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The above cut represents a Stage Coach similar to those used by Mr. Sherwood.



HISTORY  
OF  
SKANEATELES  
AND  
VICINITY.

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1781—1881.

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*Compiled by E. Norman Leslie.*

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## PREFACE.

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THIS work has been executed from a desire to inform the citizens of Skaneateles and Vicinity, of the present day, of the historical events occurring in the last century. It has been a subject of much attention and study for a few years past, by Mr. E. N. Leslie, who has been to much trouble and expense, collecting the facts and incidents herein published. Much credit is due him for the same.



## HISTORY OF SKANEATELES.

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IT will be appropriate in writing the History of Skaneateles, to begin at the earliest period, consequently we will commence with the comparatively short limit of one hundred years ago, 1781. At that time, the place where are now situated our pleasant homes, our shady and broad avenues, our marts of business and manufacturing, our schools, these fertile farms and all the accessories of civilization, was a dense and almost impenetrable forest filled with underbrush, without a white resident, within, perhaps, a hundred miles. Indian trails along the lake shore, and the locality only now and then visited by hunters and trappers.

One hundred years is but a short limit of time; a number of our own population have nearly reached the age of one hundred years. The Egyptian obelisk,

of which we are all familiar, now erected in New York, is 3,500 years old; it is by comparisons that we can perceive the limited space of one hundred years.

At the commencement of the Revolutionary war, in 1776, Congress offered a bounty to the officers and soldiers who should enlist and serve during the war, of both money and land. At the close of the war, in 1783, the Legislature of the State of New York, took action with regard to these promised bounty lands, not only with a view of discharging the aforesaid engagement of Congress, but, in consideration of the virtue and patriotism of the troops of New York, to add thereto a large gratuity of State lands.

As a consequence the Legislature passed an act defining the ratio of lands to be given to each private and to officers of each grade. There are two kinds of granted lands, one called gratuity, and the other bounty. By an act passed February 28, 1789, the Surveyor General was directed to lay out the tracts of land, which are now known as "the

military lots." On the 1st of January, 1791, the Commissioners of the Land Office proceeded to determine claims and to ballot for each individual's share. From that time soldiers began to sell their bounty lands, and even before that date they sold their claims to any one who wished to purchase, and it is a singular fact that soldiers would sell their claims over and over again to whoever would make an offer for them. Our county records, made at an early day, show many owners of each military lot in this town. In consequence, the courts became overflowed with business, relating to these contested claims, scarcely a lot in the whole military tract, but became more or less a subject of litigation. Finally the Legislature passed a law, appointing a Board of Commissioners with full power to hear, examine, award and determine all disputes respecting the titles to any and all the military bounty lands. The action of this Board prevented further litigation and the real owners were placed in quiet possession of their lands.

## HOW THE PIONEERS CAME.

From the time of the survey of the military lots in 1794, the tide of emigration from the eastern section of this State, and from the New England States began to flow to this part of the State. Usually, pioneers came in the summer and fall, on foot and on horseback, prospecting in search of homes. But winter was most propitious for the removal of their families and goods. The snows of winter were distributed evenly over the ground, and laid permanently protected from drifts by the dense forests. The long winters gave ample time for the journeys, which were often interrupted by impassible streams and thaws. This was fortunate for emigration at that early period, as the highway during the summer season was so much obstructed by roots and stumps as to render traveling very difficult in conveyances on wheels. There were no four wheeled wagons in those days. Two wheeled vehicles were only used.

For many years there was to be seen on the Genesee road in the winter season, an almost unbrok-



en procession of loads of people with goods, drawn either by oxen or horses, accompanied by herds of cattle and cows to settle this great wilderness. In 1803, the Seneca Turnpike was chartered, and soon after it was laid out six rods wide, the trees being cut away to the whole width, and the roadway thrown up in the centre to get the benefit of the sun's rays, and render the road as dry as possible. This road extended from Utica to Canandaigua, and was a continuation of the Mohawk Turnpike, thus affording a regular turnpike communication from Albany to Canandaigua. There was a great tide of emigration which came over this road, destined to the western part of this State, and to the Western Reserve in Ohio.

