lake Ontario; on the South by Tioga county; on the West by the west bounds of Homer, Tully, Marcellus, Camillus, Lysander and Hannibal of said Military tract, and on the North by Lake Ontario."





Dunwick, Photo.

T. W. SKINNER'S RESIDENCE.

Taking a map of the present time the boundary will be seen to run as follows: Beginning at the mouth of Salmon river and running west along the south shore of Lake Ontario to the western boundary of Oswego county, it followed south the west bounds of Oswego and Onondaga counties to the south-west corner of the town of Skaneateles, Onondaga county; then followed a direct easterly course along the southern boundary of that town, crossing the head of Skaneateles lake and cutting off the south-west corner of the town of Spafford, Onondaga county, a piece six miles east and west and two miles north and south, striking the west shore of Otisco lake opposite the village of Zealand. Then turning south it pursued a direct course, recrossing Skaneateles lake and following the west boundary of the county of Cortland to a point nearly two miles north of its southern boundary. There, resuming its eastern course, leaving out a strip of the south end of Cortland county two miles deep and extending to the Tioughnioga river, it passed through the main street of the village of Marathon running a short distance north of Hunts Corners and through the village of Hartford. Then it again went south following the Tioughnioga river to the south line of the county. From that point it followed the south and east boundaries of Cortland and the east boundary of Onondaga counties to the mouth of Chittenango creek. Crossing Oneida

lake it pursued a north-westerly course to the place of the beginning; passing through the town of Constantia, the north-west corner of West Monroe, the town Hastings, a few rods east of Hastings station, the town of Parish, cutting through the center of Parish village, and the town of Mexico, crossing the four corners in the village of Daysville.

The act which created the town provided that the first town meeting should be held in May, 1792, at the house of Benjamin Morehouse, which stood near the present village of Jamesville, Onondaga county.

The greatest width of this immense town was 20 miles, on a line crossing the towns of Skaneateles, Marcellus, Onondaga—passing through the Indian reservation—Lafayette and Pompey. Its greatest length, measuring from the Salmon river direct to the south-east boundary of Cortland county, was 85 miles.

In Oswego county it included nine complete towns, Scriba, Volney, Oswego, Hannibal, Granby, Schroeppel, Palermo, New Haven and Mexico, and part of five others, Hastings, Constantia, Parish, West Monroe and Richland. It included nineteen towns in Onondaga and twelve complete towns together with parts of three towns in Cortland county. There are all of forty towns and



Husted, Photo. WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

1, Mrs. P. Morgan, President; 2, Mrs. M. D. Sill, Vice President; 3, Mrs. Mary Hoose, Corresponding Secretary; 4, Mrs. Hattie Munson, President Mothers' Department; 5, Mrs. W. C. Shumway, President Press Work; 6, Mrs. R. A. Orvis; 7, Mrs. M. Byington; 8, Mrs. Ella Ball; 9, Mrs. P. Davis; 10, Mrs. N. McDonald; 11, Mrs. E. Bradbury.

parts of eight others, the most popular and fertile in Central New York, that were carved from the old town of Mexico. Today the tract of old Mexico supports a population of about 270,000, including four cities, Syracuse, Oswego, Cortland and Fulton, and twenty-eight incorporated villages. Within those limits are more than thirty lakes and ponds and innumerable streams of clear, running water.

**The Woman's Christian Temperance Union** was organized in April, 1874, with Mrs. J. T. Hewitt president, Mrs. B. S. Stone secretary, and a membership of forty. Other presidents were Mrs. E. Bradbury, Mrs. P. Davis and Mrs. B. S. Stone, who presided for a long term. Mrs. Mary A. Hoose, president and Mrs. M. E. Byington, corresponding secretary, were in office for nearly ten years. The present officers are Mrs.

dispensation for a lodge to be located in the town of Mexico; which dispensation was issued April 8, 1838. That dispensation having expired it was renewed and the last petition was granted naming Samuel Cherry, Jr., as master, Levi Matthews as senior warden, and Dennison B. Palmer as junior warden, with warrant issued June 6, 1818. This lodge, No. 307, suspended in 1827, owing to the Morgan excitement.

The warrant for the present lodge was issued June 15, 1818, and is No. 136. The charter members were Bezaleel Thayer, Joseph E. Bloomfield, Benjamin Gregory, David Goit, L. Hutchens, Simon Leroy, Avery Skinner, Sherman Hosmer, D. P. Spooner, Bradley Higgins and Charles Benedict.

The first master of the new lodge was B. Thayer and the present master is William H. Norton.

The first settlers who were masons had great difficulty in finding a suitable lodge room or place



Husted, Photo.

MEXICO LODGE, No. 136, F. & A. M.

Top row—(from left to right) John Avery, Ross Green, J. Coe, R. Baker, Fred Conklin, M. Snow, J. D.—Middle row—George Whitney, S. W.; A. Hollister, S. D.; W. Norton, W. Master; W. Buck, A. Lindsley, J. W. Lower row—R. A. Orvis, Prof. A. Norton, H. Harris.

Peter Morgan, president; Mrs. M. D. Sill, and Mrs. R. A. Orvis, vice presidents; Mrs. Eugenia Graves, recording secretary; Mrs. George McDonald, assistant secretary; Mrs. Ella Ball, treasurer; Mrs. Mary A. Hoose, corresponding secretary. The present membership is 90. Twelve departments of work are under the direction of efficient helpers.

**Masonry in Mexico.**—[By T. W. Skinner.] The history of masonry in the town of Mexico dates back to the early settlement of the town. Almost all the early settlers were from New England and Oneida county, and quite a respectable number of them were members of the masonic fraternity. They soon became acquainted and as early as Nov. 14, 1806, a petition signed by nine brethren was presented to the grand lodge for a

to hold their meetings, as the first houses built were log houses with but one or two rooms, but when Shubal Alfred built the first frame house in town they held their meetings there, but were obliged to send the women and children down cellar when the lodge was opened. At a subsequent time, after Matthias Whitney built the first hotel where the Mexico Hotel now stands, the masons utilized the ball room as a lodge room. It is stated that one evening when they had a candidate to initiate who was rather a timid and bashful young man, he was left in the kitchen till the lodge was ready for the initiation. He spent the time very agreeably in conversation with the cook, a girl who was quite a joker. During the evening she went into another room and returned with an old-fashioned gridiron which she put among the blazing coals and watched intensely



till it was red-hot. This excited the curiosity of the young man who inquired what she was doing that for. She replied that she did not know what it was for; but she did know that when the masons had a lodge meeting and had a candidate to initiate she always had to heat that gridiron very hot. The young man, terror stricken, seized his hat and rushed from the kitchen, declaring that the masons would never use that gridiron on him. Masonic records and tradition show that no candidate was initiated that night.

The present lodge, under its capable officers, is very prosperous, and the work done in the lodge room has never been excelled in the history of the lodge for beauty and impressiveness. But it will not do for the present officers to relax their efforts to do good work, for a new star has arisen in the east that threatens to become a strong rival in beautiful work. This is no less than Victoria Chapter of Eastern Star which has been recently

Buren 1880, 1881, 2 years; Robert H. Baker 1890-'03—13 years.

**The Eastern Star** was instituted U. D. in Mexico September 1900, with the following officers: R. A. Orvis, W. P.; Mrs. Clara W. Davis, W. M.; Mrs. Mary Hartwell, A. M.; Mrs. Anna Thomas, C.; Mrs. Ruth Sampson, A. C.; Miss Jennie Baker, Sec.; Mrs. Florence Hart, Treasurer; Miss Lillian Longstreet, Organist; Mrs. Martha Robbins, Chaplain; Mrs. Angelia Maguire, Marshall; Mrs. Theresa Elkins, Warder; Mrs. Kate Hardie, Ada; Mrs. Emma Everts, Ruth; Mrs. Mary Hare, Esther; Mrs. Adella Bennett, Martha; Mrs. Harriet Porter, Electa. The other Charter members were Mrs. Rose Norton, R. H. Baker, W. A. Robbins, N. D. Hart, Frank Elkins and John Maguire. The first lady upon whom the degrees were conferred was Mrs. Delia S. Orvis and the first gentleman was Mr. G. A. Davis. In the latter part of the



Husted, Photo.

VICTORIA CHAPTER, No. 205, O. E. S.

Top row—(from left to right) Mrs. E. Johnson, Chap.; Mrs. M. Hoose, Esther; Mrs. F. Lowell, Ruth; Mrs. F. Conklin, Mr. M. Snow, Miss J. Baker, Sec.; Miss Lena Hoose, Mrs. N. D. Hart, Treas. Middle row—Mrs. Cunningham, Mrs. A. Thomas, Con; Mrs. C. Davis, W. Matron; Mrs. G. Sampson, Mrs. K. Hardy. Lower row—Mrs. M. Hartwell, A. M.; R. A. Orvis, W. P.; Mrs. W. Norton.

established and under the able management of Mrs. George A. Davis as chief officer, and an exceedingly brilliant array of some of the most intelligent and educated ladies of the village as associate officers, are doing such splendid work in exemplifying their most beautiful and impressive ritual, that many of the masons who have been present declare that their work excels everything they have ever seen.

Mexico Chapter of Royal Arch Masons is one of the oldest in the county. The charter is dated Feb. 5, 1851. The following have been past masters: Bezaleel Thayer 1851-'55, 1860-'61—6 years; Avery Skinner 1856-'59, 1862, 1863—6 years; L. H. Conklin 1864-'71, 1878—9 years; T. W. Skinner 1872, 1873, 1875-'77, 1879, 1882-'89—14 years; D. B. Van Buren 1874—1 year; J. G. Van

year Mrs. Rose Norton was appointed to take the office of A. C. vacated by the resignation of Mrs. Ruth Sampson, Mrs. Gertrude Conklin was appointed to the office of Marshall, vacated by Mrs. Mrs. Maguire who had moved to Pulaski and Mrs. Alice Miller filled the chair of Martha vacated by the illness of Mrs. Adella Bennett.

On Nov. 29, the chapter was constituted and a charter presented by D. D. G. M. Mrs. Clara Cooper Allen of Adams. At this time as at the instituting of the chapter the Pulaski and Parish chapters were present and on both occasions assisted Mrs. Allen in the ceremonies. At the instituting and constituting the Masonic fraternity were present. A banquet and a social time followed the ceremonies. The officers were reelected the second year and at the third election Mrs. Clara

Davis for the third time was persuaded to accept the honor of filling the office of W. M. Mrs. Ella Brenkerhoff D. D. G. M. of Jordan officially visited the order August 22.

Initiations were frequent and an occasional social was held; the organization increased in number and in interest until at the present time there are 78 members. Two very enjoyable visits were made to Puritan Chapter of Parish and the sisters of that order visited the Mexico Chapter sustaining very cordial relations with each other. Miss Anna Bard deserves special mention for the interest she has taken in sustaining her appointment as committee to provide literary and musical entertainment. The meetings are held in the new and handsome Masonic Temple.

One member Mrs. W. W. Kingsley passed on to the higher life, and by her strongly expressed wish was buried with the beautiful and impressive rites of the Eastern Star.

expire June 30, 1903. We congratulate Arbeit Lodge for the great degree of success it has attained and bespeak for it continued prosperity in the future.

**Mexico of 1796.**—Its boundaries are here clearly defined and published for the first time. By legislative enactment of Feb. 26, 1796, Mexico was reconstructed within the following boundary lines: "Beginning at the north-west corner of a tract of land commonly called Fonda's forty-thousand acre patent, thence down and along the west side of Canada creek to its junction with Wood creek, thence down and along the waters of Wood creek to Oneida lake, thence through the middle of said lake to the west end thereof, thence to the north shore of the Onondaga river, thence down and along the north side of the said river to Lake Ontario, thence easterly and northerly along



Husted, Photo.

ARBEIT LODGE, No. 68, I. O. O. F.

Top row—(from left to right) F. Stewart, W.; Fred Pifer, R. S. N. G.; A. J. Hallock, R. S.; A. J. Rose, P. G.; D. Morton, I. S. N. G.; W. Sampson, I. S. N. G.; F. Edwards, P. G. Middle row—J. Pifer, P. G.; P. Mehar, P. G.; W. V. Denny, G. Patten, P. G.; L. Clearwater, Con.; J. Smith, P. G.; F. Conklin, O. G. C. Stevens, V. G.; J. Grothier, F. S.; W. Jordan, Treas.; G. Mueckler, P. G.; F. Clearwater, S. S.

**Odd Fellows.**—The history of Arbeit Lodge, No. 168, I. O. O. F., only covers a brief space of time and yet its records are evidence that a great fraternal work has been performed by the officers and members, bringing unparalleled success to the lodge and making it second to none in Oswego county. The lodge was instituted May 24, 1899, with eleven charter members and on the evening of that date nineteen candidates were made members of the scarlet degree making in all thirty members whose concentrated energies were soon recognized by the citizens of Mexico and vicinity. Candidates are continually knocking for admission and our membership has reached 175 and the work has just begun. The illustration accompanying this sketch represents the Past Grands, together with the present officers whose term will

the said lake to the mouth of Black river, thence up and along the said river to the northern most corner of 25,000 acres of land sold by William Constable to William Inman, thence south 37 degrees and 30 minutes west along the north-westerly bounds of the said tract commonly called Oothout's patent, thence south one degree west along the westerly line of said tract to the place of its beginning."

Mexico was then comprised within the boundary running on present geographical lines from the junction of two streams which form the beginning of Canada creek, close to the east side of the village of Lee Centre, Oneida county, directly north to and across the south boundary of Lewis county, passing one mile west of the village of West Leyden, running north along the boundary



between the towns of Leyden and West Turin to the west bank of Black River opposite the mouth of Moose river. Then its course, very plainly expressed, followed the Black river to Lake Ontario, the shore of that lake to the Oswego river, then up that stream and Oneida river to Oneida lake, along the north shore of that lake to and up Wood and Canada creeks.

This large town then enclosed all the present Oswego county east of the Oswego river, Oneida county north and west of Wood and Canada creeks, Lewis county west of Black river, except the town of Leyden, and Jefferson county south of Black river.

Carved from this territory are today four towns and parts of three others in the county of Oneida, ten towns and a part of one in Lewis county, nine towns in Jefferson county and eighteen towns in Oswego county; altogether forty-two complete

worth. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hessel, Dr. G. Franklin Smith and Clayton Sherman. There were thirty-five initiated the first night and the membership has been increasing until at the present time it numbers over 100. In its second year the lodge was honored by having the office of district deputy president of the county which was held by Mrs. Grace Edwards, their first noble grand. The degree staff has been quite noted for the fine work it has done, having assisted at the institution of three new lodges in the county, and feels proud to have conferred the Rebekah degree on 184 sisters and brothers the past year. Where so many are banded together in friendship, love and truth, they are not only a help to one another, but to the community in which they are located. The present officers are: Lilla Stevens, N. G.; Louella Stewart, V. G.; Kittie Sherman, R. S.; Grace Edwards, F. S.; Adell Freeman, treasurer; Leona Stone, Con.; Addie Hallock, Ward.; Lucy



Husted, Photo.

SILVER CREST, REBEKAH, No. 229.

Top row—(from left to right) Mrs. M. Vansickle, Mrs. A. Freeman, Treas.; Miss A. Hallock, Warden; Miss S. Doyle, Miss G. Fleming, Mrs. E. McLymond, L. S. N. G.; Mrs. V. Pettingill, Mrs. D. Morton, O. G. Middle row—Mrs. G. Edwards, P. G. F. S.; Miss Ella Carlton, R. S. V. G.; Mrs. L. Smith, P. G.; Mrs. L. Stevens, N. G.; Miss Kit Sherman, R. S.; Miss N. Gustin, Con.; Mrs. L. Stewart, V. G. Lower row—Mrs. N. Southworth, R. S. N. G.; Miss Eva Stevens, Chap.; Miss Etta Stone, L. S. V. G.; Miss L. Brinklow, I. G.

towns and parts of four others. The running distance of the boundary line—the circumference of the town of Mexico of 1796—was about 250 miles. At the present time there is within this territory a population of over 125,000, not including those parts of the cities of Watertown, Oswego and Fulton—cities which are not wholly comprised in the territorial limits of Mexico of 1796, and twenty-three incorporated villages.

**Silver Crest Rebekah Lodge, No. 229,** of Mexico, N. Y., was instituted March 15, 1900, with the following charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. John Whiting, Mr. and Mrs. John Pifer, Mr. and Mrs. George South-

Brinklow, I. G.; F. Stewart, O. G.; Nellie Southworth, R. S. to N. G.; Leona Seyor, L. S. to N. G.; Anna Collins, R. S. to V. G.; Etta Stone, L. S. to V. G.; Eva Stevens, Chap.; Frank Edwards, degree master.

**Genealogy**—Of Mexico; her antecedents and progeny of Civil Divisions (Of the towns in Oswego county only those erected directly from the town of Mexico are included.)

Nov. 1, 1683—New York province erected into ten counties, Albany, New York, Dutchess, Kings, Orange, Queens, Richmond, Suffolk, Ulster, Westchester.

March 22, 1772—Tryon county erected from Albany County.

March 8, 1773—KINGSLAND district, one of the five into which Tryon county was divided.

April 2, 1784—MONTGOMERY County name substituted for Tryon Co.

March 7, 1788—WHITESTOWN from Kingsland district; all of the state west of a line drawn north and south through Utica.

Feb. 16, 1791—HERKIMER county erected from Montgomery including all of Whitestown.

April 10, 1792—MEXICO erected from Whites-town (For boundary lines see "Mexico of 1792," page 8).

March 5, 1794—LYSANDER erected from Mexico; embracing all of present Oswego county west of Oswego river.

March 5, 1794—ONONDAGA County erected from Mexico.

1794—CORTLAND County erected from Mexico.

Feb. 26, 1796—MEXICO reerected. (For boundary see Mexico of 1796.)

March 15, 1798—ONEIDA County; in part from Mexico, including all of that town east of Oswego river in her limits.

March 1, 1816—OSWEGO Co. with 8 towns, Constantia, Hannibal, Mexico, New Haven, Richland, Redfield, Scriba and Williamstown.

May 9, 1817—ANNEXED TO MEXICO from Richland eleven lots. (137-148 inclusive.)

March 29, 1828—PARISH from Mexico.

May 9, 1836—ANNEXED TO MEXICO from New Haven six lots (93 and 97 inclusive) and from Richland lot 110.

**Melzar Richards Post**, No. 367, G. A. R., was instituted by the aid of the commander of Post O'Brien of Oswego, N. Y. on the 18th day of May, 1883.

Thirty-five comrades were duly mustered as members of the Post and the following were duly installed as officers of the Post, viz: Commander, Hon. M. L. Wright; Sr. Vice Commander, Newton Hall; Jr. Vice Commander, W. S. Sweetland; Adjt., F. B. Gregory; Surgeon, W. A. Tillapaugh; Chaplain, Rev. C. A. Booth; O. D., Geo. A. Penfield; Q. M., A. S. Matteson; S. M., L. A.



Husted, Photo.

MELZAR RICHARDS POST, No. 367, G. A. R.

Top row—(from left to right) L. J. Clark, D. Barton, Officer of the day; G. Buck, M. Parsons, O. Webb, E. L. Huntington, D. Austin, Surgeon; W. Sweetland, E. Jones, G. Larkin, I. Marks, B. Parmentier, J. Keller. Middle row—F. Carpenter, R. Aird, S. V.; L. Bequillard, E. Baker, Adt.; S. Nichols, Com.; C. Everts, Q. M.; J. Bulson, S. Spooner, J. V.; H. Backus. Lower row—L. Whitney, Chap.; J. Burdick, L. Tuller, S. Major; W. Stevens, H. Ames, L. Maxim, M. Mentor.

March 15, 1799—CAMDEN, Oneida Co., from Mexico (including Vienna and Florence.)

March 14, 1800—CHAMPION, WATERTOWN, ADAMS, (Jefferson Co.), REDFIELD (Oswego Co.), TURIN and LOWVILLE (Lewis Co); leaving Mexico with about 1,200 square miles of territory.

Feb. 22, 1803—ELLISBURG (including Henderson), Jefferson Co., from Mexico.

March 24, 1804—LOURNAINE, (including Worth) Jefferson Co., from Mexico.

March 24, 1804—WILLIAMSTOWN, (including Amboy, Albion, Richland, Sandy Creek, Orwell, Boylston) from Mexico.

Feb. 28, 1806—FREDICKSBURGH (including Volney, Palermo, Scriba and Schroppel), from Mexico.

April 8, 1808—CONSTANTIA, leaving Mexico with its present territory and that including the towns of Parish and New Haven.

April 2, 1813—NEW HAVEN from Mexico.

Whitney; Q. M. S., N. Alford. M. L. Wright served as Commander until 1885 when W. S. Sweetland was elected Commander. Geo. A. Penfield was next elected Commander in 1886 and at the next election in 1887 E. L. Huntington was elected Commander who served the Post as such continuously until 1895 when L. A. Whitney served for one year, after which Robert Aird served for one year, succeeded by Myron Johnson who died while in office, after which, in 1899, when E. L. Huntington was again elected commander and served until 1903, when the present officers were elected and installed, viz: Commander, Samuel Nichols; Sr. Vice Commander, Robert Aird; Jr. Vice Commander, E. S. Spooner; Adjt., E. Baker; Q. Master, C. M. Everts; O. D., D. M. Barton; Surgeon, D. H. Austin; Chaplain, L. A. Whitney; O. G., Wm. Stevens; S. M., L. Tuller.

This Post has had on its roll 156 com-



rades. From its membership the greater part of New Haven Post "Doyle," Vermillion Post "Sherman" and the Post of Parish have been taken. It has lost by transfers and by the unbidden guest that no closed or guarded doors can avail (that which we call death) until the Post only numbers 63 comrades in good standing. It is a fact that many widows, sick and disabled soldiers of the great rebellion have blessed the name of this Post for the aid and sympathy given to them when in need of help and in sickness, and not until the last comrade of the Post shall be mustered out by the Commander of the universe will its name be blotted out or its history forgotten.

**The Melzar Richards Woman's Relief Corps, No. 135,** was organized Aug. 19, 1889, with thirteen charter members. The following officers were unanimously elected and installed by Sarah E. Minek, department president, formerly national president: President, Jennie Barton; vice

otic teaching have introduced flag drill in many schools, thus instilling love of country and its emblem in the hearts of our children. Much assistance has been given to needy soldiers and their dependant ones, no known worthy, deserving sufferer being neglected.

**Towns of Oswego County.**—Date of their erection and towns from which they were taken; tracing each back successively to the original territory:

Amboy, March 25, 1830; from Williamstown; which was taken from Mexico.

Albion, March 24, 1825; from Richland; from Williamstown; from Mexico.

Constantia [Rotterdam], April 8, 1808; from Mexico; from Steuben Patent.

Boylston, Feb. 7, 1828; Orwell; Richland; Williamstown; Mexico.

Granby, April 20, 1818; Hannibal; Lysander, Onondaga Co.; Mexico; Military tract.



Huested, Photo.

MELZAR RICHARDS POST, No. 135, W. R. C.

1, Mrs. G. Larkin, 2, Mrs. S. Nichols, Chaplain, 3, Mrs. Jane Webb, 4, Mrs. A. Cole, Guard, 5, Mrs. Maggie Everts, Color Bearer, 6, Mrs. Helen McMullen, Secretary, 7, Mrs. Olive Adams, 8, Mrs. Anna Day, 9, Mrs. Hattie Newell, Vice President, 10, Mrs. L. J. Clark, 11, Mrs. Mary Sweetland, 12, Mrs. J. Ball, 13, Mrs. Daniels, 14, Mrs. Ada Parker, Pianist, 15, Mrs. Ella Ames, 16, Mrs. Meda Barker, 17, Mrs. D. Barton, 18, Mrs. L. Dillenbeck, Color Bearer, 19, Miss Julia Nichols, Assistant Conductor, 20, Mrs. Maria Spooner, President, 21, Mrs. M. Parsons, 22, Mrs. M. Stone, 23, Mrs. X. Penfield, 24, Mrs. E. Parker, Assistant Guard, 25, Mrs. M. Andrews, Junior Vice, 26, Mrs. Nora McDonald, 27, Mrs. Mary Huntington, Conductor, 28, Mrs. J. Carpenter, 29, Mrs. D. Austin, 30, Mrs. F. C. Tillapaugh, 31, Mrs. J. Rulison, 32, Mrs. E. Jones.

president, Olive Adams; junior vice president, Adelia Hardy; chaplain, Adelaide M. Parker; treasurer, Celia Copp; conductor, Amelia Clark; assistant conductor, Philanda Aird; guard, Ella Ames; assistant guard, Kate Morton.

August 19, 1890 found the number of members largely increased. Its growth has been continuous, and at the present time there are sixty-six members. In 1883 a piano was purchased by the Corps, aided by the Post, to which we are auxiliary; and from time to time other property, such as tables, dishes, silverware, linen and numerous other article have been added, thus enabling them to give socials, musicales and other entertainments for its benefit. Flag work has been added to the ritual work of the corps and committees on patri-

Hastings, April 20, 1825; Constantia; Mexico. Hannibal, Feb. 28, 1806; Lysander; Mexico; Military tract.

Mexico, April 10, 1792—re-organized Feb. 25, 1796; Whitestown, Herkimer Co.

New Haven, April 2, 1813; Mexico.

Orwell, Feb. 28, 1817; Richland; Williamstown; Mexico.

Oswego, April 20, 1818; Hannibal; Lysander; Mexico; Military tract.

Palermo, April 4, 1832; Volney; Mexico.

Parish, March 20, 1828; Mexico.

Redfield, March 14, 1800; Mexico.

Richland, Feb. 20, 1807; Williamstown; Mexico.

Scriba, April 5, 1811; Fredericksburg [see Volney]; Mexico.

Sandy Creek, March 21, 1825; Richland; Williamstown; Mexico.

Schröppel, April 4, 1832; Volney; Mexico.

Volney, April 5, 1811; erected first as the town of Fredericksburg, March 21, 1806; from Mexico.

Williamstown, March 21, 1804; Mexico.

West Monroe, March 21, 1839; Constantia; Mexico.

**Vera Cruz** was the name of a village and harbor at the mouth of Little Salmon river, which were designed by George Scriba in 1795 and were intended to become the main port of entry at the eastern end of Lake Ontario. Being located at his "capital" on Oneida lake which he called Rotterdam, now the village of Constantia, Mr. Scriba desired to open means of connecting with the outside world by lake navigation. Following the most direct and feasible route he opened a road four rods wide, between Rotterdam and the lake, a distance of twenty miles, striking at the point where he determined to locate his lake port. This road ran almost a "bee line" even crossing the high hill in the eastern part of the village of Mexico near the house formerly owned by Joseph Simons. In 1795 his agent Benjamin Wright surveyed both sides of the Little Salmon river from the lake a half mile up stream and laid out the whole tract in streets and "city lots." A map of the proposed city which was made at that time was afterwards found by Mr. George Goodwin of Mexico and with the understanding that it should be preserved, was placed in the custody of one of the proprietors of the summer hotels now occupying the site of the embryonic city of Vera Cruz. It was framed and now hangs in the hotel.

Scriba's vast projects for a harbor at this place were never fully realized, although for a few years beginning the nineteenth century, considerable lake business was transacted at this "port." The deepening of the harbor and the necessary breakwaters which he expected the government would effect were never obtained. But considerable building of small structures, principally residences was done along the stream and the place gave promise of future greatness. It is said that in 1804 more merchandise was received and produce shipped at this place than at Oswego or Utica, both of which were then small villages.

The year Wright made the survey Scriba erected on the stream back from the lake a saw and grist mill. The following year Wright put up a log building for a residence and another for a store. That summer he procured as much help as could be obtained from the settlers and dug out the mouth of the creek. The next year, 1797, Scriba caused to be erected a one-story building for a tavern and five small structures intended for homes of his workmen of whom he intended to employ a large number, hoping to induce many to come there with their families. These were built about on the present site of Texas, where the fall of the stream made it necessary two years before to erect his mills so that he could obtain water power, and close to which it was desirable to establish the nucleus for the proposed "city." A sea captain named Geerman, who had come over from Holland, was sent to Vera Cruz by Mr. Scriba to superintend the erection of a ship yard which was forthwith laid out but was not built until the following spring, 1798. In the meantime a few families had arrived, some of them

taking up small plots of ground which they were to purchase for homes, and a few places of business had started up. The place in 1798 comprised a dozen buildings including the Wright store, the Scriba tavern and a blacksmith shop. There is no record of Capt. Geerman crossing the lake until he made the fateful voyage to Kingston in the summer of 1799. Benjamin Winch, Archibald Fairchild and Benjamin Gilbert bought homes here and brought in their families during 1798. Captain Geerman loaded his new schooner in the summer of 1799 with lumber and accompanied by Welcome Spencer sailed for Kingston. Several days passed and nothing was heard from them. Finally it was learned that they had not been seen at Kingston. Then a rescuing party made up of the father of young Spencer, Chipman Wheadon, Green Clark, Nathaniel Rood and Miles Doolittle, all prosperous citizens of Vera Cruz—Clark and Rood being freeholders—put out in a small boat hoping to get tidings of the lost craft. On their return when opposite the mouth of Salmon river, ten miles from home, the boat was upset by a sudden squall. Wheadon was the only one of the party who managed for a time to cling to the overturned boat. But he was soon compelled to let go even while some woodmen who had come down to shore were attempting to get out to his rescue. Not one of the party was saved. Their loss left at Vera Cruz only Benjamin Wright, Benjamin Winch, Benjamin Gilbert and Archibald Fairchild, surviving freeholders and heads of families, the rest of the population being Scriba's workmen. It was a serious blow to the prosperity of the community. But others came in and the town for a few years picked up with renewed vigor. Then followed more disasters on the lake in which now and then a resident of the place was lost. Finally in 1820 all of the buildings between the present site of the Texas postoffice and the lake were burned. Then the new buildings that were erected were built clustering about that point and the new name of Texas was substituted for that of Vera Cruz. A ship yard built at the same time did not prosper and was at last abandoned.

Now the lake shore on both sides is occupied by summer homes, the locality being known as Mexico Point, more recently and more appropriately christened Ontario Park.

**Supervisors.**—John Myer 1797-'8; Reuben Hamilton 1799-1800, 1803-'05; Jonathan Parkhurst 1801; Calvin Tiffany 1802; Dyer Burnham 1806-'8, '10, '12-15; David Easton 1809; David Williams 1811; Elias Brewster 1816-'17; '40-'1; '44; David Burnham 1818-'20; Peter Pratt 1821, '23-'8; W. S. Fitch 1822; Joseph Lamb 1829; Joseph W. Houghton 1830-'4; Luther S. Conklin 1835-'6; Joseph Torrey 1837; Charles Brewster 1838-'9; Orville Robinson 1842; Starr Clark 1843; John M. Richardson 1845-'8; James S. Chandler 1849; Bradley Higgins 1850-'3; L. D. Smith 1854-'5; Calvin G. Hincley 1856; Seabury A. Tuller 1857; '62-'7; M. Newell 1858-'9; Calvin Smith 1860; Leonard Ames 1861; John C. Taylor 1868-'9; William J. Menter 1870-'5; Asa L. Sampson 1876-'82, '91-'3; George H. Goodwin 1883; L. La Sear Virgil 1884; John W. Ladd 1885-'6; '89; M. W. Collins 1887-'8; Rufus P. Calkins 1890; Edward L. Huntington 1894 (present incumbent).



**The County Seat Question.** — Under the authority of the law erecting the county, enacted March 1, 1816, provision was made for two county seats, each representing one of the two “jury districts” into which the county was then divided. The naming of what was to be the two half-shire villages of the county was left to three commissioners named in the act, viz: Pearley Keyes and Ethel Bronson of the county of Jefferson, and Stephen Bates of the county of Ontario. The construction of court houses in Oswego and Pulaski was a more pretentious structure, being designed to accommodate a commodious jail.

In 1853 the old stone jail on East Second street, Oswego, was constructed, which answered every

kept. On April 6, 1852, the citizens of the town of Richland were also authorized to build a fire proof clerk’s office on a lot given for the purpose by Benjamin Wright in Pulaski, provided that it be finished by September 1, 1853, and the town was authorized to raise \$1,500 by tax. The supervisors let the contract for the erection of a one-story stone building to C. H. Cross and it was completed in that summer at the cost of \$1,295, on the site next west of the court house.

In November of the same year an effort was made to have the county seat located permanently at Oswego. This led to a hot discussion between those who favored and those who opposed the proposition. It became so acrimonious that the supervisors attempted to compromise by adopting a resolution, November 22, for the location of the county clerk’s office at Mexico, it being supposed by those who favored Oswego that the people of



Dunwick, Photo. MAIN STREET, EAST FROM COL. RICHARD’S RESIDENCE.

purpose until the completion of the new jail, in 1888. In 1858 the board of supervisors appropriated \$30,000 for the erection of a new court house in Oswego and \$5,000 for enlarging and repairing the court house in Pulaski. The former was completed in September, 1860, and its cost was \$610 less than the appropriation, being \$29,390. The improvements on the court house at Pulaski were made in 1859.

Until 1853 the records of the county were kept at intervals in places which seemed the most secure in Oswego and Pulaski. By common consent they were transferred from one place to the other with the election of a clerk, once in three years. By an act of April 11, 1851, the common council of Oswego was authorized to expend not less than \$2,000, raised by a special levy municipal tax, for the erection of a fire proof county clerk’s office in that city, which building was shortly afterward constructed, and there the records have since been

kept. that town might in that way be won over to the plan of making Oswego the place for the meetings of all the courts.

In the winter of 1853 petitions for the division of the county were presented to the legislature. In December, 1852, Judge Pratt granted an injunction restraining the county clerk from moving the records from his office in the city of Oswego. By a subsequent action on the part of the supervisors and by an act of the legislature the permanent location of the county clerk was fixed at Oswego.

**The First Highway** between Mexico and Oswego run through what is known as the Cheever district, following closely the shore of the lake for a considerable distance. This was the continuation of the great road which was previously opened from Camden first as far as Colosse then on to Mexico.

**Champlain in Mexico, 1615.**—That this remarkable expedition led by the French courtier Champlain when he was governor of New France in 1615, landed almost in the town of Mexico and led his men across this section of country even crossing Little Salmon creek near the present village of Texas, cannot successfully be disputed. The authority for this statement is Champlain's map of New France, published in 1632, upon which the route he pursued is plainly traced by a dotted line.

Champlain in 1609 had discovered and explored the lake which bears his name. Six years later, following the unbeaten tracks north of the Great Lakes he penetrated the then unknown regions westward into the country of the Hurons striking the shores of the lake bearing that name. Then he returned east accompanied by a considerable

the party directed their course southwesterly, traveling "four leagues over a sandy plain." They were crossing the heart of what is now the town of Mexico, which Champlain describes as follows: "I observed a very pleasing and fine country watered by numerous small streams, and two little rivers which empty into the said lake [Little Salmon and Grindstone creeks] and a number of ponds and prairies where there was an infinite quantity of game, a great many vines and fine trees, vast numbers of chestnuts, the fruit of which was yet in the shell. It was quite small and well flavored." He evidently refers to beechnuts [unknown to Europeans] a large quantity of which was once found in Mexico.

Some historians have located the fort he attacked in the Oneidas' country, others in that of the Onondagas! After studying his map no one can



Dunwick, Photo.

CHURCH STREET, SOUTH FROM SPRING STREET.

force of that nation who were then at war with the Senecas, the most western of the Five Nations of Indians. Skirting the north shores of the lakes as far as the present site of Kingston, he embarked at that point and crossed Lake Ontario, "proceeding southward," as he writes, "towards the enemies [Iroquois] country." His passage across what he calls lake of the Entouhonorons [Huron term for Ontario], during which he noticed "some beautiful and very large islands," he estimated to be 14 leagues [42 miles], which corresponds to the distance from Kingston to Salmon river. "We continued our journey overland," he writes, "some 25 or 30 leagues," the distance following the dotted line on his map, from Salmon river to lake Canandaigua, where he attacked an Iroquois fort and after six days was compelled to retreat. Landing at Salmon river "the Indians concealed all of their canoes in the woods near the banks." Then

reach such conclusion except on the theory that he has incorrectly located the lakes which he passed—a theory not tenable since he properly located both Oneida and Onondaga lakes and marks the course he followed as leading westward beyond the chain of Western New York lakes.

**Mexico in 1824** is described as a village with a postoffice "4½ miles west of Colosse where there are 12 or 15 houses and 2 or 3 mills on Catfish creek. The population of the town," says this authority, "is 1,500; 450 farmers, 5 traders, 61 mechanics, 3 foreigners, 1 free black, 9 schools, 345 electors, 1,419 cattle, 271 horses, 2,580 sheep, 17,283 yards of cloth, 3 grist mills, 7 saw mills, 1 oil mill, 2 fulling mills, 3 carding machines, 1 card manufactory, 3 distilleries, 3 tanneries, 3 asheries."



**George H. Goodwin** was born in Mexico, N. Y., in 1834, the youngest of four children and the only survivor. His brothers were J. Austin Goodwin, Joseph C. Goodwin and Henry G. Goodwin. His father, Calvin Goodwin, and his mother, Emily Hinkley, both of English descent, were born in Mansfield, Conn., and came to Mexico in 1828. The former died in 1869 and the latter in 1845. His grandfather was a well known minister of the gospel who preached about forty years in Connecticut and was the founder and first pastor of the Baptist church in Mexico village.

The subject of this sketch was educated at the Mexico academy. He read law with ex-Judge Cyrus Whitney, Orville Robinson and James Noxon, and was graduated from the department of law of the Albany University in 1856. He practiced his profession for a few years in Oswego county and in California, but was afterwards more or less diverted from the law by reason of ill health and the cares devolving upon him in the settlement of estates, so he has given more time laterly to business and literature than to his profession. Mr. Goodwin formerly took an active interest in politics and has held many positions of trust. He was chairman of the democratic county committee many years and frequently represented his party in the state conventions.

He was president of Mexico village in 1879 and was supervisor of the town of Mexico in 1883, being the only democrat, with a single exception, that has been elected as supervisor of the town of Mexico during the past forty-seven years.

Mr. Goodwin has been an extensive traveller on both continents. In 1882 he visited Ireland, England, France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and Holland. In 1889 he made a more extended tour in the east in the course in which he ascended the Nile of Egypt and afterwards visited Palestine, Syria, Turkey, Greece and many islands of the Mediterranean. He has also traversed almost every portion of North America. While abroad he wrote a long series of letters which were published in the local papers and widely copied by the press of the state.

In 1883 Mr. Goodwin was united in marriage to Adelaide E. Alfred, daughter of Chas. L. Webb, of Mexico. She died April 14, 1884. Their only child, Mabel A., died Sept. 29, 1884.

**County Clerks.**—James Adams (appointed), Oswego town, March 21, 1816; Joseph Davis (appointed,) Oswego, March 19, 1818; Smith Dunlap (appointed) Sandy Creek, Feb. 19, 1821; Hiram Hubbell, Pulaski, term began Jan. 1, 1823; T. S. Morgan, Oswego, Jan. 1, 1826; Thomas C. Baker, Pulaski, Jan. 1, 1829; Erie Poor, Oswego, Jan. 1, 1832; Marinus W. Mathews, Pulaski, Jan. 1, 1835;

Daniel H. Marsh, Oswego, Jan. 1, 1838; Andrew Z. McCarty, Pulaski, Jan. 1, 1841; John Carpenter, Oswego, Jan. 1, 1844; Jabez H. Gilbert, Pulaski, Jan. 1, 1847; Philander Rathbun, Oswego, Jan. 1, 1850; Edwin M. Hill, Pulaski, Jan. 1, 1853; Henry S. Coude, Hastings, Jan. 1, 1856; Samuel R. Taylor, Oswego, Jan. 1, 1859; Edward N. Rathbun, Oswego, Jan. 1, 1862; Bernice L. Doane, Pulaski, Jan. 1, 1865; Mannister Worts, Oswego, Jan. 1, 1868; John J. Stephens, Oswego town, Jan. 1, 1871; Brainard Nelson, Oswego, Jan. 1, 1874; Daniel E. Taylor, Granby, Jan. 1, 1877; Merrick Stowell, Oswego, Jan. 1, 1880; John Gar-



Borrowed Cut.

GEORGE H. GOODWIN.

Historian "Grip's" Historical Souvenir of Mexico.

denier, Oswego, Jan. 1, 1883; John H. Oliphant, Oswego, Jan. 1, 1886; Thomas M. Costello, Albion, Jan. 1, 1889; William J. Pentelow, Fulton, Jan. 1, 1892; E. E. Frost, Oswego, Jan. 1, 1895; John S. Parsons, Oswego, Jan. 1, 1898; Frank M. Breed, Phenix, Jan. 1, 1901.

**Village Presidents.**—Asa Sprague 1851; Luke D. Smith 1852; William W. Merriam 1853; Dr. Clark D. Snell 1854; Marlow Newell 1855; '62-'3; Luther H. Conklin 1856; '73-'7; George G. French 1857; LaFayette Alfred 1858-'9; '72; Perley J. Babcock 1860-'1; David Goit 1864-'5; Dr. Benjamin E. Bowen 1866; Daniel H. Stone 1867; Cal-

vin F. Brooks 1868; Henry L. Cole 1869; Winsor Beebe 1870; Seabury A. Tuller 1871; George H. Goodwin 1878; Amos C. Thompson 1879; Maurice L. Wright 1880-'82; John D. Hartson 1883-'5; Robert H. Baker 1886-'7; James B. Driggs 1888; Solomon L. Alexander 1889; Timothy W. Skinner 1890; Frank M. Earle 1891-'2; Hiram W. Loomis 1893; George H. Wilson 1894; Dr. S. M. Bennett 1895; J. E. Baker 1901; George H. Wilson, 1902 (present incumbent).

**Mexico Grange.**—The charter of Mexico Grange, No. 218, bears date June 20, 1874, and this is all the authentic history of Mexico Grange for the first twenty years of its existence, for the fire which destroyed the Boyd House also destroyed all the papers and furniture of Mexico Grange. So we are obliged to depend on the memory of the few surviving charter members for whatever history we may write. Its first organ-

He was also supervisor of the town of Mexico for nine years. Mrs. Sampson held many important offices in the grange, discharging each and every duty faithfully. A kind friend and a true counselor. Mr. Green joined the grange soon after its organization and soon became one of its staunch supporters, often sacrificing his own interests for the welfare of the grange. He, too, was one of its early masters. For more than twenty years he was road commissioner of the town of Mexico. Others have done well but space forbids further on this line. Mexico Grange is in good working order at the present time with A. D. Field as master and N. A. Sampson as secretary. With such men as these to the front, there is a bright future before it. With one hundred and fifty members it is prepared for aggressive work on all grange lines. It now meets every Saturday at 2 p. m., in the engine house, but expects to have lodge rooms of its own in the near future.



Husted, Photo.

MEXICO GRANGE, No. 218.

Top Row—(from left to right) W. Sampson, Sec., A. Wheeler, D. Dyke, Mrs. C. Stevens, Pomona, D. Halsey, Treas., S. Green, Mrs. Harris, Cer., G. Buck, J. Lawton, Mr. Clearwater. Middle Row—Mr. Harris, St., Mrs. Gibbs, F., Mrs. N. Buck, L. A., Mrs. M. Emery, M. B. Fields, Miss L. Trowbridge, Mrs. Trowbridge, Mrs. Clearwater, Chap., W. Buck. Lower Row—W. Walton, A. S., Mrs. G. Wheeler, Mrs. W. Everts, Mrs. W. Sampson, C. Stevens.

ization consisted of twenty charter members with Frederick Sampson as its first master who is still living and is a prosperous farmer in Onondaga county. It would be impossible to give a consecutive list of masters or officers during the first two decades of its existence, but we think it would be invidious to none of its members if we mention a few who were always faithful and helped cheerfully in sustaining the grange by their presence and counsel. There comes to our mind three individuals who had, it seems to us, very much to do in the early history of our grange, and those were Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Sampson and Veder Green. Mr. Sampson was one of the earlier masters and was thoroughly posted in all grange work and for a number of years was secretary and director in the Oswego County Relief Association.

**County Treasurers.**—Peter Pratt, Mexico, 1816; Elias Brewster, Mexico, 1820; Avery Skinner, Mexico, 1827; Robert A. Stitt, 1839; Starr Clark, 1840; Hiram Walker, 1846; Samuel H. Stone, Mexico, 1849; Henry C. Peck, Mexico, 1855; Luther H. Conklyn, Mexico, 1858; John Dowdle, Oswego, 1879; George Goodier, Oswego, 1882 (died in office in 1886, the first year after his re-election); E. Eugene McKinstry, Oswego, (appointed by the supervisors in Goodier's place) February, 1886; Thomas Moore, Oswego, 1886, re-elected 1889 and again every term since.

**First Postoffice** in the town of Mexico, or Oswego county was established at Rotterdam, now Constantia, Jan. 1, 1798, in the house of John Meyer who was made the postmaster.



**Mexico Fire Department.**—An organization known as the Bucket Company was formed in the year 1855, with David Goit as foreman. In 1861 the village purchased a hand engine and then two new companies were formed, the engine company with forty men and the hose company with twenty men, S. R. Spooner being chief. This organization continued for some twenty years, during which the following served as chief: W. A. Robbins, S. L. Alexander, A. J. Halleck, John Wing, F. B. Gregory. In 1887 the present Silsby steam engine was purchased by the village and a new organization was formed, known as Mexico Fire Department, with John M. Wing as chief. This department then consisted of four companies, The Engine Company, Weed and Sullivan Hose Companies and the Hook and Ladder Company. The following served as chief since the steamer was purchased: 1888 J. Schoonmaker; 1889 A. J. Halleck; 1890 F. B. Gregory; 1891 John Wing;

1835; Jabez H. Gilbert, Orwell, Jan. 1, 1838; Norman Rowe, New Haven, Jan. 1, 1841; second term, Jan. 1, 1849; Marinus W. Matthews, Pulaski, Jan. 1, 1844; Horace J. Carey, Oswego, appointed to fill vacancy by death of Matthews, Dec. 5, 1844; Alvin Lawrence, Mexico, Jan. 1, 1846; George W. Stillman, Orwell, Jan. 1, 1852; Rufus Hawkins, Oswego, Jan. 1, 1855; Charles A. Perkins, Constantia, Jan. 1, 1858; Sidney M. Tucker, Pulaski, Jan. 1, 1861; re-elected from Oswego, Jan. 1, 1867; Robert D. Gillispie, Richland, Jan. 1, 1864; James Doyle, Oswego, Jan. 1, 1870; Henry H. Lynn, Pulaski, Jan. 1, 1873; Frank S. Low, Pulaski, Jan. 1, 1876; J. Lyman Bulkley, Sandy Creek, Jan. 1, 1879; Edwin L. Huntington, Mexico, Jan. 2, 1882; Alfred N. Beadle, Pulaski, Jan. 1, 1885; John Van Buren, New Haven, Jan. 1, 1888; Amos Allport, Scriba, Jan. 1, 1891; Wilbur H. Selleck, Williamstown, Jan. 1, 1894; Wm. H. Enos, Scriba, Jan. 1, 1897; Albert Warren, Jan. 1, 1900.



Huested, Photo.

THE MEXICO FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Top Row—(from left to right) James Tryon, F. Smedley, Secretary, F. Stewart, J. D. Coe, Foreman H. & L. Co.; E. Burdick, E. Pettingill, C. Fellows. Middle Row—W. H. Sherman, Asst. Chief; C. Pettingill, A. J. Halleck, Foreman Hose Co., F. Pepper, G. Minckler, Chief; M. Freeman. Lower Row—W. Castle, O. Ames, C. Davis, W. Elkins, M. Lamplier.

1833 Edward Potter; 1896 W. P. Lyons; 1899 Frank Elkins; 1900 A. J. Halleck. At present the department consists of twenty-eight men with the following as officers: Gates M. Minckler, chief; William H. Sherman, assistant chief; Frank Smedley, secretary, and Robert Adams, treasurer; A. J. Halleck, foreman Hose and Jasper D. Coe, foreman Hook and Ladder. The old hand engine is still the property of the village and is still in fairly good condition.

**Sheriffs.**—John S. Davis (appointed), Pulaski, March 21, 1816; Peter Pratt (appointed), Mexico, Feb. 4, 1820; Orris Hart (appointed), New Haven, Feb. 13, 1821; elected from Oswego, Jan. 1, 1823; Asa Dudley, Oswego town, Jan. 1, 1826; Hastings Curtiss, Hastings, Jan. 1, 1829; William Hale, Pulaski, Jan. 1, 1832; Jonathan Case, Fulton, Jan. 1,

**State Senators** from Oswego County—Alvin Bronson, 1823-4, '30-3; Avery Skinner, Mexico, 1838-41; Enoch B. Talcott, Oswego, 1845-6 (his term was cut short by an amendment to the constitution); Thomas H. Bond, Oswego, 1818-9; Moses P. Hatch, Oswego, 1851; James Platt, Oswego, 1852-3; M. Lindley Lee, Fulton, 1856-7; Cheney Ames, Oswego, 1858-9, '64-5; Andrew S. Warner, Pulaski, 1860-1; Richard K. Sanford, Fulton, 1862-3; John J. Wolcott, Volney, 1866-7; Abner C. Mattoon, Oswego, 1868-9; William Foster, Constantia, 1872-3; Benjamin Doolittle, Oswego, 1876-7; George B. Sloan, Oswego, 1886-'91; Nevada N. Stranahan, Fulton, 1896-1902.

**Epidemics.**—In 1812 a sweeping epidemic of cholera carried off many residents of Mexico. In 1820 there were a large number of deaths from dysentery.



Borrowed Photos. GEORGE H. WILSON.  
MARY DRIGGS WILSON.

**George H. Wilson**, the president of the village of Mexico, was born in Amboy, Oswego Co., March 21, 1836. His father, Francis Wilson, came from Ireland in 1827 and after living at Camden, N. Y., awhile, bought a farm at Amboy, where the subject of this sketch lived until he was 17 years of age. Then, at the death of his mother, he left home and, following the trade of a cooper, drifted to the south and east—among other places Richmond, Va., and New York. Finally, returning he spent about fifteen years in lumbering in Oneida and Oswego counties, buying standing timber with or without the lands, placing the bark with the tanneries and manufacturing lumber for general use. At one time he in company with George Swanson, a brother-in-law, operated a saw mill at Camden, N. Y., where they cut up large quantities of timber and dressed it for the market, besides supplying a great deal of hemlock for a branch railroad which was then being run through from Williams-town to Maple Hill for lumbering purposes and which long ago was taken up. On Nov. 28, 1870, Mr. Wilson married Mrs. Mary Sanders, the daughter of John and Marn Driggs of Mexico. The following year he went into the mercantile business at Glenmore which he carried on two years then removed his business to Taberg where he conducted a general

store for 19 years. In 1883, in company with Steadman Bros., he built a canning factory in the latter village. The Steadmans retired soon thereafter and Mr. Wilson is still carrying on that factory. A few years later he came to Mexico, his wife's old home, where both desired to live, and purchased 15 acres of land on the line of the railroad where in 1888 he erected the large factory from which he every year markets a large output of canned corn and pumpkin. He refused to accept any contribution from the village in the way of money or a site for his factory. In 1892 he and Mrs. Wilson removed here and purchased the large and pleasant home they now occupy on Church street. From the Taberg and Mexico factories Mr. Wilson turns out on the average two millions of canned products when the season is favorable for the harvest, and gives employment during canning time to between 200 and 300 people. The goods are sold to the largest jobbers and dealers in the country. Mr. Wilson while a resident of Taberg served a year as supervisor of the town of Annsville. He is now in his third term as president of Mexico. In all matters relating to local public improvement he is active, and as a trustee of the Methodist church for several years he has been a liberal supporter of that society.

**John Driggs**, one of the early settlers of the town of Mexico, came with his wife from Berkshire Co., Mass., in 1839, traveling with both a wagon and a sleigh, one being carried upon the other, as the condition of the weather and roads required. The journey as far as Rome was made on wheels and from that place up into the partially opened country, over mere tracks leading through the woods until the party reached its destination, on runners. Mrs. Driggs (Maria Bald-



Borrowed Photo. GEORGE H. WILSON'S RESIDENCE.





Old Photos. MARIA BALDWIN DRIGGS  
JOHN DRIGGS.

win) was descended from a distinguished Massachusetts family, her father, a soldier in the American revolution, having served many years in the legislature of that commonwealth. Two of her brothers served in the war of 1812. Mr. Driggs first bought a farm three miles from Mexico and afterwards moved to Colosse where he was living at the time of the war of 1861-'5. He was a staunch defender of the Union and was active in promoting enlistments in the federal army from this town, contributing liberally for that purpose from his personal means. Later he located a mile south of Mexico village, where Mrs. Driggs died in 1867.

Mr. Driggs was one of the large number of "forty-niners" who was attracted to the west at the time of the discovery of gold in California. During the last four years of his life he resided in the village of Mexico where his death occurred in 1883 he then being 80 years of age.

**Colosse** was the first village dignified as such and with a postoffice in the town of Mexico. It first started from a small settlement begun at the crossing of the two highways leading from the unsettled frontiers of Oswego county to the chain

of settlements which were then, early in the nineteenth century, springing up across the central part of the state. One of these roads connected Oswego with Camden and Rome, and the other led from Salina to Sacketts Harbor.

The hamlet was first known as Mexico Four Corners. About 1840-50 a number of French families had settled here, the most prominent being Peter Gray who arrived in 1842 and started a store, also running a saw mill and manufacturing wagons. Among others who came that year were Frederick Le Clair, Lande Shapucey, Francis Henry, Francis Matty, George and Peter Boigeal, George Turont, John Perot, Jacob Racine, Fred Pettit, Francis and Louis Larobardier, George Rollen, Antoine Salladin, Telfus Boprey, Fred and George Beley and Francis Villiard.

The first settlers here so far as is known, were Perry Allen and Elisha Huntley. Lorenzo Huntley lived on the old homestead many years. Lyman Huntley became a physician. About 1817 Judge Bates erected a tavern adjacent to the store which was opened by Rufus Tiffany in 1816. The

latter place of business afterwards went into the hands of Milton Harmon and subsequently Lander Parkhurst. About 1840 Henry Webb was engaged in trade here but he sold out to Thomas and Charles L. Webb and moved to Mexico village. The Union Store Stock Co. was succeeded by John Becker who was succeeded by his son and a partner named Richardson. R. A. Burke was one of the early merchants who sold out to George G. Brown & Son, who in turn were succeeded by Peter Gray. The latter was succeeded by his son, James Gray. William A. and James A. Johnson were merchants who burned out in December, 1853. In 1821 Paul Allen built the second tavern in the village; also an ashery and distillery. In 1822 Joseph Devendorf started a tannery and shoe shop and he was succeeded by Truman Rood. About the same time Marshall Fairchild was engaged in making hats. Among those who afterwards kept tavern here were F. L. Barnes, L. D. Snell and Seymour Worden. The early blacksmiths were Alvin Richardson and Sidney D. Markham. The early postmasters were Alvin Richardson, Orange Frary, Chauncey G. Frary, his son, Cyrus H. Harvey, Edwin T. Johnson, Webster M. Richardson, Peter Gray, Cyrus F.



Borrowed Photo. GEORGE H. WILSON'S MEXICO CANNING FACTORY.

Allen and James Gray. Dr. Tennant was the first physician. Sanford Douglass opened a school, the first in the town of Mexico, in 1806.

Colosse Harbor was at one time the dream of some of the energetic and enterprising residents of that village. For the purpose of effecting this enterprise the Colosse Hydraulic Co., was organized with a capital of \$5,000 on April 12, 1842. The incorporators were Cyrus Allen, Sidney D. Markham, Leander Parkhurst, Alvin Richardson, Charles L. Webb, William A. Bates, Thomas Webb, Artemus Church and John M. Richardson. The plan was to deepen the pond of Nicholas E. Chambers and enclose it with docks. Then dig a canal connecting the pond with Lake Ontario, most of the way using the channel of Little Salmon river.

**The Missionary and Aid Society** of the Presbyterian church was without doubt cotemporary with the organization of the church. When men began to preach and pray, women began to work and also to pray. The oldest members have long since passed on and many of the older members have recently died. Mrs. Benjamin Stone and the first Mrs. Gardner Tullar whose death is of comparatively recent date were useful and devoted members who are still much missed. Mrs. Joseph Stone who died a year ago was also a devoted member. Other deaths which occurred within a year are Mrs. Gardner Tullar, Mrs. Ethel Stillman Johnson and Mrs. W. W. Kingsley. The present officers are Mrs. H. Humphries, president; Miss Grace Becker, vice president; Mrs. N. W. Woodruff, secretary; Miss Fannie Thomas, treasurer; Mrs. T. J. Green, superintendent of work; also a committee on suppers and a committee on literary and devotional program. The society is in every way a harmonious and prosperous one. Every year one or more barrels of clothing and bedding are sent to mission schools and hospitals and the needy ones of the town are clothed.

**Young Ladies Cooking Club.**—The organization of the Young Ladies Cooking Club took place in the fall of 1898 for the purpose of instructing its members in the mysterious arts of fancy cooking. The club was formed with a membership of twenty-two, the first president being Miss Mable Helen Gass who for two years proved herself a most able manager. The charter members of the club were as follows: Edith C. L. Ure, Margaret O. Newell, Grace Brown, Nina Bracy, Ann Louis Haydon, Eva Lee, Lulu Belle Kingsley, Lila Schoonmaker, Eva Sharra, Blanche Wetmore, Edith May Hendrickson, Mollie Belle Miller, Mable Helen Gass, Grace C. Markham, Monica Brown, Allie Clark, Jennie Z. Johnson, May Ella Mahar, Cora Velomer Potter, Lena Calkins and Mable L. Cobb. In 1900 Miss Lulu Haydon was called to the president's chair and was also persuaded to hold office for two years. In December 1902 Miss Allie Clark was honored with the office of president whose duties it is to appoint a menu committee and inform the members of the club where the next meeting will be held. She also selects two young ladies who serve the supper or six o'clock dinner for which the club has become famous; also two others are named to see that the kitchen as well as the par-

lors are left in perfect order before the closing of the meeting. Each member entertains the club, once a year the meetings being held twice each month. Many enjoyable afternoons and evenings are spent in this way by the club which still continues to meet although its members are leaving town to take up their work and homes in different parts of the country. Only twelve of the charter members are now present at the meetings namely: Miss Newell, Miss Markham, Miss Gass, Miss Clark, Miss Kingsley, Miss Johnson, Miss Miller, Mrs. Stone, Mrs. Minckler, Mrs. Wilmarth, Mrs. Oxner and Mrs. Hall. Each summer the club takes an outing at Mexico Point and during the fall and winter many dainty dinners and luncheons are served to which each member is allowed to bring a friend. Occasionally the old members come home and are always eager to visit the Cooking Club where we all gather and talk over the good old days of yore.

**Mexico Country, 1615;** as described by an explorer.—"Chestnut woods," as Champlain, the French explorer calls them, were found by him, spread out to great extent, while he was crossing the town of Mexico on his memorable expedition against the Senecas in 1615, when he landed at Salmon river and passed over the present site of Mexico village on his way to the Oswego river. All of the early exploring parties from the north, who came down here before the arrival of the English, and there were many, as well as the pioneer settlers in the 19th century, described this section as having an abundance of berries, nuts, fruits and vine. Before the country was cleared up the beech which bears the nut of that name—a small nut of very rich flavor—grew in abundance, and from Champlain's own words that was what he evidently took to be a small species of "chestnut," the beechnut being evidently unknown to him.

**The Dorcas Mission Circle,** auxiliary to the Woman's Home Missionary society, was organized April 6, 1898, at the home of Mrs. L. B. Cobb, with thirteen members. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. S. J. Ramsey; first vice president, Lillie Conway; second vice president, Etta Stone; third vice president, Mrs. Charlie Ward; recording secretary, Mollie Miller; corresponding secretary, Mrs. George Gass; treasurer, Mrs. Mandigo; superintendent, Mrs. Della Hollister; assistant superintendent, Mrs. L. B. Cobb. Our meetings are held the second Wednesday evening in each month at the home of the members, light refreshments being served. Each year we have sent a box of clothing to Kent Home, North Carolina, valued at \$50. For the past two years, in addition to the box, we have paid \$50 a year for the support of a girl in the home. Our present membership is 26.

**The First American Flag** was accepted by congress and adopted by resolution by that body June 14, 1777. It was made by Betsey Ross in 1776 at No. 239 Arch street, Philadelphia, where she was visited by Robert Morris and George Ross, a committee of congress appointed to see the colors when they were completed that they might report upon the design. They were accompanied by George Washington who had just been made commander-in-chief of the American army.



**The Woman's Home Missionary** auxiliary of Mexico First M. E. church was organized March, 1891, with about twenty charter members. Mrs. C. L. Griffith, of precious memory, was elected president; Miss Effie Berry, recording secretary; Mrs. L. G. Ballard, treasurer; Mrs. J. C. Darling, corresponding secretary. These officers were retained three years during which time the membership increased to forty. At the annual meeting in 1894 the officers elected were Mrs. Della Hollister, president; Mrs. P. W. Lyons, treasurer; Mrs. V. H. Walton, recording secretary; Miss Effie Berry, corresponding secretary. In 1896 Mrs. L. B. Cobb was elected president; Mrs. F. Munson, recording secretary. During the three years of Mrs. Cobb's presidency Mrs. H. W. Cook, Mrs. V. H. Walton and Mrs. D. H. Austin served as treasurer, and Mrs. Ella Ball and Mrs. J. J. Cobb as corresponding secretary. At the annual election in 1899, the officers were Mrs. Ella Ball, president, Mrs. Della Trowbridge, recording secretary; Mrs. L. J. Clark, treasurer and Mrs. F. Smedley, corresponding secretary. In 1901 Mrs. F. Munson was elected president; Mrs.

**The Thimble Club**, as its name implies is a society of a practical as well as a social character. It was organized in November, 1900, by twelve young ladies. Miss Anna Bard, the first president, is still retained in that office. The meetings are usually held every two weeks at the homes of the different members and while of a social nature, much needle work is accomplished. Refreshments are served by the hostess. Once a year the husbands and gentlemen friends are entertained at a dinner and a great many other social affairs are given. The badge of the club is a silver scroll with the letters "T. C., 1900." The members are Miss Anna Bard, Mrs. Spencer Ramsey, Mrs. Wilbor Jordan, Mrs. Earl Taylor, Mrs. F. L. Kellogg, Mrs. F. L. Hoose, Mrs. B. J. Marks, Miss Josephine Newton, Mrs. Gates Mineckler, Mrs. Geo. Cass, Mrs. Milo Graves, Miss Flora M. Darling, Miss Lena L. Hoose. Mrs. L. D. Pulsifer of De Ruyter, formerly Miss Lulu A. Huntington, was a charter member.

**Baptists in Oswego County.**—In 1836 there were fourteen churches, eleven clergymen and 1339 communicants in the Baptist association of Oswego county, viz: Colosse, C. Marshall, pastor,



Husted, Photo.

WOMAN'S HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY, M. E. CHURCH.

Top row—(from left to right) Mrs. T. Pepper, Mrs. P. Thomas, Mrs. G. Robbins, Mrs. W. Lansing, Mrs. W. Bracy, Mrs. R. Adams, Mrs. M. Clark, Mrs. B. Pond, Mrs. E. Pettinill, Mrs. M. Mitchell, Mrs. C. Chadwick. Middle Row—Mrs. F. Lowell, Mrs. C. Burdick, Mrs. W. Sweetland, R. Sec., Mrs. M. Stone, Mrs. H. Munson, Pres., Mrs. A. Cole, Mrs. E. Ball, Mrs. Snow. Lower Row—Mrs. L. Dillenback, Mrs. E. Smith, Cor. Sec., Mrs. J. Cobb, Mrs. D. Austin, Vice Pres., Mrs. P. Morgan, Treas., Mrs. L. Whitney, Mrs. E. Stevens, Mrs. E. Huntington.

Mary Sweetland, recording secretary; Mrs. P. Morgan, treasurer; Mrs. E. Smith, corresponding secretary. At the annual election in 1903 the following officers were elected: Mrs. S. Oxner, president; Mrs. Carrie G. Burdick, recording secretary; Miss Effie Berry, treasurer, and Mrs. Chas. Sharp, corresponding secretary. The auxiliary now comprises about seventy members. The Woman's Home Missionary Society covers a broad field for wherever the stars and stripes wave, there is Home Missionary soil, and we may expect to meet workers supported by the auxiliaries through the different bureaus among which we may mention the industrial homes of many southern states, deaconess work, frontier ministers, immigrant home in New York City, and many others; also believing charity should begin at home, our own are not neglected. The Tither's Pledge has been adopted by several of our members who acknowledge the Bible plan of giving to be the best way.

161 members; Hannibal, P. Woodin, 257; Hastings, S. D. Dean, 68; Mexico, W. Frary, 109; New Haven, W. Frary, 72; Orwell, —, 43; Oswego, J. Waterman, J. Hallinbeck, C. W. Denison, 237; Palermo, A. Keith, 38; Phenixville, N. Camp, 52; Pulaski, C. B. Taylor, 89; Parish, D. Martin, 30; Richland, E. Burdick, 84; Sandy Creek — 62; Volney, —, 39.

**The Young Woman's Foreign Missionary Society** of the M. E. church was organized by Miss Coit in 1887 with about twelve members. At present it has a membership of thirty-nine. The meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the homes of the members. The following are the officers: President, Mrs. H. W. Whitney; vice president, Miss Carrie Crosier; secretary, Miss Anna Berry; treasurer, Mrs. S. A. Ramey. The society is doing good work helping in the support of missionaries, orphans and Bible women.



LAURA CONE SMITH.  
Borrowed Photos.

DANIEL SMITH.

**Daniel Smith.**—In 1826 Daniel Smith and Laura Cone, both of Whitestown, Oneida Co., were married and settled three miles east of the village of Mexico. They built a log structure where there was nothing but forests. Frank G. Smith of this village was born in that house, also his sister, Helen C. Smith, deceased, whom no one knew but to love. After some years Daniel Smith built a frame house and purchased quite a tract of land which made up a good sized farm and which is now known as the Jason Wright farm. Twelve children were born to Daniel and Laura Smith, two of whom are living, Frank G. Smith of this village, and Henry C. Smith of Los Angeles, Cal. One daughter, Rosette Smith Murphy, was known for her physical charms and loveliness of character.

**The Epworth League** of the First Methodist church was organized in December, 1895. In 1887, through the efforts of the pastor, Rev. W. R. Cobb, a Christian Endeavor Society was organized. After many years of usefulness it was thought best, during the pastorate of Rev. H. W. Bennett, to re-organize and the society became Chapter No. 15571, Epworth League, in December, 1895. The present membership is 75. The regular business meetings are held the last Wednesday evening of the month. The present cabinet is: President, Lena L. Hoose; first vice president, Mrs. George McDonald; second vice president, Lillian Longstreet; third vice president, Mrs. H. W. Whitney; fourth vice president, Mrs. Spencer Ramsay; secretary, Mollie B. Miller; treasurer, Carl Ballard.

**The Colosse Baptist Church**, the first church society organized in the town of Mexico and the second in Oswego county, was started at a meeting held at the residence of Amos Williams (now in the town of Parish) on Sunday, June 15, 1806. Elder Williams was the pioneer preacher in this part of the county. The moving spirit of the new society was Rev. Gamaliel Barnes, who preached on that and following occasions. On Jan. 7, 1807, further steps were taken but the organization was not perfected until Oct. 15, 1807. On July 2, 1814, the society was dissolved but was again organized, as the Baptist church of Mexico, Aug. 23, 1815, at a meeting held in the school building of school district No. 1 (now in the town of Parish), with a fellowship of eighteen brethren and sisters, twelve delegates from Jefferson county being in attendance. The following day the organization was perfected with the right hand of fellowship.

The Moderator at this council was Rev. Emory Osgood and the clerk, Rev. Martin E. Cook. The members were Gamaliel Barnes, Barnet Whipple, William R. Huntley, James Roberts, Sam'l and Jno. Manwaren, Asa Barnes, Stutely Palmer, jr., Hannah Barnes, Hannah Roberts, Fanny Manwaren, Eunice Manwaren, Prudence Carr, Lowry Barnes, Caroline Barnes, Lydia Barnes, Polly Morse and Bethiah Williams.

Rev. Gamaliel Barnes was chosen for the first pastor and Allen and Stutely Palmer, jr., deacons. The latter was the first clerk.

During the ensuing nine years the little congregation "worshipped around," in farm houses and school houses, the most convenient place to accommodate different neighborhoods. Generally the meetings were held at Mexico Four Corners (Colosse), the old red mill being sometimes used for that purpose.

The erection of a church building in the village of Colosse, the first church edifice in the county of Oswego, was the outcome of efforts which first took form at a meeting held Nov. 5, 1821. It was two years later, however, when work on the structure was begun and it was not until fall in



Husted, Photo. EPWORTH LEAGUE, M. E. CHURCH.

1, Miss Lena Hoose, 2, Miss Lillian Longstreet, 3, Mrs. Herbert Whitney, 4, Mrs. Spencer Ramsay, 5, Miss Mollie Miller, 6, Mr. Carl Ballard, 7, Rev. M. D. Still.



the following year, 1824, that the edifice was completed. The cost aggregated \$2,500. The building was put up close to the neighborhood cemetery and sheds were erected. It was 46x36 feet, the ceiling being 20 feet clear of the floor. The pulpit was a box-like enclosure reached by a flight of steps. The pews were enclosed with gates, those abutting the side walls being square and those along the center aisle being box slips. On the two sides were galleries. The frame of the building was hard wood and the siding pine. The congregation worshipped here the first winter without fires. At the dedication of the church in 1824 Rev. Nathaniel J. Gilbert preached. On Dec. 30, 1873, it was re-dedicated, when Rev. G. A. Ames of Pulaski preached. That year, in December, the building was altered. The room was divided horizontally making two stories, the upper part being furnished for the auditorium and the lower part for church socials, prayer meetings and to accommodate other occasions. Ten years later the building was closed for repairs and in November, 1883, was again opened for regular services. A Sunday school in connection with the church was organized in 1828. At one time the society numbered 734 members. The pastors of the church down to 1876 named in the order of their respective pastorates were: Gamaliel Barnes, Nathaniel Gilbert, Enoch Ferris, William Watkins, George B. Davis, John I. Fulton, Edmund Goodenough, William Storrs, Charles Marshall, Newell Boughton, David McFarland, Peter Goo, Ira Dudley, Albert Cole, Judson Davis, Mortimer V. Wilson, Lemon Q. Galpin, Judson L. Davis, Thomas J. Seigfried, Elam D. Phillips, Charles Sherwood.

**Deserters** assisted by Mexico Settlers; the “Blind Trail” to the Little Salmon river.—For some years after the close of the revolutionary war the British occupied the post at Oswego and there were frequent desertions from that army. Settlers living along the Ontario lake shore, the country thereabouts then being sparsely settled, sympathized with deserters, largely because of their natural antipathy to an enemy with whom they had for a long time been at war, and whom they desired to injure. So that wherever there was a cabin within reach of the British posts it was occasionally subjected to a sudden and rigorous search for deserters by a party of red-coats. This was the case in the eastern part of the town of Mexico where a few log cabins stood, at Vera Cruz which had suddenly sprung into being, and farther north between the Salmon river and Sandy Creek; and especially along the latter stream—a country into which the settlers were then penetrating. Deserters from the posts on the St. Lawrence frequently made their way west to the lake, sometimes as hands employed on sailing vessels and other times by retreating along timber paths and depending upon the good services of the American settlers. There was what was called “a blind trail,” used to facilitate the escape of these men into the heart of the state, which during the years of 1790-94 was used frequently. To strike directly south from the St. Lawrence river was impossible owing to the vast stretch of uninhabited country, for the fringe of settlements that had to be reached to insure safety extended across the center of the state following the Mohawk

river to Fort Stanwix, with an interim of woods to Onondaga and at infrequent distances west from there into the new county of Ontario. So in order to sub-ist while effecting their escape the poor wretches from the river posts headed west. They were always warmly received, fed and piloted on from house to house, as was the case with slaves from the South, a half century later who, heading for Canada, came north by the way of Syracuse. Sometimes a party of Indians fishing at the mouth of the Salmon river, usually the Oneidas, were induced to pilot the British refugee to Fort Stanwix; but usually he worked as far west as Little Salmon river where during the earliest period following the war were a few cabins and from there was piloted across country to Fort Brewerton, thence south to Salina and Onondaga Hollow, the two frontier hamlets in existence during the years mentioned.

**Society in Old Mexico, 1802**, as seen by Puritanical eyes, is described by the Presbyterian “Missionary,” Rev. John Taylor, as follows: “Preached to about forty people [Sept. 2, east end of the town]. The most I can say is that the people behaved with tolerable decency—3 or 4 left the house in sermon time. Gave one bible, 2 addresses [printed] and a half a dozen catechisms to such persons as I thought would receive them. The people are in general nothing-arians or fatalists—or Methodists and Baptists, who are the worst of all. The people stand in special need of assistance and most of them are very thankful for everything which is done for them in a religious way. The people meet every Sabbath and perform regular exercises by praying, reading and preaching. I have seen no people who I think stand more in need of the cultivating hand of the societies [New England Missionary which sent him here] than this, unless it be Camden. They have no proper books to read upon the Sabbath and indeed nothing but a few ordination sermons. [I] gave an order for one of the select sermons, 2 bibles, 6 Dodridge’s Addresses, 10 catechisms and 1 of the Societies’ Addresses.” The next day this good man reports that he was “a little unwell from bad diet.” He adds, “Took physic and obtained some relief.”

**Mexico Was Incorporated** Jan. 15, 1851. The first village board was O. H. Whitney, Dr. Clark D. Snell, James S. Chandler, David Goit and Asa Sprague. The first village treasurer was Seabury A. Tuller, clerk Cyrus Whitney, assessors Ezra C. Mitchell and R. L. Alfred, collector John A. Fort and poundmaster Grandus Gregory.

**Texas** is a small hamlet on Little Salmon river three-fourths of a mile from the lake, which supplies the summer hotels and cottages on the shore of the lake with their mail. A store and post-office were first located at this point, although building of houses at first inclined toward the lake where it was intended that a pretentious village and harbor known as Vera Cruz should be built. When in 1820 fire swept away all that constituted Vera Cruz, the name of Texas was given to this locality. S. P. Robinson then established a boat yard on the river at this place. At one time a paper mill was running here.



**Noted Names of Mexico.**—Among those from Mexico who have distinguished themselves are the following: Morgan L. and Giles Smith, sons of Cyrus Smith, reared on a farm, followed Sherman and Grant in their campaigns, one as a major general, the other as brigadier general. Both were intimate friends of Sherman and Grant, and in a history of Gen. Sherman their names were especially mentioned. After the war Morgan was sent to Honolulu as consul, and Giles was appointed second assistant postmaster general. Hon. C. R. Skinner, superintendent of public instruction, Judge Maurice Wright, Rev. George Mains, Prof. Charles Wheeler entomologist of Washington, D. C., and Prof. H. W. Slack of St. Paul, Minn., were all schoolmates. Among the pedagogues are Professor Nicholas Knight, Professors Elmer and Frederick Loomis, all of whom studied special courses in Europe, and Rev. C. H. Stone.

Among the editors are W. C. Stone of the *Camden Advance*, L. R. Muzzy for several years editor of *Pulaski Democrat*, H. O. Elkins of *Steuken County Courier*, and C. H. Plumley of *Fargo*, N. D.

C. L. Stone is a successful lawyer in Syracuse, Courtland Brown and Myron Collins are lawyers of Denver. F. W. Severance is a lawyer in New York. William Ballou of New York has launched several successful novels on the literary world. Frederick Dewey is a successful architect in New York.

Three missionaries spent their early days in Mexico. Rev. Frank Tubbs went for several years to Mexico and South America. He is now Doctor of Divinity in Ohio; Rev. George Stone, son of G. W. Stone, went to Arabia, but died before he had scarcely begun his work; Rev. A. D. Berry went last July as a missionary to Japan.

Willis Heaton is a successful lawyer in Hoosick Falls and surrogate of Rensselaer Co. Among the women Miss Emma Beebe now of Iowa, is an artist of note and author of a successful Sunday school book, and Mary Hutchins Hatlaway had a successful practice as a physician in Oswego.

**Salmon Fishing.**—A century ago salmon were found in the streams in this village in great abundance weighing some times twenty-five pounds. At times they passed up the stream in shoals, their bright fins flashing on the water like silver in the sunlight. The poor pioneers some years had little else to eat. This was before the day of bridges and mill dams and the early settlers crossed Salmon Creek on a huge log which spanned the stream near where Osborn's State and Toronto Mills stand. Salmon were so plenty that the fishermen used to stand on this rude log bridge and spear them with a pitch fork. A Mrs. Locke while washing clothes one day by the brook which passes through Mexico village cemetery caught in her apron out of a deep hole one weighing thirteen pounds.

**Scriba's Patent** was bounded by a line beginning on the south shore of Salmon river east of Port Ontario village and running southeast, south of the village of Pulaski, thence following the boundary line of Albion and Williamstown on the north, and the line between Lewis and Oneida counties to Fish creek, thence along that stream and the north shore of Oneida lake; thence along Oneida and Oswego rivers to Lake Ontario.

**Ancient Cities In Mexico.**—According to several authorities the country comprised in the old town of Mexico was, long before Columbus discovered America, occupied by a large colonization of Finns, Danes and Welslunen, who in the eighth and ninth centuries gradually moved south from Iceland, Greenland and Labrador to the St. Lawrence, and crossing that river spread themselves out along the south shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie.

Dr. Mitchell (*Archæ. Amer.*) calls the country of the Ontario, that region especially described by him at this end of the lake in the town of Mexico, as the Antipodal Regions of the eighth and ninth centuries, where the Scandinavians crossing from Europe to north-eastern America and migrating southwest, and the fierce Tartars crossing from Asia to northwestern America and migrating to the southeast met in bloody conflict which resulted in the extinction of the Scandinavians. Seven centuries later, the French sent their Jesuits down into this country and found the American Indian, who had descended from a race of Malays, which they in a sense resemble.

While the original occupants of the Ontario lake region had become extinct, plainly discerned traces of their presence were apparent as late as 1820 and 1830. Remains of what are considered traces of large cities and fortifications were, before the agriculturist began to plow the soil, found in the towns of Sandy Creek, Richland, Mexico, New Haven, Volney, Granby, Hannibal and Oswego.

In many places there are evident marks of houses having stood as thick as to join each other. The remains of old fireplaces built of stones—wells evidently dug and stoned to a considerable depth; and the remains of old forts and entrenchments.

**Oswego** is a corruption of Ochouegen (Ochouegen), the original name given to the locality now occupied by the city of Oswego by the Iroquois Indians. At the foot of the bluff on both sides of the river the Indians pitched their lodges and drew in large quantities of fish. There they exchanged goods or met in treaty with the tribes from the north of Lake Ontario. Ochouegen, pronounced in the Indian guttural gave to the French the term Chouyen, which was the name they used for that locality. The English, however, caught the entirely different pronunciation, Oswego.

**The Roosevelt Patent** was granted by the state to John and Nicholas Roosevelt in Aug. 1791. It contained 500,000 acres and the price paid was 77,083 pounds, 6 shillings and 8 pence. The tract was then described as being bounded northerly by the Alexander Macomb purchase, easterly by Oot-houdt's patent and Canada creek, southerly by Wood creek, the Oneida lake and Onondaga [Oneida] river and westerly by the Onondaga [Oswego] river and Lake Ontario. The islands lying off shore ["in front"] of the patent were to be included at 3 shillings and 1 penny for each acre. The boundary line began at the mouth of the Salmon river and ran southeast, generally north of the stream and east of Altmar village; thence followed the northern line of Oneida county to Fish Creek; thence to Canada creek and Wood Creek; thence along the north shore of Oneida lake and river; along the east shore of Oswego river and the south shore of Lake Ontario, comprising two-thirds of Oswego county and a third of Oneida county.



Borrowed Photo. HENRY HUMPHREYS.  
Editor and Proprietor Mexico Independent.

**The Mexico Independent.**—The first issue of the Mexico Independent, now in its forty-third year, appeared March 21, 1861. Those were troublesome times. The country was facing one of its most momentous periods, the great civil war. Banks were breaking everywhere and public confidence was greatly impaired. It seemed a wild scheme to start a paper under such circumstances, and many were the prophecies of the Independent's speedy demise. Over-cautious people who had subscribed to the Oswego County Democrat (the first newspaper published here and which only existed a year or two), only ventured 25 cents, fearing the Independent would be equally short lived. But its founders, Henry Humphreys and James M. Searritt, were made of sterner stuff and none of these things moved them. They began in a very modest way in the room over what is now H. C. Peck's store, with a second-hand outfit (given them by their former employer in place of the wages due them), consisting of a hand press, a Guernsey power press that it took two men to turn, type, paper, etc. The first copy was a four-column, eight-page paper, uncut and unfolded. The present issue is a six-column octavo, cut, pasted and folded by a Bennett Paper Folder. Besides the folder the

Independent office is supplied with other modern and up-to-date machinery.

But what they lacked in material they more than made up by their grit, their tact and enterprise. The word failure was not in their vocabulary and they hustled and pushed things. They were kindly received and heartily supported by the townspeople, and from the date of its first issue to the present time each week the Independent has regularly appeared on its publication day. In December, 1865, Mr. Humphreys, the present editor and proprietor, bought out Mr. Searritt. It may not be amiss to state that the foreman, Mr. John Berry, has filled that position for nearly thirty-four years and Mrs. Edwin Baker has been employed in the office for twenty-eight years. The other employes are George I. Pettingill and Clarence A. Hosford.

**Silas Town—The Spy.**—On a little island at Mexico Point there are two or three graves in one of which sleeps all that is mortal of Silas Town, a soldier in the revolutionary war. He was a man of ability, with good personal appearance and an uncommonly pleasing address. He was a great favorite among the early settlers some of whose children now bear his name. Connected with his history there was a strong tinge of romance.

His early life was spent in one of the New England villages where he won the affections of a lovely girl to whom he was soon to be married. The young lady died very suddenly. Town was overwhelmed and his pathway was ever after darkened. His heart was buried in the same grave that closed over her. The war of the revolution soon after commenced and when the clangor of arms was heard at Lexington and Bunker Hill he joined the army and being bright and eagle-eyed his services were soon sought by the government as a spy and he was sent out on some of the most hazardous enterprises. He was connected



Borrowed Photo. HENRY HUMPHREY'S RESIDENCE.



with Arnold's expedition to attack Quebec and was a hero in many secret missions in Canada and elsewhere.

When the war was over, being very fond of fishing and hunting he made a settlement here and boarded for some time with Phineas Davis, sr., within our village limits. Afterwards he went to Vera Cruz (Mexico Point) where he lived until 1806 when he died. He was buried as he desired on the little rock-bound island at the mouth of Salmon creek near the waters of the lake he loved so well. In 1871 a monument was erected over his grave on which is the following inscription:

"Erected July 4th, 1871, to the memory of Silas Town, an officer under Washington.—Died 1806."