The Genesee country, in the western part of the State, was settled previously to this, and there having been no roads through the State, the emigration to it was by water up the Mohawk, through Oneida Lake and River, and up the Seneca River and Lake. On the completion of the turnpike, the travel westward passed wholly through this place. About

the year 1800 merchandise was transported in large covered wagons, drawn by four horses.

The town of Marcellus is one of the original townships in the military tract, that consisted of lands which were assigned by the State of New York to the Revolutionary soldiers of the New York line as premiums or bounty lands. A lot one mile square was given to each soldier, except a certain portion which was reserved to defray the expenses of surveying and other contingencies. The names assigned to the townships, were selected by the Surveyor-General DeWitt, and officers of the Government before any settlements were made. This accounts for the singularity of the names, which were taken principally from distinguished men of ancient Greece and Rome. Some of them were distinguished as poets, orators, statesmen, and some as military commanders; a few were taken from prominent literary men of England, as Dryden, Milton and Locke.

The townships of the military tract were equal to ten miles square, and were divided by surveys into one hundred lots, one mile square.

Settlements once made, prepared the way for accessions, and accordingly we find that the population increased rapidly from year to year by the constantly incoming tide of emigration from the east.

At the time this part of the country was settled, our fathers were groping in almost utter darkness, so far as a knowledge of the sciences was concerned, and but little progress had been made in invention and the arts; scarcely one of the modern contrivances for cooking, and for warming and lighting dwellings was known. Not a pound of coal had been burned in the country. Not any iron stoves were used, and no contrivances for economizing heat were employed. All cooking and warming was done by the aid of fire, kindled upon the stone hearth or the oven. Pine knots, instead of tallow candles, furnished the light for the long winter evenings, and bare floors supplied the place of rugs and carpets. The water used for household purposes was drawn from deep wells by a creaking "sweep." No form of pump was used in this part of the country, so far as can be learned, until after the commencement of the present

century. There were no friction matches in those days, by the aid of which a fire could be speedily kindled. And if the fire went out upon the hearth over night, and the tinder was damp, so that the spark would not "catch," the alternative remained of wading through the snow a mile or so, to borrow a brand of a neighbor. Only one room in any house was warmed, (unless some of the family were ill); in all the rest, the temperature was at zero during many nights in winter; the men and women of those days undressed and retired to their beds at night, in an atmosphere colder than that of our modern barns and wood sheds, and they never complained. No hot air furnaces tempered the wintery air in their dwellings, and they slept soundly in the cold. The cooking was very simple; the nature of the food plain and substantial. But few dishes were seen upon the table; pork and cabbage, corn bread and milk, with bean porridge and potatoes, were about the usual forms of food consumed.

## EARLY PIONEERS.

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THE first settler of which we have any account, was John Thompson. He located on military lot No. 18; his deed, as recorded in the County Clerk's office, is dated 1794, Abraham Hardenburgh to John Thompson, of the town of Mexico, Herkimer county. The consideration, his services while employed in ascertaining the jurisdiction line between the States of New York and Pennsylvania, and since during three successive summers, employed in surveying the Military Lands, as well as in consideration of five shillings lawful money of the State of New York. Fifty acres.

Abraham A. Cuddeback came here from the town of Minnisink, Orange county, New York. He started from there on the 2d of May, 1794, in a wagon with three yoke of cattle, one two-year-old colt and twelve

cows. He brought with them his wife and eight children, and came by the way of Albany, and was forty-three days on the road, arriving here June 14th, 1794. Where Utica now is, there were only two buildings, and between there and Onondaga Hill, there were no houses. When he arrived here, there were no houses or log cabins, within the locality where the village is now situated. The forest on the lake shore was so impenetrable for teams and cattle, that he had to construct a raft from the mouth of the outlet, in order to get his effects and family to his destination on the west shore of the lake. His place is now ornamented with the beautiful residence of Dr. S. Hurd. The east end of the old barn, which was taken down by the order of Dr. Hurd, a year or two ago, was erected by Mr. Cuddeback, and was the first frame building put up in this town. When Cuddeback and his family arrived here, there were five wigwams occupied by Indians, located at the spring where C. W. Allis erected his house some years ago, and which is now owned by John M. Nye.

The first four years, the settlers had to carry their

grain to a mill, where Utica is now situated, to be ground. The first mill in this vicinity, was built at Onondaga Valley, in 1798. The first wheat raised by Mr. Cuddeback, in 1796 and '97, he carried to Albany. Among other necessities needed by him was nails, so he traded part of his wheat to procure them—a bushel of wheat for a pound of nails. Mr. Cuddeback died, October 22, 1831, aged 73 years; he was a descendant of the Huguenots, who originally settled in Orange county.

Another early settler, was Col. Elijah Bowen, who with his family located on the farm, now owned by C. C. Wyckoff, as early as 1794. Col. Bowen had a brother, whose name was Benajah, who lived on the farm next east of Mr. Rickard's. The log houses owned by these two brothers, were the only ones in that vicinity, and the road leading to them, was for a long time called the "Bowen Road." Col. Bowen was afterwards a soldier of the war of 1812. He died in Wisconsin, January 5, 1861, aged 81 years. (It is very doubtful whether Col. Bowen came here as early as '94, as he was only 14 years old at that date.

A very unlikely age to take up land and erect a log house.) It has been found that elderly gentlemen are very deficient in the matter of naming a specific date of early occurrences. There were really no other pioneers, except, perhaps, Cuddeback and Thompson, who came here as early as 1794, as the titles of the military lots were not secure, and no action had been taken by the Legislature to correct this state of affairs, until January, 1794, and the Board of Commissioners who were empowered to determine the true ownership, were not appointed until 1797. John Thompson acquired his title through the Surveyor-General, and Mr. Cuddeback through the same undisputed source.

Bethuel Cole came into this part of the country in 1794. He was both a farmer and blacksmith. Cole lived about a mile west of the "Red House," on a path through the woods which led to Hardenburgh's Corners. This same path now constitutes the north road to Auburn from Willow Glen. He had a son by the name of Elijah, who settled on what is now known as the Community farm. He after



wards moved further north on the edge of the town of Elbridge, where he died.

In the year 1794, John Shepard and Zalmon Terrell, brother-in-law of John Shepard, came from the town of Newton, Fairfield county, Conn., and settled in what is now known as the "Shepard Settlement." Terrell bought one hundred acres from Gould Steel, on military lot No. 5. They put up a house, as they called it then, of logs, and split basswood for the floor, and shingled it with "shucks," as they called them, that is, oak rived out like staves three feet long, and laid on ribs. They had a blanket for a window, and the door was so constructed as to enable them to draw in back-logs with a horse. They cleared off a few acres and planted it to corn, and when hoeing, Nathan Kelsey came down and said to them, "it seems to me that you are digging your potatoes pretty early;" he having mistaken the round gravel stones for potatoes, with which the ground was filled.

The next winter Terrell went east and brought back his wife and family, and in 1796, John Shepard

bought one hundred acres of land on lot No. 12, and was married the same year. He went out across Cayuga Lake with an ox team and sled after wheat, and on his return, when coming across the lake, his team broke through the ice, and his wheat got wet. He came as far as Hardenburgh's Corners. There was then a mill at Clarksville, where he left his grist, and the miller agreed to dry the wheat, but when he went after it, the miller had not done anything with it, in consequence of which his family had to live on musty bread that year. He had built him a house on his land, and one morning just before day break, he heard his hog squeal out in the woods; he ran to the door, and his hog was but a little ways off. Instead of taking his gun, he caught up a pitchfork that was standing close by, and ran towards the hog, when he found an old bear with it, gnawing it on the shoulder. He threw the fork at the bear, whether it hit him or not, he did not stay to see, for the bear left the hog and took after him. He ran and climbed up a tree, and then began to halloo, and Terrell soon heard him, and ran out there, but there

was no bear to be seen, but they got up the story that when Terrell got there, instead of being up a tree, Shepard sat on the ground, clasping the tree for fear he would fall.

His first child was born July 4th, 1798, who has since been known as Major Shepard—the *Gazetteer* states that Stephen Zoles was the first child born, but Major was more than a year older than Stephen. Three other brothers and a sister came, and they all had large families. There are none left but Edward Shepard and his family.