The Rev. L. N. Stratton delivered an oration when the monument was erected, recounting the many services of Town to the republic.

**The Jerry Rescue.**—Mexico had a hand in it. A little more than half a century ago occurred an event in Syracuse which aroused the city to a pitch of frenzy such as it had never before known and to which it has since been a stranger. The famous "rescue of Jerry," a poor fugitive slave, from the authorities of the United States government at that time created a tremendous excitement throughout the nation. He was arrested for a test case to see whether or not the obnoxious Fugitive Slave Law could be enforced in this state. Three or four years ago, the actors in those exciting scenes having all passed away, the correct, inside history of the rescue was given.

After Jerry was taken from the United States marshals in Syracuse he was hidden for weeks before he reached Canada and until recently it was a profound mystery with historians as to where Jerry was concealed and how he was carried to Canada. The United States government brought its whole power to bear on catching Jerry after he was rescued, and all roads leading from Syracuse and all shipping points to Canada were patrolled and watched, but Jerry got away all the same.

Mexico did its full share in helping him on to freedom. While the sheriffs and marshals were watching all the seaports between Buffalo and Ogdensburg, poor Jerry was hiding in this village.

In Syracuse on the Sunday following the rescue, as the bells were ringing for evening service, Caleb Davis drove out into the country to collect beef, as was his custom. He stopped at the Syracuse House for a cigar and drove on without exciting suspicion. But in the bottom of the cart, covered with sacks lay Jerry, armed and anxious. The team was a span of fleet horses furnished by ex-Mayor Jason C. Woodruff, a Hunker Democrat. James Davis, on horseback and disguised as a negro, rode out twelve miles to see and instruct the tollgate keepers. Jason S. Hoyt also joined the party later.

The "patriots" were soon on their track, but when the pursuers reached the tollgates they had great difficulty in rousing the gatekeepers, who consumed much time in making change. At Brewerton bridge Jason Hoyt was left to drive on to Mexico alone with Jerry. After this the pursuers gained on them and for seven miles they raced with the horses at the utmost speed consistent with safety until Hoyt's team left them so far behind that they gave up the chase.

Following the route of the "underground railroad," Jerry was taken as far as Mexico the first

night and left in charge of Starr Clark, Orson Ames and Solomon Peck. The first day and night he was kept at the home of Orson Ames, who then resided in the house still standing opposite the academy and known as the Whyborn place. Mr. Ames, fearful he could not safely secret Jerry longer at his place took him to Asa Beebe's barn very near where the Earl butter dish factory now stands. In this barn he was kept for about two weeks, Mrs. Beebe providing his rations which (to avoid suspicion) her son Winsor carried to him in a bushel basket when he went to care for his team. In the meantime a brother of Mr. Ames, residing in Oswego, made arrangements with the captain of a boat to take Jerry to Canada. When the arrangements were completed Winsor Beebe went to Oswego for a load of wheat (he then ran the Railroad Mills) and having secreted Jerry among the bags and blankets delivered him before daylight to the "agent" in Oswego who smuggled him on board the schooner that was waiting in the harbor. Jerry in due time reached Kingston in the "land of the free." The Canadian climate was too cold for Jerry and he sickened and died Oct. 8, 1853, and was buried in a cemetery near Kingston. Jerry suffered much during the fearful ordeal but his name will be written on the pages of history as long as human slavery is remembered.

**Underground Railway at Mexico.**—Mexico, during the days of slavery, was one of the largest stations of the "underground railway" for running off fugitive slaves. In those days it was both unpopular and dangerous to fight slavery but Mexico was nevertheless the headquarters of anti-slavery sentiment in the county. It was a hotbed of abolitionism. Here was located one of the lodges of that secret organization known as the Anti-Man-Hunting League, and that bold and fearless anti-slavery champion, Asa S. Wing, was its leading spirit. Many were the fugitives who were aided here by the "order" and passed on over the Mexico branch of the "underground railroad to Canada and freedom.

**Business Houses Prior to 1870.** — William S. Fitch, first store.

Nathaniel Butler, first jeweler.

Levi F. Warner, first druggist; his successors were Warner & Elliott, Warner & Chauncey Sims, George S. Thrall & Co. and Butler & Higgins.

Moses P. Hatch, Peter Chandler, Stitt & Butler, J. S. Chandler, Henry Webb, J. M. Barrows, S. H. & B. S. Stone, L. T. Miner & Co., Stitt & Bowen, Stitt & Goodwin, general stores; Gregory & Merriam, shoe store; Edwin L. Huntington, drugs; Starr Clark, general store; Peck & Conklin, dry goods; Bailey & Ayres, clothing; W. H. & E. Rulison, drugs; Baird & Griffith, grocers; Clinton & Eaton, general merchandise; Ames, Alexander & Co., shoes; Albin Meyer, tailor; James Whitaker, general store; James Lamb, William O. Johnson, groceries; Silas May, Whitney & Forsyth, Goodwin & Hinckley, general stores; Taylor & Rulison, druggists.

Stone & Fuller, hardware; John Bennett, William Cooper, tailors; Luther S. Conklin, Elam Marsh; land agents.

Driggs & Parkhurst, Gillispie, Holmes & Co.,



general stores; J. F. & D. D. Becker, merchandise; G. P. Plank & Son, Goit & Everts, dry goods; Goit & Thayer, general store; Taylor & Meyer, merchant tailors; Peek & Conklin, merchandise; S. W. Plank, dry goods; Huntington & Rickard, drugs and jewelry; Stone, Robinson & Co., dry goods; Goit & Richardson, groceries; Pierce & Brown, groceries; L. H. Sayles, hardware; A. W. Waters, undertaking; Ball & Mond, merchant tailors; E. J. Parmlee, books, succeeded by Chamberlain & Wallace; W. O. & Charles C. Johnson, groceries; Jesse H. Holmes, clothing store, succeeded by B. G. Eaton & T. G. Brown; C. H. Clinton, groceries; Brooks & Huntington, drugs; J. R. Norton, dry goods; Geo. W. Stone, dry goods; Cobb & Woodruff, groceries; L. G. Ballard, groceries; L. L. Virgil, hardware; C. P. Whipple, furniture; George G. Tubbs, R. L. Alfred, jewelry; J. D. Hartson, clothing; C. F. Tuller, groceries; Maybee & Burgess, groceries; Eldad Smith, hardware; Holland Wilder, blacksmith; Sterling Newell, lumber; John McMann, butcher, Francis Villard, carpenter; Lawrence Stevens, carpenter; William Penfield, blacksmith; Brainard Selby, blacksmith; J. R. Drake, produce; Robert Gibbs, shoe store; Bailey & Goodwin, clothing; Ames & Bennett, shoe store; Becker Brothers, dry goods; Hoose & Loomis, groceries.

**The Early Manufacturers** include W. S. Fitch, Simon Tuller and Peter Pratt, distilleries; Starkweather and E. Burns, hat manufacturers; John Bennett, tailor; Mr. Sherman, scythe factory; Asa Putnam, maker of axes and scythes; A. & W. Penfield, carriage works; Bezaleel Thayer, manufacturer of woollen cloth; Asa Beebe, iron foundry and maker of plows who was succeeded by James Tuller & S. T. Beebe; Orson Ames, Gregory & Merriam, Jabin Wood, tanneries; John Morton, Matthias Whitney, Dennis Peck, Cooper & Huntington, Brooks & Rider, Wm. Goit, David Goit, Almeron Thomas and Peter Sandhovel, flour manufacturers; David Goit, oil mill; A. C. Erskine, sash and blind factory; Bews & Walton, iron foundry; Simon Leroy, Warren Allen and W. B. Lord, cabinet makers; S. N. Gustin, who made animal pokes and pails; Cyrus Turney, wagon maker; S. H. & B. S. Stone, Phineas Davis and J. M. Barrows, manufacturers of potash.

**Early Lawyers Prior to 1854.**—A. M. Bixby was first attorney in Mexico village; M. Pettit; Orville Robinson, member of Congress in 1842; Veeder Green; Levi Downing; Orla H. Whitney, county judge; Cyrus Whitney, county judge; Luke D. Smith, member of assembly; John B. Higgins, district attorney; Wm. Tullar; Timothy W. Skinner, surrogate, only one of that period now living in the village; George G. French, district attorney; Edwin Allen, afterwards mayor of Oswego; Albert G. Cole; Samuel T. Parsons.

**Physicians Prior to 1850.**—Doctor Tenant was the pioneer physician here. Others were Elisha Moore; A. B. Palmer; E. Palmer; Frederick Smith; Sadius Brewster; Benjamin E. Bowen, once member of assembly; Alexander Whaley; Levi F. Warner; Abiathar Gardiner; Gilson A. Dayton, appointed auditor of state canal department; M. Bradbury; Harriet Rundell; Wm. Rundell; Clark D. Snell; A. Buell; Dr. Kendall.

**Fires in Mexico**—prior to 1866—[Taken from the list compiled by George Goodwin.]

February 1801, Calvin Tiffany's log house (see First Fire).

1807, Richard Gafford dwelling, (see First Fire).

1809, John Ames dwelling.

1821, David Aldrich residence (tenant).

1823, Distillery owned by Simon Tuller and Lucius Webb; at night.

1824, Two dwellings. Mr. Fox moving from one found the place he was going to in flames. Without unloading his goods he returned and found the other house burning. He then left the country.

1825, Dry house connected with B. Thayer's woolen factory; loss \$400; not insured.

July, 1843, Ashery owned by P. Chandler and leased by S. H. & B. S. Stone. Loss \$700.

1844, Tannery owned and occupied by O. Ames. Supposed incendiary. Loss \$5,000.

1845, Trip hammer shop owned by Wing & Densmore and occupied by G. Maynard; at night. Loss \$600.

1845 or '6, Blacksmith shop owned by A. Beebe and leased by G. Maynard. Loss \$300.

Aug. 15, 1846, Two houses owned by J. B. Snitter; midday. Loss \$900.

1847, Dwelling, known as Maycomber house, and used as small pox hospital. Unoccupied.

Nov. 12, 1850, Methodist church and sheds; two stores, one owned by J. A. Fort and the other by A. Lawrence; L. Downing's barn. The fire was started by a girl 14 years old. She was sent to Pulaski jail and tried to fire that. Loss \$5,000; barn insured for \$100.

1851, Dwelling owned by Warner Mitchell on Sherman hill; caught from chimney; loss \$500. Dwelling owned by Soloman Matthews; at night; chimney; loss \$500; insured \$175.

Nov. 27, 1852, Mexico Hotel (brick) with small tenements and a dwelling owned by L. D. Smith. Loss \$4,000; insurance \$1,200.

March 25, 1854, Whitney block (frame), old red store, Kinne's clothing store and Downing's law office; night. Among the losers were Whitney & Forsyth, K. H. Kinne, S. Doolittle and L. Downing; caught in a shoe shop. Loss \$7,000, insurance \$3,000.

1854, Stave mill owned by A. Curtiss, H. Curtiss and S. Hosmer; accidental; loss \$900

Aug. 26, 1854, Three stores on the site of Webb block. Three story building owned by Judge Whitney, brick store owned by Henry Webb and drug store of W. H. and E. Rulison. Losers besides the above were Whitney & Skinner, S. Kennedy, Odd Fellows, Peck & Conklin, Wm. Webb, J. G. Allen, J. Blakeslee. Loss \$15,000; insurance \$7,500; origin unknown.

Nov. 24, 1857, Blacksmith shop owned by L. D. Smith and occupied by C. Johnson; wagon shop owned by Haven & Smith. Loss \$1,600.

March 14, 1857, Dwelling owned by Mrs. Rebecca Killam. Loss \$800.

Feb. 14, 1860, Whitney block (brick) composed of six stores. Site of former fire. Among the losers were K. H. Kinne, O. C. Whitney, Ames & Bennett, R. Gibbs, Bailey & Goodwin, Brooks & Rider, Whitney & Skinner, J. N. F. Hall, Mrs. Bolt, H. Everts, Mr. Daniels, C. D. Snell. Incendiary. Loss \$20,000; insurance about \$9,000.

March 10, 1861, Store of A. Thomas. First fire attended by the fire company with an engine. Occurred 3 a. m. Loss \$7,000; insurance \$5,000.

March 14, 1862, Town hall block composed of

five wooden buildings. Stone & Fuller, S. Doolittle, Bradbury & Smith, O. H. Whitney estate, J. N. F. Hall, R. Howard, L. D. Smith, M. W. Babcock, Misses Chubbs losers. Loss \$9,000; insurance \$5,000. Accidental.

March 26, 1863. Saw mill of David Rider. Loss \$500.

Jan. 9, 1863, Saw mill owned by Mr. Borland. Loss \$600.

July 22, 1864, The big fire (See Fire of '64 on another page).

June 29, 1866. Empire Hotel block, including buildings attached to the hotel and J. A. Rickard's barn. J. A. Rickard, W. O. Johnson, Bard & Griffith, T. G. Packer, T. A. Skinner, Good Templars, G. Swanson, W. Cooper, T. B. Ely, J. P. Plank, Dr. Baker, G. A. Castle, Lawson & Co., O. L. Kane, T. W. Skimmer, J. B. Taylor and others were losers. Loss \$24,000; insurance \$14,000.

**First Fire** in Mexico village was the burning of the cabin of Calvin Tiffany in February 1801. The structure built of logs stood on the Scriba road, a spot now in the corporation limits of Mexico village a half a mile northeast of the railroad depot and was first occupied by Nathaniel Rood the first white settler in Mexico who took possession with Jonathan Parkhurst in 1798. The latter soon after settled south of Colosse. In February 1799 Calvin Tiffany and Phineas Davis rented the house. The latter shortly after built a house for himself, leaving the Tiffany family in the old house where they were living when it was burned. It was in this house that Truman Rood was born the first birth in town—and where Rood's widow lived after marrying Richard Gafford—the first wedding in Mexico. In 1807 the Richard Gafford residence standing on the same ground was burned.

**The Cradle of Societies** was the name popularly given to Shubel Alfred's residence and barn which stood in the west end of the village on Main street. The residence was erected in 1807 being the first frame building in the village. It is still standing as a wing to a dwelling which was built later. It was here the Masonic fraternity was organized in 1808. The barn which stood in the rear of the house supplied Harriet Easton with a school room in 1811. On Aug. 20, 1810, a few ladies met in this barn with Simon Waterman and took steps for the organization of a Presbyterian church. Services were conducted there by the Revs. Israel Bruinard, Oliver Leavitt and M. Dunlap until May 1811 when a second meeting of citizens was held which resulted in the organization of the First Congregational church of Mexico.

**The Soldiers' Monument Association** was organized June 20, 1877, with L. H. Conklin, president; C. L. Webb, secretary; H. C. Peck, treasurer; J. M. Hood, E. L. Huntington, La Fayette Alfred, Phineas Davis, Asa L. Sampson and Lewis Miller executive committee. In 1888 the town voted \$2,000 and the monument at a cost of \$2,689.34 was erected the following year, being dedicated July 4, 1889. It is a granite shaft 34 feet high, standing in the Mexico village cemetery.

**Wolves** became so plenty in the early days of Oswego settlements that the town board of Mexico on March 6, 1804, voted \$10 per each wolf killed the ensuing year. In 1812 the nuisance was of such character that the town board increased the bounty to \$30 for each head. The following year Daniel Southard realized \$1,500 in bounties for wolf scalps which he had taken.

**Prattham**, or Prattville, two miles east of Mexico, was named after Judge Pratt who built a store, saw mill and distillery there and engaged in mercantile trade with Elias Brewster. Pratt & Brewster were also interested in a woolen mill with Dr. Sardinus Brewster. Joel Savage conducted the tavern, Edward Smith a tannery and harness shop, Simon Leroy a cabinet shop and George Finney a blacksmith shop.

**Wellwood** (South Mexico) was settled by James Wellwood in 1838. It is only within the past few years, when the post office was started that it was named Wellwood. The postmasters here were Mahlon Remington, Ellsworth Remington, Mrs. Emma Preston and William Harris. The South Mexico Methodist church was organized March 1, 1849, with 120 members and they built and dedicated their church in March, 1851. The early pastors were Charles Northrup, Anson Fuller, Harris Kingsley and J. C. Brown.

**Mexico in 1806.**—The town of Mexico bordering the lake on the east as well as the south, as it did in 1800 is described by a writer in that year as follows:—"At the end of the lake there are large marshes, on which vegetation is very rapid. Some of this is planted with corn and produces abundantly; but in consequence of there being so much grass and other productions which cannot be gathered, the people are in the fall of the year liable to a distressing fever—much more malignant and dangerous than the common fever and ague. In the lake there are large wirrows of sand, five miles in length, on which there stands, here and there a pine, and some other small trees which make the appearance from the land very picturesque. This town began to settle in '98, is called Mexico or Ellisburgh; in the town of Mexico—nine miles square—about 30 families—is rapidly settling."

**Nuts and Fruits.**—Beechnuts and chestnuts were found in Oswego county in great abundance when the first settlers came here. There were also large quantities of fruit, many species of which are now highly cultivated. Along the streams berries grew in great abundance. As early as 1615 Champlain found a great wood of beechnuts which he called chestnuts and which appears as one of the many localities of interest he marked on his map. Slippery elm bark was also gathered by the pioneers and there are instances when famishing families fed on it. Butter-nut bark was hoarded for the winter and steeped, the liquor being used for a spring tonic.

In 1802 Rev. John Taylor, "a missionary," in this section declared that he considered the fact that he had found here "currants, black and red, angelica, plantain, English parsley, high balsams and peppermint," evidences that this country had once been occupied by "an improved people."





Borrowed Photos. AMES FAMILY—FIVE GENERATIONS.

Mierva Peck Ames; Emeline Ames Whitney, her daughter; Riley O. Whitney, grandson; Mrs. Laura J. Treadwell, great-granddaughter; Gerrie L. Treadwell, great-great-grandson; Frank E. Whitney, great-granddaughter.

**The Ames Family.**—On the north side and nearly at the end of West Main street stands the stone house of historic interest, whose present occupants are Mrs. George Cole and her daughter Kate Boylan. This house was built in 1835 and has a primitive air of simplicity. In 1804 on this same plot of ground midst forests, located Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Ames with four little children, who came from Mud Lake, Delaware Co., driving an ox team and "blazing" their way. There they made a clearing and built them a log house where they raised eleven children, whom the mother, singing the lullaby, rocked in sap troughs. The late Leonard Ames, of the Ames Iron Works was one of them. This story is told of one of the daughters, Emeline Ames, afterwards Mrs. Whitney, grandmother of Miss Frank Whitney of this village. One afternoon, having paid a little visit to her old home, she started out to her own log cabin built on the site of ground which is now known as the Hall farm. On crossing the little brook she saw a fine salmon. She reached out, caught the fish in her hand and carried it home in her apron. It weighed 20 pounds. Mr. Leonard Ames built the stone house as it stands to-day. There in its rooms were gathered a few choice spirits which made up the first Methodist quarterly meeting held in this part of the country. The only remaining member of this household—the last of those eleven children—is Mrs. Henry Ames, who resides at Los Angeles, Cal. Mr. A. A. Howlett, of Syracuse, married the youngest

daughter of the Ames's. In this stone house was born Mr. Leonard Ames Whitney of this village, the first great grandchild of Leonard Ames, of whom Mr. Alpheus Herbert purchased the place. It then passed into the hands of Charles Paddock and next to Mr. Samuel Smith, whose daughter is its present occupant.

**John Burrows**, for many years a prominent resident of Mexico, an active, earnest member of the Presbyterian church, and a kind father, was one of the many distinguished men who have represented this village in many parts of the world. For fifty-two years his life was spent at sea, beginning when ten years of age with a trading vessel and sixteen years later entering the service of his country which continued for thirty-six years during which he served faithfully in naval operations during the Mexican and the civil wars. His residence in Mexico began in the fall of 1854 and continued to the time of his death, which occurred June 30, 1900, except during the comparatively brief interims when shore duty made it desirable to temporarily move his family where he could be at home. On June 7, 1855, the year following his arrival in Mexico he joined the Presbyterian church and was always thereafter a conscientious worker and liberal contributor in the cause of religion and benevolence. Mr. Burrows was born in Middletown, Ct., Jan. 30, 1819. When he was three months old his parents moved to the Bahamas, locating on one of the salt islands of that group near Nassau, where his father was employed in making salt. Mr. Burrows frequently remarked that he begun his sea life at three months of age. He was ten years old when he induced the captain of a vessel to take him to sea. His movements for the next few years were those of a sea-faring life. At the age of 26 years, Aug.



Borrowed Photos. JOHN BURROWS, ELIZA MCKEE BURROWS, SARAH ALLEN BURROWS.



7, 1845, he enlisted as a private in the United States navy and was assigned to duty during the Mexican war on the frigate "Congress," under Commodore Robert F. Stockton. As a reward for excellent service and worthy seamanship, Commandant John D. Sloat of the Gosport navy yard, on Feb. 10, 1849, made him acting Master's mate. On Nov. 15, 1850, President Millard Fillmore signed his commission of Boatswain which was made to begin on Dec. 4, 1849, his first assignment being to the U. S. sloop of war "Germantown." This position he held in various ships until the time of his retirement from active service. On

Miss Addie E. and Miss Sarah L. Burrows. He has one sister living in the Bahamas.

Mr. Burrows' remarkable service in the United States navy took him to all parts of the world and attached him to many of the well known vessels of war whose names are household words. Among the number were the U. S. S. Alaska, the Ticonderoga, the U. S. S. Frigate San Jacinto and the U. S. S. Wyoming. At the time of the outbreak of the war in 1861, he was assigned to duty on the U. S. S. sloop of war Hartford and during the many trying campaigns of that vessel, the Wachussetts to which he was transferred in 1862 and the



Dunwick, Photo.

THE MEXICO CEMETERY.

Feb. 2, 1851, he was married to Miss Eliza McKee of Brooklyn and three years later, in the fall of 1854, they moved to this village, coming here through the friendship of T. C. Herbert, a sailmaker, who was a boon companion of Mr. Burrows. Here Mrs. Burrows died Jan. 17, 1881. On Sept. 6, 1882, Mr. Burrows married Miss Sarah F. Allen who died Dec. 18, 1895, more than six years prior to the time of his death. Mr. Burrows had five children, all by his first wife, two of whom are now living in the village of Mexico,

U. S. Steamer Wyoming to which he was attached in 1865, performed the duties of boatswain with gallantry. In 1868 being assigned to shore duty in the Brooklyn navy yard he moved his family to that city and they resided there two and a half years. In 1874 he was directed to rig out Old Ironsides for the receiving ship Constitution at League Island navy yard and during the three years following being on duty there he and his family resided in Philadelphia. Then, in 1878, he was attached to the Alaska in service on the



Borrowed Photo.  
GEORGE P. JOHNSON, M. D.

Pacific station, and in August, 1879, returned home on waiting orders until Jan. 30, 1881, when he was placed on the retired list, thereafter drawing longevity pay, granted in 1887, until his death and spending the balance of his days at his home in this village.

**George P. Johnson, M. D.**, son of Noah and Margaret E. (Miller) Johnson, grandson of James Johnson, was born Aug. 9, 1844, at Palermo, N. Y. He was educated at Falley Seminary, Fulton, N. Y., and Oswego City High School, Oswego, N. Y., and in 1864 took up the study of medicine under the direction of his brother, Dr. Stephen P. Johnson, of Oswego, N. Y.; attended lectures at Albany Medical College and was graduated from there Dec. 24, 1867. On Dec. 26 following, Dr. Johnson entered upon the practice of medicine at Oswego with his brother, remaining until Dec. 16, 1868, when he removed to Mexico, N. Y., where he has continued his professional work since. He was U. S. Pension Examining Surgeon from Nov., 1869, to Jan. 1883, physician and surgeon to Oswego County Insane Asylum and Poor House from Jan. 1, 1873, to Jan. 1, 1891, health physician of Mexico, N. Y., from 1872 to 1879 and postmaster of Mexico Village from Feb. 20, 1883, to April 7, 1887.

Dr. Johnson is a member of Oswego County Medical Society, was vice president in 1882 and president in 1883, member of N. Y. State Medical

Society, is a Chapter Mason and a member of the First Presbyterian church of Mexico, N. Y. He is greatly interested in infant education and has read papers on that subject before the County Medical Society. He has examined over six thousand persons for life insurance for the different leading insurance companies. On June 5, 1883, he married Miss Sarah A. Webb of Mexico, N. Y. who died Sept. 10, 1893 leaving one child, Fannie W. Johnson, born Dec. 6, 1881. He married second on Jan. 25, 1898, Miss Ella F. Goodell eldest daughter of Rev. Wm. S. Goodell.

**Mexico Village Cemetery** was originally opened in 1838, and the first to be placed in its sacred dust were the remains of Luther S. Conklin in September, 1838. The first trustees were John Bennett, James S. Chandler and Calvin Goodwin. In 1859 additional land was purchased on the west side by D. W. C. Peck and Oliver C. Whitney as executors of Orla H. Whitney, deceased, which is now known as the "Whitney Plot." This plot is still private ground never having passed into the hands of the trustees of the cemetery. In 1861 additional land was purchased by Luthur H. Conklin and annexed to the cemetery and is known as the "Conklin" addition. In 1872 the cemetery was much enlarged and improved by land purchased by the village of Henry L. Cole. The purchase price was \$1600. This new part was finely laid out in burial plots and avenues by D. W. C. Peck, Oliver C. Whitney, L. H. Conklin, Wm J. Menter, C. F. Tullar and B. S. Stone who were the trustees of the cemetery at that time.

None worked with more enthusiasm, with more realization of the artistic possibilities of this last addition, or gave it more thought than did Mr. Peck. He was a recognized leader and to his tireless energy much of its beauty is due. Mr. James B. Driggs also has done much to beautify this cemetery.

In 1887 the receiving vault was erected under the supervision of B. S. Stone, E. L. Huntington, G. H. Goodwin and J. B. Driggs who were the trustees of the cemetery at that time and are now. It is of interest in this connection to state that Mr. George H. Goodwin who has been a trustee for twenty-five years has made an excellent record for uprightness, thoroughness and courtesy.



Dunwick, Photo.

N. W. WOODRUFF'S RESIDENCE.





Borrowed Photo.  
REV. S. S. BIDWELL.

**The First Baptist Church** of Mexico was organized as the Baptist church of Mexicoville, Jan. 24, 1832, by Rev. Jonathan Goodwin, who came to this town from Connecticut in 1829. Preaching in this vicinity for three years, his labors crystallized in the organization of this church. His ripe age, experience, wisdom and spiritual endowment fitted him for effective service. Born at Lebanon Ct., in the year of our nation's birth, 1776, called of God, pastor of the Baptist church at Mansfield, Ct., twenty successive years, he was the man for the work. Serving the infant church as pastor three years, he returned to labor in his native state. Re-visiting Mexico in '56, he was taken ill and died at fourscore. He was buried in the primitive cemetery. He was the noble grandfather of our honored townsman, George H. Goodwin. The church records were burned in 1864, but the known constituent members were Rev. Jonathan Goodwin, his son Calvin Goodwin, Deacon Reuben Smith and wife, Calvin Tiffany and Mrs. Robinson. The first annual meeting of the Oswego Baptist association was held with this church, which reported 56 members, with Rev. J. Goodwin, R. Smith, M. Clark and C. Tiffany, delegates. In 1835, the Baptist church in Northwest Mexico united with this and adopted the present name. There were 115 members, with Rev. S. Davison, pastor. In 1836, Rev. Wm. Frary was pastor here and at New Haven. In 1837 Rev. Nelson Camp was called. In 1838 the first baptism occurred. The number was 93. In 1839 Rev. S. Pomeroy was pastor; 4 baptized; the church numbered 89, and the first exclusion occurred. The association again met here. From 1839 to '45 data are lacking.

In 1845 Rev. David McFarland became pastor and found 112 members. He labored four years, baptized 18 and left 110. Rev. Nelson Ferguson followed two years, baptized 2 and left 83. Rev. T. Theall served nearly a year. From 1853 to '55 they had supplies, trials and discouragements. Rev. Chancellor Hartshorn preached one year and left 76. Destitute one year. In 1857 Rev. Judson Davis came supplying also Colosse. He found 73 members. He gave up Colosse the second year. Things brightened. During his pastorate of four years and nine months, 32 were baptized. In 1861 they numbered 114. In 1862 Rev. S. S. Utter, of blessed memory came. A year of godly toil, and five were baptized. He left 100. Rev. George R. Pierce followed, was ordained, and preached earnestly a year and a half. In July, 1865, Rev. Lawson Muzzy, wise and beloved, became pastor, leading the church in godly paths for nine years—the longest pastorate in the church's history. His memory is fragrant. The church edifice was rebuilt of brick in 1872, and re-dedicated Jan 12, 1873, Rev. I. Butterfield preaching the sermon. Rev. E. B. Hutclins was called, ordained and labored two years. Rev. J. H. McGahen had a four years' pastorate of blessing and 53 were added to the church. Rev. C. M. Booth followed until March, 1884, with 18 additions. Rev. G. W. Barnes came in March, 1885, and left in February, 1889. Additions, 29. Rev. G. H. Button followed for one year. Then the church was pastorless until May, 1891, when Rev. S. M. Wheeler was pastor until February, 1892. Elder Button labored four weeks evangelistically and 18 were baptized. The veteran, Rev. E. F. Maine, supplied them two years and three months and the savor of his name lingers sweet on the field. Rev. J. M. Berry was the next pastor for two years. Rev. H. Wayne Wolcott came in December, 1896, laboring until June, 1900. A fine chapel was built, roll call held, and a parsonage secured. Rev. George A. Fairbank became pastor July 1, 1900, was ordained Oct. 30, and labored efficiently with divine blessing. With his busy wife he lives in the hearts of the people. The present pastor, Rev. S. S. Bidwell, came Jan. 1, 1903. The outlook is good skyward, and somewhat cheering to human vision. The present membership is 102. Deacons S. C. Green, E. L.



Dunwick, Photo.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH.





Borrowed Photo.  
ELIZABETH D. FERRIS.

Jones and H. F. Kenyon; trustees, S. C. Green, Daniel Wyant, Herbert Adams, Fred Hamilton, E. W. Jones and Charles Loomis.

Our oldest, best beloved sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Douglass Ferris, whose likeness appears, fell asleep Sept. 24, 1902. She was of Connecticut descent, born in Westmoreland, N. Y., Aug. 23, 1803, daughter of a godly Baptist deacon and a devoted and gifted mother, converted at 14, baptized in Whitesboro, N. Y., gifted and educated, a successful teacher, in maiden years the affianced of the sainted hero missionary, Rev. Eugenio Kincaid, but her friends shrank from the parting and she remained single until 1842, when she married Mr. E. M. Ferris. They soon moved to Mexico where they ended their days—he in 1883, she as above, in her one hundredth year.

**The Wesleyan Methodist Church** society of Pratham was first organized in 1818. The church building was erected in 1863, the dedication taking place on Dec. 11 of that year. Those who preached to this society were Rev. David R. Dixon, 1818-'33; William B. Stowe, 1833-'36; John L. Marvin, 1840-43; Ezra Scoville, 1843-'53; Ralph Robinson, 1853-'57. Then came a gap of a few years which resulted in the new society and a good church building, in which Rev. A. P. Burgess was the first pastor, preaching in 1863. Then followed L. N. Stratton, 1865-'70; A. F. Dempsey, 1871; Rev. G. L. Payne, 1872-'5; Rev. E. Barnets, 1876.

**The First Birth** in the town of Mexico was that of Truman, the son of Nathaniel Rood, Aug. 10, 1798, in the old Rood house then located in the present boundary of the village of Mexico. Rood first came to Mexico that same year and built a house at Vera Cruz. The same fall about the time of the birth of his son he was lost with a party on the lake. His widow married Richard Gafford.

**Harriet Rundell**, whose popularity in Mexico during her long useful life prompted everybody to call her "Auntie", was a woman of more than ordinary endowments. For forty years she practiced medicine driving her own horse all through the country hereabouts in all kinds of weather. She never attended a medical school but "picked up" what knowledge she possessed and she was quite successful. Her husband, W. W. Rundell was a Methodist clergyman who finally practiced medicine. Harriet was liberal to the poor and popular with everybody—the village favorite. She was by far the most representative, best known and most active of Mexico women in all social and church matters. Very earnest in her support of the Methodist church she at the time of her death left her large, handsome house to the society for the parsonage.

**Earliest Mills.**—In 1801 John Morton put up a log house in Mexico. Three years later he erected a saw mill which was also combined with a mill for grinding feed and the pioneers brought corn on their backs from miles around to be ground here. Matthias Whitney & Son bought the mill in 1811 and put in two run of stone. In 1827 it passed into the hands of Dennis Peck who sold out to Wm. Goit and he in turn to David Goit. Almeron Thomas in 1864 was followed by his son Amos C. Thomas, who was succeeded by his brother Frederick A. Thomas. This mill was torn down within the past two or three years. The Osborne mill stands on the site of this old building. Leonard Ames succeeded Morton in running the saw mill.

**The First Store.**—In the mercantile line, the first store in Mexico, aside from Scriba's was kept by William S. Fitch, near the Calvin Tiffany (now C. G. Dewey) place. About the close of the war of 1812 he removed his business to Mexico village, his store being where Simons' billiard saloon now stands. The building he had before occupied was about that time removed to the village and is now a part of the first house north of Osborn's Toronto Mills.



Borrowed Photo. "AUNTIE" RUNDALL.

**Military Tract.**—Facts of interest with complete information concerning these historical lands:

The legislature by the act of July 25, 1782, created the Old Military Tract as it was called. It contained 1,800,000 acres and included the present counties of Onondaga, Cortland, Cayuga, Tompkins and Seneca (except a strip across the southern end of Cortland county, west from the Tioughnioga river, about a mile and a half wide), and all of Wayne county east of Great Sodus Bay and Oswego county west of the Oswego river.

In this tract there were 28 townships, called "Military towns" to distinguish them from the towns afterwards created in erecting the counties enclosing them. In 1786 the legislature created a new military tract of 768,000 acres in the counties of Clinton, Franklin and Essex which was laid out in twelve towns, bringing the total number up to 60. Each was laid out as nearly square as practical, averaging about 9½ miles square and containing each 100 lots of 600 acres to the lot, or a total of 60,000 acres. The towns were numbered and given classical names all of which have been retained (as far as the supply would go) in the re-constituted towns. Except where they coincided with county lines, none of the original boundaries were preserved, each "military" town supplying territory for two or three re-organized towns. The only "military" town overlapping a county line is that of Sterling which contributed territory for both Wayne and Cayuga counties. The numbering of the towns began with Lysander near the north east corner of that tract (the second "military" town south of Lake Ontario) and was carried south going from east to west.

The towns, placed in the order in which they were numbered, together with the counties which have since absorbed them, are as follows: No. 1, Lysander, Onondaga; 2, Hannibal, Oswego; 3, Cato, Cayuga; 4, Brutus, Cayuga; 5, Camillus, Onondaga; 6, Cicero, Onondaga; 7, Mamlius, Onondaga; 8, Aurelius, Cayuga; 9, Marcellus, Onondaga; 10, Pompey, Onondaga; 11, Romulus, Seneca; 12, Scipio, Cayuga; 13, Sempronius, Cayuga; 14, Tully, Onondaga; 15, Fabius, Onondaga; 16, Ovid, Seneca; 17, Milton, Cayuga; 18, Locke, Cayuga; 19, Homer, Cortland; 20, Solon, Cortland; 21, Hector, Schuyler; 22, Ulysses, Tompkins; 23, Dryden, Tompkins; 24, Virgil, Cortland; 25, Cincinnatus, Cortland; 26, Junius, Seneca; 27, Galen, Wayne; 28, Sterling, Wayne and Cayuga.

The Federal government having offered lands in the west to the soldiers of the revolution, the state laid out the military tracts to keep as many here as possible, offering a bonus of 100 acres to privates who would relinquish their western claims and accept this offer of 600 acres of land in this state before July 1, 1790. The state reserved in each town two lots for schools, two for churches and two to be distributed among commissioned officers. The allotment of lands was to be made by drawings,

In default of a settlement on each 600 acres within seven years the land was to revert to the state. Fifty acres of each lot, called the "survey fifty," was subject to the charge of forty-eight shillings (\$6.00) to pay for surveying, and if that were not paid in two years the "survey fifty" was to be sold. Compliance with these two main conditions gave the patentee full title to the whole 600 acres.

The distribution of lots occurred July 3, 1790, under the direction of the governor, lieutenant-

governor and four state officers. The names of the claimants of the land were placed on ballots in one box and numbers corresponding to the allotments were placed on ballots in another box. The person appointed by the commissioners first drew the ballot containing a name and then the ballot containing the number of the lot; in which manner each claimant's allotment was determined.

**Original Oneida Reservation.**—That nation secured to itself by treaty with the state of New York at Fort Schuyler Sept. 22, 1788, in perpetuity the tract of land including a large part of the present counties of Madison and Oneida and a strip along the eastern line of Onondaga county. This treaty followed that made with the Onondagas in about ten days, the same commissioners serving in both cases. The Oneidas received "cash down" \$2,000 in money, \$2,000 in clothing and other goods, \$1,000 in provisions and \$500 to be used in building a grist and saw mill at their village. The Oneidas were also to receive \$600 in cash or goods annually. The northern half of their reservation the Oneidas were prohibited from leasing or selling; but the other (southern) portion—a strip four miles wide—could be leased in part or the whole not to exceed twenty-one years. The state further reserved to the Indians and others to land and encamp upon, viz: "One half mile square at the distance of every six miles of the lands along the northern banks of the Oneida lake; one-half mile in breadth of the lands on each side of Fish creek; and a convenient piece of land at the fishing place in the Onondaga river about three miles from where it issues out of Oneida lake."

**Emigrants In Oswego, 1828.**—Some observations from a letter dated Constantia, Dec. 2, 1828, to the children in old England will be interesting as showing what Oswego county was in that day: "We can buy good land for 18 shillings per acre; but buying land is not one-quarter part [of our troubles], for the land is as full of trees as your woods are full of stubs; and they are from 4 to 10 rods long, and from 1 to 5 feet through them.

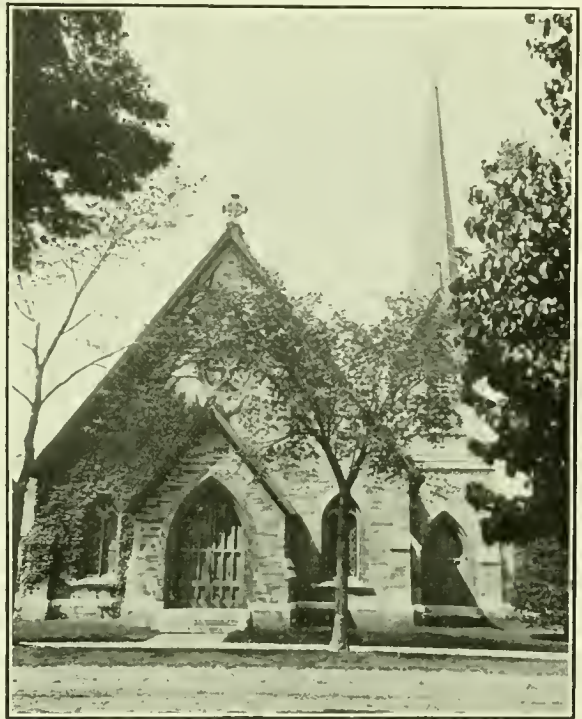
\* \* You may buy beef for 1½d per pound and mutton the same; salt butter, 7d, cheese 3d, tea 4s, 6d, sugar 7d, candles 7d and soap 7d per pound. Wheat brings 4s, 6d, and corn and rye 2s per bushel. \* \* I get 2s, 4d a day and my board and have as much meat to eat three times a day as I like. \* \* But clothes is dear; shoes, 5s; half-boots 16s; calico from 3d to 1s, 4d per yard; stockings 2s, 9d; flannel 4s per yard; superfine cloth from 4s, 6d to 1£ per yard; now all this is counted in English money. \* \* We have two or three miles to carry our grist and four miles to go to the store; another thing is we have no brewhouse near so we cannot get any yeast to bake with, so we are obliged to make risings \* \* we sometimes have heavy bread \* \* but with all inconveniences I bless God for sending me to America. \* \* Let me know whether you will come to America or not. \* \* You will want 1£, 10s to get to where I am, both old and young. \* \* and when you get to the quarantine ground \* \* the best way for you to come is to come up to Albany in a tow boat; when you get to Syracuse call for entertainment at the sign of the Farmer's Accommodation; and there you will find us out."