Jacob Annis came from Orange county, in 1795, and settled on the land now known as the Lapham place, on the west side of the lake. In 1806, he kept a tavern at this same place. He acquired his title from Simeon DeWitt, Surveyor-General of the State. Annis was related by marriage with the DeWitt family.

William Clift came from Vermont, in the year 1795, in the month of March, when there was not a house where this village is now situated, and but one at Hardenburgh's Corners, (now Auburn.) He

settled with his father, on the same farm which he occupied at the time of his death, having lived more than sixty-seven years on the same premises, Clift's Corners. He died in Sennett, October 18th, 1862, aged eighty-four years.

James Ennis and his wife, occupied part of the Moses DeWill farm, on the west shore of the lake in 1795, being part of lots Nos. 35 and 37.

Timothy Coleman and his wife, had a portion of the above premises in their possession in the same year.

General Robert Earll left Whitehall, Washington county, N. Y., January, 1794, and came to Onondaga Hollow; he lived there one year, and came to this place in January, 1796. Earll built a log house, on the site of the frame house, now occupied by Wm. Samuels, at Willow Glen.

Nehemiah H. Earll was born in Whitehall, Washington county, N. Y., October 5th, 1787, and accompanied his father, General Robert Earll, to this place, January 1796. Daniel Watson and Nehemiah were boys of about the same age. (Watson's father

with his family accompanied General Earll from Whitehall. These boys were constant companions, one of their early exploits, was to dig up a bark canoe from the debris, on the bank of the lake, near the mouth of the outlet.

Nehemiah went to study law with Daniel Kellogg, in the spring of 1805. Among other students who associated with him at this time, were William Price and David Hyde. The former was a son of Judge Price of Owasco, and was the smartest young man in the office; he afterwards became intemperate and turned out poorly.

It is believed that the first white child born in this place, was the late Charles Pardee, who was born in the year of 1796, and died April, 1878, thus making him about 82 years of age. Mr. P., during his day was one of the most active business men in this vicinity.

John Briggs came here in 1796 from where Owasco is now situated. Briggs at one time held the office of Justice of the Peace.

Sabin Elliot was the first settler in what is now

known as Mottville, and was a squatter on land belonging to the Schenectady College. Elliot was also a laborer and a whiskey drinker—died poor.

About 1798, Warren Hecox came to this place, and the following tale is said to have been related by him :

“ In 1799, there was an uncommon scarcity of grain, and I had to send to Scipio, twenty miles, and pay \$2.50 for one bushel of wheat. I could only raise money enough to purchase a single bushel at a time. I hired a horse at fifty cents a day, and sent a boy eighteen miles to Montville, in Sempronius, to get the bushel ground which took two days; the mills at Auburn and Camillus having stopped running on account of the draught of that season.”

Many of his neighbors were in a worse predicament, for they could get neither money or wheat.

Nathan Kelsey resided in these parts about the year 1798.

The region of Thorn Hill was first settled in 1799. David Earll, Eleazer Burns, Nathan Turner and John Wiltsie arrived there on the 1st day of March

in that year. They removed in company from Washington county in sleighs.

Benjamin Gumear, came from Orange county to this locality in 1799, and settled on the farm now owned by Obadiah Thorne. Benjamin was a father of the late Harvey Gumear of this place.

Jesse Kellogg was born in Hartford, Conn., in 1758. In the year 1800 he came to this village and bought the mills, and in 1807 he removed on to the farm now owned by Obadiah Thorne. He afterwards purchased the Loomis farm, on east hill, near Marcellus, where he resided until his death, in 1811.

Col. Dorastus Lawrence came here from Vermont, in the year 1801. He was one of the pioneers in this section of the country, and was more or less identified with the early history and business of Onondaga county. During the war of '12, he was captain of the militia company, which comprised both Skaneateles and Marcellus, and marched with it to repel the British at Oswego. Lawrence died February 11th, '62, in the seventy-sixth year of his age.

Peter E. Gumear and James Ennes came here about the first year of this century.

In 1803, Moses Loss and his family, lived in a new small one story frame house, on the lot now owned by John Kellogg. A log house stood in the rear of this house, and Sylvester Roberts, a blacksmith, lived in it.

David Seymour and wife, settled on one hundred acres, in millitary lot No. 37, on the west shore of the lake in 1804. In the same year he sold fifty acres to Stephen Gardner. Mr. Seymour was a shoemaker by trade, and Col. Hecox learned his trade from him. He also had a brick kiln on his place.

Isaac Mills, settled on lot No. 61, in Marcellus, in the month of May, 1803. He, accompanied by his wife and daughter, came from Stillwater, Saratoga county. Timothy Mills, his son, now lives on the same farm.

Daniel Kellogg became a resident of this village, in the spring of 1803. He was born in Williamstown, Mass., April 19th, 1780. After spending two years



as a student in Williams College, he studied law in the office of Abraham Van Vechten, of Albany, and was admitted at the bar, October, 1800, and the next year he began the practice of law at Auburn, then a hamlet of only a few scattering houses. In 1802, he was married in that place to Laura Hyde, and in the following year he removed to this village. Kellogg soon became famous, both as a lawyer and financier, and in the year of '13 he was appointed District-Attorney for the counties of Onondaga, Cayuga, Chenango and Cortland, and discharged the duties of the office with signal ability for three years. Elected President of the Bank of Auburn, in '18; he held this important financial station until his death, which occurred May 4th, '36.

Kellogg's gardner was an Englishman, and was celebrated for his early vegetables, which were forced under glass. He was the only one who raised early stock and his garden was the resort of all who were curious in such matters.

Elijah Parsons, father of Moses and John Parsons, came to this place from Northampton, Mass.,

in 1805. He died October 26th, '62, at the age of eighty-three years.

Nathan Miller, was born in Cherry Valley, Otsego county, March 29th, 1796, and came to this place in February, 1807. Miller was a harness maker by trade. He died in this village, March 16th, '75.

Ambrose Hecox, was born in Massachusetts, came to Scipio, Cayuga county, in 1802, and resided there until 1812, when he came here. He purchased a two acre lot in the village, from Sylvester Roberts, and soon after built a house in which he commenced business for the manufacture of chairs, furniture and sleighs, but his principal business was the former. He made all the chairs used in this section of the country in a circuit of fifty miles. All the newly married people procured their furniture from him. His business at one time was very extensive, and comprised repairs of all kinds. About the year of '17, Daniel Kellogg sent his splendid family carriage, (which at that time was the only fine vehicle in this part of the country), to Hecox to be repaired, and while there it was inspected by all the school

children, who looked upon it as being something unusually grand. When Augustus Kellogg brought his bride home, they were driven in grand style to and from the Presbyterian church in this carriage. Of course, a sensation was produced among the plebian members of the congregation. This same antiquated coach, is now stored in one of the barns of the old Kellogg place.

Hecox died in Gibson, Steuben county, September 27th, '60, aged eighty years.

Buttler S. Wolcott came to this place from Oneida county, in 1824 and in '25 commenced his business life as clerk to Phares Gould. This store was on the north side of Genesee street, next west to where Mrs. Wheeler now resides. He remained with Mr. Gould two or three years. He went into business in 1832 with Dr. Samuel Porter, under the firm name of B. S. Wolcott & Co., and afterward dissolved and formed a partnership with Mr. J. Gordon Porter under the same firm name. In '37 he took in as partner Lorenzo Carter. This connection not being genial, the partnership was again dissolved and he

continued in business individually. The store he occupied was frame and situated near the middle of the present row of stores. He held the office of Deputy Sheriff after his connection with Dr. Samuel Porter. In the year '48 he removed to Gibson, Stuben county, and built a steam saw mill and continued to reside there until his death. April 19th, 1855, he went out gunning in the morning of that day and while in the woods was attacked with heart difficulty and lay down on the ground until a neighbor came along in a carriage. He was assisted into the vehicle and before reaching home was so distressed that he could ride no further and from thence was carried home in a litter about 3 o'clock P. M., and died the same day at 9 P. M.

## EARLY INDUSTRIES.

UNDER this head the reader will find a list of the Early Industries in this locality.

Judge Jedediah Sanger erected the first grist and saw mills at the outlet of the lake, in 1796.

The first tannery in this locality was established by Gen. Robert Earll, in 1799. It was located on Skaneateles Creek, south of the present site of the factory at Willow Glen.