**Grace Episcopal Church.**—In the year of our Lord, 1830, there were living in this village, Luther Shellinger Conklin and his wife, Frances Rebecca, who were the first communicants of the Episcopal church in this village, as far as is known to us. With the exception of the burial service, the offices of the church were not known here, until 1848; when the Rev. E. De Zeng was invited by Bishop De Laney and services were held until March, 1849. On December 4, 1848, a Parish was organized under the name of the “Rector, Wardens and Vestrymen of Grace Church in the village of Mexico,” and the officers elected. The rector was Rev. Edward De Zang; the wardens were Charles Benedict and Alexander Whaley and the vestrymen were J. E. Bloomfield, Cyrus Whitney, Wm. Cooper, jr., L. F. Warner, Levi Downing, L. M. Conklin, N. Allen and L. D. Smith. In March, 1849, Mr. De Zeng, being quite ill, retired. Services now were held occasionally by Dr. Gallandet (who was greatly interested in deaf mutes, many of whom were confirmed and became valuable members), and others. The parish was re-organized March 29, 1869, and regular services were begun by Rev. T. E. Pattison, who came from Syracuse for this purpose. In the spring of 1870 the present site was secured and preparation for the new building was actively begun. On June 22, 1870, the corner stone was laid by the Rt. Rev. F. D. Huntington, S. T. D., Bishop of Central New York. At this time the wardens were M. Bradbury and L. Conklin, and the vestrymen were L. D. Smith, J. M. Wing, William Cooper, G. W. Pruyn, J. B. Taylor and C. F. Tuller. On June 16, 1871, the building was completed, costing over \$14,000, nearly half the sum being given by members and by citizens of this village and vicinity. Donations for his fund were received from Mr. W. C. Pierrepont, R. C. Morgan, Benjamin Doolittle and perhaps one or two others. The church was built upon a twelfth century plan, of bluish gray stone, with brick facings. The proportions of the building are perfect, and the interior of the building is in exquisite taste. The windows are of the best cathedral stained glass. The exquisite chancel window was given by the State Association of Deaf Mutes in memory of its first president, John W. Chandler. One memorial window was contributed by Mrs. W. A. Loomis and one by Mrs. Sarah A. Conklin: the Rose window by friends of Mrs. George D. Babcock of Mexico. The bell was a gift from Miss Fannie Conklin and her brother L. H. Conklin, in loving remembrance of their parents. The altar, bishop’s chair and credence bracket were presented by a class of young ladies of Christ Church, Oswego, and the pulpit, desk and rector’s chair by Miss Johnson and her friends of Trinity church, Hartford, Conn. Miss Anna French of Utica, daughter of Mr. Benjamin F. French and his wife Martha French (who later on resided here and were most active and helpful members), gave the altar rail. Rev. Mr. Watson presented the altar cross, H. Chandler the communion plate, Wm. Ely the stoles, while the leetern, font and

first altar cloths were given by the Sunday school.

Rev. Mr. Pattison was succeeded by Rev. G. H. Watson in 1870, during whose rectorship, on June 16, 1871, the opening service was celebrated with the presence and assistance of nine other clergymen, Dr. Beach, of Oswego, preaching the opening sermon and communion was administered to more than a hundred persons. In 1874, Rev. B. T. Hall took charge of the parish and through his efforts a fine Steve & Turner pipe organ, costing \$1,150 was purchased and placed in the building. At this time Mrs. Adelaide M. Parker, a professor and teacher of music from the western part of the state, was appointed organist and musical director, and as such she has served diligently and faithfully from that time till the present. Rev. W. L. Parker was the next minister in charge, followed by Rev. R. M. Hayden; and on his leaving Dr. Joseph Cross was called.



Dunwick, Photo. ≅ GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

This parish will always hold in faithful remembrance Rev. F. B. A. Lewis, M. D., who was asked to take charge of this church in 1879. At this time there was a debt remaining on Grace church of about \$6,000 which Dr. Lewis most generously assumed by consent of the vestry, and with a small salary, undertook the task of raising this amount, giving of his own private means the sum of \$2,000 and three months’ salary. He received nearly \$300, donated in pledges in Mexico and vicinity, about \$500 from church people in Oswego, about \$150 through solicitation of George D. Babcock of Mexico, from friends in Watertown and other places, and \$2,600 from the women of the parish; and he finally saw the property honestly free from all debt or incumbrance whatever, and conveyed to the “Trustees of the Parochial Fund,” and the building consecrated on October 3, 1882. It would be unworthy a “historian” to omit honorable mention of the work of



the women of Grace church. Among the earliest workers who formed an "Aid Society" were Mrs. L. H. Conklin, Mrs. Morris Brown, Mrs. J. M. Wing, Mrs. George D. Babcock, Mrs. G. Pruyne, Mrs. F. C. Fuller, Mrs. A. Halleck, Mrs. A. Mason, Mrs. Jacob Brown, Mrs. W. H. Penfield, Mrs. F. Carpenter, Mrs. H. Rider, Mrs. J. Chandler, Mrs. J. Driggs, Mrs. A. M. Parker, Mrs. Andrew Johnson, Mrs. Lingenfelter, Mrs. A. Boughton, Mrs. Josie Smith Collins, Mrs. T. Jeffreys, Misses Fannie Conklin, Alta Cole and Nettie Fletcher. By their united labor the sum of \$2,600 was paid on the church debt, over \$800 on carpets and furnaces, over \$250 to the organ fund, besides much given for various purposes. Nearly \$250 of this money was raised by gathering, trimming and selling ground pine, and nearly all of the above amounts represent hard labor. Many of the workers of those days have passed on to the land "whence none return."

Among later workers, aside from those already mentioned, are Mrs. Amelia D. Richardson, Mrs. Wm. Adams, Mrs. M. Preeman, Mrs. A. Barker,

**Big Fire of '64.**—On July 22, 1864, there was a great conflagration. This was the most alarming and destructive of our fires; almost one-half of the business part of the town was laid in ashes. A severe drouth was prevailing at the time. The Mexico hotel, Whitney block, Snell block, post-office and twelve other buildings were destroyed. Everything was burned off on the south side of Main street from Dr. Snell's residence down to Water street, and also two dwellings on East Hill. The fire broke out about 3 p. m., in Snell & Huntington's drug store. A boy was drawing some naphtha, which accidentally got on fire and spread with most alarming rapidity.

The following were the sufferers; Snell & Huntington, J. J. Parkhurst, J. Y. Smith, L. D. Smith, Dr. Huntington, J. Didier, Stone & Tuller, J. J. Lamoree, Jas. Bailey, J. J. Jackson, M. Youngs, J. N. Holmes, Whitney & Skimmer, D. W. C. Peck, Drake & Mitchell, J. Blakeslee, R. A. Butler, Mrs. Firth, E. Becklard, J. B. Taylor, J. B. Driggs, J. W. Chandler, E. Cole, N. Herbert, Taylor & Barritt, W. Penfield, C. Tickner, J.



Hunted Photo.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Top Row—(left to right) Mrs. Lawton, Mrs. Emily Tuller, Mrs. E. J. Parmelee, Mrs. Hardy, Mrs. Hyron Miller, Mrs. J. M. Smith, Mrs. Willis Tiffany, Mrs. Charles Everts, Mrs. H. H. Dobson, Mrs. Carrie Becker, Mrs. Geo. W. Stone. Middle Row—Mrs. G. A. Davis, Miss Marietta Byington, Mrs. N. W. Woodruff, Mrs. Holliday, Mrs. Dr. Green, Mrs. Emory, Mrs. H. Humphreys, Mrs. W. H. Richardson, Mrs. E. Gates, Miss Anna Bard, Mrs. Carl Taylor. Lower Row—Miss Lillian Hardy, Miss Lena J. Severance, Mrs. Geo. Matthews, Mrs. Dr. Geo. P. Johnson, Mrs. J. Porter, Mrs. E. I. Stone, Mrs. Birmingham.

Mrs. L. Bequillard, Mrs. Morehouse, Mrs. Walworth, Mrs. M. Collins, Mrs. J. Hartson, Mrs. Smith; the young ladies of the church; Mrs. B. F. French and Mrs. G. D. Babcock, the latter being very successful in various means used for earning and collecting money.

Mr. B. F. French, who died in December, 1901, in Utica, served as committeeman a number of years and managed the financial affairs of the church with acknowledged ability. He was succeeded by Mr. J. M. Wing, one of our oldest churchmen. Later the position was given by our revered Bishop, to another faithful, zealous member of many years' standing, Mr. George D. Babcock, who guides affairs with wisdom and discretion at the present time.

Simons, E. D. Goit, F. Goff, D. Morse, Humphries & Scarritt, H. Webb, S. Clark, A. Thomas, H. T. Butler, R. Howard and others. Entire loss about \$70,000. Insurance about \$30,000.

**Earl of Selkirk's Estate.**—It is not generally known that the land at the mouth of Salmon river was once selected for an estate for an English lord who intended to build a large house and establish a "seat" in the wilds of America. On Nov. 16, 1796, three miles square of country enclosing what is now Selkirk and lying north of the river, was bought by Mrs. Colden in trust for Thomas Rungliss, Earl of Selkirk. It was from this new proprietor, who never took actual possession of the property that the present locality obtained its name—Selkirk. At that time it lay in the town of Mexico.



Borrowed Photo.  
REV. GEORGE BAYLESS.

**The Presbyterian Church.** — [By George Goodwin]—In the early years of the last century Mexico was one of the frontier stations of civilization. The land was covered with great and gloomy forests. The settlers were few and scattering, mostly from New England but among them were persons of culture and ability. They were poor and it required constant toil and hard struggles to gain food and clothing. Notwithstanding their poverty, however, they were fully sensible of the advantages of churches and schools and their first thought was to secure the same for themselves and their children. Such was the social condition here when the original Presbyterian society, from which the present village church is a branch or outgrowth, was formed. It was one of the earliest planted in this region.

It was organized Aug. 20, 1810, in Shubal Alfred's barn in this village, the Rev. Simon Waterman presiding at its formation. Its membership was at first composed entirely of women, as follows:—Mrs. Shubal Alfred, Mrs. Mary Wheeler, Mrs. Rebecca Mathews, Mrs. Sarah Beebe, Mrs. Eunice Williams, Mrs. Mirian Southworth and Mrs. Hannah Hosmer. In May, 1811, at the home of Shubal Alfred a more thorough business organization was formed to have charge of its temporal affairs and the first trustees of the church, elected at this meeting were Peter Pratt, Barnett Whipple, Sherman Hosmer, Shubal Al-

fred and Calvin Tiffany. From this time the church had a very successful career and in a few years gained a large membership. It embraced territorially the settlements of Parish, Prattville, Texas, Colosse and Mexico and all the region about these places. The Revs. Israel Brainard, Oliver Leavitt and M. Dunlap were among the early preachers. The Rev. David R. Dixon was its efficient pastor from 1817 to 1833. Ephraim Gates, Daniel Loeke and Edmund Wheeler were the first elders.

During the early years the church services were held at different points in barns, dwellings, groves and school houses. About 1825 the society having become strong and vigorous, started a movement to build a meeting house. Then it was found that the society was not destined to perpetual peace and prosperity. Unhappy differences arose over the question of the location of the church edifice. Years of contention followed and all efforts to effect a compromise on location failed. The final result was the erection of two meeting houses, one on Pratham Hill in 1829 and the other in this village a little later. The Pratham society continued until about 1860 when it disbanded. The village church in one sense an offshoot of the society previously described, was organized May 5, 1829 and instituted by Revs. Oliver Ayre, Ralph Robinson and Oliver Leavitt, a committee appointed by the Oswego Presbytery Feb. 24, 1830, as the First Presbyterian church of Mexicoville. The membership at first consisted of the following persons Shubal and Lucinda Alfred, Nathaniel and Lucinda Butler, Isaac and Lydia Stone, Anson and Eliza Gustin, Samuel and Caroline Wilson, Alexander and Mary McNitt, Edmund Levi, Lucy, Mary and Lavina Mathews, Sally and Louisa Davis, Clark and Abigail Beebe, Jabin and Melinda Wood, Asa Allen, Catherine Wheeler, Laura Goit, Sal'y Ames, Nancy Lord, Sophia Taft, Fanny Wood and Eunice Killam.

The following pastors have served the church successively:—Revs. Ralph Robinson, Oliver Ayer, Alfred White, J. A. Hart, Charles Bowles, D. R. Dixon, Wm. Blodgett, John Eastman, Josiah Leonard, Russel Whiting, Daniel Van Valkenburg, Henry Parker, Thomas A. Weed, James P. Strat-



Dunwick, Photo.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.



ton, John Q. Adams, John R. Lewis and George Bayless. The Rev. Thomas A. Weed ministered to this society about 23 years and the Rev. Geo. Bayless was its pastor for the same number of years.

In 1858 the church edifice was enlarged and entirely remodeled giving it a more modern appearance, and it was again extensively repaired in 1879. The parsonage was also remodeled and enlarged a few years since.

The following is the present board of trustees:—Charles W. Radway, James B. Driggs, Geo. W. Stone, Edward T. Stone, Willis E. Tiffany, Elisha W. Gates, Asa L. Sampson, Gardener S. Tullar and Earl S. Taylor. Roderick A. Orvis is superintendent of the Sunday school. Many prosperous men and devoted women have gone forth from this organization. Its good influence has been far-reaching. Its "lines have gone into all the earth and its words to the end of the world."

**Judges, Court of Appeals.**—Those who have honored the Court of Appeals bench of this state: Freeborn G. Jewett, Onondaga county; Greene C. Bronson, New York; Charles H. Ruggles, Dutchess; Addison Gardner, Monroe, elected June 7, 1847; Samuel A. Foote, Ontario, appointed vice Bronson, resigned, April 11, 1851; Alex. S. Johnson, Oneida, elected Nov. 4, 1851; Hiram Denio, Oneida, appointed vice Jewett, resigned—elected June 23, 1853, for balance of term, re-elected 1857; George F. Comstock, Onondaga, elected vice Ruggles, resigned, Nov. 6, 1855; Samuel L. Selden, Monroe, elected Nov. 6, 1855; Henry E. Davies, New York, elected Nov. 8, 1858; William B. Wright, Sullivan, elected Nov. 5, 1861; Henry R. Selden, Monroe, app. vice S. L. Selden, resigned, July 1, 1862—elected Nov. 3, 1863; John K. Porter, Albany, app. vice H. R. Selden, resigned, Jan. 2, 1865—elected Nov. 7, 1865; Ward Hunt, Oneida, elected Nov. 7, 1865; Martin Grover, Alleghany, elected Nov. 5, 1867; Lewis B. Woodruff, New York, app. vice Porter, resigned, Jan. 4, 1868; Charles Mason, Madison, app. vice Wright, deceased, Jan. 20, 1868; Robert Earl, Herkimer, elected Nov. 2, 1869—Chief Justice, Jan. 25, 1892; John A. Lott, Kings, elected Nov. 2, 1869. Under the Constitution of 1869, the following have been Chief Justices: Sanford E. Church, Orleans, May 17, 1870; Chas. J. Folger, app. vice Church, deceased, May 20, 1880—elected Nov. 2, 1880; Charles Andrews, Onondaga, app. vice Folger, resigned, Nov. 19, 1881—Nov. 7, 1892; Wm. C. Ruger, Onondaga, Nov. 7, 1882; Alton B. Parker, Ulster, Nov. 2, 1897. **ASSOCIATES:** William F. Allen, Oswego, Martin Grover, Alleghany, Rufus W. Peckham, Albany, Charles J. Folger, Ontario, Charles A. Rapallo, New York, and Charles Andrews, Onondaga, May 17, 1870; Alex. S. Johnson, Oneida, app. vice Peckham, deceased, Dec. 29, 1873; Theodore Miller, Columbia, Nov. 3, 1874; Robert Earl, Herkimer, app. vice Grover, deceased, Nov. 5, 1875—elected Nov. 7, 1876—re-elected Nov. 4, 1890; Samuel Hand, Albany, app. vice Allen, deceased, June 10, 1878; George F. Danforth, Monroe, Nov. 5, 1878; Francis M. Finch, Tompkins, app. vice Folger chosen chief judge, May 25, 1880—elected Nov. 8, 1881; Benjamin F. Tracy, Kings, app. vice Andrews, chosen chief judge, Dec. 8, 1881; Rufus W. Peckham, Albany, Nov. 2, 1886; John Clinton Gray, New York, app. vice Rapallo, deceased, Jan. 25,

1888—elected full term, Nov. 1888; Denis O'Brien, Jefferson, Nov. 5, 1889; Isaac H. Maynard, Delaware, app. vice Earl chosen chief judge, Jan. 20, 1892; Edward T. Bartlett, New York, Nov. 7, 1893; Albert Haight, Erie, Nov. 6, 1894.

**Present Court of Appeals (terms expire)**—**CHIEF:** Alton B. Parker, Ulster, Dec. 31, 1911. **ASSOCIATES:** John Clinton Gray, New York, Dec. 31, 1902; Denis O'Brien, Jefferson, Dec. 31, 1903; Edward T. Bartlett, New York, Dec. 31, 1908; Albert Haight, Erie, Dec. 31, 1909; Celora E. Martin, Broome, Dec. 31, 1909; Irving G. Vann, Onondaga, app. vice Peckham resigned, Dec. 31, 1910.

**Height of Principal Summits in the state.**—

Mount Marecy, Essex Co., 5,467; Dix Peak, Essex Co., 5,200; Mount McIntyre, Essex Co., 5,183; Mount McMartin, Essex Co., 5,000; Mount Sandanoni, Essex Co., 5,000; Mount Nippletop, Essex Co., 4,900; Mount Whiteface, Essex Co., 4,900; Mount Pharaoh, Essex Co., 4,500; Mount Tailor, Hamilton Co., 4,500; Mount Seward, Franklin Co., 5,100; Mount Emmons, Hamilton Co., 4,000; Mount Crain, Warren Co., 3,000; Round Top, Greene Co., 3,804; High Peak, Greene Co., 3,718; Pine Orchard, Greene Co., 3,000; Mount Pisgah, Delaware Co., 3,400; Rockland Mount, Sullivan Co., 2,400; Ripley Hill, Onondaga Co., 1,983; Walnut Hill, Sullivan Co., 1,980; Mount Toppin, Cortland Co., 1,700; Pompey Hill, Onondaga Co., 1,743; Beacon Hill, Dutchess Co., 1,685; Old Beacon, Putnam Co., 1,471, Bull Hill, Putnam Co., 1,586; Anthony's Nose, Putnam Co., 1,228; Butter Hill, Orange Co., 1,529; Crow's Nest, Orange Co., 1,418; Bear Mount, Orange Co., 1,350.

**First Town Board.**—When Mexico was originally organized as a town the law provided that the first town meeting should be held at the house of Benjamin Morehouse, near the present village of Jamesville; but no town municipality was effected. When the town was re-organized in 1796 it was provided that the meeting should be at John Meyer's, Rotterdam. A year passed without organization, then Sanford Clark, Michael Meyers and Eleazer Mosely, justices for Herkimer county made the following appointments that the west end of the big town might go on and assist in effecting public conveniences: Oliver Stevens, town clerk; Amos Mathews, Solomon Waring and Luke Mason, assessors; Elijah Cartter and Messrs. Mathews and Waring, constables; Mr. Waring, collector.

**First Town Meeting** was held April 3, 1798 at which John Meyer was elected supervisor; Benjamin Wright town clerk; John Bloomfield, Amos Mathews, Benjamin Gilbert and Luke Mason overseers of the poor; Samuel Waring collector; John Bloomfield, Samuel Jarvis, Reuben Hamilton highway commissioners; Jared Shepard, Amos Mathews, Aaron Van Valkenburgh constables; Amos Mathews, Henry Fall fence viewers; John Meyer, Samuel Royce, Benjamin Wright school commissioners.

The second town meeting was held at the house of Luke Mason and the third at Benjamin Winch's, Port Ontario; then the next at Phineas Davis' in Mexico village.

Several town meetings were held at Calvin Tiffany's house a mile east of the village.





Borrowed Photo.

REV. ARTHUR D. BERRY.

**Rev. A. D. Berry**, youngest son of John and Louisa Berry, was born in Mexico, Aug. 7, 1872. After completing a course in Mexico Academy, he entered Syracuse University from which he graduated in 1895. He belonged to the Delta Upsilon Fraternity and was editor of the University Herald for one year.

In the fall of '95 he entered Drew Theological Seminary in Madison, N. J. In his senior year he won the fellowship prize. He then took a year of post graduate work in Drew Seminary and the University of New York. He was ordained to the ministry in 1898 and served three years and four months as the pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, Maplewood, N. J. Very early in life Mr. Berry expressed the conviction that he was called to the Mission Work and it was with that end in view that he prepared himself for the ministry. The fulfilment of his desire came last spring when Bishop Moore of the Methodist Episcopal church appointed him to the South Japan Mission with headquarters at Fukuoka, Japan.

**The Railroads of the County.**—The Oswego & Utica Railroad Company was chartered, May 13, 1836, but it did nothing for several years. On April 23, 1839, the Oswego & Syracuse RR. Co. was incorporated, the road being completed in October, 1848. The Rome & Watertown Railroad Company was chartered in 1832. Work was begun at Rome in November, 1818, and in May, 1851, the road was constructed as far as Pierrepont Manor. The Oswego & Rome Railroad Company constructed a road from Oswego to Richland station via Pulaski and Mexico in the fall of 1855. The Oswego Midland Railroad Co. was incorporated Jan. 11, 1866. The road, extending from Oswego to Jersey City, a distance of 325 miles, was completed in 1872. It is now known as the New York, Ontario & Western railroad. The Syracuse Northern Railroad Company was chartered in 1870 and on the 18th of May in the same year construction was begun. The road

was opened, Nov. 9, 1871. It is now a part of the Rome, Watertown & Ogdensburg system, leased by the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad Company, and extends from Syracuse to Pulaski, where it connects with the Oswego and Mexico branch of the same system. The Lake Ontario Shore railroad, also a part of that system, was constructed in 1871, connecting Oswego with Lewiston on the Niagara river. A branch road extending from Woodard, a station on the Syracuse Northern railroad to Fulton and there connecting with the New York, Ontario and Western railroad, gives the New York Central entrance to Oswego direct from Syracuse. The R. W. & O. system was leased to the New York Central in March, 1891.

**Stebbins Roderick Orvis** was born in Mexico, May 16, 1822 and was married to Mary Jane Allen on Dec. 17, 1846. Six children were born to this union of whom four survive, Frederick A. Orvis of Mexico, Charles Sumner Orvis of Hamilton, Mrs. F. W. Rosebrooke of Hoosick Falls and Mrs. D. A. Fradenburgh of Altmar. Mr. Orvis, a carpenter by trade, moved to this village about 33 years ago and many well built houses stand as a monument to his conscientious work. Mr. Orvis was especially noted for having an unusually clear, sweet strong bell-like tenor voice and he conducted a choir in church for fifty years. He was well known in neighboring towns as a singing teacher. He died after a long illness on April 22, 1890 leaving behind him a reputation for purity of character, and of strict integrity which had gained for him the highest respect of the community in which he lived. His wife a lady noted for her wit, warm heart and social qualities survives him. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, a loyal friend and a cheerful companion.

**Officers in the Rebellion** from Mexico included Brigadier-General Giles A. Smith; Major-General Morgan L. Smith; Capt. E. L. Huntington; Capt. John Sawyer; Capt. Cyrus V. Hartson; Capt. Nelson Ames; Capt. Sannel Nichols; Capt. J. D. Steele; Lieut. Edson D. Goit; Lieut. Marshall Rundell; Lieut. George Barse; Surgeon Allen Huntington; Surgeon T. J. Green.



Borrowed Photos.

MRS. R. A. ORVIS. R. A. ORVIS.

**Woman's Foreign Missionary Society** of the M. E. Church.—On Nov. 2, 1871, Mrs. Dr. Wm. Butler of Boston, a returned missionary from India, and Mrs. Foot of Rome, N. Y., came to this village, held a meeting and organized a W. F. M. S., the first missionary society for women in the town. Mrs. Butler with her husband went to India in 1856, was there during the Sepoy rebellion and established the Methodist Episcopal mission in North India. While in India she was brought very close to the needs of the women of that country, and was well prepared to relate to the women of the home land the hardships and degradation of our heathen sisters. The object of this society is to aid in interesting christian women in the evangelization of heathen women. Any person paying two cents a week or one dollar per year may become a member, and any person contributing twenty dollars at one time shall be a life member. As a result of this meeting twenty-two women gave their names to this society. The following were the charter members: Mrs. Dr.

Griffith; treasurer, Mrs. M. A. Peck; paper agent, Miss Florence Morehouse. Those who have acted in the capacity of president are as follows: Mrs. Rundell in '72, Mrs. Ball in '73, Mrs. Hewitt in '74, Mrs. Skinner in '75, Mrs. Mains in '76, Mrs. Rundell in '77, Mrs. York in '78, Mrs. Peck in '79, '80, '81, Mrs. Washburn in '82. In 1883 Mrs. Rundell was elected president for life and held the position acceptably for 13 years. Mrs. Peck was called to the office in 1896, Mrs. J. H. Myers in 1897 and '98, Mrs. L. B. Cobb in 1899, 1900 to '02, Mrs. E. G. Smith in 1902 and '03.

Nine women have become life members, viz: Mrs. Van Du Zee, Mrs. S. Orvis, Mrs. H. Rundell, Mrs. D. H. Austin, Mrs. R. L. Nelson, Mrs. S. Parkhurst, Mrs. H. Smith, Mrs. Mattie E. Baker.

Nearly thirty-two years, with very few exceptions, the meetings have been held the first Wednesday in the month. For a number of years about as much money was appropriated for home (such as local and frontier work) as for the foreign



Husted, Photo.

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY, M. E. CHURCH.

1, Miss M. Mitchell, 2, Mrs. E. Ditch, 3, Mrs. F. Munson, 4, Mrs. W. Miller, 5, Mrs. N. Patten, Third Vice-President; 6, Mrs. D. Spicer, 7, Mrs. E. Hollister, 8, Mrs. O. Webb, First Vice-President; 9, Mrs. Longstreet, 10, Mrs. J. Berry, 11, Mrs. F. Cook, Secretary; 12, Mrs. D. Holmes, 13, Mrs. T. W. Skinner, 14, Mrs. S. Oxner, 15, Mrs. E. Menter, 16, Mrs. M. Baker, 17, Mrs. L. Sandhovel, 18, Mrs. E. Smith, President; 19, Mrs. W. A. Robbins, Treasurer; 20, Mrs. M. D. Sill, 21, Mrs. A. Peck, 22, Mrs. P. Morgan, 23, Mrs. B. Remington, 24, Mrs. H. Barton, 25, Mrs. J. Jeffreys, 26, Mrs. H. Ball, Second Vice-President; 27, Mrs. D. Austin, Corresponding Secretary; 28, Mrs. G. Burdick, 29, Mrs. H. Adams, 30, Mrs. Brown.

Harriet Rundell, Mrs. C. B. Thompson, Mrs. Harriet N. Davis, Mrs. Sophia Lambie, Mrs. Simon Parkhurst, Mrs. Celestia Ball, Mrs. Harriet Smith, Mrs. Cornelia Barber, Mrs. Almira Ballard, Mrs. James Brown, Miss Florence Morehouse, Mrs. R. L. Nelson, Mrs. C. L. Griffith, Mrs. M. A. Peck, Mrs. Van Du Zee, Mrs. J. L. Barton, Mrs. J. W. Lawton, Mrs. Artemesia Menter, Mrs. C. Mains, Mrs. S. Tullar, Mrs. E. Drake, Mrs. (Rev.) W. R. Cobb. The first thirteen named have responded to the Master's call. Six of the remaining number reside in other places. Three only remain in the society, viz: Mrs. Peck, Mrs. Barton and Mrs. Menter.

The first officers were as follows: President, Mrs. Dr. Harriet Rundell; vice president, Mrs. W. R. Cobb; corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. B. Thompson; recording secretary, Mrs. C. L.

field. About \$4,000 in money and supplies has been given to both objects. More than two hundred names have been enrolled on the secretaries' books since November, 1871. Up to date, March, 1903, fifty of this number have died. At present there are forty-eight members. The first special work which the society took up was the education of an orphan girl in India, named Myra Ostrum Slaek, for one of the Sunday school teachers. At present two orphans in India are being cared for by the annual payment of \$20, each one of whom bears the name of Charlotte Mains; also \$25 is contributed annually towards the salary of a Bible Reader named Margaret Augusta Peck. Occasionally letters are received from these persons. The success of this society is largely due to the deep interest which the late Mrs. George Goodier (the first conference secretary of Northern New





Borrowed Photo.  
G. FRANKLIN SMITH, M. D.

York) and Miss Rosetta Coit took in missionary work. There is a special interest now as we have the honor of being associated with Rev. Arthur D. Berry of Japan, a son of one of the honored members of the society.

**Dr. G. Franklin Smith** was born in Mexico, Oct. 4, 1867. Daniel P. Smith, his grandfather, came from New Hampshire during the first quarter of the last century and located in what is now Richland, which was then a part of the town of Mexico. Ezra G. Smith, his father, was born on that place and is still living there. He married the daughter of Hiram Benedict, a well known preacher in that section several years ago. Dr. Smith was educated in the Mexico Academy and was graduated there in 1888. The next year he attended the Genesee Wesleyan seminary at Lima, N. Y. Deciding to adopt the profession of medicine he first took a course in the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuk, Ia., and in 1894 was a student in the Baltimore Medical college, where he obtained the degree of M. D. Dr. Smith began practice at Vermillion, N. Y., 1894, and after a short time there practiced at Fernwood. In 1902 he located in this village where his practice has steadily grown. During the present year he bought the Burrows residence on North Jefferson street and made several im-

provements, fitting it up in modern style so that it makes him a pleasant home with a commodious and centrally located office. Dr. Smith held the appointment of medical examiner for several insurance companies including the New York Mutual, the Manhattan, the Connecticut General, the Canada Life and the K. O. T. M. He is also examiner in lunacy. On May 8, 1895, he married Lida May, the daughter of A. E. Raymond of the town of New Haven, and they have one child, Jesse Carlyle. The doctor is one of the active members of the Oswego County Medical Society and several of the fraternal organizations.

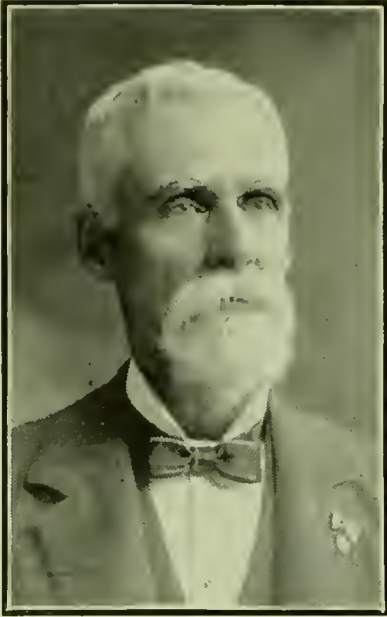
**Lakes of New York State.**—Height above tide.—Avalanche, Essex Co., 2,900 ft.; Colden, Essex Co., 2,851; Henderson, Essex Co., 1,936; Sanford, Essex Co., 1,826; Eckford, Hamilton Co., 1,791; Fulton Chain (Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Lakes), Hamilton Co., 1,776; Racket, Hamilton Co., 1,745; Fork-ed, Hamilton Co., 1,704; Newcomb, Essex Co., 1,698; Cattaraugus, Cattaraugus Co., 1,665; Fulton Chain (Third, Fourth and Fifth Lakes), Herkimer Co., 1,645; Long, Herkimer Co., 1,575; Cranberry, St. Lawrence Co., 1,570; Upper Saranae, Franklin Co., 1,567; Tappers, Franklin Co., 1,545; Rich, Essex Co., 1,545; Lower Saranae, Franklin Co., 1,527; Pleasant, Hamilton Co., 1,500; Chautauqua, Chautauqua Co., 1,291; Tully, Onondaga Co., 1,200; Schuyler, Otsego Co., 1,200; Otsego, Otsego Co., 1,193; Cazenovia, Madison Co., 900; Skaneateles, Onondaga Co., 860; Crook-ed, Yates Co., 718; Owaseo, Cayuga Co., 670; Canandaigua, Ontario Co., 668; Seneca, 447; Cayuga, 387; Oneida, 369; Onondaga 361; Ontario, 232; Champlain, 93.

**Historic Earthworks in Mexico.**—All about the east end of Lake Ontario and along its south shore there were in the beginning of the last century traces of old forts, earth works and redoubts. These were found in great number north of the Salmon River and were also strewn along the Oswego river, and in the towns of Granby and New Haven were quite numerous.



Borrowed Photo.  
**THE MEXICO BAND.**  
Top Row—(left to right) Warren Buck, Ward Walton, Lee Houghton, George Burdick, Jesse Lawton. Middle Row—W. H. Penfield, Warren Gardner, Bert Buck, Chas. Sternburg, Oliver B. Mowry. Lower Row—J. J. Cobb, F. L. Hoose, Glen Buck, F. A. Thomas, Wm. Buck, M. Fellows, Julius Ferney.





Borrowed Cut.  
EDWIN L. HUNTINGTON.

**Edwin L. Huntington** was born in Mexico, N. Y., July 8, 1839, being the fourth child of a family of eight. His father came to Mexico in 1829. Mr. Huntington finished his studies at Mexico Academy in 1856 and for the next few years he lived in the west. In 1861, when the tidings of the assault on Sumter flew over the country, he was one of the first to leave his business and his home. Waiting for no bounties he volunteered as a private soldier and went with the first regiment which left the county. He enlisted in Capt. Payne's Co. B., 24th N. Y. Infantry. He took part in fifteen different engagements and at Chancellorsville he was the only private in Co. B. that escaped injury. He was wounded at Fredericksburg and honorably discharged and mustered out May 29, 1863. Mr. Huntington re-enlisted in 1863 as 2d Lieutenant in Capt. Frank Sinclair's Battery L., 9th N. Y. Artillery, for three years and was promoted as Captain, July 6, 1865. He was again slightly wounded at Cedar Creek and was honorably discharged Sept. 29, 1865. Coming home again he was engaged in the drug business for a number of years. In 1880, Mr. Huntington was unanimously nominated at the Republican County Convention as sheriff on the first ballot and was elected by an unusually large majority. In 1894 he was elected supervisor of

the town of Mexico and has held that office since to the satisfaction of the tax payers. For a number years he was commander of Melzar Richards Post, G. A. R., No. 367, and was very active in the raising of funds for the erection of the soldiers' monument. He has always manifested a deep interest in village improvements and to his means and energy the people are indebted for the Mexico electric lighting system. In 1868 Mr. Huntington was married to Florence A. Allen and they have two children, Mrs. Clinton E. Avery of Mexico, N. Y., and Mrs. L. G. Pulsifer, of De Ruyter, N. Y. His wife died in 1888, and in 1891 he married Miss Mary A. Tourdot. Mr. Huntington has held many positions of trust and always filled them with honor. Reliable in his pledges, true to his friends, he possesses independence of character to do what he thinks to be right. In whatever position he has been placed, the public has always evinced entire confidence in his ability and integrity.

**Pioneer Lost in Mexico.**—The perils braved by the early pioneers of the town of Mexico were many. Oliver Stevens, living at Fort Brewerton in 1792, started one morning in the spring of that year to attend a town meeting for the town of Mexico which was to have been held in a house on Scriba's road near the present village of Mexico. Instead of taking the usual course—following the beaten path by the way of the river or going east to Scriba's road by the lake shore, he struck boldly into the woods headed north carrying his gun and a lunch for mid-day. Along late in the afternoon he was beset by wolves. They were not bold but were persistent, driven forth by hunger after a long winter, and followed him doggedly. Finally one got uncomfortably close and he shot it. After dragging the carcass some distance he built a fire and removed the pelt. Here he bivouacked all night, keeping awake with great effort by walking round and round the fire and suffering considerably from cold. At daylight he turned, as he supposed, toward home. But all of that day he wandered in the woods, again a second night intending to keep vigilant



Dunwick, Photo.

E. L. HUNTINGTON'S RESIDENCE.

watch for fear that if he slept he would be attacked by the wolves. But nature rebelled and he at last fell asleep, but awoke at daylight considerably refreshed. In a few hours, after wandering aimlessly, he reached the fort at Oswego, where he rested that day and night and returned home the next. The wolf pelt proved his claim to the bounty of \$40, besides being of considerable value in itself.

**The First Road and Stage Coach** in Central New York are thus described in documentary history of New York "by a gentleman to a friend": "To remedy this inconvenience as to roads, the legislature of the state had, by an act passed in the session of 1797 taken the road from Fort Schuyler [now Rome] to Geneva under their patronage" [granting a lottery]. The inhabitants of the country through which the road passed subscribed four thousand days of work, "which they performed with fidelity and cheerfulness." This

Wemps' in Oneida Reservation, [Castle], 6; Sill's, at the Deep Spring, [Chittenango], 11; Keeler's, Junior, 12; Tyler's, Onondaga Hollow, 10; Rice's, Nine Mile Creek, 10; Cayuga Ferry, [Cayuga Bridge], 20; Powell's Hotel, Geneva, 13.

**The First Missionary** in the town of Mexico was the Rev. John Taylor who came here in 1802 as "a missionary" of the Presbyterian faith. A native of Westfield, Mass., and a graduate of Yale college in 1784 who had settled in Deerfield, he was commissioned by the Missionary society of Hampshire county, Mass., to preach among the settlers west of the Hudson river. Being an intelligent and observing man he made some rare observations with respect to the conditions of the country through which he passed. Travelling on horseback with provisions in his saddlebags and letters of introduction to an occasional settler here and there who threw open their houses to him, he plunged into the narrow forest trails which then



Huested, Photo.

BAPTIST AID SOCIETY.

Top Row—(left to right) Mrs. Theodore Green, Mrs. Celia Copp, Miss Josephine Robinson, Rev. S. S. Bidwell, Samuel Green, Theodore Green, Mrs. S. S. Bidwell, Blanche Munger, Mrs. D. W. Wyant. Middle Row—Mrs. Frank Andrews, Mrs. John Everleigh, Miss Julia Price, Mrs. Fred Hamilton, Mrs. Arthur Norton, Mrs. Herbert Adams, Mrs. Anna Dan. Lower Row—Miss Bertha Johnson, Miss Grace Johnson, D. B. Wyant, Miss Mable Everleigh, Miss Lena Auringer, Miss Florence Johnson.

road 98 miles long, 64 feet wide and "paved with logs and gravel in the moist parts of the low country through which it passed," was so far improved beginning in the month of June 1797, that a stage started from Fort Schuyler on the 30th of September [1797] and arrived at the hotel in Geneva in the afternoon of the third day with four passengers. This line of road having been established by law," continues the writer, "not less than fifty families settled on it in the space of four months after it was opened."

Two or three years afterwards two coaches were running weekly over this road between Albany and Geneva; and the following taverns, at indicated distances apart between Fort Schuyler and Geneva were open: From Fort Schuyler to Laird's, 10 miles; Van Epps', near Oneida Reservation, 6;

were all the means there were of communicating between the few small hamlets on the frontiers of New York. Passing through the Mohawk Valley to Rome, then Fort Stanwix, he turned north, preaching wherever he could draw an audience, large or small. On July 24, 1802, he preached at Camden at the house of Mr. Curtiss to 100 persons. The next day he delivered a sermon to 150 people three miles north. From there he went to Redfield and turning west proceeded to Lake Ontario. He was then in the town of Mexico now Sandy Creek, and stopped at the house of Mr. Hockley four and a half miles from the lake where on Sept. 2, 1802, he preached to 40 people. From there he went east and north preaching in the Black river country. In 1817 he located in Monroe county and in 1832 went to Bruce, Macomb Co., Mich., where he died in 1840.





Huested, Photo. GEORGE WEBB JOHNSON. J. A. JOHNSON.

**James A. Johnson** was born in Jefferson county in 1827 and came to Mexico in 1828 and has spent the most of his life in this vicinity. He was educated in the public schools and attended the Falley Seminary at Fulton. He read law in this village with Orla H. Whitney and Luke D. Smith and afterwards attended the Albany law school. He was admitted to practice in all the courts of this state at Albany in 1855, and has been in active practice of his profession most of the time for nearly half a century enjoying a lucrative practice and representing numerous and important interests. He has been very successful in procuring pensions and has probably procured more pensions than any attorney now living in the county.

Mr. Johnson was formerly active in politics, having always been a staunch democrat and having received the nomination of his party for various offices. He was the candidate on the democratic ticket for county treasurer of Oswego county in '857 and ran largely ahead of his ticket in this and adjoining towns, though of course was overborne and defeated by the great republican majority in the county. Mr. Johnson is still engaged in the active practice of law and is also engaged in the fire insurance business with his son, George Webb Johnson, who is preparing for admission to the bar.

**Height of Water Sheds** of New York above tide.—Hudson River and Ramapo at Moncey, Westchester Co., 557 ft; Hudson and Delaware rivers at Otisville, Orange Co., 900 ft; Hudson and Neversink rivers at Wawarsing, Ulster Co., 850 ft; Hudson river and Lake Ontario at Rome, Oneida Co., 427 ft; Hudson river and Lake Erie at Tonawanda, Erie Co., 557 ft; Delaware and Susquehanna rivers at Deposit Summit, Broome Co., 1,373 ft; Susquehanna and Mohawk rivers at Bouckville, Madison Co., 1,127 ft; Susquehanna river and Oneida lake at Tully, Onondaga County, 1,247 ft; Susquehanna river and Cayuga lake at Ithaca summit, Tompkins Co., 960 ft; Susquehanna river and Seneca lake at Horseheads, Chemung Co., 884 ft; Susquehanna and Genesee rivers at Alfred Summit, Alleghany Co., 1,780 ft; Genesee and Alleghany rivers at Cuba, Alleghany Co., 1,699 ft; Alleghany river and Lake Erie at Little Valley Summit, Cattaraugus Co., 1,614 ft; Mohawk river and Lake Ontario at Kasoag, Oneida Co., 536 ft; Mohawk and Black rivers at Boonville, Oneida Co., 1,120 ft; Lake Champlain and St. Lawrence river at Chateaugay Summit, Franklin Co., 1,050 ft.

**Driving Distances** of Mexico from points in the county—Amboy Center, 16.8; Bernhards Bay, 24.1; Caughdenoy, 14.3; Redfield Square, 25; Central Square, 13.7; Cleveland, 26.2; Colosse, 4.8; Constantia, 20.2; Fulton, 15.9; Gilbertsville, 12.5; Granby Center, 18.6; Hannibal, 24.4; Hannibal Center, 24.7; Hastings, 8.2; Hinmanville, 17.5; Holmesville, 5.7; Hulls Corners, 24.6; New Centerville, 14; New Haven, 4.8; Orwell village, 17; Oswego, 15.1; Oswego Falls, 16.7; Palermo, 7.4; Parish, 6.8; Phoenix, 17.3; Pulaski, 10; Sand Bank (Altmar), 14.3; Seneca Hill, 16.4; Scriba Corners, 10.9; Texas, 4.3; Vermillion, 4.9; Volney Center, 12.6; Sandy Creek, 16; West Amboy, 14.3; Williamstown, 19.



Dunwick, Photo. DR. CHARLES W. RADWAY'S RESIDENCE.



Borrowed Photo. W. A. ROBBINS.

**Wilfred A. Robbins** was born on a farm in the town of Warren, Herkimer Co., N. Y., of sturdy New England ancestry. His maternal grandfather was the late Asa Beebe one of the early settlers of the town of Mexico and was known as a business man of the strictest integrity. Miss Emma Beebe, the authoress and artist is an aunt of Mr. Robbins. His father, Lyman Robbins, was born in Herkimer county and was highly respected by all who knew him. He was honored by being called to fill various town offices in his native town, and after moving to Mexico was chosen and held the office of town assessor for 18 years. In 1867 the subject of this sketch moved to this town with his parents where he has resided since. He was educated in the common schools and at Mexico academy. In 1874 his father took him in as partner in his mill, the firm name being L. Robbins & Son. They conducted business at Railroad Mills on Mill street and continued in business until 1891. In 1887 the mill in which they were in business was burned. The firm built a new mill on the old site and conducted business in that building until their retirement in 1891. He was married in 1876 to Martha Whitney, a daughter of the late Ebenezer Whitney, who was a member of one of the oldest and most respected families in town. He has always taken an active interest in the success and welfare of the republican party, having cast his first vote for John A. Dix for governor in 1874. He was for several years a member of the republican town and county committees, and has held various minor town offices, acting for several years as clerk and afterwards as inspector of election. At present he is one of the justices of the peace of the town. In 1891 he received the appointment from President Harrison of postmaster at Mexico and held that position until July 1, 1895. On January 1, 1896, he was chosen clerk of

the senate committee on the Affairs of Cities in the New York state legislature, serving until April 1, 1902. Senator Stranahan was chairman of the above committee during that time. He is now serving as collector of the port of New York. Upon the assembling of the senate for the session of 1903, Mr. Robbins was appointed one of the index clerks of that body which appointment is for two years. Mr. Robbins has always taken a prominent place in Masonic circles. He is a member of Mexico Lodge No. 135, F. & A. M., Mexico Chapter No. 135, R. A. M., of Mexico, Dewitt Clinton Council No. 22, R. & S. M., Lake Ontario Commandery No. 32, K. T., of Oswego, and Media Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Watertown. He held minor offices in his lodge, and in 1891, '92 and '93 he was Master of Mexico lodge. In 1894 he was a member of the Grand Lodge, having been appointed by the Grand Master, D. D. G. M., for the 19th district. He is a member of the board of trustees of the M. E. church of Mexico, having been clerk of that board for 20 years.

**Wm. B. Hutchinson** was born in Pepperell, Worcester Co., Mass., July 4, 1806. He received a district school education in his native town. In early life he worked at the painter's trade in various cities in the New England states. In 1833 he was united in marriage to Amelia, daughter of Azariah Haskins of Pittstown, Rensselaer Co., N. Y. They resided in Poughkeepsie two years then went to Palmyra, Wayne Co., N. Y., and in 1837 removed to Mexico, Oswego Co., N. Y., where he purchased a large farm and became a successful and scientific farmer. He was energetic and honorable and possessed of a cheerful disposition; and took great interest in the welfare of the town. Being interested in educational matters he did much to raise the Colosse school to a high standard, and was the organizer of the Colosse debating society. A democrat until the organization of the republican party he became attached to the latter, but upon the nomination of Horace Greely for the



Borrowed Photos. ELLEN HUTCHINSON JOYCE.  
WILLIAM B. HUTCHINSON.  
AMELIA HASKINS HUTCHINSON.



presidency and thereafter he voted the democratic ticket. He was a staunch supporter of temperance. His death occurred May 26, 1889, his wife surviving him two years. They had five children, Harriet F. Driggs of Decorah, Ia., (deceased), Lucy G. Calkins of Erie, Pa., Ellen J. Joyce of North Syracuse, N. Y., Lydia A. DeLancey of Binghamton, N. Y., and Charles D. (deceased). Mr. Hutchinson spent the last fifteen years of his life with his daughter, Mrs. Joyce in the town of Cicero, Onondaga Co.



Borrowed Cut.

HON. WILLIS E. HEATON.

**Gen. Stephen Van Rensselaer**, in command of an American force operating against the British around Sackett Harbor, early in August, 1812, spent one night at the mouth of Salmon river. His troops were aboard vessels bound up the lake. The weather was threatening and the General accompanied by his officers went ashore late at night. They found no conveniences except some temporary ovens which had been erected and in one of which John Lovett, Gen. Van Rensselaer's secretary slept that night. Lovett afterwards founded Perrysburgh on Lake Erie and was a member of Congress. The captain of the guard on duty at that time was Reuben Tower who afterwards lived at Sangerfield, Oneida Co., N. Y.

**Hon. Willis E. Heaton** was born in the town of Cicero, Onondaga Co., N. Y., Sept. 15, 1861, and is the son of Dr. Charles E. Heaton and Sarah Gates Heaton now living in Baldwinsville, N. Y. His boyhood days were spent in Mexico where he was educated in district school No. 9 and in Mexico academy from which latter institution he was graduated in 1878. He continued his studies in Madison (now Colgate) University and Albany Law School. Before entering the university he spent a year in the office of the Mexico

Independent under that veteran newspaper man, Henry Humphries. After returning from the university he began the study of law with French & Stone, a firm widely known in those days. After a short time he was appointed by Hon. T. W. Skinner clerk to the surrogate's court of Oswego county, which office he filled until he entered Albany Law School. Mr. Heaton was admitted to the bar at Albany in January, 1883 and in the spring of that year located at Hoosick Falls, N. Y., where he has since resided practicing his profession with marked success. In 1898 Mr. Heaton was nominated for supervisor of the town of Hoosick by the republican party at a time when an effort was being made to purify town politics. He was elected and gave such general satisfaction that he was continued in office for four years and was elected chairman of the Board for three successive terms.

In 1901 Mr. Heaton was elected surrogate of Rensselaer county by a plurality of about 7,000, the largest ever given a county candidate in that county. The office of surrogate in a county like Rensselaer containing the city of Troy and a population of over 120,000 is a most important office, but Judge Heaton has fully met the expectations of his friends and his administration is giving complete satisfaction to the people of the county.

Judge Heaton is a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church at Hoosick Falls, a director of the Fidelity Gas Light Co., a manager of the Hoosick Club and a member of the vocal society, the Choral Club and the Pafraets Dacl Club of Troy. He has been an occasional contributor of both verse and prose to various papers and magazines and is in frequent demand as a speaker upon public occasions.

**First Court of Common Pleas**, 2nd jury district Oswego county, was held at the school house in the village of Pulaski. Barnett Mooney was presiding judge assisted by Judges Huganin and Dunlap. James E. Wright, Joseph Pynchon Rosseter, Thomas C. Chittenden, Benjamin Wright and Daniel Wardwell were admitted to practice law.

**Original Names in Oswego County. —**

Caugh-de-noy, village—[Iroquois], Eel laying down; vast numbers of fish are said to have been caught here by the Indians who had a village at this place.

Brewerton (Oneida outlet) — Oh sa-hau-ny-tah [Onon.], Here the waters run from the lake. Seugh-kah [Oneida], Lake pours out.

Deer Creek—Gah-teh nah [Iroq.], Small stream in the rushes; it flows through marshes.

Grindstone Creek — He-haw-ha-kee [Iroq.], Where there are nuts

Little Salmon River—Kah-na-ta [Onon.], Place to find bark. Che-go-hage [Oneida], Large bark ready to be picked up.

Lake near Fulton — Ne-at-a-want-ha [Iroq.], Lake hiding from the river. Fish lake [Early Settlers].

Mexico Bay — Teh-no-ha hah [Iroq.], Wide waters in the land.

New Haven Creek Kah-dah-lo-gah [Iroq.], Place of low wet ground.

Oneida Lake — Sa ugh ka [Onon.], Striped waters (from the Manlius and Poupey hills

which are the Iroquois. Lac St. Francis [Champlain's map, 1632.] Cadaraqui [Mohawks and early English.]

Phoenix—Kah-ne-wo-nah [Iroq.], Place of the Tall Pines.

Phoenix, Indian Fishing Village— Qui-e-Hook-gah [Iroq.], Supply with fish.

Salmon River—Heh-hah-wa-gah [Onon.], Where swim the sweet (delicious) fish. Ka-hi-agh-laghe [Oneidas], Plenty to eat of fish. La Famine [Fr. Jes.], Where Gov. Barre's troops famished.

Sandy Creek—He-kah-na-go-gah [Iroq.], Where there is much sand. Riviere de la Planche [Fr. Jes.]

Scriba's Creek—Gah-teh-nah [Iroq.], Ddilling creek. Hegh-ka-nagh-hagh [Oneida], Creek dancing in the sun. Bruce creek [Early Settlers].

Three River Point—Te-u-nug-hu-ka [Iroq.], Where all of the rivers meet.

**The First Public School.**—At a special town meeting held at the house of Calvin Tiffany, June 13, 1813, in compliance with the act for the estab-



Husted, Photo. PRIMARY DEPARTMENT PRESBYTERIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL.

- 1, Miss Alice Hardy, 2, Ethel Collins, 3, Lillie Hostord, 4, Dearborn Hardy, 5, Gurley Davis, 6, Mildred Sampson, 7, Miss Vesta H. Greene, 8, George Woodruff, 9, Lyle Edwards, 10, Robert Greenleaf, 11, Carl Sherman, 12, Miss Carrie A. Peck, 13, Dorris Wise, 14, Daisy Hostord, 15, George Huntley, 16, Mary Radway, 17, Janet Taylor, 18, Willard Taylor, 19, Vera Gardner, 20, Gay Osborn, 21, Vera Gardner, 22, Chas. Parmelee, 23, Ruth McClyman, 24, Ira Hostord, 25, Ava Cunnioham.

when the sun is right the surface of the lake appears striped blue and white). Lac Techroguen des Onneints [Fr. Jes.], On-ha do-ho-go [Oneida] Teshiroque [Mohawk and Dutch].

Oswego (the port)—Osh-wa-kee [Iroq.], See everywhere see nothing. Ochongen [Fr. Jes.].

Oswego Falls—Kah-leh-sa-hegh [Iroq.], Place of the falls.

Oswego River—Swa-geh [Iroq.], Flowing out of two rivers. Riviere de la Onnontogues [Fr. Jes.], River of the Onondagas, leading to that nation.

Oswego Falls Indian Village—Kag-ne-wag roge [Iroq.].

Peter Scott Swamp—Ka-nugh-wa-ka [Onon.], Where rabbits run.

Ontario Lake — En-tou-no-ho-rons [Huron], Big water of the Hurons. Ska-nau-da-reh [Iroq.], Beautiful lake. Lac Ontario on des Iroquois [Fr. Jes.] Lake of the Ontario over of (on to)

lishment of common schools. Stutely Palmer, Peter Pratt and Jonathan Wing were chosen commissioners of common schools in said town and Timothy Norton, Dennison Palmer, Elijah Everts, William D. Wightman, Joseph Bailey and Elias Brewster inspectors of said schools. It was voted to allow the school commissioners 75 cents per day for their services and to raise by tax on said town for the use of said school sixty dollars. The inspectors were Timothy Norton, Dennis Palmer, Elijah Everts, W. D. Wightman, Joseph Bailey, Elias Brewster. The tax was \$60.

The first school house was a log structure erected near the site formerly occupied by the East Presbyterian church. John Howard was the first teacher of the High school, assisted by Laura Fish in the other department. The original district was No. 5, which was increased in size and then divided by Black creek, the west side being retained as No. 5 and the east side as No. 8.





Borrowed Photo. REV. M. D. SILL.

**The Methodist Church.**—About the year 1808 or 1809 a young Methodist preacher by the name of Jonathan Huestis came here on horseback with his saddlebags containing his wardrobe, Bible and hymn book, and preached the first Methodist sermon in the town of Mexico at the home of Leonard Ames. The first class was organized in the Ames home and consisted of five members, namely: Mrs. L. Ames, Mrs. Place, Mrs. Calkins, Mrs. Cheesbro and W. Armstrong who was appointed class leader. The first quarterly meeting and love feast were held in Mr. Ames's house where the sacrament was administered to eight communicants. The stand upon which the elements were placed is now in the possession of the church, preserved as a memorial of the infant days of Methodism in Mexico. The second pastor was the Rev. A. Rowley, from Baltimore. In 1810 the Genesee conference was organized and the Mexico circuit extended from Redfield and Camden to the Oswego river.

In 1811 Rev. Ira Fairbanks was appointed to the Mexico circuit. He received \$25 that year on his salary, and he says he left the circuit out of debt. After Rev. Fairbanks, to the year 1820, the following persons were pastors of this church, the exact order in which they came not being known: Isaac Puffer Truman Gillett, Nathaniel Reader, Truman Bishop, Ruben Farley, Joseph Willis and Truman Dixon.

The house of Mr. Ames continued to be the

preaching place until 1820 when a commodious school house, two stories high and built of brick, was erected on the ground where the present academy stands which was then occupied for religious services alternately by the Congregationalists and Methodists.

In 1821 Mexico was placed in the Oswego circuit Black River district, with Chandly Lambert, preacher in charge. In 1822 James P. Aylesworth was the preacher of Oswego circuit; in 1823 J. P. Aylesworth and Orren Foot; 1824 Truman Dixon; 1825 Benjamin Dayton and Enoch Barnes; 1827 Charles Northrup; 1828 Elisha Wheeler; 1830 Samuel Bibbins.

In 1831 this had become Mexico circuit with Charles Northrup preacher, followed in 1833 and '34 by Anson Tuller and Joseph Cross.

It is probable that the Mexico Methodist Episcopal church was legally organized in 1833 and a brick church was built. At a meeting of the trustees, Feb. 11, 1834, there were present Simon Tuller Leonard Ames, Orin Whitney, Daniel Austin, Eldad Smith, Reuben Halliday, Stanton Kenyon and O. C. Whitney. Afterwards the name of F. Evarts was added. In 1835 Mexico was made a station and Jesse Penfield appointed preacher. In 1837 J. Everdel was pastor. Squire Chase who went as a missionary to Africa, was supply part of 1838, followed by Joseph Kilpatrick who served the rest of the year, and in 1839 and '40 by B. Holmes.

On June 20, 1840, the ground was broken for the cellar for the first parsonage, which was located on Main street. In 1841 Rowland Soule was stationed here, followed in 1842 by B. Holmes, returned for his third year; 1843-'4 N. R. Peck, 1845-'6 James Sawyer, 1847-'8 Gardner Baker, 1849-'50 Lewis Whitecomb and 1851-'2 Ebenezer Arnold. During Mr. Arnold's pastorate, in 1851, the brick church was burned and the site sold, and in 1852 the present church edifice was built. Since then the following were pastors: 1853-'4 Almond Chapin, 1855-'6 Samuel Crosier, 1857 Hiram Shepard, 1858 J. T. Allen, 1859 William Jones, 1860-'1 O. M. Legate, 1862 J. T. Alden, 1863 W. S. Titus, 1864-'6, M. D. Kinney, 1867-'8 Andrew Roe, 1869-'71 William R. Cobb, 1872 B. F. Barker, 1873-'4 J. T. Hewitt, 1875-'6 S. P. Gray.



Dunwick, Photo. THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

1877-'9 W. F. Hemenway, 1880-'2 G. P. Lyford, 1883-'5 C. H. Guile, 1886-'7 W. R. Cobb, 1888-'90 C. E. Dorr, 1891-'3 J. C. Darling, 1894-'5 H. W. Bennett, 1896-'99 J. H. Myers; 1900 A. C. Danforth and 1901 M. D. Sill, the present pastor.

In 1884 new memorial windows were placed in the church in memory of the founders of Methodism in Mexico. The bell now hanging in the tower, costing \$1,000, was purchased by subscription and money raised by concerts conducted by Lewis Miller. The organ costing \$1,200 was purchased with the proceeds raised by the M. E. Choral Union under the leadership of Lewis Miller. The present parsonage was the generous gift to the church by the late Dr. Harriet Rindell.

The Northern New York conference has been entertained by Mexico church three times: In 1845 Bishop Hedding, 1875 Bishop Scott, 1901 Bishop Fowler presiding.

The Methodist Episcopal church of Mexico has been especially blessed in sending forth so many of her young men to preach the gospel. Among

Sandy Creek 1851-'55; Edward S. Reed, Albion 1853; Samuel A. Comstock, Albion 1853; Ezra Green, Palermo 1854-'56; John Vandenberg, Constantia 1854; Edson Wilker, Sandy Creek 1855; Lewis F. Devendorf, Hastings 1857; Marcus Patterson, West Monroe 1857; Benjamin N. Hinman, Hannibal 1858;'60-'2; Nelson J. Williams, Boylston 1858; Caleb L. Carr, Williamstown 1859-'60; Hiram M. Stevens, Sandy Creek 1859; Alvin Richardson, Mexico 1864; Fowler H. Berry, Amboy 1864; Alvin Osborn, Oswego 1865; Mars Nearing, Hastings 1865; Henry M. Barrett, Hannibal 1866; John Shepard, Albion 1866; William Congdon, Scriba 1867;'73; Marcus Patterson, West Monroe 1867; Levi Brackett, Hannibal 1868; Jesse W. Cross, Orwell 1868; R. George Bassett, Volney 1869-'70; Andrew S. Coey, Redfield 1869-'70;'75; James G. Caldwell, West Monroe 1871; Joseph W. Phillips, West Monroe 1871; Abraham David, Parish 1872; Edmund Potter, Parish 1872;'74;'77; Noel A. Gardner, Amboy 1873; William R. Path,



Husted, Photo PRIMARY DEPARTMENT, METHODIST EPISCOPAL SUNDAY SCHOOL.

1, Mrs. M. D. Sill Superintendent; 2, Glenn Lowell, 3, Gerald Stewart, 4, Elliot Pettingill, 5, Cora Munroe, 6, Marion Berry, 7, Mac House, 8, Earl Parker, 9, Minnie Henderson, 10, Lloyd Lowell, 11, Myrtis Smith, 12, Helen Hoose, 13, Hazel Gass, 14, Nina Manwarren, 15, Hoyt Hollister, 16, Carl Shumway, 17, Holland Smith, 18, Ralph Shumway, 19, Ralph Sampson, 20, Barton M. Sill, 21, Mattison Hollister, 22, Amelia Munson, 23, Harry Gill, 24, Fannie Buck, 25, Millicent Gass, 26, Lovell Cook, 27, Mildred Kellogg, 28, Ruth Sampson, 29, Guile Hollister, 30, May Sampson, 31, Eva Halsey, 32, Mary Smith, 33, Harold Cobb, 34, Donald Hoose, 35, Grota Coe, 36, Vernetta Burdick, 37, Walter Burdick, 38, Henry Sternburg, 39, John Munroe, 40, Verna Wilder, 41, Fred Coe, 42, Phillis Chadwick, 43, Lloyd Denny, 44, Giles Denny, 45, Harry Fish, 46, Gladys Hollister, 47, Helen Chadwick.

them are the following: Albert D. Peck, Reuben Holiday and B. R. Parson; local preachers; W. H. Calkins, Isaac Turner, Henry Lamb, Dennis Parker, Sardius Kenyon, David Ferguson, Levi Ferguson, Matthew Parkhurst, Othniel Holmes, W. F. Purington, Jesse Rathbun, George P. Mains, Fayette Severance, Frank Severance, Cyrus Severance, Charles H. Walton, Herbert L. Campbell, Amos Nickerson, George Wood, Reuben Sherman and Arthur Berry.

**Justices of Sessions.**—John M. Casey, Oswego 1848; L. Thayer, Parish 1848-'50;'61-'3; Norman Rowe, New Haven 1849;'56; Robert Simpson, Scriba 1850;'63; John Wart, Boylston 1851;'52; John B. Higgins, Mexico 1851; Mason Salisbury,

Williamstown 1874; F. W. Squires, North Volney 1875; Henry L. Cole, Mexico 1876; Cornelius Edick, Parish 1876; Isaac R. Parkhurst, Scriba 1877.

**Macomb's Purchase**, the largest grant of land the state ever made embraced 3,693,755 acres in Franklin, St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis, Herkimer and the northern part of Oswego counties. It was patented to Daniel McCormick and Alexander Macomb in 1791-'8. It was afterwards sub-divided into several purchases including that known as the Boylston tract and Macomb's purchase. Macomb's patent was a tract of 1,920,000 acres taken from the above purchase Jan. 10, 1792.





Husted, Photo.  
**LILLIAN LONGSTREET'S CLASS, M. E. SUNDAY SCHOOL.**  
 Florence Avery, Edith Munson, Christine Jeffery,  
 Lillian Longstreet,  
 Florence Henderson, Blanche Avery

**Six Nations**—Origin of Their Race:—Rev. Mr. Pyrlaus resident among the Six Nations in 1743 quotes the Mohawk chief, Squarady, viz: They dwelt in the earth where no sun shone. Though they followed hunting they ate mice which they caught with their own hands. Ganawaghla having found a hole went out and found a deer. In consequence of the meat tasting good their mother concluded it best for them all to go out which they did, except the groundhog. They consider the earth as their universal mother. They believe they were created within its bosom where for a long time they had their abode before they came to live on its surface. They say the grand and good spirit had prepared all things for their reception but like an infant in the womb of the natural mother their first stage of existence was wisely ordained to be within the earth.

**Justices of the Peace**—1798—Isaac Alden, Williamstown; J. W. Bloomfield, Rotterdam; Benjamin Wright, Veia Cruz; Joseph Strickland, Redfield; Samuel Royce, Camden; appointed by the council of appointment of Herkimer county. 1800—Reuben Hamilton, Mexico. 1804—Ebenezer Wright, Volney. 1805—Reuben Hamilton and Samuel Tiffany, Mexico; William Burke, Scriba. 1806—William Cole, Mexico; Thomas Nutting, Parish. 1807—David Williams, Mexico; David Easton, New Haven. 1808—Reuben Hamilton, William Burke, John Nutting. 1810—Joseph Bailey, New Haven; Ryer Burnham, Mexico. 1811—David Williams David Easton, Peter Pratt, Mexico. 1812—Jonathan Wing, Joseph Bailey, New Haven. 1813—Benjamin Wright, Peter Pratt. 1814—David Wing. 1815—Solomon Evarts, Mexico; Paul Allen, Parish.

**Associate Justices, Common Pleas, Prior to 1847**—Peter D. Hugunin, Oswego 1816-'26; Edmund Hawks, Oswego Town 1816-'18; Daniel Hawks, jr., Hannibal 1816-'17; Smith Dunlap, Sandy Creek 1816-'19; Henry Williams, Williamstown 1816-'26; David Easton, New Haven, 1816-'17; Orris Hart, New Haven 1817-'20; William Hale,

Richland 1817-'19; David S. Bates, Constantia 1820-'1; James Bill, Oswego 1820-'1; John Seeber, Richland 1820-'1; Samuel Farnham, Hannibal 1820-'1; John S. Davis, Richland 1821-'2; Oliver Burdick, Volney 1821-'2; Chester Hayden, Richland 1822-'3; Joseph Easton, Volney 1822-'30; Hastings Curtiss, Hastings, 1823-'9; Simon Meacham, Richland 1828-'31; Avery Skinner, Mexico 1828-'31; '35-'8; John Reynolds, Orwell 1829-'31; Lovewell Johnson, Palermo 1832-'6; Samuel Freeman, Williamstown 1832-'42; Hirsh Hubbell, Pulaski 1835-'9; Enoch Hibbard, Volney 1837-'46; Elias Brewster, Mexico 1839-'43; Samuel B. Lindlow, Oswego 1840-'5; Thomas S. Meacham, Sandy Creek 1841-'5; Huntington Fiteb, Hastings 1843-'7; Julian Carter, Constantia 1844-'7; Orla H. Whitney, Mexico 1846-'7; John M. Watson, Pulaski 1846-'7.

**Description of Oswego, by the French, 1756.**—Fort Ontario is situate at the right (east) of the river in the middle of a very high plateau. It consists of a square of 30 toises (180 feet) a side, the faces of which, broken in the center, are flanked by a redan placed at the point of the break. It is constructed of pickets 18 inches in diameter, smooth on both sides, very well joined the one to the other, and rising 8 and 9 feet from the ground. The ditch that encircles the fort is 18 feet wide by 8 feet deep. The excavated earth had been thrown up en glacis on the counterescarp with a very steep slope over the berm (covered way). Loop holes and embrasures are formed in the pickets on a level with the earth thrown up on the berm, and a scaffolding of carpenters' work extends all around so as to fire from above. It has 8 guns and 4 mortars with double grenades. The old fort Chonegn, situate on the left (west) bank of the river, consists of a house with galleries with loop holes on the ground floor and principal story, the walls of which are three feet thick and encompassed at distance of three toises (18 feet) by another wall 4 feet thick and 10 feet high, loopholed and flanked by two large, square towers. It has likewise a trench, encircling on the land side of the fort, where the enemy



Husted, Photo.  
**MAY VIRGIL'S CLASS, M. E. SUNDAY SCHOOL.**  
 Top Row—(Left to right) Jennie Buck, Ethel Menter, Bessie Trxon. Middle Row—Grace Wilcott, Miss May Virgil, Alice Calkins. Lower Row—Mildred Smith, Ruth House.



Borrowed Photo. C. I. MILLER.

[English] had placed 18 pieces of cannon and 15 mortars and howitzers. Fort George is situated 300 toises (1800 feet) beyond [west of] that of Chouegen on a hill that commanded it. It is of pickets and badly enough entrenched with earth on two sides.

**Tryon** was the tenth county instituted in the province of New York and was the first municipal organization in which Mexico was included. The colonial act of March 22, 1772, erected out of the lands of the Iroquois this county, which, having no definitely assigned boundaries except that on the east, was declared to reach to the lakes on the west and north, and the Pennsylvania line on the south. The eastern boundary line of the present small county of Montgomery was the eastern limit of Tryon county. On March 8, 1773, the county was divided into four districts: Palatine, north of the Mohawk and Canajoharie on the south—the two eastern districts, west of which came German Flatts on the south and Kingsland on the north. It was out of Kingsland that Mexico was erected.

**First Town Officers** appointed by the justices of Herkimer county for Mexico (then included in that county) in 1792, viz: John Meyer of Rotterdam, supervisor and justice of peace; Olive Stevens of Fort Brewerton, town clerk; Amos Matthews, Solomon Waring and Luke Mason of Rotterdam, assessors; Amos Matthews and Solomon Waring, overseers of the poor; Solomon Waring, collector; Elijah Carter, constable.

**Clayton I. Miller**, special surrogate of Oswego county, was elected to that office in 1901 in recognition of his ability to perform the duties incumbent therein. Among the younger members of the republican party he has figured as one of the most active, his services both at caucuses and in convention as a speaker and worker being in demand in all important local campaigns. He was born in the town of Mexico, June 16, 1868, and received his early education in the district schools and the Mexico academy, graduating from the latter institution in 1889. He taught school a number of terms and read law with C. C. Brown in Mexico and William A. Poucher in Oswego. In 1893 he was graduated in the law department of Cornell University and on Sept. 15 of the same year was admitted to the bar. A month later he opened his office in this village where his practice has grown to a flattering extent, until at the present time he has a wide circle of clients and is carrying on a prosperous business. Mr. Miller has built up a prosperous fire insurance business, in which he writes policies on both village and farm property in the most reliable companies. Mr. Miller on April 18, 1900, married Alice M. Bard of Mexico and they occupy a pretty house eligibly situated on Main street. Mr. Miller is a member of Mexico Lodge, F. & A. M., No. 136, and is a Royal Arch Mason in Chapter No. 135. He has served as trustee of the village and has taken considerable interest in local affairs, being an active supporter of all local improvements and always ready to contribute to advance the interests of Mexico.

**Salt Road.**—The old road called “the salt road,” along which before the day of railroads an immense traffic was carried on between Watertown and the northern counties of the state and Salt Point or Salina (now Syracuse) passed through Union Square and Colosse. It was no unusual sight, the procession of hundreds of teams of farmers drawing loads of salt moving north on this highway with the winter supply for the northern country.

**First School in Town** was taught by Sanford Douglass at Colosse in 1806. The first school in the village was taught in Shubel Alfred’s barn by Harriet Easton in 1811.



Husted, Photo.

C. I. MILLER'S RESIDENCE.





Borrowed Photos. JEDEDIAH HOOSE.  
MARY A. HOOSE.

**Jedediah Hoose** was born in the town of Parish, N. Y., Oct. 10, 1839, being the second son of Abram Hoose, a prominent farmer. With his brother, James H. Hoose, he was a student at Mexico Academy, but because of poor health, was unable to finish a course there. In December, 1861, he married Mary A. Perrine of Hastings, N. Y., a graduate of Whitestown Seminary. A few years later they moved to Mexico where three children were born, Frank L., who was later associated with his father in business, Charles Kyles, who died at the age of seven years and Lena L., a graduate of Syracuse University.

Here Mr. Hoose engaged in the grocery business with H. W. Loomis and later with Ira Cobb, as partners. Soon he gave most of his time to the produce business in which he continued until his death. He bought butter and cheese extensively for the eastern markets, during many seasons making weekly trips to Boston, New York and Philadelphia. He was one of the largest buyers of cheese in Oswego county. After a long period of poor health, though confined to his home but a few weeks, he died Nov. 8, 1900. Mr. Hoose was a man of energy, interested in the welfare of the town, devoted to his family and home. He was a member of the Freewill Bap-

tist church but as there was none in Mexico, attended the Methodist and gave liberally to its support. Through 35 years of business life he enjoyed the universal confidence of all men with whom he dealt. His word was as good as his bond. In February, 1888, his son Frank L. married Mary H. Miller, youngest daughter of Lewis Miller. They have three children, Helen H., Donald J. and Kenneth M.

**E. J. Parmelee**, who conducts the only exclusive fire insurance agency in this village, which is a notable success, has made the insurance lines a study and is regarded as one of the best adjustors of losses in this locality. He writes both plate glass and life, as well as fire insurance, though the latter is his speciality, and represents altogether the old line companies, including one liability company. His "territory" takes in a wide circle inclusive of the town of Mexico and adjacent towns. Mr. Parmelee was born at Colosse Apr. 8, 1860. Charles Parmelee, his father, of New England ancestry whose early home was in Madison county, N. Y., was born Feb. 10, 1823.

He married Apr. 6, 1847, a daughter of Fuller Richardson one of the early settlers of Mexico a stone cutter by trade who was prominent for large public work in which he engaged. Mrs. Charles Parmelee was born Aug. 27, 1827. She is now living at Union Square, this county. Her husband died March 29, 1888. They had five children, of whom there are now living Mrs. Jennie Hartson of Union Square, Charles D. Parmelee now in San Francisco, Cal., and E. J. Parmelee. The others were Alice L., born Oct. 5, 1850 and died



Borrowed Photo. E. J. PARMELEE'S INSURANCE OFFICE.



Borrowed Photo.  
WEBSTER M. RICHARDSON, Postmaster.

Nov. 5, 1897, and Grace M., born Sept. 26, 1870 and died March 15, 1885. Mr. E. J. Parmelee attended the Colosse school and the Mexico academy and was first engaged in business in Madison county. For three years he conducted a book store in this village. On Jan. 1, 1885, he started his present business with A. G. Stowell, the partnership continuing six years. Then Mr. Parmelee was in Chicago awhile. On Jan. 1, 1894, he resumed insurance in this village, continuing it ever since. He is a member of the Masonic order. By his marriage to Mary Tomrot, June 18, 1884, there are two children Grace M., born Dec. 6, 1890, and Charles T., born Nov. 4, 1897.

**Pioneers in Oswego County** in 1800 did not necessarily suffer from lack of sustenance. The road was long and arduous but led into a land of plenty, abundant in wild berries and fruits. The traders and settlers then came in from the south, Three Rivers being the only gateway whether their course was by water or land. Passing through Oneida Lake by craft with sail or drawn by horses, and down the Oneida river to Three River Point, there they found batteaux being freighted to descend to Lake Ontario or ascend the Seneca river to the great west beyond that lake. In traveling by land they followed a mere track skirting the water route.

Two years later a rough road was opened from Camden to Redfield and then on to Lake Ontario into the new town of Mexico. Then the settlers began to come in from the east, tramping along beside the ox teams which they usually employed to bring along such household necessities and implements as could not be dispensed with. Leaving Fort Stanwix for the north they plunged into the woods and after 18 miles journeying reached the little hamlet of Camden. There they entered a mere path through the woods and traveling nine miles without seeing any habitation crossed the Salmon river at Redfield, a small collection of huts, where they were offered land at \$3 an acre.

The “new road” opened up to the lake in the summer of 1802, invited them to proceed through a stretch of 25 miles of heavy timber, where they had the whole of the eastern end of Lake Ontario at their disposal the land of promise. There a “manna” in the wilderness fed them merely by gathering it during the season—berries, currants, nuts. A writer who visited that section in 1802 writes that “there were found growing wild in great plenty hops, grapes, cranberries, plums, strawberries, gooseberries, blackberries raspberries, currants, plantain, sarsaparilla, English parsley, French sorrel, peppermint, common mint, catnip, thorn apples, Indian corn, potatoes, oats and flax. Peas, beans and all kinds of production grow rank.”

**Bright Sayings.**—Mrs. Rundell saw a young woman who was nearly six feet tall, and broad accordingly. “What a waste of material,” she observed.

R. and D. were moving. The wagon loads of goods were on the road and the owners were carrying one a clock and the other a guitar. “That’s right”, said Sardinus Barnes as he met them, “tune and time go well together.”

D. was a man who knew how to carry on business successfully, although his vocabulary was peculiar. One day he made the remark, “there is so much composition now-days it is no objective to do business”, which simply meant so much competition, no object to do business.

**The Salmon River Light House** was erected in 1813 and fitted with a No. 6 lens. The old stone building with the tower in which was the light, is still standing, now owned and occupied by the proprietor of a summer hotel at that place. The light which was refitted with new lens in 1855 was abandoned in 1858. It was a fixed light, 49 feet above the water and was visible for 9 nautical miles.



Huusted, Photo.  
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS.  
Dr. S. M. Bennett, C. E. Hare.  
George H. Wilson, President.  
A. W. Richardson, Clerk. Jerome Baker, Street Commissioner.





Huested, Photo.

DORCAS SOCIETY, M. E. CHURCH.

Top Row—(Left to right) Mrs. Alvin Richardson, Miss Ella Sternburg, Miss Lena Hoese, Mrs. Anna Fish, Miss May Ramsey. Middle Row—Mrs. Maude Vorce, Miss Luella Austin, Miss Eva Stevens, Miss Mabel Wagner, Miss Etta Stone. Lower Row—Mrs. Jennie Gass, Miss Maude Dugan, Miss Mollie Miller, Miss Allie Clark, Miss Eva Henderson.

**Largest Gun in the World** was manufactured at the Watervliet arsenal and from it the first shot was fired at Sandy Hook, Jan. 17, 1903. The designers were Col. J. P. Farley, Maj. Smith and Maj. Birney of the United States Army. It is a curious co-incidence that Charles Christiansen of Troy, N. Y., the mechanic to whose skill the success of the work is due, died on the day the gun was tested, from paralysis of the brain due to overwork in its construction. The gun costing \$200,000 is sixteen-inch rifled, weighing 130 tons and carrying a maximum charge of 640 pounds of smokeless powder, sends a projectile weighing 2,400 pounds 2,306 feet per second with a pressure of 38,000 pounds to the square inch. An air cushion chamber at the breech reduces the recoil to 6½ feet. The gun which is built for coast defence can be fired to hit a vessel at the distance

of from five to seven miles and has an extreme range of twenty miles.

**A July Delicacy.**—Sea Foam Cake is made by sifting one cup of flour with one teaspoonful of cream of tartar five times; also sift one and a half cups of granulated sugar twice. Then beat the sugar with the beaten yolks of four eggs until very light and creamy. Beat the whites of eleven eggs to a stiff, dry froth; add the yolks and sugar to the whites very carefully, then add one teaspoonful of vanilla and, last, the flour. Mix thoroughly but gently and quickly as possible and turn into an ungreased angel's food tin and bake 45 minutes in a moderate oven.

**The First Road** opened in Oswego county for the passage of English pioneers was cut through to Oswego in the summer of 1756 by Sir William Johnson for which in July of that year he had obtained the desired consent from the Onondagas. Up to that time there were only footpaths leading across between Oneida and Ontario lakes and a blazed trail following the Oneida and Oswego rivers along which passage had been forced by an occasional war party or expedition. As the only post then opened in this country was Oswego the road was made to follow the earlier or river route.

**The First Mail Route** in Oswego county was established between Salina and Oswego in 1807 the year a postoffice was opened at the latter place.



Huested, Photo.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR, BAPTIST CHURCH.

Top Row—(Left to Right) Miss Grace Copp, Miss Josephine Roblison, Miss Addie Baker, Miss Grace Baker, Mrs. S. S. Bidwell, Mrs. Susan Norton, Mrs. Henry Munger. Middle Row—Charlie Hurd, Rev. S. S. Bidwell, Mrs. Herbert Adams, Miss Grace Johnston, Daniel V. Wyant, Miss Johnston, Miss Johnston, A. H. Norton, Miss Gertrude Hurd. Lower Row—Miss Julia Price, Charles Loomis, Master Adams, Mrs. D. B. Wyant.

**Members of Assembly** from Oswego County. —In 1819 and until April 12, 1822, Oswego and Oneida counties were represented in the state assembly, as one district, by five members. Then Oswego county was apportioned one member. On May 23, 1826, it was given two members. On April 13, 1857, and again on April 16, 1866, it was divided into three assembly districts and on April 23, 1879, was reduced to two districts with two representatives, the number it has now.

Prior to 1819 the territory now comprised in Oswego county was represented by the Onondaga member, Barnet Mooney, who lived in the town of Hannibal.