Mr. Earll also carried on shoemaking about 1797, and as his business increased in this line he employed many journeymen at the trade, he was the first shoemaker hereabouts.

The first dam across the outlet was constructed by General Robert Earll, at what is now known as Willow Glen. Mr. Earll erected a saw mill and a

grist mill there; this was before Sanger built the mill dam here.

Dr. Hall is on record as one of the first physicians in this village, as early as 1796. In '97 appeared Dr. Munger and Dr. Samuel Porter. Dr. Porter practised here forty or more years and died. He was possessed of wonderful energy and acquired quite a name as a surgeon. Probably no physician at that day had a larger ride than Dr. Porter.

The first tavern that we know anything about, in this place, was one that was kept by Lovell Gibbs, about 1797, and was constructed of logs. We can not state where this building was located.

Robert and Jonas Earll built the first distillery, near where Watson built his house, on the road leading from the Red House to the outlet, a few rods east and a little north of the Watson house. This was about the year 1800. The grain used was about six bushels a day, and as fast as it could be distilled it was sold at seventy-five cents a gallon. It yielded about two gallons to a bushel of wheat, which was considered a good yield in those days.

The first bridge was built by the Seneca Road Company in 1800. It was 24 rods long by 24 feet wide, and stood upon 14 posts. When it was rebuilt the second time, in '42, its length was reduced to 24 feet. The iron bridge spanning the outlet at present was erected by the State in '71 by a special act of the Legislature.

Tailoring was carried on in 1803, by a man by the name of O'Keefe and his son, who resided near the large elm tree, (now in the rear of George Barrow's house.) O'Keefe was the first in that business.

A man by the name of Thomas Greeves, was also a tailor in this place about this time.

The first store in this town was owned by Winston Day in 1803, who built a house of basswood split slabs, on military lot No. 27, when he first came into this locality, and sold goods in this building before he built the store on the Lake House Lot. Day's first store was located on the same place which John S. Furman afterwards purchased, north of where F. G. Weeks now resides.

Henry Danforth succeeded Winston Day on the Lake House site as a merchant, and afterwards went to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Soon after 1803, Norman Leonard established himself as a merchant, and his store was on the north side of Genesee street.

John Meeker afterwards opened a store here, and Phares Gould was his confidential clerk. John had several stores in other parts of the county, having confidential clerks in all of them, while he devoted his time to purchasing goods for the supply of his different establishments, and in a general supervision of them all.

Phares Gould afterward opened a store on his own account, and Stephen Horton was his clerk.

A man by the name of Sabin was the first blacksmith in this village; he had a shop built of logs, which was located thirty rods east of Julius Earll's house. Sabin was intemperate and as a consequence, poor. Afterwards he sold out his shop to John Legg, who first worked there in 1804, soon after his



arrival in this part of the country. Legg lived in a small house, where Thomas Y. Avery now lives.

Judge Sanger owned an ashery on the lake shore, on the present James E. Porter place. The lake shore, where the brick stores now stand, was then a grove of forest trees. Stumps of trees peered in the water for some considerable distance out in the lake.

The first carpenter that we have any knowledge of was a man by the name of Lusk, he framed and built the frame building known as the "Red House." Most of the frame buildings which were erected in early times were painted red. Lusk also framed and built the first barn, and afterwards returned to Whitestown, from which he originally came.

Isaac Selover, was also one of the most noted carpenters in this vicinity, he lived in an unpainted frame house on the site where Dr. Campbell now resides. Afterwards he built a small frame dwelling on the rear of the same lot.

The Post Office was established in this place in the year of 1804, and the first post-master was Wm.

J. Vredenburg, and his successors were John Ten Eyke, and Charles J. Burnett ; the latter held this position for twenty-six years.

The following is a list of the names, locations and occupations of those who lived here and in this vicinity seventy-five years ago—1806. The names were taken from an old ledger, which was kept by one of the merchants doing business here in that year, and the location of each was furnished by the late Nathaniel Miller.

Aaron Austin, farmer and clothier, on the Frank Austin farm.

Robert Aldridge, farmer, lived near Col. Clark's.

Ashahel Amidon, farmer, Otisco Valley.

James F. Brinkerhoff, farmer, Otisco.

Jeptha Baker, farmer, near Marcellus.