The complete list of those who have represented this county in the state assembly together with the years of service and the districts they respectively represented is as follows:

- Allen, Wm F, 1843-'4
- Ames, Leonard, 2nd d, 1857
- Ainsworth, Danforth E, 2nd d, 1886-'8
- Bacon, Ezekial, Oneida-Oswego, 1819
- Bacon, Josiah, Oneida-Oswego, 2nd session 1820, 1st session 1821
- Bronson, Greene C, Oneida-Oswego, 1822
- Baldwin, Wm, 1st Oswego dist, 1858
- Broekway, Beman, 3d Oswego dist, 1859
- Bowen, Benj E, 3d d, 1862
- Bulkley, Justin L, 3d, 1873-'4
- Chandler, Samuel, Oneida-Oswego, 1822
- Curtiss, Hastings, 1824
- Crowell, Jesse, 1835
- Carr, Caleb, 1837
- Curtiss, Wm P, 1 d, vice Hatch resigned, second session June 10-July 11, 1851
- Coit, James J, 2 d, 1859
- Carter, Wm H, 2 d, 1860
- Case, George M, 2 d, 1877-'8
- Cullinan, Patriek W, 1 d, 1880-'1
- Coon, S Mortimer, 1 d, 1888-'9
- Costello, Thomas M, 2nd dist. 1896—present incumbent
- Dean, jr, James, Oneida-Oswego, 1st session, 1820
- Devendorf, Peter, 1840; '42
- Duer, Wm, 1840-'1
- Drake, Reuben, 1846
- Doolittle, Benj, 1 d, 1869
- Daggett, Henry J, 3 d, 1875
- Earl, Orin R, 1847
- Frazier, Allen, Oneida-Oswego, second session 1820 and first session 1821
- Falley, George, 1829
- Fitzhugh, Henry, 1 d, 1849
- Fox, Edward W, 2 d, 1849
- Fort, Daniel G, 1 d, 1872-'3
- Giteau, Luther, Oneida-Oswego, 1819
- Greene, Thomas W, 2 d, 1872; '76
- Gibson, James T, 2 d, 1852
- Hoyt, David P, Oneida-Oswego, 1819
- Huntington, George, Oneida Oswego, 1819-'22
- Hayden, Chester, 1825
- Hart, Orris, 1827-'8
- Hubbel, Hiram, 1830
- Hawley, Samuel, 1839
- Hatch, Moses P, 1 d, 1851, resigned April 1 close of 1st session
- Hart, Edwin C, 1 d, 1852
- Howe, Henry C, 1 d, 1885-'7
- Howe, Abraham, 2 d, 1870-'1
- Helm, Byron, 2 d, 1882-'3
- Judson, Edward B, 1839; '41
- Johnson, Willard, 2 d 1862; 1873-'5
- Kirkland, Joseph, Oneida-Oswego, second session 1820 and first session 1821
- Kenyon, Robert C, 1842

- Kelsey, Robert S, 3 d, 1860
- Lasher, James D, 2 d, 1868-'9
- Loomis, Hiram W, 2 d, 1863-'4
- Lee M Lindley, 1847; 1st d, 1848
- Lewis, jr, William, 1 d, 1850
- Lewis, Benjamin, 2 d, 1854
- Littlejohn, Dewitt C, 1 d, 1853-'5; '57; '59-'61; '66-'7; '70-'1; '81
- Lewis, Thomas D, 1 d, 1830 present incumbent
- McNeil, Henry, Oneida-Oswego, 1st session 1820
- Morgan, Theophilus S, Oneida-Oswego, 1st session, 1820; Oswego dist, 1823
- McCarty, Andrew Z, 2d, 1848
- Matoon, Abner C, 1 d, 1863-'4
- McKinney, Charles, 3 d, 1867
- North, Charles, 1 d, 1878
- Pratt, Peter, Oneida-Oswego, 1822
- Perkins, Charles A, 2 d, 1853
- Palmer, Harvey, 3 d, 1863; '1
- Parker, John, 3 d, 1856; '70
- Place, John A, 1 d, 1868
- Page, Alanson S, 1 d, 1875
- Preston, John, 3 d, 1876
- Peck, DeWitt C, 3 d, 1877-'8
- Poncher, Wm A, 1 d, 1882-'3
- Root, Wm, Oneida-Oswego, 2nd session 1820 and 1st session 1821
- Robinson, Orville, 1834; '36; 1 d, 1856
- Rice, Arvin, 1838
- Richardson, John M, 1838
- Root, Elias 1 d, 1862; '65
- Rice, Wm H, 2 d, 1866-'7
- Richardson, Alvin, 3 d, 1868
- Stoddard, Israel, Oneida-Oswego, 1822
- Storrs, John, Oneida-Oswego, 1st session 1820
- Sweet, Gouverneur M, 2 d, 1884-'5
- Sage, Chauncey S, 3 d 1858; '71-'2
- Steele, Wm H, 3 d, 1879; 2nd d, 1880-'1
- Sanford, Richard K, 2 d, 1861; '65
- Skinner, Avery, 1832-'3
- Salisbury, Mason, 3 d, 1861
- Strong, Alban, 1843-'4
- Severance, Avery W, 3 d, 1865
- Skelton, Thomas, 1845
- Smith, Nathan B, 3 d, 1869
- Smith, Luke D, 2 d, 1850
- Sloane, George B, 1 d 1874; '76-'7; '79
- Selden, Jacob M, 2 d, 1855 (he was unseated in a contest with Andrew S. Warner, March 8)
- Stranahan, N N, 1 d, 1890-'2
- Selleck, W H, 2 d, 1890-'2
- Turrill, Joel, 1831
- Thayer, Luuy, 1845-'6
- Taylor, L P, 1 d, 1896-'8
- Woodruffe, Theodore, Oneida-Oswego, 1819
- Williams, George E, 2 d, 1879
- Williams, Henry, 1826
- Wart, Azariah, 2 d, 1854
- Warner, Andrew S, 2 d, (seated in a contest in place of Jacob M Selden March 8) 1855; '56
- Wolcott, John J, 2 d, 1858

**Whitney's Tavern.**—In 1837 Judge Whitney erected on the site of the present Boyd House a frame tavern and in 1851 Dr. C. D. Snell erected a brick structure using the frame part for a wing. The whole, costing \$8,500 and called the Empire House and block, was burned June 29, 1866, the proprietor then being J. D. Taylor. Earlier landlords were L. L. Dillenbeck, L. Millington and C. Tickner. It was rebuilt as at present and reopened as the Empire House March, 1867 by J. B. Taylor and George Swanson. Then followed I. B. Gillson and Capt. David Boyd, the latter giving it its present name. F. W. Conklin is the present proprietor.





Borrowed Photo.  
LEWIS MILLER.

HARRIETT E. MILLER.

**Lewis Miller**, the founder of the Miller Spring Wagon Works and inventor and designer of that famous wagon, was born Sept. 26, 1830, in Dorf Harste, by Gittingen, the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany. When 16 years old he accompanied his parents to America, landing at Quebec, thence going by steamer to Montreal and from there by canal to Troy, N. Y. The superintendent at the emigrant office at the latter place, Emory Mathews discovering that the lad was master of both the Dutch and German languages, secured his services as interpreter under indenture until he became of age, made with his parents, agreeing to pay them \$100; whereupon they proceeded to Wisconsin. At the close of navigation, the same year (1846), Mr. Mathews brought him to Mexico, where he remained in the family of Myron Evarts, Mr. Mathews' brother-in-law,

two years, attending school winter terms and doing farm work the rest of the year. On Apr. 1, 1848, he was apprenticed to Cyrus Turney, wagon maker, for \$35 and board the first year. This was doubled the second year. The third year he worked for Nims & Williamson under instructions, his salary this time being again doubled. On Dec. 7, 1852, he married Harriett Whitney a school mate. He bought the residence of James Law at the corner of Main and Washington streets and lived there fifteen years. Since then he has occupied his present residence which he purchased of

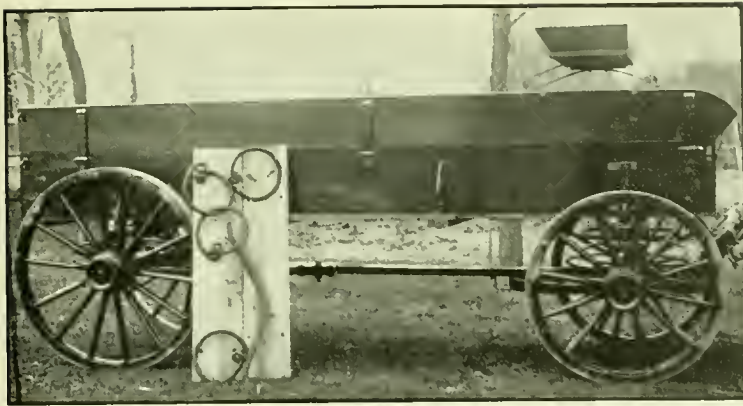
the Ames estate. Being of an inquiring and inventive turn of mind, and industrious, he learned all of the branches of the wagon and carriage business, and the year after his marriage became a partner of Mr. Nims. Nims & Miller's shop was then in the building now occupied by Herbert Adams. At the outbreak of the rebellion Mr. Miller was turning out a large number of wagons of all sorts some of which are still in use and in good condition. In 1854 he bought the old academy building, which he moved on to the lot now occupied by Henry Penfield's residence where it was permitted to stand during the winter on trucks. In the spring of 1855 he bought the lot across the street, where the factory still stands, of Orson Ames, and moved the old building on to it, converting it into a factory and securing a valuable water power privilege. The original academy was three stories high. Mr. Miller cut off the lower story and built on an addition, giving the whole edifice a uniform height. In making the sale of the old academy, the bell in the cupola was forgotten by the trustees, one of whom afterwards called on Mr. Miller and suggested that if he didn't want it (the latter claiming title to it) the trustees did. Mr. Miller returned

the bell. In 1878 the great influx of cheap factory work forced down prices and Mr. Miller with a great many wagons on hand, brought his inventive ability to bear on the difficulty, and produced the eight coil spring lumber wagon. He secured the patent in September, 1891, and formed a company to manufacture it. This is the famous Miller spring wagon, hundreds of which have been shipped all over the country, which is now being manufactured on a larger scale than ever before by Mr. George Cusack who succeeded the Miller Spring Wagon Company as owner of the plant. Mr. Miller, industrious for one of his years, can be found nearly every day around the works taking a pardonable pride in witnessing the progress of the industry which he created.



Dunwick Photo.

LEWIS MILLER'S RESIDENCE.



Dunwick, Photo. THE FAMOUS MILLER SPRING WAGON.

**The Famous Miller Spring Lumber Wagon** was patented Sept. 1, 1891, by its inventor, Lewis Miller, of Mexico, N. Y., whose name it bears. This wagon, because of its many superior qualities readily came into favor and use; and it is difficult today to sell any other wagon in competition with the Miller spring wagon. The following are a few of the many features which make this wagon so popular: It has four half-coil springs made from the best crucible steel and fully tested under each bolster, attached to the axle near the arm, also a spring running lengthwise under each bolster acting as a check-spring. This wagon with the springs, is lower than the common stiff-bolster wagon without springs. The bearing coming close to the arm and the gearing being under the axle, makes it one of the easiest drawing wagons known. The claim is made, which many will verify, that one fourth more can be drawn on a Miller spring wagon with the same power attached. All material in these wagons is carefully examined and nothing but the best used. All wide rims are riveted each side of spoke. The stakes are of malleable iron rendering them very strong as well as tasty. The wagons are made in sizes ranging from eighteen hundred to five tons capacity. They have only to be seen to be appreciated and used. G. B. Cusack, formerly of

Clifford, N. Y., came to Mexico in October, 1901, to take the management of the manufacture of these wagons.

**Boylston Tract** was a sub-division of the big McCormick and Macomb purchase patented for Samuel Ward Dec. 18, 1792 and contained 817,155 acres in Jefferson, Lewis and the northern part of Oswego counties. The purchase was made by Ward as an agent for Thomas Boylston. That part lying in Oswego county was reconveyed to

Constable four years later. Boylston had the tract surveyed and divided into the following townships: Redfield (the north part of the present town of Redfield), Arcadia (the south part of Redfield), Campania (now Boylston), Longinus (now Orwell), Rhodamont (now Sandy Creek, the north part of Richland and one corner of Albion) and Mimos (now Ellisburgh, Jefferson county).

**Judge Avery Skinner** was identified in the pioneer history of Mexico. In 1822 he settled at Union Square where he died Nov. 24, 1876. He gave the place its name, erected the first tavern, established a mail route, was appointed the first postmaster, serving until his death. In 1831 and again in 1832 he was elected member of assembly and from 1838 to 1842 was state senator. He was also county treasurer for 12 years and was one of the judges in the county court for 11 years.

**Normal Schools of the State.** — Albany, opened 1844, William J. Milne, president; Oswego, 1863, I. B. Poncher, principal; Brockport, 1867, D. Eugene Smith; Fredonia, 1868, Francis B. Palmer; Cortland, 1869, Francis J. Cheney; Potsdam, 1869, Thomas B. Stowell; Buffalo, 1871, James M. Cassety; Geneseo, 1871, John M. Milne; New Paltz, 1886, Frank S. Capen; Oneonta, 1889, Percy L. Bingham; Plattsburg, 1890, G. K. Hawkins; Jamaica, 1897, A. C. McLachlan.



From Old Print.

THE HOME OF THE MILLER SPRING WAGON.





Borrowed Photo. ASA L. SAMPSON.

**Asa Lewis Sampson** was born in this town December 13, 1828, and his whole life was passed in this immediate vicinity. He has been intimately identified with the prosperity and progress of this community, and gave his best efforts to its welfare. He died at his own home Jan. 10, 1903, in the seventy-fifth year of his age. His father, George Sampson, was a native of Massachusetts and died in this town. His father was a substantial farmer, and in the intervals of gaining a good common school education the son was inured to the same honorable pursuit. He taught school winters to gain funds for his support and education. His mother Luey (Davis) Sampson, was a descendant from Puritan stock.

Mr. Sampson was a republican in politics and has filled many positions of trust and responsibility in town and county and always proved himself fully equal to every position in which he was placed. He represented this town in the board of supervisors for ten years, and was chairman of the board for four years. He was one of the most influential members of that body. He was first

elected supervisor in 1876. As a public officer he was efficient and devoted to the interests of the town.

He was fond of agricultural pursuits and his life was largely spent on the farm. First and last he stood for the best interests of the farmer. He was one of the organizers of the Oswego County Fire Insurance Company, established in the interests of the grange and was its efficient secretary for twenty-five years. Intelligent and practical, he was never given to pomp and dis-



Borrowed Photo. DR. E. S. SAMPSON.

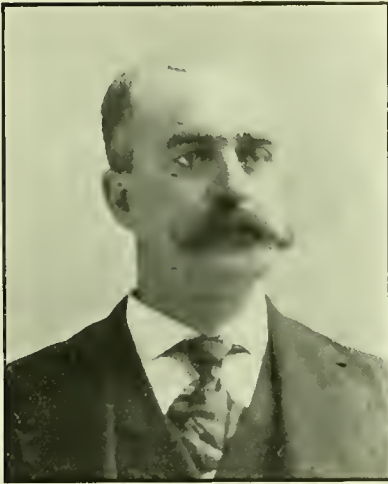
play. Honest, energetic and self made, he was always strong with the people.

He was a warm friend of Mexico Academy, and for a long period was a faithful member of the old board of trustees of that institution. In early life he was for many years one of the trustees of the historic old Pratham church, the site of whose place of worship was on the bleak and stony hill just west of Prattville. Since the dissolution of the old church Mr. Sampson attended the Presbyterian church in this village of which he was a member and one of the trustees at the time of his death.

Mr. Sampson was married to Elvira H. Porter in 1852. His wife died Sept. 1st, 1896. He was the father of eight children, two of whom, Arthur L. and Alfred P., are dead. The surviving children are Ernest S., William A., George H. and Charles E., all of Mexico, N. Y., Orville A., of Troy, Pa., and Mrs. Martha L. Wilson of Shortsville, N. Y. In his death his children lose a fond, indulgent father and the town loses a prominent citizen who will long be missed in all business circles.



Dunwick, Photo. DR. E. S. SAMPSON'S RESIDENCE.



Borrowed Photo.  
GEORGE H. SAMPSON.

**Ernest S. Sampson, M. D.** was born in Mexico, N. Y., March 31, 1856. His early life was spent on his father's farm near Mexico, baring a good'y part of it that was devoted to obtaining the foundation of an education in the country school. When he outgrew the common school he went to Mexico and entered the academy, graduating from that institution in 1877. Subsequently he engaged in tea hing during the winter while in summer he was employed at various occupations to accumulate a fund to aid him in the further prosecution of his studies. He had become inspired with the idea of a professional life, and it was to this end that he labored and studied. In the fall of 1877 he went to Anrora, Ill, and entered the office of Dr. Abner Hard, a prominent physician and former army surgeon of high standing. About a year later he returned to Mexico and resumed the study of medicine with Dr. George P. Johnson. In 1880 he entered the Albany Medical College obtaining the degree of M. D. in 1882. Thus he prepared himself for a professional life in which he has achieved sub-

stantial success. Dr. Sampson was the son of Asa L. Sampson and was the second of a family of eight children. He practiced medicine in North Syracuse, N. Y. from 1882 until the fall of 1899 when he moved back to Mexico, N. Y., where he now resides. In August, 1895, Dr. Sampson married Miss Ruth Tompkins, daughter of Henry and Emily Tompkins, then of Cigarville, N. Y. They now have four children, Ruth Emily, Ralph Everet, Marion Elvira and Martha Bessie. Dr. Sampson is a member of the Onondaga Co.



Borrowed Photo. CHARLES E. SAMPSON.

Medical Society, has been health physician several terms, and active in republican politics in the northern part of Onondaga county. He is a Past Master in the Masonic order and is now a member of Mexico Lodge, No 136. He is now the acting Noble Grand in Orient Lodge No. 168, F. O. O. F., and examining physician in Mexico Tent of Maccabees No 731. Dr. Sampson is also interested in music, has sung in a number of choirs and is now the leader of the Methodist choir. His residence is on Washington street, Mexico, N. Y.

**George Hayden Sampson**, who is one of the popular and most experienced mail clerks on the Northern New York railway postal lines, has his home in Mexico. On a farm in this town he was born July 17, 1860, and was educated in the Mexico academy, he like all farmer boys, having had the experience of farm work in his youth. On Jan. 2, 1884, he was appointed postal clerk between Ogdensburg and Rome. Two year later, Jan. 7, 1886, he married Hattie R. House. After running over the long railway mail route upon which he was first placed for some time his trips were changed so that now he is running between



Dunwick, Photo. GEORGE H. SAMPSON'S RESIDENCE.





W. H. PENFIELD.

Utica and Massena Springs. Mr. Sampson's second wife to whom he was married Sept. 26, 1901, was Miss Minnie C. Drake. His three children, all by his first wife, are Harold, Roy and Mildred. Mr. Sampson is a member of the Masonic lodge of Mexico.

**Charles E. Sampson**, the youngest of the sons of the late Asa L. Sampson now living, and the owner of the old homestead, was born on a farm in the town of Mexico July 27, 1864. After leaving school—the Mexico academy—he taught for awhile in various districts in this and Jefferson counties. Then, upon his father's death he came into possession of the old homestead which dates back in the family to his grandfather. This is one of the best dairy farms in this locality, which is being improved by Mr. Sampson. Here is located one of the famed sugar bushes the product of which is annually sold in the highest priced markets. Mr. Sampson is a member of the Masons and Odd Fellows.

**The First Banking Venture** in Mexico was that of O. H. Whitney, who was succeeded by Cyrus Whitney & Timothy W. Skinner. In 1855 Stone, Ames & Co. located a bank in the upper part of Geo. W. Stone's building. They were succeeded by Chandler & Ames who in turn were succeeded by Luther H. Conklin. George G. French afterwards came from the Second National bank at Oswego and opened a private bank. All of these ventures were at last wound up.

**W. H. Penfield**, who is one of the leading undertakers in this part of the county, was born in Mexico, Mar. 30, 1841. His father, William Penfield, a blacksmith by trade, came here from Connecticut about 1837 or '38 and for several years in company with his brother manufactured stage coaches which was a prominent industry in the village, these coaches being sold in all sections of the country. He died in 1894. W. H. Penfield attending school at Mexico, worked in the shop until about 1866, excepting the time he was in the army, when he was appointed the Mexico agent for the American express company, a position he held for about 28 years; at the same time running the bus line to and from the railroad station. In 1877 he bought out the undertaking business of William Ely.

In 1866 he opened the first coal yard in the village, a business which he conducted during the time he was express agent and which he disposed of to Earl Taylor. After occupying several locations in the village he moved his undertaking business into the building which he erected for that purpose on the Wayne street lot adjoining his residence. He procured new hearses and wagons of modern make and a full line of the best equipments. He is a practical embalmer with an experience of 25 years. The building with its large store and ware rooms is especially adapted to the needs of his business. Mr. Penfield is a member of Melzar Richards Post, G. A. R., having served two years in the war of the rebellion as a musician. He has served as trustee of the village two or three years.

**The First Regular Hotel** in Mexico village was erected on the site of the Mexico House by Matthias Whitney in 1823, and was succeeded by a better building which was burned July 22, 1864, while being conducted by Albin Meyers. Previous to the latter the landlords were A. S. Chamberlin, Chamberlin & Robbins and J. B. Taylor. The hotel was rebuilt in 1865 and reopened by Ira Biddlecome, landlord who in 1886 was followed by J. B. Davis. In January, 1867 it passed into the hands of C. S. Mayo, whose name it bore several years.



Dunwick, Photo.

W. H. PENFIELD'S RESIDENCE.



Borrowed Photo.

GEORGE D. BABCOCK.

**George D. Babcock**, whose home is in Mexico but who is attached in an official capacity to the Department of Agriculture of this state with headquarters at Albany, is a lifelong democrat, a man whose life has been active and who has been considerably well known in the political affairs of Northern New York. Mr. Babcock was a personal friend of the late Gov. Roswell P. Flower, but his fidelity to public service has been recognized by others than Mr. Flower. Under Gov. Hill he received an appointment placing him in the state forestry department, where after a year's service he resigned to accept his present position in the department which was then in charge of J. K. Brown. When F. C. Schraub and afterwards Mr. C. A. Weiting was made Commissioner of Agriculture, though the latter was a republican Mr. Babcock was retained by both commissioners. The duty imposed upon him is that of seeing that the agricultural laws are enforced. During President Cleveland's first term Mr. Babcock served as postmaster of Mexico. Before his removal to this village he was engaged in mercantile life in Watertown. Afterwards, for ten years, he in company with his brother, H. H. Babcock, manufactured pumps in that city, an industry which the former continued for some years in the village. Among other public positions which have been filled by Mr. Babcock are those of village trustee and assessor. In May, 1861, he married Miss Mary E.

O'Neill. By this marriage there were five children, all living.

Mr. Babcock is a zealous supporter of the Episcopal church of this village and is one of its most active members

**District Attorneys.**—This office was created throughout the state Apr. 4, 1801, there being seven districts, regardless of county lines. By an act of Apr. 1818, each county was given a separate district attorney. Prior to 1801, by an act of Feb. 12, 1796, seven deputies of the attorney general, each assigned to a district, served in that capacity. The incumbents in Oswego county and dates beginning their terms or years they served:—James F. Wright, Oswego, Apr. 17, 1820; Samuel B. Beach, Oswego, Feb. 09, 1821; David P. Brewster, Oswego, 1829-35; Abraham P. Grant, Oswego, 1836-'40; Orville Robinson, Mexico, 1841-'2; Leander Babcock, Oswego, 1843-'4; Wm. Duer, Oswego, 1845-'6; Ransom H. Tyler, Fulton, June, 1847-'50; John B. Higgins, Oswego, 1851-'3; Archibald N. Ludington, Fulton, 1854-'6; John C. Churchill, Oswego, 1857-'9; George G. French, Mexico, 1860-'2; William H. Baker, Constmtia, 1863-'5; app. vice Huntington resigned 1866; elected and served 1867-'9; Sylvanus C. Huntington, Pulaski, 1866 (served only a few months and resigned); Newton W. Nutting, Oswego, 1870-'2; John J. Lamoree, Oswego, 1873-'8; Benjamin F. Chase, Oswego, 1879-'81; Nathan B. Smith, Pulaski, 1882-'4; Sheldon B. Mead, Fulton, 1885-'7; Merriek Stowell, Oswego, 1888-'90; Charles W. Avery, Phenix, 1891-'3; Nevada N. Stranahan, Fulton, 1894-'6; Udelle Bartlett, Sandy Creek, 1897-1902; Wm. B. Baker, Oswego, 1903—present incumbent.

**First Court of Common Pleas**, first jury district Oswego county, was held at the school house in the village of Mexico. Peter D. Huginn and Edmund Hawks were presiding judges and Daniel Hawks, jr., was assistant judge. Luther Badger, Abraham Van Vosburgh, John Grant, jr., and Thomas French were admitted to practice law; the first lawyers admitted to practice in the new county.



Dunwick, Photo.

GEORGE D. BABCOCK'S RESIDENCE.





Huested, Photo. JEROME BAKER.

**Jerome E. Baker**, the street commissioner of the village of Mexico, was born in the town of Onondaga, Onondaga Co., N. Y., April 8, 1854, his home being near the city of Syracuse. His parents, William Z. and Aurilla Amanda Baker, were prosperous Vermont pe ple. In 1859 they move to Butterfly, Oswego Co. In 1867 and '68 Jerome Baker attended the Mexico academy and upon leaving school went away from home to learn trade. A short time after he began manufacturing, a business he has engaged in for some years. On Oct. 22, 1872, he married Nellie J., the daughter of Frank and Malitta Valentine, of the town of New Haven, Oswego Co., a union which is blessed with two children, May and Frank, both students at the Syracuse University. The following year, 1873, Mr. and Mrs. Baker took up their home at Greenwood, Mo., going to Fulton, N. Y., to live in 1874 and in 1876 to Hudson, Mich., in 1881 they took up their residence in Palermo, N. Y. and lived there until 1884 when he returned to Mexico, where he has resided ever since. Mr. Baker, a democrat, prominent in the Cleveland wing of the party, is a member of the democratic county committee, a post he has occupied with credit to himself and party since 1886, except during an interval of two years. He has been active as a delegate at state and county conventions. From 1887 to 1889 he was deputy collector of customs at Port Ontario and in July, 1895, was appointed postmaster of

Mexico by President Cleveland, an office he held four years. Mr. Baker has always been a zealous supporter of village improvements and as street commissioner where he is serving the second term, has aimed to carry out the policy of maintaining good streets for which Mexico is noted. He served as village president in 1901 but declined a second term, and the following year served as village trustee, appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Osborn. Mr. Baker erected the post office building and that occupied by the Aeopagus club in 1897. He is a charter member of that club and a member of the Mexico Lodge No. 135, F. & A. M.

**Chicken Served** in the most appetizing way:—Three pints of cold boiled chicken, three hard boiled eggs, three heaping tablespoonsful of flour that has been browned in the oven, half a pint of chicken stock, one pint of good rich milk, one wine glass of Madeira, one even teaspoonful of salt, a pinch of cayenne pepper, one half teaspoonful of mace and one cup of butter. Mince the chicken fine, rub the eggs through a fine sieve, melt the butter in a large stew pan and add the flour. Next add the stock and milk which has been scalded, then the chicken in which all the seasoning has been well mixed and the eggs; cook slowly half an hour on the back of stove. Just before serving add the wine. This is to be served on brown toast and will serve twenty persons.

**Trout Delicious** is the proper term for serving as follows:—Dress half a dozen brook trout, weighing about four ounces each, without destroying shape. Fill with a fish force-meat and secure the slit made in dressing. Brush over with melted butter or with olive oil, pieces of paper and put a very thin shaving of salt pork in the center of each, with a trout above it, dust with salt and pepper, then fold and fasten it closely with a string. Bake about twenty minutes in a slow oven, remove the string and serve in the papers, serve at the same time Hollandaise, Bechamel or tomato sauce. Other fish may be cooked in the same manner.



Dunwick, Photo.

JEROME BAKER'S RESIDENCE.



Borrowed Photo.  
BENJAMIN S. STONE.

**B. S. Stone & Co.**—There is no one who has for so many consecutive years been a resident of this village as B. S. Stone, and probably no man in Oswego county whose business career goes back as far, and there are few who have been more highly respected for sterling worth and unquestioned integrity. Mr. Stone was born in Bridport, Vermont, Mar. 26, 1821, and came to Mexico with his parents, Isaac and Lydia Stone, who made the journey by wagon with their six children, of whom Benjamin was the fourth, in the fall of 1826. Reared on a farm, with all the privations and hardships that that implied in those days, with little opportunity to gratify his desire for an education, at the age of seventeen he entered upon a clerkship in the general store of Peter Chandler, the merchant prince of the town, with whom he remained until that gentleman's retirement in 1843, from the business, S. H. & B. S. Stone succeeding him. In 1857 this partnership was dissolved, and B. S. Stone and S. A. Tuller engaged in the hardware and stove trade in the old town hall building which stood on the corner now occupied by R. T. Simpson's store. In 1862 their building burned and they bought the

store standing where the present building of B. S. Stone & Co. does. Mr. Tuller withdrew after the fire of 1864, which ruined them, as well as every other business on the south side, into the street. In 1865 the store was rebuilt and J. R. Stone, a younger brother, took an interest in the business, his death in 1868 dissolving the firm of B. & J. Stone. Later the firm became B. S. Stone & Co., Edward T. Stone, the present proprietor, taking an active interest in the business, which he has successfully managed for many years. In 1882 fire again burned the firm out, and the same year the present building was erected.

In 1846 Mr. Stone married Sarah E. Chester, and they began housekeeping in the little house on Church street now occupied by Elon Van Sickle, which then stood where E. L. Huntington's fine residence is. In 1850 he built and moved into the house on Spring street which has since been the family homestead. He has four sons living: Walter C., proprietor of the Advance Journal, Camden, N. Y.; Edward T., of B. S. Stone & Co.; Dr. William G., of Montclair, N. J.; and Rev. Carlos H., Ph. D., proprietor of Cornwall Heights school, Cornwall-on-Hudson, N. Y. His wife died in 1861 and two years later he married Mrs. Ellen S. Boyle, who died in 1895. Mr. Stone has never been active in politics, though a staunch republican since the organization of the party, but has been called to many positions of honor and public trust. A member of the Presbyterian church since young manhood, for the greater part of the time he has been a member of the board of trustees, and for many years one of the session. A member of the board of trustees of Mexico Academy for over fifty years and president for nearly twenty, he was most prominent in the erection of the present building, estimating its cost, and what is noteworthy in these days, completed it within the estimate. He has several times served as village trustee, and for thirty years was prominently identified with the Mexico Cemetery association. He was from its foundation a trustee of the Oswego County Savings Bank and for many years one of its vice presidents. Always an active, energetic man, in April, 1899, he was stricken with paralysis which affected the right side, rendering him comparatively help-



Husted, Photo.

B. S. STONE & CO.'S STORE.





Dunwick, Photo. J. T. BROWN'S HARNESS SHOP.

less; but mentally he is clear headed and maintains his interest in the current events of the day, in spite of his eighty-two years, with as much zest as many a younger man.

Edward T. Stone was born in Mexico April 23, 1853. His education was acquired in the common schools and Mexico Academy, and at an early age he became salesman in his father's store. Later he had an interest in the firm, and finally became sole proprietor, although retaining the old well-known firm name. In 1875 he married Nettie Warren, and they have three sons: Rev. Warren S., pastor of the Presbyterian church, Le Roy, N. Y.; Chester T. and Donald E. in school. Mr. Stone is a member of the board of trustees of the Presbyterian church and of Mexico Lodge No. 136, F. & A. M.

**Samuel Hubbard Stone** was born in Bridgport, Vt., March 6, 1818. He was the oldest of twelve children, and in 1826 the family emigrated overland. It was their original intention to go farther west, but stopping in Mexico en route, they located there permanently. Mr. Stone's mother was a delicate woman of sweet and gentle nature, whose religious faith and temperament were strongly developed. From her he took the strong element of Christian faith which pervaded his life. From his father, Isaac Stone, he doubtless inherited the more rugged qualities which enabled him to meet the necessity of making his own way in the world. When but a boy of fifteen he obtained a position in the store of Starr Clark and started upon the commercial career which he

followed for over half a century. After a few years in the capacity of clerk for Mr. Clark, he attended Mexico academy for a short course of study. Soon after leaving school he obtained a position in the store of Peter Chandler, then the leading business man and capitalist in this region. Here his faithful, energetic industry and keen business ability soon made him a favorite with his employer, whose affection and confidence he retained throughout Mr. Chandler's life. Mr. Stone was made one of the executors of Mr. Chandler's will. In 1843 S. H. and B. S. Stone bought out

Mr. Chandler and S. H. Stone carried on the same business in the same place for many years and was still not rested in it, as conducted by his brother, George W. Stone, at the time of his death.

The leading trait of Mr. Stone's character was uncompromising honesty. He had no patience with underhanded methods and was intolerant of the slightest deviation from the line of truth. This will explain the biting, sarcastic epigrams which he applied to anyone whom he suspected of trickery. The public appreciation of his own worth in this respect was shown by the many positions of trust which he occupied. At the age of thirty he was elected treasurer of Oswego county, holding the office during two terms. He was also administrator of the estate of Levi Downing, and his counsel was sought by many who had confidence in him as a business man. For over thirty years he was treasurer of the Board of Trustees of Mexico Academy, an institution in which he was always warmly interested, and for



Husted, Photo. STEVENS BROTHERS' PLANING MILL AND WOOD WORKING PLANT.



Dunwick, Photo. JED HAGER'S LAUNDRY AND RESIDENCE.

whose behalf he freely spent his time and money, being one of the largest contributors towards the erection of the present academy building. He was a prominent member and liberal contributor of the Presbyterian church of Mexico for more than fifty years. Personally he was a man of strong friendships and strong prejudices; generous impulses, quick intuitions and accurate in his judgment of human nature. He told a story well, had a keen sense of humor and greatly enjoyed the social side of life.

No sketch of Mr. Stone's career, however, can be complete without mention of his wife, to whose rare judgment, discretion and prudence he always and proudly attributed much of what success he enjoyed. She was Rhoda Ann, eldest daughter of Sophronia Kellogg and Luke Butterfield. She was born in 1821, on a farm east of the village and lived always in Mexico. Her father died when she was six years old; and when at the age of fifteen she was also left motherless, she cared for the younger members of the family, sustaining to them the part of a mother as well as sister and housekeeper. The following years were spent in the family of her maternal grandparents, Martin and Rhoda Smith Kellogg. Through the interest and assistance of her uncle, the late Rev. Lewis Kellogg, she received an excellent education, completing it at the Emma Willard school in Troy, and at the college in connection with her teaching at Oberlin, Ohio. She taught successfully for several years and in June, 1844, was married to Mr. Stone. Their life together was one of mutual confidence and happiness and their home was crowned with a broad spirit of hospitality enjoyed by many who will still recall their loyalty and strong attachment to

their friends, a trait very prominent in them both. Mrs. Stone was an active and devoted member of the Presbyterian church.

A woman of strong character, broad and considerate charity; even, cool and gentle in her temper and judgment of others. It was a great joy to her that in later life she was able, to some extent to minister to those who had in the trials and sadness which tinged her girlhood days, contributed so generously of sympathy and the guidance of her education. Mr. and Mrs. Stone had four children, two of whom preceded their mother in the last silent journey. Those remain-

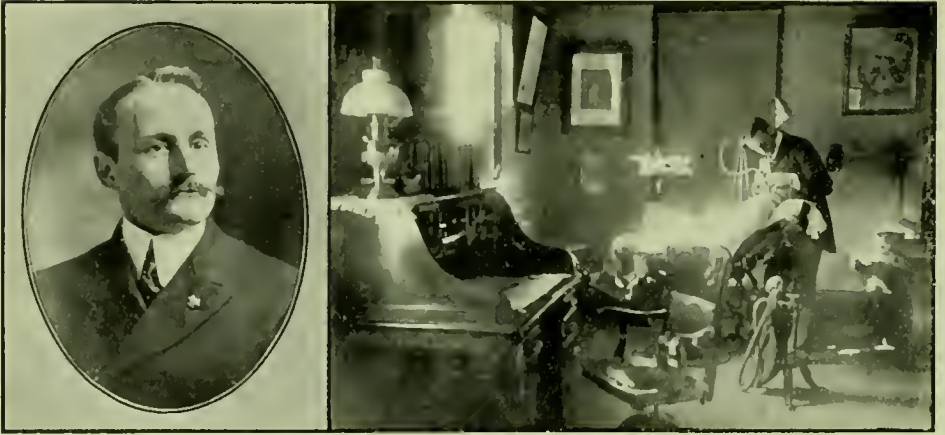
ing are Charles L. Stone of Syracuse, N. Y., and Mrs. F. H. Peck, of Utica, N. Y. They count as their chief blessing the heritage of such parents and rejoice to know that their declining years were made bright by the devoted love and appreciation of their children. Both Mr. and Mrs. Stone were permitted to live to the end in the home they loved so well. Mr. Stone died Jan. 20, 1887, and Mrs. Stone followed him on the 13th of June, 1892, at the family residence in Church street.

**The Old Postoffice** Corner, now Ballard's store, was for a long time the gathering place of men of all parties and creeds who stood in groups discussing events of the day, waiting for the evening mail. This was during stirring times leading up to the war of '61. There gathered the hard shells and soft shells, the hunkers and barn burners, the silver greys and the abolitionists. The chief actors in these discussions were the racy Downing, the suave Smith, the quiet Butler (the postmaster), the positive Bowen, the witty Dayton, the Pecks, the Conklins and the Whitneys.



Dunwick, Photo. R. L. HOUGHTON'S WAGON AND BLACKSMITH SHOP.





H. W. WHITNEY. (Husted.)

INTERIOR OF HIS DENTAL ROOMS. (Borrowed.)

**Dr. H. W. Whitney**, the well known and successful dentist of this village, was born in Mexico, July 17, 1873, and in 1895 was graduated at the military school which was then being conducted in connection with the Mexico academy. The next year he entered dentistry under the instruction of a capable dentist where he obtained the experience connected with an extended practice covering a period of four or five years. Then he took a course in one of the leading dental institutions in the country, the College of Dental Surgery at Buffalo, N. Y., where in May, 1901, he received his diploma. Coming to Mexico he opened an office in the Dobson building which he fitted up in appropriate style and where, equipped to carry on the practice in a successful manner, in June, 1901, he began a business that has since steadily increased. On Aug. 6, 1902, he married Mary M. Sandhovel of Mexico, a graduate of the Syracuse University and for some time a popular teacher in the Mexico academy.

Dr. Whitney is descended from a family which came to Mexico early in the settlement of the town and his father, George B. Whitney, was among the large wool growers who flourished here years ago. His grandfather, James R. Whitney, was a brother of Judge Whitney, a distinguished jurist of Oswego county many years ago.

**Original Owners** of Mexico village.—This thriving village stands on ground which was formerly the site of five or six large and productive farms. That part of the village lying east of Salmon Creek and known as the east hill, was largely owned by Peter Chandler, Phineas Davis, sr., and Dr. C. D. Snell. That part of the village south of Main street, through which Church, South Jefferson and Washington streets run, was known as the Butler farm and was cut up into village lots by Nathaniel Butler, Orville Robinson and Luther S. Conklin. That portion north of Main street from the Boyd House and Webb Bloek northberly to the railroad depot and northwesterly to Mill street, was once the large farm of John Ames and afterwards owned by Calvin Goodwin and Dr. Benjamin E. Bowen. Through the old farm now run North Jefferson, Fayette, Clinton, Cemetery and Railroad streets. A large portion of the village west of Black Creek originally comprised the farms of John Howard, Leonard Ames, sr., Veeder Green, Shubal Alfred, Norman Jones and Orson Ames.

**The State Road** from Onondaga Hill to Ox Creek and Oswego was put through this county in 1807. It was six rods wide. The Rome and Oswego plank road was completed to the latter place in 1818.



MR. AND MRS. WHITNEY'S HOME. (Dunwick.)

MRS. H. W. WHITNEY.



Dunwick. Photo.

B. W. POND'S STORE.

**Herbert H. Dobson** was born in Coxsackie, Greene Co., N. Y., Nov. 25, 1840. His father, William Dobson, was for years a conspicuous river captain on the Hudson, a great friend of the late P. T. Barnum, whose shows during the early period of that great showman's career Mr. Dobson carried up the river on his boats. In 1845 he moved his family to Constantia where he first worked a farm and in 1862 or '3 put up a canning factory which he operated several years. In that village Herbert spent his boyhood days attending school and working in the factory, which he conducted for two years. Then he began the study of dentistry in the office of Dr. Van Valkenburgh at Camden, N. Y. Afterwards he practiced his profession in West Camden, Cleveland and Constantia and on Sept 1, 1866, opened an office in this village over H. C. Peck's store where he successfully practiced twenty years. Then he put in a stock of jewelry and watches, selling and repairing, and finally built the block where he opened his present store and greatly enlarged his stock of goods, to which he added a line of bicycles. Af-

ter his removal he sold out his dental practice. Mr. Dobson who has engaged in several financial enterprises, in all of them controlled by himself has made a success by reason of his business ability and foresight. He invested in the Miller spring wagon company of which he was an incorporator and the secretary. At one time he alone ventured into the manufacture of wagons and made it pay him well. He is a Mason of high standing having filled all of the offices in the blue lodge, except Master, and served as secretary of the Chapter 26 years. His masonic connections, making him widely known in masonic circles,

are the following: Mexico Lodge No. 136, F. & A. M.; Mexico Chapter No. 135, R. A. M.; Central City Council No. 13, R. & S. M., and Lake Ontario Commandery No. 32, K. T. He is also a member of Media Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S. He is a prominent republican in the councils of the party of the county and is chairman of the republican town committee. On Dec. 18, 1867, he married Maria M. Thomas of Mexico, and they have one daughter, Florence.

**Special County Judges**, (three years terms; years they served)—

- Benjamin F. Rhodes, Pulaski, 1855-'7.
- Dennis D. McCoon, Schreppel, 1858-'60.
- De Witt C. Peck, Mexico, 1861-'3.
- James W. Fenton, Pulaski, 1864-'9; '82-'7.
- Andrew Z. McCarty, Pulaski, 1870-'2.
- John Preston, Pulaski, 1873-'5; '79-'81; '88-'93.
- Henry A. Brainard, Schreppel, 1876-'8.
- Irving G. Hubbs, Pulaski, 1894-'99.
- F. J. Davis, Pulaski, 1900—present incumbent.



DOBSON'S JEWELRY STORE AND BICYCLE REPAIR SHOP. (Husted.)

H. H. DOBSON. (Borrowed.)





JOHN C. TAYLOR. (Borrowed Photo.)

J. C. TAYLOR. (Huested, Photo.)

**John C. Taylor** was born at Litchfield, Herkimer Co., Feb. 25, 1831. When a child of four years of age he came to Mexico with his father, David P. Taylor, and spent the remainder of his life here—a period of over half a century. He was educated at Mexico academy and when graduated taught school for several years. Oct. 29, 1856, he married Anne J. Hooker, of Sandy Creek, and a short time after bought the place known at present as the Dewey farm then owned by his father. After several years spent in farming he moved into town, bought a store and engaged in the drug trade which business he followed until the time of his death which occurred Dec. 6, 1887. He was a man of particularly correct business habits and was largely identified with the growth of the town, holding many positions of trust and responsibility. He was elected supervisor in 1868 and re-elected in 1869. He took great interest in educational matters being frank and outspoken in giving voice to his convictions on all questions, taking his position boldly and daring to maintain it in the face of all opposition.

**John Curtiss Taylor**, the present owner of Taylor's Pharmacy, was born in Mexico, April 6, 1874, and upon the death of his father, which occurred in 1887, bent his energies towards securing an education which would enable him to carry on the business so well established. In 1893 he graduated from the New York College of Pharmacy and came home prepared to take up the business which in his absence had of necessity been in the hands of those not personally interested, and under whose management the business had sadly depreciated. It took many months of hard work to regain the patronage the store has so long enjoyed. Mr. Taylor made many changes in the store and added new lines. A large, modern soda fountain was added; the store was remodeled, large plate glass windows put in, a system of water through-

out the building, also a hot water system installed for heating the entire building. Last year Mr. Taylor equipped a modern ice cream plant—large power freezers and ice crusher, the power being furnished by a 2½ horse gasoline engine in the cellar, also apparatus for turning out brick cream. Today Mr. Taylor has a thoroughly up-to-date pharmacy, fully stocked and equipped for doing a large business. Besides drugs he handles a large line of paints, also bicycles and bicycle sundries, cameras and a complete stock of photographic supplies. In 1895 Mr. Taylor married Miss Nellie Devel, of Sterling Valley, N. Y. They have four children—two sons and two daughters. Mr. Taylor is a prominent member of the local masonic order and in politics is recognized as a staunch republican.

**Memories of an Historic Hotel.**—The oldest hotel now standing in the town of Mexico is at Union Square. It was built in 1823 by Judge Avery Skinner. During the entire life of this ancient hostelry it has been usually well kept. There the weary traveler found a full larder and a pleasant home. There the beauty and chivalry of the town frequently congregated. It has seen jolly times and famous old characters were once jovial patrons of its bar. Before the days of the railroads it was the headquarters of the leading political men of the county. Being located near the geographical center of the county, for a long period the county and district conventions of the great political parties were held there and its venerable walls have silently witnessed the making and breaking of many political slates. Many aspiring candidates have been there quietly beheaded in the political guillotine. In the good old days balls, receptions, banquets and political conferences without number were held at this house. The most famous politicians of the county at one time made the old place more or less their headquarters and resort. When political matters were booming and conventions were being held such leading men as Avery Skinner, Orville Robinson, Wm. F. Allen, Delos DeWolf, Willard Johnson, A. P. Grant, G. A. Dayton, L. D. Smith, J. B. Higgins, G. G. French, James A. Clark, Joel Turrill, D. P. Brewster, E. B. Talcott, Peter Devendorf, O. H. Whitney, Starr Clark, Norman



Huested, Photo. J. C. TAYLOR'S DRUG STORE.

Rowe, Wm. Duer, Henry Fitzhugh, D. C. Littlejohn, A. Z. McCarty, Elias Brewster and many other prominent men of the county were at times familiar figures in and around the old hotel. Here occurred over half a century ago that great struggle for the nomination for Congress between Gen. R. C. Kenyon and Leander Babcock which finally terminated in the selection of Mr. Babcock. This battle left more dead and wounded on the field than any political fight in the county before or since. Nearly all the prominent men that were wont to gather at the old inn fifty years ago, moulding and directing the politics of the county, have passed over to the silent majority. The glorious uncertainties of politics and elections trouble them no longer.

**Aaron Killam** was born in 1773 in Temple, N. H. He was a descendant of Gov. John Endicott also of Austin Killam who came to Wenham, Mass., from his ancestral town of Killam, Eng., in the middle of the seventeenth century. He was the third settler in Peru, Vt. During his residence there he was circuit judge of Bennington county for some time; also served several years as a member of the legislature. He came to Mexico, N. Y., in 1823, settling on a farm about a mile north of the village, which is now a part of the village corporation. The house which he built is still standing and the farm is still owned by one of the family. He was a man of rigid integrity; public spirited and devoted to the welfare of the community and the church; a man of great pride and strong personality. He died in 1850 leaving two sons and two daughters of whom Clarinda Killam Aldrich and Aaron Killam make their home in Mexico.

**Aaron Killam Jr.** was born in Peru, Vt., in 1807 and came with his father to Mexico and helped to clear and till the farm. Later he married Elizabeth Ames and seven children were born to them. Although residing on a farm, he employed farm hands and followed his vocation that of draughtsman and mechanic, having built some of the finest churches and bridges of his time. The present M. E. church and other buildings in the town testify to his good workmanship. At one time he owned largely of real estate having farms, and milling property in this and adjoining towns. He was essentially a self made man for his school days ended at the age of 16 but he possessed an unusually apt talent for mathematics and in his early life he formed classes in arithmetic, teaching them at night. One of his scholars was the late Virgil Douglass, who afterwards had the position of principal in the Oswego High school for years. In politics he was a staunch republican

and was ever ready to battle for what he considered right in his politics or his religion. His extensive reading and excellent memory combined with his keen wit made him a strong adversary. A well balanced mind and good judgment gave him the unsought office of universal arbitrator in neighborhood controversies and the settling of estates his decisions being practical, just and gratuitous. In religion he was a Universalist, like his father before him, and one of the principal factors in the building of that church here. In the latter part of his life he was a land surveyor; was village assessor several years and at the time of his death was serving his twenty-sixth year as town assessor. He died in 1873. His youngest son John died while in the navy during the civil war. His living children are Lydia Dickerman of Oswego, Stratton Killam of Syracuse, Lotie Ames of Minnesota and Laura Roberts of Mexico.

**Special Surrogates** (three year terms; years they served)

William Sanders, Cleveland, 1855-57.



Husted, Photo. INTERIOR VIEW OF J. C. TAYLOR'S DRUG STORE.

- Joshua B. Randall, Hastings, 1858-'63.
- William W. Scribner, Oswego, 1864-'6.
- Francis David, Schreppel, 1867-'72.
- William H. Kenyon, Schreppel, 1873-'5.
- N. B. Smith, Pulaski, 1876-'8.
- Arvin Rice Jr., Fulton, 1879-'84.
- William W. Harmon, Oswego, 1885.
- Geo. W. Harmon, Oswego, app. vice W. W. Harmon resigned 1886.
- Louis W. Baker, Oswego, 1888-'95.
- William B. Baker, Constantia, 1896-1911.
- Clayton I. Miller, Mexico, 1902—present incumbent

**Four Surrogates** were residents of the town of Mexico. Elias Brewster, the first in the county, had his office in his house at Prattville. Joseph Torrey at Colosse erected a structure (about 1838)—the first used for the purpose in the county—which is still standing. The other two were Orville Robinson and Timothy Skinner, whose offices were in this village.





Husted, Photo.

W. H. OSBORN.

LEON C. OSBORN.

LILLIAN INGERSOLL OSBORN.

GAYLORD F. OSBORN.

**W. H. Osborn** was born in the town of Cape Vincent, Jefferson Co., N. Y., Aug. 16, 1864. His father, Orlando F. Osborn, was a miller on a large scale and the son was brought up to acquire fully all of the practical details of modern milling, in flour as well as feed. When 16 years old he went into the mill of P. A. Osborn & Co. at Dexter, N. Y., and served his apprenticeship there, and later in Farewell & Rhines' mill at Watertown, acquiring knowledge of the new flour-milling process. In 1891 he bought the Bryant mills at Evans Mills and in May, 1895, the S. H. Pitcher mills at Adams, N. Y.

At about the same time he was also the owner of mills at Woodville, Jefferson Co. When in March, 1898, he came to Mexico he disposed of all those properties and bought the large—The Toronto—mills of the estate of Almeron Thomas. This property, which had been in the hands of the latter forty years, had within the past few years been improved, a large and unusually fine and commodious structure having been then but recently constructed—in 1896. It is a building 66x75, with three floors, and sheathed in iron, with an iron roof. It is fully equipped with the modern roller process for

merchant and custom milling, with a grinding capacity of 50 barrels of flour, and also has the improved buckwheat mill, a complete bolted meal outfit and a Fosse Mfg Co.'s 36 inch attrition mill. The meal grinding capacity is 10,000 pounds an hour. The storage capacity is 25,000 bushels of grain and 25 cars of feed. The mill is lighted with a 250 incandescent light dynamo. Water power is used, exclusively, capable of generating 200 horse power. It is held by a stone dam fifty feet long and has a head of fourteen feet. Across the stream now used only for storage, is another mill, 40x50 feet with two floors fully equipped for grinding feed and buckwheat. Sometime after purchasing the big mill—A mill as it is called—Mr. Osborn bought the other, known as B mill. This gives him the control of milling in Mexico and the exclusive ownership of the water power in this village on the Little Salmon. He is also the largest owner of the mills at Valley Mills, Madison Co., N. Y., operated by his father, under the name of W. H. Osborn & Co. Mr. Osborn is a great admirer of fine horses and owns several. He has large and finely appointed stables. By his first wife, deceased, Mary C. Casler, Mr. Osborn has two children, Leon C. and Gaylord F. In 1901 he married Lillian Ingersoll.

Mill B dates as far back as 1805 or '06, when John Morton then running a saw mill there put into one corner of the building a grist mill. In 1812 it passed into the hands of Mathias Whitney and years later became the property of Almeron Thomas. Mill A stands on the site of Bazalael Thayer's wool carding mill erected in 1825. Almeron Thomas converted the property into a grist mill prior to 1861.

**Oneida Lake** is 20 miles long and from 4 to 5 miles wide and contains 57,000 acres. It is 124 feet higher than Lake Ontario and its greatest depth is 60 feet.



W. H. OSBORN'S RESIDENCE.



Dunwick, Photo.

W. H. OSBORN'S MILL A.

**Surrogates** (date of appointment)—

Elias Brewster, Mexico, March 21, 1816.  
 Abraham P. Vosburgh, Fulton, Feb. 17, 1817.  
 Orris Hart, New Haven, April 8, 1819; Nov. 3, 1845.  
 Chester Hayden, Oswego, 1821.  
 James A. Davis, Pulaski, March 28, 1823.  
 Joseph W. Helme, Pulaski, March 27, 1826.  
 Orville Robinson, Mexico, March 5, 1830.  
 Joseph Torrey, Mexico, Feb. 9, 1838.  
 Joel Turrill, Oswego, Feb. 8, 1843.  
 Wm. P. Curtiss, Fulton, Oct. 1, 1846.  
 County Judge performed Surrogate's duties 1847-'52. Then came the following surrogates in four year terms until 1872 (since which time the term has been six years), and the years they served:—

James Brown, Oswego, 1852-'55.  
 Amos G. Hull, Fulton, 1856-'63.  
 Timothy W. Skinner, Mexico, 1864-'7; '72-'83.  
 Henry L. Howe, Sandy Creek, 1868-'71.  
 Francis David, Phenix, 1884-'95.  
 Sheldon B. Mead, Fulton, 1896—present incumbent.

**County Judges**—Until 1847, the Court of Common Pleas consisting of a presiding Judge and two associates served as county court. The constitution of 1816 substituted county Judges. The following are the Common Pleas Judges and dates of their appointment (See Associate Justices in another article):—Barent Mooney, Granby, March 21, 1816; John Grant, jr., Oswego, June 1, 1820; Joel Turrill, Oswego, April 2, 1828; David P. Brewster, Oswego, April 15, 1833; Sam-

uel B. Ludlow, Oswego, May 11, 1841. Then came the county Judges and the years they served (the terms were four years):—Orla H. Whitney, Mexico, appointed June, 1847, elected 1848. Ransom H. Tyler, Fulton, 1851-'5; '64-'7. Sylvanus C. Huntington, Pulaski, 1856-'9. John C. Churchill, Oswego, 1860-'3. Cyrus Whitney, Mexico, 1868-'71; re-elected from Oswego (the first six year term incumbent) 1872-'7. Newton W. Nutting, Oswego, 1878-'83. Maurice L. Wright, Mexico, 1884-'9; re-elected 1889, serving until elected Supreme Court Judge in Nov., 1891. James R. O'Gorman,

appointed vice Wright, Dec 7, 1891 to serve until Jan. 1, 1893. Merrick Stowell, elected Nov., 1892, serving 1893 and continuously to the present time.

**The Areopagus Club** of Mexico business men was incorporated Oct. 15, 1896. This organization has a large membership and occupies two floors in the Baker building on South Jefferson street. The original quarters were in an old building on the same ground which about a year or two after the club was organized burned down. The suite is one of the best for club purposes that is usually found in a small town. It is furnished throughout elaborately and in good taste, with reading and reception parlors and card and billiard rooms. Here are filed all of the popular publications of the day. George W. Bradner, the first president, has continued in that office ever since. George Johnson is the secretary and Willis L. Morgan the treasurer.



Dunwick, Photo.

W. H. OSBORN'S MILL B.





Huested, Photo.

## THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Dr. C. W. Radway,  
Mrs. Clara A. Davis, Secretary.

R. H. Baker, President.

J. W. Ladd.

Mrs. E. S. Taylor.

## MEXICO ACADEMY.

For seventy-five years Mexico Academy has had an honorable record as an academic school of the highest grade.

As early as 1820 a high school was formed in Mexico village with John Howard as teacher and Laura Fish as assistant. In 1826 this school was reorganized as an academy and regularly incorporated by an act of the legislature which named Chester Haydon, Nathaniel Butler, Moses P. Hatch, Peter Pratt, David R. Dixon, Seth Severance, John A. Paine, James Abel, Orris Hart, Hastings Curtiss, Wm. Williams, Oliver Aver, Henry Williams, Elias Brewster, Samuel Emery, George B. Davis, Mason W. Southworth and Avery Skinner its first Board of Trustees. Elias Brewster was named as the first president and

Avery Skinner as the first secretary of the board. His baptismal name was Rensselaer Oswego Academy, but in 1845 the name was changed by an act of the legislature to Mexico Academy.

Many of those enrolled among the honorable of the earth have here received their rudimental education. The pulpit, the bar, the medical profession, the army and the business exchange, each and all have many representatives of the old academy. Within the recollection of many now living, this institution has furnished forty-one members of the legislature of different states, fourteen mayors, six supreme court judges, two major generals, three governors, many noted pulpit orators,

besides a long list of persons representing all the industrial pursuits of life, a list which will challenge the admiration of any community. In this short article we can only mention a few of the names of those who have been in some way connected with this school: Hon. Joel T. Headley and Prof. J. D. Steele, two well known authors, were early teachers; also Prof. Watson, the celebrated elocutionist. Among the principals of the school we readily recall Dr. Geo. G. Hapgood with all his splendid acquirements, and also the finished classical scholar, Rev. E. E. Bragdon. Prof. John R. French, late of Syracuse University, was long a teacher here, as was also Hon. S. M. Coon, of Oswego, N. Y. Andrew Parsons, once the governor of Michigan, and his brother, Luke Parsons, the late lieutenant-governor of the same state, will be remembered as early students. Charles R. Skinner, State Sup't of Public In-



Huested, Photo.

## THE FACULTY MEXICO PUBLIC SCHOOL.

[From left to right in a circle, beginning top row] Ella G. Petelo, Mary Baker, LeRoy C. Floyd, Mary A. Birdseye, Florence B. Tiffany, Maud S. Richards, Mary Sealey, A. H. Norton, Principal, Jennie S. Baker, Mary E. Fitzgerald.

struction, and Lieut.-Gov. Allen C. Beach, both of Watertown, were educated here. The late Judge Geo. F. Comstock of Syracuse, attended this school, and the same is true of Judge John F. Kinney of San Diego, Cal., who presided at the Semi-Centennial Re-union of the teachers and students in 1876.

That fearless anti-slavery champion, Asa S. Wing, was here educated. One of his contemporaries in the great struggle against slavery was the Rev. Thomas A. Weed an active trustee of this institution, and to him perhaps more than to any one person we are indebted for the enlarged school edifice built in 1855. He labored night and day in working up public opinion in favor of rebuilding. Among the names of old students which occur to us at this moment are Henry Kendall, D. D., R. H. Tyler, Rev. P. C. Headley, V. C. Douglass, Rev. A. S. Walker, the Whitneys, the Kelloggs and the Brewsters. Dr. George P.

never faltered in its noble work. In deference to the present educational system of the state, which favors schools under public control rather than those supported wholly or partly by private funds, in 1895 the village schools of Mexico were combined with the academy into an Academic Union School and the academy building is now used for the grammar and academic departments.

The following is a list of principals of the academy with dates of service of each:

Mason W. Southworth	1826
Eliasaph Dorchester	1827
—— White	1828
—— Brooks	1829
—— Shepard	1830-31
Orla H. Whitney	1832
Mason W. Southworth	1833-34
Rev. George G. Hapgood	1835-38
Benjamin I. Diefendorf	1838-40
Rev. Russell Whiting	1841-42
William H. Gillespie	July, 1842-43



Dunwick, Photo.

THE MEXICO PUBLIC SCHOOL AND ACADEMY.

Mains, an agent of the Methodist Book Concern, is a product of this institution.

The original academic building was built of brick some years before 1826. The bricks were made in the immediate vicinity, the clay being mixed by the treading of oxen. As the school outgrew the accommodations afforded, in 1836 a large three-story wooden structure was added in front and adjoining the old brick building and from this time the academy assumed a position of state importance.

As the years went on need of greater facilities was felt and in 1855 the present substantial edifice was erected on the old site. In 1893 an addition of a military system of discipline was adopted under the inspection of the War Department and instruction in military tactics given by Col. Richards, an officer of the United States Army. From first to last the institution has

Rev. George G. Hapgood	..	1843-45
William H. Gillespie	..	1845-46
E. E. E. Bragdon	..	1846-47
Abner Davison	..	1847-50
William H. Gillespie	..	1850-55
John R. French		1855-59
J. Dorman Steele, July, 1859, to Sept.		1861
Bradford F. Potter, Sept. 1861 to July		1862
Rev. A. B. Dunlap	July,	1862-63
Rev. S. Hawley Adams	..	1863-65
William M. McLaughlin	..	1865-70
Rev. William H. Reese	..	1870-72
S. Mortimer Coon	..	1872-74
Charles E. Havens	..	1874-78
James M. Gifford		1878-81
Rev. John H. Butler		1881-82
Henry R. Fancher		1882-88
Warren More		1888-90
Frank B. Severance		1890-93
Melzar C. Richards		1893-95





LOUIS BEQUILLARD'S RESIDENCE.

- Avery W. Skinner 1895-99
- F. R. Parker 1899-1900
- A. H. Norton 1900-1903

The following is a list of all the presidents of the Board of Trustees of Mexico Academy since its organization:

- Elias Brewster 1826
- Jonathan Goodwin 1833-35
- Orville Robinson 1835-37
- Avery Skinner 1837-38
- Orville Robinson 1838-40
- Peter Chandler 1840-43
- Benjamin E. Bowen 1843-47
- Charles Benedict 1847-48
- Henry Webb 1848-49
- Charles Benedict 1849-50
- David Goit 1850-51
- Benjamin E. Bowen 1851-55
- Calvin Goodwin 1855-56
- Luke D. Smith 1856-57
- Marlon Newell 1857-60
- James S. Chandler 1860-62
- Benjamin E. Bowen 1862-63
- Levi Downing 1863-64
- Benjamin S. Stone 1864-65
- Clark D. Snell 1865-66
- George G. French 1866-67
- Seabury A. Tuller 1867-68

- Cyrus Whitney 1868-69
- Thomas A. Weed 1869-70
- David D. Becker 1870-71
- Henry C. Peck 1871-74
- David D. Becker 1874-78
- Benjamin S. Stone 1878-95
- Robert H. Baker 1895-1903

**Supreme Court**—Oswego county together with Onondaga, Jefferson, Oneida, Herkimer and Lewis constitute the Fifth Judicial District. The present Judges and expiration of term (in each case on Dec. 31) are: William S. Andrews of Onondaga county, term expires 1913; Maurice L. Wright of Oswego, 1915; Frank H. Hiscock, Syracuse, 1910; Pardon C. Williams, Watertown, 1911;

Peter B. McLennan, Syracuse, 1906; William E. Scripture, Rome, 1909; Watson M. Rogers, Watertown, 1916. Oswego county has had two other representatives on the Supreme Court bench.

**States; Origin of Names:—**

**Maine**—From the province of Maine, France; in compliment of Henrietta, queen of France under Charles I; part of Mass. until 1820. Admitted into statehood March 15, 1820

**New Hampshire**—Originally Laconia; after Hampshire, Eng.; named by John Mason one of the original crown grantees to this tract, at the time it became a province in 1676. One of the original thirteen states in the union.

**Vermont**—Originally part of Hampshire grants; from Green mountains (French Vert Mont); named by convention of statehood when declared a state independent in January 1777. Admitted March 4, 1791.

**Massachusetts**—In English signifying the country about the great hills—as applied to Massachusetts bay. One of the original thirteen states.

**Rhode Island**—After a fancied resemblance to the Isle of Rhodes in the Mediterranean (ancient Levant); first settlement in 1636 called Providence Plantation; next in 1638, Rhode Island Plantation. Original thirteen.



J. D. Coe.



COE & HOGOBOOM'S MEAT MARKET.



C. L. Hogoboom.



Huested, Photo.  
THE MEXICO INDEPENDENT STAFF.

Independent Staff —  
Top row: Mrs. Ella R. Baker, Clayton Sampson; middle row: George I. Pettingill, John Berry; Clarence A. Hosford.

Connecticut — After Mohegan Quon-eh-fa-cut, a long river. Original thirteen.

New York—After the Duke of York brother to Charles II, to whom it was granted and who obtained possession from the Dutch in 1664. Original thirteen.

New Jersey—After the Island of Jersey in the British channel of which Sir George Carteret, by whom the state was named, was governor; he was one of the proprietors who purchased it in 1664. Original thirteen.

Pennsylvania — Penn's Woods; province granted William Penn in 1681. Original thirteen.

Delaware — From Thomas West Lord De la Warr; part of Pennsylvania until 1776. Original thirteen.

Maryland—Also named in honor of Queen Henrietta Marie; founded 1632 by Lord Baltimore as an asylum for the Catholics. Original thirteen.

Virginia—In honor of Queen Elizabeth, the virgin — unmarried queen; founded by grant to London Co. in 1606. Original thirteen.

Georgia—Honor of George II of England; settled in 1732 by Gov. Oglethorpe. Original thirteen.

Florida—Land of flowers; also in token of Spanish easter celebration Pasena Florida, feast of flowers named by Ponce de Leon from Spain in 1512; settled in 1620; ceded by Spain to the United States in 1819; formed as territory 1823. Admitted March 3, 1845.

Alabama—Creek word, "The land of Rest;" part of the territory of Mississippi until 1817. Admitted Dec. 14, 1819.

Mississippi—Choctaw, "Long River," and Natchez, "The Father of Waters"; part of Louisiana. Admitted Dec. 10, 1817.

Louisiana—After Louis XIV; ceded by Napoleon April 1803. Admitted Apr. 8, 1812.

Arkansas — Indian word Kansas, "Smoky Water," prefixed by the French Arc, "a bow", applied generally for the course of the river Mississippi; from Missouri in 1819. Admitted 1836.

Tennessee—Indian, "The River with the Big Bend", taken from North Carolina. Admitted June 1, 1796.

Kentucky—Indian "At the Head of the River".



Courtesy of Mrs. Sill.

MRS. M. D. SILL'S CRADLE CLASS, M. E. CHURCH.

Marion Estelle Butts, Harold Frederick, Mable Dunning, Jesse Carlyle Smith, M. Bessie Sampson, Glen Everts Walton, Marion Frances Coe, Lillian Irene Gass, Henry J. Ballard, Gordon Harold Cusack, George Stevens Jordan, Kenneth Miller Hoose.





Dunwick, Photo. GEORGE G. FRENCH'S RESIDENCE.

Applied to the vast tract of country west of the Alleghany mountains. Admitted June 1, 1792.

Ohio—Shawnoese for "Beautiful River"; part of the west ceded to the federal government by Virginia and Connecticut. Admitted Nov. 9, 1802.

Michigan—Indian for fish wier or trap—the land of the trappers; part of Indiana when given territorial government in 1805. Admitted Jan. 26, 1837.

Indiana—Land of the Indians; when at the time of territorial government the hostiles had retreated; territory May 1800; state Dec. 11, 1816.

Illinois—After the tribe of that name, indicating in the Indian tongue "men" as compared with those Indian tribes who had been driven away and were designated as women. Taken from Indiana for territory of Illinois in 1809. Admitted Dec. 3, 1818.

Wisconsin—Indian for Wild Rushing Channel—the strait between the lakes. Territory 1836. State May 29, 1848.

Missouri—After that river, indicating muddy river. Part of Louisiana. Territory 1812. State Aug. 10, 1821.

Kansas—"Smoky Water", part of Louisiana; territory 1854. State Jan. 29, 1861.

Nebraska—Part of Louisiana; territory 1854. State Mar. 1867.

Nevada—Part of Louisiana; territory Mar. 1861. State 1870.

Iowa—"Drowsy Ones"; part of Louisiana territory. State Dec. 28, 1846.

Minnesota—Cloudy water; part of Louisiana territory. State May 11, 1858.

Texas—Part of Mexico. Republic 1836. Annexed March 6, 1845.

California—State Sept. 9, 1850.

Oregon—River of the west. Territory 1848. State Feb. 14, 1859.

#### American Wars. —

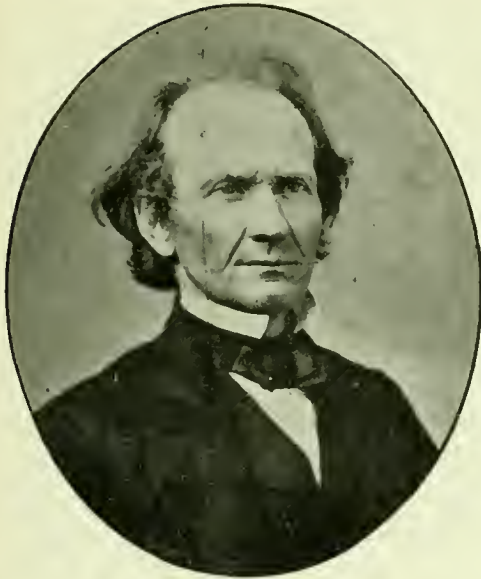
King Phillip's, 1675; King William's, 1689; Dutch, 1693; Queen Anne's, 1744. French and Indian, 1755; Revolution, April 18, 1775 (Lexington fight) to Jan. 20, 1883 (treaty at Paris) 368,410 men in service; Northwest Indian wars, Sept. 19, 1790, extending five years, 8,983 men; French war, July 9, 1798, lasting two years, 4,593 men; Tripoli, June 10, 1801, 4 years, 3,330 men; Creek Indian, July 27, 1813, 1 year, 13,781 men; Great Britain, June 18, 1812, 2 years, 8 months, 576,622 men; Seminole Indian, Nov. 20,

1817, 1 year, 7,911 men; Black Hawk Indian, April 20, 1831, 1 year, 6 months, 6,465 men; Cherokee Indian, 1836, 1 year, 9,494 men; Creek Indian, May 5, 1836, 1 year, 5 months, 13,418 men; Florida Indian, Dec. 23, 1835, 8 years, 11,122 men; Aroostook Indian, 1838, 1 year, 1,500 men; Mexican, April 14, 1846, 2 years, 3 months, 101,282 men; Apache, Navajo and Utah Indian, 1849, 6 years, 2,501 men; Seminole Indian, 1856, 2 years, 2,687 men; Civil war, April 12, 1861, 4 years, 2,772,408 men—about 800,000 confederate troops.

**The Strawberry Industry** of the town is of great importance. Mexico being one of the main shipping points in the county. The soil is adapted for berry culture giving the fruit a size and flavor which brings the best prices in the market. Most of the farms in the town grow berries. At times in a favorable season there are as many as a hundred and fifty teams drawn up at the ears that are being loaded in a single day.



Dunwick, Photo. W. W. RINGSLEY'S RESIDENCE.



Borrowed Photo. REV. T. A. WEED.

**Thomas Allen Weed** was born in North Stamford, Conn., Oct. 15, 1817, and was son of Philo and Abigail Weed. With his parents he moved to Jefferson Co., N. Y., where he lived until the age of nineteen. His early studies were pursued under the late Judge Mullin of the Supreme Court. He graduated from Oberlin College, Ohio, in 1843. The same year he married Lydia Matthews, a native of Mexico, N. Y., whose acquaintance he formed at college, she being a student in the same institution. She is still living with her daughter Mrs. Benedict, at Fulton, N. Y. Through the influence of his brother, Rev. Edward Weed, he entered the ministry. He pursued the full course of theological study in Union Seminary, N. Y., and in 1846 was licensed to preach. While in the seminary he acted as private secretary to the well known Lewis Tappan, receiving for his services sufficient for his maintenance. When a student he lectured some months on Temperance and Slavery under the auspices of the State Society. He had then what distinguished him through life—a trenchant way of making his points and was keen in his satire. In 1847 he became the pastor of the Presbyterian church in Mexico. The salary was then only \$400, one man (Peter Chandler) signing \$150 of the amount. In a few months Peter Chandler, the chief supporter of the church, died. Mr. Weed was not discouraged, however, but threw his soul into the work of building up the church and his labors were not in vain. In a few years the dilapidated old church edifice was transformed into an attractive house of worship and the membership was so increased as to require the enlargement of the sanctuary by an addition of one-third. His work in Mexico zealously continued for nearly twenty-three years and he left the church with a membership nearly three times as large and a far greater increase in influence, power and property than when he came to it. Touching life as he did at all points, and the champion of every good cause, he did scarcely if any less for the community at large. He labored in the pulpit and out of it, night and day, for the re-building of the Mexico Academy

and worked equally hard in the struggle to bring the railroad to this village. In the social and religious affairs of this vicinity no man of his time had a greater influence and his services were in great demand upon almost all public occasions. He was an extensive traveler, a keen observer, with a mind stored with incidents rare and rich and a remarkable readiness to relate them with inimitable skill. He was never nonplused, never at a loss for the wittiest and most telling reply. As a delightful and instructive companion he was without a peer. After leaving Mexico he preached at Scottville, N. Y., for twelve years. He died at Saratoga in 1882. His funeral was held among his old people at Mexico, conducted by their pastor, Rev. Geo. Bayless, assisted by his life-long friend, the late Rev. A. Parke Burgess. He was buried, as was his desire, in Mexico village cemetery.

**Dr. Charles E. Heaton** was born in the village of Elbridge, Onondaga Co., N. Y., Nov. 6, 1837. He was educated in Syracuse high schools and Cortland academy. He read medicine with Dr. David Dunham, at Bridgeport, Madison Co., N. Y., and with Dr. V. A. Baker, of Mexico, N. Y., graduating from the Medical and Surgical University of Philadelphia, Pa., in May, 1865, and from the medical department of the University of Buffalo in 1877. He practiced medicine in Mexico from 1867 to 1888—just twenty-one years, and in Baldwinsville for the past fifteen years where he still resides. Dr. Heaton was married in 1860 to Sarah A. Gates of Mexico, N. Y., who was a daughter of Robert Gates, of Fernwood, N. Y., and also the adopted daughter of Sardius E. Ball of Mexico, N. Y. Two children were born to them, Hon. Willis E. Heaton of Hoosick Falls, N. Y., who is now Judge of the Surrogate's Court at Troy, N. Y., and Dr. Earl G. Heaton, who succeeds his father in the practice of medicine at his home in Baldwinsville. In religion Dr. Heaton is a Methodist—an official member for fully 30 years, and a class leader for just 10



Borrowed Photo. DR. C. E. HEATON.





Dunwick, Photo. R. H. GREEN'S RESIDENCE AND LIVERY.

years in the Mexico and Baldwinsville churches. He is also prominent in masonry being a member of the F. & A. M., and Royal Arch Chapter at Baldwinsville, N. Y., and a member of the Masonic Veterans Association of Syracuse, N. Y., also a member of the Onondaga Medical Society and a member of the board of trustees of the village of Baldwinsville.

**Luther Jay Clark**, manufacturer of boilers and portable engines which are sold largely in the New England states, bought the Beebe foundry in 1879 and has been carrying on that industry, built up to its present dimensions by his own business ability, ever since. His father Joshua B. Clark, one of the early settlers in Mexico came to this town in 1824 and settled on the place where Whitehead now lives. His farm also included what is known as the Bellechamber place. Later on he sold the latter piece of property and in 1852 traded the rest of it for wild land near Chicago. He spent several years clearing his land, after first coming here, and then he built a

dam and saw mill on Salmon creek, the site of the present electric light plant. The dam and mill were among the earliest in this part of the town. In 1853 a business enterprise took him to Davenport, Ia., where he remained three and a half years, when he returned to Illinois and settled down and improved the wild land near Chicago. Jay, born Nov. 13, 1842, was at the time his home was moved to Davenport eleven years old. The family were living in their new Illinois home when, in 1861, he enlisted in the 33d Illinois infantry. Through the remarkable period of four and a half years continuous service

in some of the most active and dangerous battles of the American rebellion, Mr. Clark passed—a participant in the bloodiest fights in the campaigns of the western armies. He went out in the first campaign of Illinois troops which during 1861 was in Missouri, and returned only after the last Union victory was won, being with his regiment marching from Mobile to Montgomery, Ala., when the first news of Lee's surrender reached his regiment through Lee's own messenger home on parole granted at Appomattox. In 1862 Mr. Clark went through the campaigns in Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee and in 1863 was in the army that captured Vicksburg—and was afterwards at the capture of Jackson, Miss. Then he was at New Orleans, and the succeeding winter in Texas and along the Mexican gulf coast. In February 1864 he re-enlisted and during the balance of the year was in the Louisiana campaigns. In 1865 he was through the gulf states and in December of that year was mustered out at Vicksburg. Upon his return to the north Mr. Clark lived several years in Indiana, traveling in Michigan and the west,



CLARK'S FOUNDRY AND MACHINE SHOP. (Dunwick.)

L. J. CLARK. (Old Photo, taken 1886)



R. H. BAKER'S RESIDENCE.

and during that time taking up a homestead in Nebraska. On Nov. 4, 1874, he came to Mexico and was married to Amelia E. Duell of South Mexico. They resided in the west about six years, until he returned to Mexico in 1879 and bought the foundry. His brothers and sisters, all deceased, were Newcomb, Annis (Mrs. M. W. Barrett), Almeda, Lucy and Francene. His children are Mrs. Jennie E. Gass of Mexico, Allie D. and Elbert J. Clark who are living at home.

**The Great Indian Trail** between Lake Ontario and the village of the Onondaga Indians—the capital of the confederacy of the Iroquois—two centuries before any white settler came to Mexico, passed over the present sites of the villages of Mexico and Colosse. In 1654 it was followed by the Jesuit priest, Le Moine, accompanied by an Indian, who was bound for the Onondaga country as a missionary, and the following year by other Jesuit priests (See sketches of "Jesuit Le Moine at Mexico" and "Jesuits at Colosse"). The French coming from Montreal were accustomed to follow that trail. They travelled by water to Salmon river, (Selkirk), where the trail began. With the windings it made the distance to Colosse was about 15 miles. Like all Indian trails it pursued the best course to facilitate walking, turning here and there as the nature of the ground required and to get to water. North of the East Hill it turned west and struck Little Salmon river about where Main street now crosses the stream, which it followed for some distance then struck across to Colosse. From there the

same tortuous course was pursued to the Oneida river and beyond to Ontonague (Indian Hill) two miles south of Manlius. One of the camping places was on the stream near the present farm of G. A. Davis, which the trail traversed from the east. The other camping place was at Colosse.

**Jesuits at Colosse.**

The Jesuits, Chaumont and Claude Dablon, en route to the castles of the Onondaga Indians, left Quebec, Sept. 19, 1655. They were the third party of white people to sleep and breakfast in the then virgin wilderness—now the village of Mexico (See "Champlain at Mexico;" and "Jesuit LeMoine at Mexico"). On Oct. 26, the party passed from the St. Lawrence river on to Lake Ontario. On the 29th the party arrived at Otiatangué (Salmon river) which was then the great outpost of the Iroquois Indians and their meeting place with the French. This place was also known as La Famine (Famine Bay, the [place] of Famine). On the 30th the party "left the water and prepared our over land trip to Ontonague [Onondaga]" by the "great Indian trail" (see sketch on another page); but it was the next day that they actually started—a wild, picturesque party of whites and Indians. Fifteen miles from Salmon river by the side of a brook (now the site of the village of Colosse) they encamped.

**Postmasters** of Mexico in the order named were Rawson A. Butler, Starr Clark, S. B. Barnes, John J. Lamoree, La Fayette Alfred, George P. Johnson, George D. Babcock, Wilfred A. Robbins, J. E. Baker, W. M. Richardson.



PHINEAS DAVIS' RESIDENCE.



**Maurice L. Wright**, Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, was born at Scriba, N. Y., Nov. 27, 1845. He is a descendant of Samuel Wright, who emigrated from England with the Winthrop colony to Massachusetts in 1630. His great grandfather, Caleb Wright, was in the battle of Bennington and supplied himself with bullets by melting the weights of his eight-day clock. On his mother's side Justice Wright is descended from Walter Woodworth, a native of Kent, England, who settled in Massachusetts prior to 1635. In this line is Captain William Woodworth who served under Gen. Washington, and commanded the troops in Westchester county, N. Y. His son, Major Lott Woodworth was in the war of 1812, and commanded his regiment at the battle of Plattsburgh.

Justice Wright was educated at Mexico academy and at Falley Seminary. In 1864 he enlisted in the U. S. Navy. Was assigned to the gunboat "Valley City" of the North Atlantic squadron, commanded by Admiral Porter. He was in the Roanoke expedition following the sinking of the ram Albemarle by Cushing and saw much hard service.

After the war he finished his education, and studied law in the office of Congressman John C. Churchill of Oswego. Later he entered the Columbia Law school in New York City. He graduated from the Columbia College Law School at Washington, D. C., in 1870. He was then admitted to the bar of the District of Columbia. In 1872 he was admitted to the bar of New York state and formed a law partnership with Hon. T. W. Skinner, at Mexico, N. Y. For twenty years he practiced law there successfully. In 1879 he was elected president of the village and served two terms. In 1883 he was elected county judge of Oswego county by the republican party. Was re-elected in 1889. Governor Hill appointed him a member of the constitutional commission of 1890, to revise the judiciary article of the state constitution. In 1891 he was elected Justice of the Supreme Court, which office he now holds.

Justice Wright is a Mason and a Knight Templar. He was three terms Master of Mexico Lodge No. 136, F. & A. M. He was also commander of the Grand Army Post at Mexico for three terms. On Nov. 3, 1869, he married Miss Mary Grace Skinner, daughter of Judge Skinner of Union Square, N. Y. Since 1893, Justice Wright has made his home at Oswego, N. Y.

**Governors of New York.**—George Clinton (Ulster Co.), elected July 9, 1776; April, 1801; John Jay (New York), April 1795; Morgan Lewis (Dutchess), April 1804; Daniel D. Tompkins

(Richmond), April, 1807; John Taylor, Lieut. Gov. (Albany), March, 1817; DeWitt Clinton (New York, November, 1817; Nov. 8, 1824; Joseph C. Yates (Schenectady), Nov. 6, 1822; Nathaniel Pitcher, Lieut. Gov. (Washington), Feb. 11, 1828; Martin Van Buren (Columbia), Nov. 5, 1828; Enos T. Throop, Lieut.-Gov. (Cayuga) March 12, 1829; William L. Marey (Rensselaer), Nov. 7, 1832; William H. Seward (Cayuga), Nov. 7, 1838; William C. Bonek (Schoharie), Nov. 8, 1812; Silas Wright (St. Lawrence), Nov. 5, 1844; John Young (Livingston), Nov. 3, 1816; Hamilton Fish (New York), Nov. 7, 1818; Washington Hunt (Niagara), Nov. 5, 1850; Horatio Seymour (Oneida), Nov. 2, 1852; Nov. 4, 1862; Myron H. Clark (Ontario), Nov. 7, 1854; John A. King (Queens), Nov. 4, 1856; Edwin D. Morgan (New York), Nov. 2, 1858; Reuben E. Fenton (Chautauqua), Nov. 8, 1864; John T. Hoffman (New York), Nov. 3, 1868; John A. Dix (New York), Nov. 5, 1872; Samuel J. Tilden (New York), Nov. 3, 1874; Lucius Robinson (Chemung), Nov. 7, 1876; Alonzo B. Cornell (New York) Nov. 4, 1879; Grover Cleveland\* (Eric), Nov. 7, 1882; David B. Hill (Chemung), Lieut.-Gov., Jan. 6, 1885; elected November 1885, and re-elected November, 1888; Roswell P. Flower (New York) Nov. 3, 1891; Levi P. Morton (Dutchess), Nov. 6, 1894; Frank S. Black (Rensselaer), Nov. 3, 1896; Theodore Roosevelt (Queens), Nov. 8, 1898; Benjamin B. Odell, jr., Nov. 6, 1900; Nov. 7, 1902.

\*Only New York governor elected to and occupying the Presidential chair before the expiration of his term as governor.

**State Officers, New York, 1903** — [Elected] Governor, Benjamin B. Odell, Jr., Newburg.

elected Nov. 6, 1900 (second term). Lieut.-Gov., Frank W. Higgins, Olean, Nov. 4, 1902. Sec'y of State, John F. O'Brien, West Chazy, Nov. 4, 1902. Comptroller, Erastus C. Knight, Buffalo, Nov. 6, 1902 (2nd term). Treasurer, John G. Wickser, Buffalo, Nov. 4, 1902. Att'y-Gen., John Cunniff (only democrat), Buffalo, Nov. 4, 1902. State Engineer, Edward A. Bond, Watertown, Nov. 8, 1898 (3d term). [APPOINTED]—Supt. of Public Instruction, Charles R. Skinner, Watertown, Feb. 13, 1895. Supt. Public Works, Charles S. Boyd, New York, Dec. 20, 1901. Supt. of Insurance, Francis Hendricks, Syracuse, Feb. 12, 1900. Supt. of Banks, Frederick D. Killburn, Malone, Jan. 8, 1896. Supt. of State Prisons, Cornelius V. Collins, Troy, Feb. 9, 1903. Commissioner of Agriculture, Charles A. Weiting, Cobleskill, April 29, 1896. State Historian, Hugh Hastings, New York, April 25, 1895. Commissioner of Labor, John McMackin, New York, March 6, 1901. Commissioner of Excise, Patrick W. Cullinan, Oswego, May 18, 1901. Supt. of



JUDGE MAURICE L. WRIGHT.

Salt Springs, Charles Hiscock, De Witt, Jan. 22, 1896. Supt. of Weights and Measures, Lewis Boss, Albany, Feb. 25, 1884. State Architect, George Lewis Heins, New York, Jan. 20, 1899. Supt. Public Buildings, Robert J. Hill, Albany, Jan. 16, 1901. Supervisor of State Charities, Harry H. Bender, Albany, June 9, 1902.

**Jesuit Le Moine** at Mexico, 1654—One of the earliest—probably the first—white man to set foot on the present site of Mexico was Champlain, the French governor of Quebec in 1615. The second was Father Simon Le Moine, the French Jesuit who on Aug. 2, 1654, encamped south of the present site of the village. This priest accompanied by Indians landed at Salmon river the preceding day. On the third he proceeded south crossing Oneida river on the same day and arriving at the chief village of the Onondagas on the 5th. On Aug. 15th, after baptising, preaching, healing the sick and giving Christian burial to the dead for ten days he starts on his return to Montreal. His course is by the

in 1722 on the west side of the river. The Colonial Assembly in 1726 granted 300 pounds to construct a fort which was reported completed Aug. 1727. It was described as a stone building 80 feet square, the eastern face semi-circular in shape and the walls four feet thick, having port holes and provided with water from a deep well. It stood on the crest of a knoll on the west side of the river, forty feet from the waters of the lake and was reached from the south side by a flight of stone steps. An embankment and palisades surrounded it. The first garrison consisted of a lieutenant and 25 men.

**Great Fires**—London, Sept. 2-6, 1666, 13,200 residences and 89 churches and public buildings destroyed. New York, Dec. 16, 1835, 600 buildings; loss \$20,000,000. Pittsburg, April 10, 1845; 1,000 buildings; loss \$6,000,000. Philadelphia, July 9, 1850, 350 buildings; loss \$1,500,000. St. Louis, May 4, 1851; loss \$15,000,000. San Francisco, May 3-5, 1851; 2,500 buildings; loss \$3,500,000. Santiago, Spain, Dec. 8, 1863; 2,000 per-



Husted, Photo.

YOUNG WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY, M. E. CHURCH.

Top Row—(left to right) Mrs. W. E. Jordan, Miss Ellic Berry, Mrs. W. Fish, Miss Lena Hoose, Mrs. F. L. Hoose, Mrs. E. Burdick, Mrs. W. Dillenbeck, Miss Anna Berry. Center Row—(left to right) Miss May Virgil, Miss Ella Sternberg, Mrs. H. W. Whitney, Mrs. C. McLymond, Miss Carrie Croster. Lower Row—(left to right) Mrs. S. Ramsay, Mrs. F. Stewart, Mrs. E. Brown, Mrs. J. Coe, Miss Josephine Newton.

way of Oswego river and coasting east in canoes the south shore of Lake Ontario. Arriving where Oswego now stands on the 20th LeMoine was detained one day by furious winds and rain. On Aug. 22, 1654, he sets out in his canoe and at dusk pulls into the welcomed and safe harbor of Little Salmon river (at Mexico Point). There his Indians killed a stag and encamped for the night. He was accompanied by one Indian convert and several “pagans,” his guides and protectors. “My companion and I,” he writes of the camp in Mexico harbor, “content ourselves with looking at them while they broil their steak, it being Saturday, a day of abstinence for us.” The next day the party proceeded to Salmon river where there was an Indian village, beautiful prairies and good fishing.

**Oswego Forts.**—The earliest English trading house at Oswego was constructed by Gov. Burnet

sons killed. Portland, Me., July 4, 1866; loss \$15,000,000. Chicago, Oct. 8 and 9, 1871, 1745, buildings destroyed; three and one-half square miles of ruins; 200 persons killed; 98,500 made homeless. Boston, Nov. 9-11, 1872; 800 buildings; loss \$73,000,000; 15 persons killed. St. Johns, N. B., June 21, 1876, loss \$12,500,000. Brooklyn theatre, Dec. 5, 1876; 300 lives lost. Seattle and Spokane, Wash., 1881; loss \$10,000,000 each.

**Starr Clark's Tin Shop** was Whig headquarters in the village of Mexico fifty or sixty years ago—where Simon's billiard room now is. Over sixty years ago Clark was the only man who took a daily paper in the village. He was a friend and correspondent of William H. Seward and that gave him a political prestige here. It was here that the Whigs gathered to hear the latest news and draw political sustenance from the fountain head.





Huested, Photo. F. A. THOMAS.

**Frederick A. Thomas** was born in Mexico Sept. 10, 1867. He was educated at Mexico Academy from which institution he graduated in 1885. For several years he was interested in newspaper work in Mexico, Oswego, Utica and Jacksonville, Fla. In March 1892 upon the death of his brother Amos C. Thomas he took charge of Toronto and State mills carrying on a large business for six years. In October 1896 Toronto mill burned. It was filled with an immense stock of corn and feed ready for the winter's trade and the loss was estimated at \$12,000. State mill was also badly damaged. Nothing daunted by this loss, the following spring Mr. Thomas built a new mill on Toronto's old site which he sold to W. H. Osborn in 1898. The mill is one of the largest and most perfectly constructed buildings in this part of the state and is considered by mill men to be the best arranged mill for a general country trade to be found in the country. In 1898 he removed the old State mill situated on the opposite side of the creek, erecting in its place a modern planing mill, fitting it with the most modern wood working machinery. In connection with this was erected a saw mill and hoop factory. A large number of men found employment here at good wages the year around. In 1901 Mr. Thomas erected the large building on Main street known as the Masonic Temple building—a beautiful modern structure 50x80 feet two stories high. On the second floor Mexico Lodge No. 135, F. & A. M., Mexico Chapter No. 136 R. A. M., Victoria Chapter No. 205 O. E. S. have rooms second to none in the state, taking into consideration the size of the town. In putting up this building no expense was spared to make it a perfect place for one of its kind and it is with much apparent pride that Mexico Masonic fraternity point out its beauties to their visitors. The masons cannot be otherwise than grateful to Mr. Thomas for the interest and pleasure he took in erecting

this building for their personal use. July 10, 1901, the planing mill, saw mill and hoop factory were entirely destroyed by fire. This made a loss of over \$20,000 by fire in a period of five years. Jan. 3, 1902, Mr. Thomas was obliged to make a general assignment, the property being sold to Mr. R. C. Robertson, of Parish. Through the efforts of Fred Thomas, as he is more familiarly known, Mexico has the best mill in the county and the best appointed Masonic Lodge rooms in Northern New York. Mexico has always been his home and it has been his aim to promote its commercial and social welfare notwithstanding he has met with many reverses. His support of public improvement has always been expected and never withheld, he having given freely of his time and money. Mr. Thomas is an enthusiastic collector of curios and in his home are many choice mementoes of his travels about the United States and the country of old Mexico. He is a member of Mexico Lodge, Mexico Chapter, Lake Ontario Commandery, Syracuse Council and Media Temple Shrine. In Nov. 1888, Mr. Thomas married Anna H. Taylor, daughter of John C. Taylor. They have one son, John F. Thomas. At present Mr. Thomas is editing a local weekly paper of eight pages, seven columns, called *The Mexican*.

**H. R. Huested** made all of the portraits for this work at his Mexico studio, which will continue as it has in the past to be opened regularly every Saturday. All of his work is finished at his new ground floor studio, No. 9, Stone St., Watertown, N. Y., which is newly equipped with the most modern and up-to-date accessories.



H. R. HUESTED.

**Battles Rebellion;** when fought; other facts:— Antietam, Sept. 16-17, 62. Acqua Creek, May 31, 61. Avoyelles Prairie, La, May 16, 64. Atlanta, bombarded Aug 9, 64; occupied by federals Sept 2; destroyed Nov 14; evacuated Dec 20; Sherman entered Dec 21.

Bull Run, 1st, July 18, 61. Bull Run, 2nd, July 21, 61. Baltimore, attack Mass. 6 inf, Apl 19, 61. Big Bethel, Va, June 10, 61. Boonville, Mo, June 8; 61. Balls Bluff, Oct 21, 61. Belmont, Nov. 8, 61. Bottoms Bridge, May 24, 62. Bayou de Cache, Ark, July 7, 62. Baton Rouge, Ark, Aug 5, 62. Ball Run, Aug 29-30, 62. Bakers Creek (Vicksburg) May 16, 63. Big Black River Bridge (Vicksburg), May 17, 63. Big Black River (Vicksburg), July 8, 63. Bristow Station, Va, Oct 14, 63. Brown's Ferry, Tenn, Oct 26, 63. Corinth, Miss, May 26-28, 62; evacuated by confederates May 29, occupied by federals May 30; attacked by confederates, Oct 4, 62. Carthage, Mo, July 5, 61. Carricksford, Va, July 13, 61. Clark and Hatteras forts, bomb and cap, Aug 28, 61. Carinfex Ferry, Va, Sept 10, 61. Cross Keys, Va, June 8, 62. Cedar Mountain, Aug 9, 62; drawn fight between Banks with 7,000 men and Jackson with 12,000. Chantilly, Sept 1, 62; Pope vs Jackson. Chancellorsville, Va, May 1-5, 63; Hooker vs Lee. Clinton, Miss, May 6, 63. Chickamauga, Ga, Sept 19-20, 63. Charlestown, S C, bombarded Sept 14, 63. Chattanooga, Tenn, Nov. 23, 63. Cane River, Apl 24, 64. Cedar Creek, Oct 19, 64. Carlisle, Pa, July 1, 63. Cold Harbor, June 1-3, 64.

Draft Riots, N Y, July 13-18, 63; Boston, Brooklyn and Jersey City, July 15, 63. Drainesville, Va, Dec 20, 61. Dug Spring, Mo, Aug 2, 61. Donelson, Feb 12-16, 62; Grant 40,000 men vs Floyd 18,000. Darling, fort, bombarded May 9, 62. Deep Run, Va, Aug 16, 64. Elizabeth City, N C, Feb 10, 62.

Fisher, fort, attacked Dec 24-25, 64. Franklin, Tenn, Nov 30, 64. Fair Oaks, May 31-June 1, 62. Fort Craig, N M; Feb 21, 62. Farrington, Miss, May 9, 62. Front Royal, Va, May 23, 62. Fayetteville, Ark, July 14, 62; 2nd, Dec 7, 62. Fredericksburg, Va, cap by Gen Sedgwick May 3, 63. Fourteen Mile Creek (Vicksburg), May 6, 63. Fishers Hill, Sept 22, 64.

Greenbrier, Va, Oct 3, 61. Galveston, Texas, Jan 1, 63. Grand Gulf, May 3, 63, cap by Admiral Porter's fleet; evacuated May 4. Gum Swamp, N C, May 22-23, 63. Gettysburg, July 1-3, 63; Lee retreats July 6. Grant's Va Campaign began May 3, 64. Guntown, June 10, 64.

Harpers Ferry, evacuated by confederates, June 14, 61; capt by confederates Sept 15, 62. Hilton Head, Nov. 7, 61. Henry, fort, captured Feb 6, 62 by Com A H Foote. Hampton Roads, Meh 8, 62, Merrimac, attack on U S vessels; Meh 9, 62, Monitor defeats Merrimac. Hanover, Pa, June 30, 63. I-u-ka, Miss, Sept 20, 62.

Jackson, fort, and St Philip, bombarded, begun Apl 18, 62; surrendered Apl 28. James Island, June 14, 62. Jackson, Miss, May 14, evacuated May 16, 63. Kelleys Ford, cavalry fight, Meh 17, 63. Kilpatrick's raid on Richmond, Feb 28-Meh 1-2, 63. Lookout Mountain, Nov 25, 63. Lexington, Tenn, Jan 1, 63. Lee's Invasion, Penn, began June 12, 63; occupied Gettysburg 26, York 28, Mechanicsburg 28; evacuated York 30.

Malvern Hill, July 1, 62. Mumfordsville, Ky,

Sept 14-16; Dec 17, 61. Mill Spring, Ky, Jan 19, 62; Thomas 13,000 vs Crittenden and Zollicoffer 10,000. Macon, fort, bomb and cap Apl 25, 62. McDowell, Va, May 8, 62. Memphis surr June 6, 62. Mechanicsville, Va, 1st, June 26, 62. McClellan defeated by Jackson; 2nd June 27, federals recross Chickahominy. Murfreesboro, Tenn, July 13, 62, federals defeated; 2nd, Dec 31, 62, Jan 1, 63; occ by federals Jan 5. Marysville, Ark, Oct 22, 62. McAllister, fort, Jan 27, Feb 1, Meh 1, 63. Monticello, Ky, May 1, 63. Millikens Bend, June 6-7, 63. Mechanicsburg, Pa, occ by Lee June 28, 63. Morgans Invasion of Ohio and Penn July 8-26, 63; Morgan cap July 26. Marietta, Ga, occ by Sherman, July 3, 64. Monocacy, July 9, 64. Mobile Bay, Aug 5, 64. Morgan, fort, bomb Aug 22, 64, surr 23.

New Orleans cap Apl 26, 62. Norfolk, Va, surr May 10, 62. New Market, W Va, May 15, 64. Nashville, Dec 15-16, 64. Opequan, Sept 19, 64.

Pea Ridge, Tenn, Meh 6-8, 62; Curtiss 22,000 vs McCullough 35,000. Pittsburg Landing, Tenn, Apl 6-7, 62. Phillippi, Va, June 2, 61. Pilot Knob, Mo, Oct 16, 61. Port Royal Island, S C, Jan 2, 62. Pulaski, bomb and cap by Hunter Apl 11, 62. Port Republic, June 9, 62. Shields vs Jackson. Peach Orchard and Savage Station, Va, June 29-62. Popes retreat begun Aug 18, 62. Perryville, Ky, Oct 8-9, 62. Port Hudson, La, bomb Meh 14, 63; 2nd bomb May 9-10; 3rd bomb May 27-28, June 3, surr July 8. Paris, Ky, July 29, 63. Petersburg, att June 15; mine explosion July 30, 64. Peebles farm, Sept 30, 64. Quaker Church, June 17, 64.

Resaca, Ga, May 15, 64. Rich Mountain, Va, July 11, 61. Roanoke Island, Feb 7-8, 62. Richmond, Ky, Aug 30, 62. Ringgold, Nov 27, 63. Reams Station, Aug 18; 2nd Aug 25. Round Top Mountain, Oct 9, 64.

Sumter, fort, bomb Apl 11-13, 61; bomb by federals Aug 12, Oct 1, Dec 10, 64. Sewells Pt, Va, May 18, 61, federals att rebel batteries; first offensive against confederates in the war. Sugar Creek, Ark, Feb 17, 62. St Charles, Ark, June 17, 62. South Mountain, Md, Sept 14, 62. Stone River, Tenn, Jan 1-2, 63. Somerville, Ky, Meh 30, 63. Sulphur Springs Bridge, Aug 11, 64. Strawberry Plains, Aug 14, 64. Sherman's invasion of Gulf States, begun May 6, 64; occ Dalton, May 14; occ Resaca 15; Kingston 18; Dallas 28; Culp's farm June 22; Kenesaw and Marietta July 3 (see Atlanta); orders for march to sea Nov 9. Spottsylvania, May 10, 64.

Thompsons Landing (Vicksburg) May 1, 63. Tusculumbia, Ala, Oct 21, 63. Trevillian Station, June 11, 64.

Vicksburg, Grants army invests May 18, 63; fortifications assaulted May 19; complete investment 20; Grants ultimatum unconditional surrender May 21; general assault May 20-22; bomb May 22-25, 31, June 20; surr July 4; federals capture 31,000 men commanded by Pemberton.

Wilson's Creek, Mo, Aug 10, 61; Lyons vs McCullough. Winchester, Va, Meh 23, 62; 2nd July 31, 63. Wright, fort, Apl 14, 62, May 10, 62. West Point, Va, May 7, 62. White House, Va, evac by McClellan June 24, 62. White Oak Swamp, Va, June 30, 62. Wagner, fort, assaulted Sept 4, 63; cap Sept 6. White Sulphur Springs, Va, Oct 10, 63. Wilderness, 1st day, May 5, 64.

Yorktown, bomb by McClellan begun Apl 30, 62; evac by confederates May 4. Yazoo City, Miss, cap by federals May 13, 63. Yellow Bayon, La, May 18, 64.



**The Colosse Cornet Band** claims the distinction of being the oldest band in the county, having been organized in the summer of 1873 and fully keeping up the organization ever since. Only \$18.00 was first at the disposal of the band. Part of the instruments were purchased of the old 48th regimental band, having been used by them during the war of the rebellion. The original members were Stanley J. House, Chas. W. House, Samuel C. Perlet, Spencer B. Webb, Theodore Gothier, Alfred W. Calkins, Robt. H. Baker, Alfred W. Richardson, W. M. Richardson, H. L. Huntley and W. J. Rowe. The present membership consists of Chas. W. House, Stanley J. House, Bert House, Fred W. House, Arthur Jaquin, Frank Jaquin, Henry C. Le Clair, Celeste Henry, Geo. J. Loren, Henry D. Nichols, Chas. Hammecker, Norn an Alger, Frank Henry Jr., Julius Tackley, Clarence Booth, Elbert Pettengill, Arthur Beley, R. S. Davey, Hubert Gardiner,

mission at Onondaga, the French governor having made them a grant of a hundred square leagues of land in the heart of the Iroquois country. Towards the last of June they sailed into Lake Ontario and the following day landed at La Famine where they went into quarters putting up bark huts and preparing to stay several days prior to their overland trip south. They found themselves at the mouth of a broad river, which they knew to possess an abundance of salmon trout, and where they hoped to get enough food to last them to the end of their journey. It was not an entirely new spot to them since they had previously stopped there. But the river was at this time very high and while their provisions continued to diminish in spite of their efforts to obtain more fish they were too nearly famished to continue their journey without in some way obtaining more food. Finally they were forced to explore the fields and woods for berries. All of their Indians deserted them and to make matters



Hoested, Photo

THE COLOSSE CORNET BAND.

Top Row—(left to right) Elbert Pettengill, Arthur Jaquin, Fred House, Henry D. Nichols, Henry C. LeClair, Clarence Booth, John Cobb. Middle Row—Stanley J. House, Frank Jaquin, George Loren, Charles W. House, Hubert Gardner, Frank Henry Jr., N. N. Alger. Lower Row—Celeste Henry, Charles Hammecker, Julius Tackley.

Elmer Cottet and Chas. Alsever. The members of this band are required to sign a contract not to touch liquor while out on a job.

**Jesuit's Name La Famine.**—The mouth of the Salmon river was one of the earliest known resorts for French and Indian fishing parties. It was while a party of Jesuits were on their way to the country of the Onondagas that they stopped several days at La Famine to replenish their supplies by fishing. The party consisted of four Jesuit priests, Le Mercier, the superior, Dablon, Menard and Fremin, accompanied by thirty or forty other Frenchmen and escorted by Maj. Zachary Du Pays, the commandant of the fort at Quebec and ten of his soldiers. There were also a few Hurons, Onondagas and Senecas, converts from the Jesuit missions. It was May 17, 1656, when the expedition set out from Quebec. The object of the journey was to establish a Jesuit

worse the Father Superior, to whose efforts alone were due the confidence and ability of the party to thus far keep up, fell ill and for a time his life was despaired of. At last it became imperative vely necessary to resume the journey and with vows made to their favorite saints they departed, first giving to the spot where nearly the whole party had succumbed to starvation the name of La Famine.

**Lakes, Area.**—Superior, 360 miles long; 32,000 square miles. Baikal, 370 long; 17,750 sq. m. Michigan, 340; 22,400. Great Slave, 300; 8,000. Winnipeg, 264; 8,500. Huron, 250; 21,000. Erie, 240; 9,600. Athabasca, 230; 4,600. Ontario, 190; 6,300. Nicaragua, 110; 2,830. Maracaybo, 100; 7,500. Great Bear, 150; 14,000. Ladoga, 120; 6,804. Champlain, 126; 1,500. Lake of the Woods, 85; 7,650. Great Salt Lake, 90; 2,290. Constance, 44; 200. Geneva, 53; 490. George, 35; 110. Cayuga, 38; 104. Utah, 24; 130.



Courtesy of Rev. S. S. Bidwell.  
**THE COLOSSE BAPTIST CHURCH, BUILT 1824.**  
 The first church edifice erected in Oswego county (still standing.) The body of Rev. Gamaliel Barnes, the first pastor, is buried in the cemetery back of the church.

**Oneida Lake Mythology.**—Iroquois tradition makes Oneida lake the place where the earth was created: A woman descending from the higher world of light upon a matfrass into the sea of the lower world (chaos)—a world peopled with monsters—was received upon the back of a huge turtle which had prepared for her a couch by varnishing his shell with earth. And this turtle increased in size and became a considerable island of earth, apparently covered with small bushes, which was Great Island. And the woman gave birth to twins, one of a gentle disposition, Enigorio, the good mind, and the other which possessed an insolence of character, Enigonhahetgea, the bad mind. To the former is due the creation of the sun (from his mother's head) which flooded the world with light by day; the moon (a fragment of his mother's body) which gives light at night; numerous spots of light called stars; and all good things in the universe—streams, game and other necessities and enjoyments of the Indians. And after preparing this Eden for the red men, Enigorio was in doubt respecting some being to possess the Great Island; and he formed two images of the ground in his own likeness, a male and a female, and by his breathing into their nostrils he gave them living souls, and named them EA-GWE-HOWE, i. e. the real people, meaning of course the Iroquois. But what became of the bad mind. Cusick, the native Iroquois historian, says that when Enigorio turned on the light the monsters sought to hide themselves in dark caverns; and the bad mind built hills and mountains, falls of water, great steeps, various reptiles—all of those things which lay obstructions in the path of the Indian and make his hunting more difficult. And the bad mind endeavored to copy the good mind's creation. His images of earth turned out to be Indians, but not the Iroquois, who like the Israelites were chosen of the Great Manitou. After a great battle between the good and the bad minds—God and the Devil—the latter is driven down to eternal doom and the good spirit retired from the earth to his celestial regions above.

**Size of Large Bodies of Water.—**

Oceans—Pacific, 80,000,000 sq. miles; Atlantic, 40,000,000; Indian, 20,000,000; Southern, 10,000,000; Arctic, 5,000,000. Seas—Mediterranean, 2,000 miles long; Caribbean, 1,800; China, 1,700; Red, 1,400; Japan, 1,000; Black, 932; Caspian, 640; Baltic, 600; Okhotsk, 600; White, 450; Arai, 250. Lakes—Superior, 360 by 120 miles in area; Michigan, 340 by 60 miles; Ontario, 190 by 40; Erie, 270 by 50; Huron, 250 by 90; Champlain, 126 by 12; Cayuga, 36 by 4; George, 36 by 3; Baikal, 360 by 35; Great Slave, 300 by 45; Winnipeg, 240 by 40; Athabasca, 200 by 20; Maracaybo, 150 by 60; Great Bear, 150 by 40; Ladoga, 125 by 75; Constance, 45 by 10; Geneva, 53 by 10; Lake of the Woods, 70 by 25.

**Great Bells, the weight, viz:—**

“Great Bell,” Moscow, 43,732 pounds; St. Ivans, Moscow, 127,830 pounds; Pekin, 120,000 pounds; Vienna, 40,200 pounds; Olmutz, Bohemia, 40,000 pounds; Ronen, France, 40,000 pounds; St. Pauls, London, 38,470 pounds; “Big Ben,” Westminster, 30,350 pounds; Montreal, 28,560 pounds; St. Peters, Rome, 18,600 pounds; Liberty Bell, Philadelphia, cast in London in 1752, weighs 2,000 pounds. It was cracked the first time it was used in 1753 and was recast in Philadelphia the same year. A few years after the Revolution it was cracked again while being rung.

**Mountains, New York—Altitude and locality, viz:—**

**ADIRONDACKS:—**Marcy, 5,467 feet, McIntyre, 5,183, McMartin, 5,000, and Dial (Nipple), 4,600 in Essex county; White Face, 4,855, Clinton county; Seward, 4,000, Franklin county. **CATSKILLS:—**Round Top, 3,801, High Peak, 3,718, Pine Orchard, 3,000, Green county; Shawangunk, 1,866, Orange county, Butter Hill, 1,520, Old Beacon, 1,471, Breakneck, 1,187, Anthony's Nose, 1,128. **ISOLATED:—**Defiance, (near Tieonderoga) 750, Essex county; Palisades, 559, Rockland Co.; Fort Putnam (near West Point), 500, Orange Co.; Harbor Hill, 319, Long Island; Richmond Hill, Staten Island, 307.



Courtesy of Rev. S. S. Bidwell.  
**THE FIRST SURROGATE'S OFFICE [at Colosse] IN OSWEGO COUNTY [still standing].**





Old Photos.                      LEVI MATTHEWS.  
 SOLOMON MATTHEWS.              GEORGE P. MATTHEWS.

**Levi Matthews** was born in Massachusetts, Dec. 9, 1774. In 1798 he married Rebecca Walker and about two years later they came to the town of Mexico, taking a farm where they lived the balance of their lives, raising ten children. Mr. Matthews, besides being a successful farmer, conducted a grist mill which stood on the west shore of Little Salmon river in the village of Mexico, where one of the Osborn mills now stands. His integrity in business matters gave him the name of "the honest miller." Mr. Matthews was a strong temperance advocate and an active Presbyterian and gave liberally towards repairing the old church in 1811, of which he was one of the charter members. He was one of those who organized the Masonic lodge in Shubel Alfred's house, in 1808. A niece of his, a graduate of Oberlin college, was for years prominent on the lecture platform in advocacy of woman suffrage. He died April 24, 1862, and his wife, May 13, 1858.

Solomon Matthews, a son of Levi, was born on the farm in the town of Mexico, June 21, 1811, and when about 23 years old went to Demerestville, Canada, where he engaged in the trade of a cooper, making barrels. In March, 1839, he married Susan Dorland, who died in 1844. On Feb. 11, 1845, he wedded Amy Clark and in March, 1847, they removed to Mexico. Four children

were the fruit of this marriage. Mr. Matthews was the superintendent of the Mexico and Oswego plank road and of the county fairs, each five years. He was a member of and liberal contributor to the Presbyterian church. Mr. M. was a courteous, obliging man, always cheerful and having a pleasant word for all. He died March 25, 1892.

George Paschal Matthews, son of Solomon, was born April 5, 1853, on the farm which he still owns. On Oct. 25, 1877, he married Eva A. Miller. They moved to the village of Mexico, April 1, 1894.

**The Show Window.**—The growth of a town increases property valuations, enlarges the circumference of local trade and expands rental values. It increases church and school attendance. It provides more mouths to be fed, more bodies to be clothed, more people to be amused. Competition between communities is to-day as stirring as between tradesmen. The latter displays his goods and advertises their values. Why may not the former? The Historical Souvenir is the show window for a community. The character of its public institutions, its scenery, its enterprises, and its places of business and recreation displayed to the world in half tone engravings will do for the community what the show window and the local newspaper advertising column do for the merchant. If every family in Mexico has mailed one of these Souvenirs, who can doubt what the publication is worth to Mexico.

**The First Marriage** in the town of Mexico was that of the widow of Nathaniel Rood and Richard Gafford which occurred in 1799, the year after the bride's first husband was lost in the lake.



GEORGE P. MATTHEW'S RESIDENCE.  
 THE MATTHEWS HOMESTEAD, NOW IN THE THIRD GENERATION.

**The State Legislature** consists of a senate with fifty members and an assembly with 150 members. Both houses are required by the constitution to meet annually on the first Wednesday in January, the legislative term and political year to begin January 1. The senators serve two years and the assemblymen one year. No restriction is placed on the duration of the annual sessions. The annual salary of senators and assemblymen is the same, \$1,500, with an extra allowance of ten cents a mile going to and returning from the capital over "the most usual route" once during the session. No member of the legislature shall receive a civil appointment of any character. A majority of either house constitutes a quorum for doing business, except on the final passage of bills carrying appropriations, creating debt or imposing a tax, when it is necessary for three-fifths to be present, and has the exclusive right to make its own rules and be the judge of the elections returns and qualifications of its own members. Either house has the right to close its doors against the public and may at any time shut out the whole or any part of the press from getting the proceedings. Neither house can adjourn for more than two days without the consent of the other. For any speech or debate the members shall not be questioned by any outsider; and all members are exempt from arrest.

**Planets.**—**SUN**, diameter, 822,000 miles; revolves once in 25 days, 8 hours, 10 minutes. **MERCURY**, diameter, 3,150 miles; revolution about the Sun in 88 d; diurnal revolution (length of day) 1 d, 0 h, 5 m; distance from the Sun, 35 millions of miles. **VENUS**, diameter, 7,718; revolution, 225 d; diurnal, 23 h, 21 m; distance, 66 millions. **EARTH**, diameter, 7,916; revolution 365 d; diurnal, 23 h, 56 minutes; distance, 91 millions. **MOON**, diameter, 2,160 miles; revolution about the earth in 27 d, 7 h, 43 m; distance from the earth 237,000 miles; the lunar month, from one conjunction to the Sun to another, is 29 d, 12 h, 44 m, 2 s. **MARS**, diameter, 4,093; revolution, 687 d; diurnal, 1 d, 0 h, 37 m; distance, 139 millions. **FLORA**, diameter not given; revolution, 1,139 d; diurnal not given; distance 201 millions. **HYGELA**, diameter not given; revolution, 2,041 d; diurnal not given; distance 288 millions. **JUPITER**, diameter, 85,968; revolution, 4,332 d; diurnal, 9 h, 55 m; distance, 575 millions. **SATURN**, diameter, 79,013; revolution, 10,759 d; diurnal, 10 h, 16 m; distance, 871 millions. **URANUS**, diameter, 34,292; revolution, 30,687 d; diurnal not known; distance 1,752 millions. **NEPTUNE**, diameter, 37,000; revolution, 60,127 d; diurnal not known; distance, 2,743 millions. **ASTEROIDS**, a system of upwards of a hundred planets thus far discovered ranging in diameter, each, so far as is known, from 50 to 230 miles, occupying a belt about 200 million miles wide and averaging in distance from the Sun from 200 millions to 306 millions of miles. The four largest are Ceres, Pallas, Juno and Vesta.

**Vote**, New York State—In 1900 McKinley received 821,992, Bryan 678,387, Malloney (socialistic-labor) 12,622, Woolley (proh.) 22,043 and Debs (Soc-dem) 12,689.

In 1902 Odeff received 665,150, Coler 655,398, Manierre (proh) 20,490, DeLeon (Soc-labor) 15,886, Hanford (Soc-dem) 23,400 and Rider (Liberal-dem) 1,891.

**High Structures of the World.**—Eiffel, Paris, 984 feet; Washington, Washington, 555; Pyramid of Cheops, Egypt, 486; Antwerp Cathedral, Belgium, 476; Strasburg Cathedral, Germany, 474; Pyramid of Cephrenes, Egypt, 456; St. Peter's church, Rome, 448; St. Martin's church, Landshut, Germany, 411; St. Paul's church, London, 365; Salisbury Cathedral, England, 400; Cathedral, Florence, Italy, 387; Cathedral, Cremona, Lombardy, 396; Cathedral, Fribourg, Germany, 386; Cathedral, Seville, Spain, 360; Cathedral, Milan, Lombardy, 355; Cathedral Utrecht, Holland, 356; Pyramid of Oukkarah, Egypt, 356; Cathedral of Notre Dame, Munich, Bavaria, 348; St. Mark's church, Venice, 328; Assinelli Tower, Bologna, Italy, 272; Trinity church, New York, 284; Column at Delhi, Hindoostan, 262; Church at Notre Dame, Paris, 224; Bunker Hill Monument, Boston, 221; Leaning Tower of Pisa, Italy, 179; Washington Monument, Baltimore, 175; Monument, Place Vendome, Paris, 153; Trajan's Pillar, Rome, 151; Obelisk of Luxor, Paris, 110; Egyptian Obelisk, New York, 69.

**Wars of the world**—Cost in lives and money 1855-1880.—Crimean, 150,000 lives; \$1,700,000,000. Italian, 45,000 lives; \$300,000,000. Schleswig-Holstein, 3,000 lives; \$35,000,000. American, Civil Union, 280,000 lives; \$4,700,000,000. American Civil, Confederate, 520,000 lives; \$2,300,000,000. Prussia-Austria, Italian, 45,000 lives; \$330,000,000. Expeditions in Mexico, Cochin-China, Morocco, Paraguay, 65,000 lives; \$200,000,000. Franco-German, France 155,000 lives; Germany, 60,000; total cost, \$2,600,000,000. Russia-Turko, 225,000 lives; \$1,100,000,000. Zulu-and-Afghan, 40,000 lives; \$50,000,000.

**Frozen Raspberry Juice.**—Mash two quarts of red raspberries and cover them with three heaping cupsful of granulated sugar. Let this stand in a warm place for an hour, then press through a cheesecloth bag or a vegetable press to extract all the juice. To this add the juice of three lemons, one orange, and two quarts of cold water. Stir well together and freeze. Some persons put a spoonful of whipped cream upon each glass of this ice. The contrast of the white with the pink is very pretty.

**Directory, June, 1903.**—**TOWN OFFICERS**—Supervisor: E L Huntington. Town Clerk: N D Hart. Justices: W C Shumway, W A Robbins, Charles House, A J Rose. Commissioner of Highways: Grove Halsey. Trustee Town Hall: W L Morgan. Constables: S L Alexander, W S Sweetland, Ira Marks, Levi Dawley. Poormaster: Robert Aird. Assessors: J E Jones, William Buck, George Patten. Collector: Theodore Green.

**VILLAGE OFFICERS**—President—George H Wilson. Trustees: Dr S M Bennett and C E Hare. Clerk: Alvin Richardson. Street Commissioner: J E Baker. Collector: Joseph Brown. Treasurer: Charles A Peek. Police Constables: Jasper Cole, R L Houghton. Board of Education: President, R H Baker; Secretary, Mrs George A Davis; Mrs E S Taylor, Dr C W Radway and J W Ladd.

Court Crier: W A Tillapaugh. Postmaster: W H Richardson. Railroad Agent: A K Matthewson. Express Agent: John Porter. Clergy: M D Sill, Methodist; George Bayless, Presbyterian; S S Bidwell, Baptist; J W Hawkins, Episcopal.





Attorneys: T W Skinner; George H Goodwin; J A Johnson; C I Miller; George W Brudner; W C Shumway; R L Simons.  
 Bank: The First National.  
 Barbers: M. Jeffery; Chadwick & Allen; John Freeman; B G Buck.  
 Bicycle Repairing: H H Dobson; Herbert Adams; J C Taylor.  
 Billiards: W H Simons.  
 Blacksmiths: R L Houghton; George Consene; Charles Sharp; Alfred Hollister; Jacob Sharra; Wm Dillenbeck; Wm Gustin; M Manwaren.  
 Bus and Baggage: Lausing & Avery.  
 Cartman, William Fish.  
 Canning: George Wilson.  
 Carriage Painting: L A Whitney.  
 Cheese Buyer: R. H. Baker.  
 Creamery: Rosemary Co.  
 Coal Dealer: E S Taylor; Hartwell & Gill.  
 Dentists: H W Whitney; A C Lindsley.  
 Evaporator: George A Davis; Henry Cole.  
 Flour and Feed: W H Osborn, Charles Everts.  
 Foundry: L J Clark.  
 Harness: Jacob Brown; G B Cusaek; B W Pond; M Stone.  
 Hotels: Boyd House; Mexico House.  
 Insurance: E J Parmelee; George Stone; C I Miller; Edward A Hollister.

Laundry: Jed Hager.  
 Livery: R H Green; Elon Van Sickle.  
 Lumber: H Ames; Stevens Bros.  
 Merchants: E Hollister, George McDonald, W McIntyre, C Hayden, grocers; Coe & Hogoboom, W Bracy, meats; H C Peck's Son, Cook & Jordan, C E Hare & Co, E Brown, dry goods; W W Kingsley, W P Gass, furniture; J C Taylor, N D Hart, drugs; H H Dobson, Milo Graves, P Didier, jewelry; B S Stone & Co, L B Ballard, W B Pond, W H Norton, hardware; E S Taylor, boots and shoes; Mrs M A Barker, books.  
 Milliner; Miss Manwaren; Mrs C H Everts; Jacob & Longstreet.  
 Monuments: F L Kellogg; George Salladin.  
 Painters: Charles Fellers; Jesse Stone; Monroe Griffin; Daniel Wyant; M Hemstreet.  
 Photographer: H R Husted.  
 Printing: Mexico Independent; The Mexican.  
 Physicians: C W Radway; S M Bennett; G F Smith; Geo P Johnson; J H Huntington; E S Sampson; D T Stow; T J Green.  
 Restaurant: Myron Stone.  
 Shoemakers: David Dempster; Tom Pepper.  
 Stock Farm: Ira S Hosford; A S Tubbs; William Buck.  
 Undertakers: W H Penfield; John Porter.  
 Veterinary Surgeon: F Fowler.  
 Wagons: Miller Spring Wagon Co.; B W Pond.

INDEX TO "GRIP'S" HISTORICAL SOUVENIR OF MEXICO

Academy	76	Store 37--Hotel 64--Mail	Mountains of N Y, height	89	Skinner, Avery 61--T W	8
Assembly, Members	59	Route 58--Town officers	Miller, Lewis 60--Spring	Wagon Co 61--C I	Smith, D & L 26--Dr G F	45
Ames	34	55--County officers 47--	Names, Noted 28--Original	51	Scriba's Patent	28
Ancient Cities	28	Missionary 47--Postoffice	29	Normal schools	Summits, height, (See	
Arcopagus Club	75	Faculty, school	76	Onida Reservation	State Water Sheds)	42
Business Men, Prior 1870	30	French, Geo G	80	Officers in Rebellion	Show W ndow	25
Baptist Church 36--Aid So-	57	G A R	14	Oswego 64--Forts 85--Origin	Salmon River Light House	90
cety 4--In Oswego Co 25--		Grange	20	Of Name 28	57--Earl of Selkirk 40--	
Christian End 58--Dor-		Goodwin, G H	19	Onida Lake 74--Myth 73	Gen Van Rat	50
cas 24		Gun, largest	58	Odd Fellows	Salmon Fishing	28
Boylston tract	61	Governors, N Y	84	Osborn, W H	Soldier's Monument	32
Burrows,	33	Green, R H, Res	82	Orvis, S R	Supervisors	16
Babeock, George	65	Humphries, Henry	21	Prattman	32	
Bright Suits	57	Heaton, W C 50--Dr C E	81	Presbyterian ch 41--Mis-	stony Aid 24--Primary	40
Berry, A D	43	Huntington, E L	46	Class 51--W M	Physicians, prior 1850	31
Baker, Jerome 66--RH, Res	83	Hoose, Jedediah	72	Pioneer lost 46--In Oswego	county 57	64
Bells, Great	89	Hutchinson	49	Penfield, W H	Parmelee, E J	91
Brown, J T	68	Husted, H R	86	Phanets	Presidents, village	69
Bequillard, Louis	78	Hotel, Historic	92	Postoffice Corner, Old	Postmasters, Mexico	84
Battles, Rebellion	87	High Structures	71	Pond, B W	R County	43
Congregational ch, 1st in		Hager, Jed	69	Rebekahs	Rundell, Auntie	37
Mexico	32	Houghton, R L	69	Richardson, W M	57	
Clark, L J	82	Independent Staff	79	Robbins, W A	49	
Cradle of Societies	32	Indians, great trail	83	Receipts, cake 58--chicken	salad 66--Frozen Rasp-	berry Juice 91--Fruit 66
Colosse 23--Rap ch 26--Cor-		Justices, Session 53--peace	54--associate Common	18	35--at Colosse 83--Name	La Famline 88
net Band 88		18	Jerry Rescue	30	Johnson, J A 48--G W 48--	Dr G P 35
Chaplain in Mexico	34	Jesuit Le Moine at Mexico	85--at Colosse 83--Name	La Famline 88	Killam, Aaron & Aaron Jr	73
Cemetery	34	50	Kingsley, W W	80	Lawyers, prior 1854	42
Clark, Starr	85	50	Lakes of N Y 45--the world	88	Legislature	91
Common Pleas, 1st Court,		1st Jury Dist 65--1st	50	Laws of N Y 45--the world	88	91
Court, 2nd Jury Dist	50	County Judges 75--Judges	special 71--Seat Question	17--Clerks 19--Treasurers	20	42
Cooking Club	24	Court of Appeals Judges	42	Cooking Club	24	61
Cusack, G B	61	Deserters	27	District Att'ys	65	18
Distances, Driving	18	Dobson, John	23	Dobson, H H	71	83
Dobson, H H	71	Davis, Phineas, Res	83	Epidemics	21	15
Davis, Phineas, Res	83	Earthworks, Historic	15	Emigrants	38	11
Eastern Star	11	Episcopal ch	38	Education, Board of	76	37
Episcopal ch	38	Perils, E D	37	Fire Department 21--the	First 32--prior 1866 31--of	34 40--great 85
Education, Board of	76	Fire Department 21--the	First 32--prior 1866 31--of	34 40--great 85	First Flng 21--Stagecoach 47	17
Perils, E D	37	First Flng 21--Stagecoach 47	17	Village school 51--town	school 55--Road 58--Town	meeting 42--Town Board
Fire Department 21--the		42--Birth 37--Marriage 90		Highway 17--Bank 64--		
First 32--prior 1866 31--of		34 40--great 85				
First Flng 21--Stagecoach 47		17				
Village school 51--town		school 55--Road 58--Town				
meeting 42--Town Board		42--Birth 37--Marriage 90				
Highway 17--Bank 64--						

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