Jether Bailey, farmer, on the Colvin farm.

Richard Berry, farmer, on J. L. Mason's farm.

Elijah Bowen, on C. C. Wyckoff's place.

Elijah Bowen, Jr., farmer, at Hall's Corners, Marcellus.

John Benscotir, lived near Benson's, on lot No. 84.

Luke Brinkerhoff, farmer, lived in Niles.

Eli Barnes, miller, and was employed by W. J. Vredenburg in his mill.

John Burns, farmer, resided on the farm now occupied by Fred Kidder.

Eleazer Burns, farmer, in the town of Marcellus, and lived on the place now owned by John Burns, jr.

Amos Bacon, farmer, in Sennett on the county line road.

Silas Bascomb, farmer, lived opposite of Thomas Bradford.

Benajah Bowen, farmer, resided near where C. C. Wyckoff now lives.

Aaron Bailey, farmer, next to the Jas. Morse farm.

Rufus Bacon, farmer, near Sennett.

John Bailey, farmer, on the Joseph Bassett farm.

Samuel Benedict, physician, lived on the Jesse Simmon place.

Peter Benedict, miller, and brother of Samuel; he and a nephew of his were killed at Black Rock by the British, during the war of 1812.

John Bristol, potash boiler for Winston Day.

James Burroughs, farmer, lived on the farm opposite of the one now owned by John Joyce.

John Brown, stage driver for Sherwood.

Asa Bacon, jr., shoemaker and tanner.

Daniel Briggs, farmer, and father to W. S. Briggs.

William Burroughs, jr., drove stage for Sherwood.

Samuel Briggs, farmer, lived west of Willow Glen on the old road.

Wilhalmus Cortrite, farmer, on the Heman Fulton farm.

Sylvester Cortrite, farmer, and father of the above and lived on the same farm.

Samuel Chapman, farmer, lived near Clintonville.

Joseph Cross, farmer, had a hair lip, and lived on a farm east of Compton's.

Abraham Conklin, farmer, on the old road west of Willow Glen.

Peter Cuddeback, second farmer on the David Cuddeback farm.

Rodger Carpenter, on George Carpenter's place.

Joshua Covell, farmer, on the Hasbrook farm.

Samuel Conklin, farmer, near Borodino.

Abraham A. Cuddeback, farmer, on Dr. Hurd's place.

Owen Cotton, mill-wright, owned the Perry farm on the east shore road, and is now living at Attica, at an advanced age.

Amasa Chapman, farmer, on John Uncless' farm.

Joseph Codey, farmer, and built the tavern at Clintonville.

Timothy Copp, farmer at Thorn Hill.

Sheldon Cook, farmer on west side of the lake.

Wareham Cook, inventor of Cook's salve, lived on the Nathan Bond place.

Eli Clark, farmer on Foster Clark's farm.

Silas Crandal, tavern keeper opposite of Jacob Allen's farm.

William Dascomb, kept the first tavern on the William Clark farm, and afterwards the old tavern in this village.

Rowland Day, merchant and was clerk or partner of Norman Leonard in this place.

Isaac Dean, farmer and laborer, he lived between Owasco and Niles and afterwards moved to Ohio.

Moses D. Dunning, clerk in Dascomb's tavern, afterwards he was clerk for John Legg, and was also constable at the same time.

Asa Dexter, comb-maker or peddler with Cyrus Glass' father.

Ira DeLong, farmer and lived on the north part of the Obadiah Thorne farm.

Ebenezer Edwards, farmer and lived where John Dix no resides.

Samuel Eggleston, farmer near the Wiltsie farm.

David Earll, jr., farmer, lived on the Sheppard Earll farm.

Thaddeus Edwards, farmer and lived on the Gale Farm.

Nathaniel Eells, farmer and cooper on the Chas. Pardee place.

John Fitzgerald, farmer and lived on the east side of the lake.

Benjamin Frisby, chairmaker and painter and his shop was located in the rear of the old tavern.

Hezekiah Gun, farmer and resided on Osmond Rhoades' farm.

Thomas Greves, tailor, and was related to Dr. E. H. Porter.

Isaac Granger, farmer on the Amos Pardee farm.

Michael Gillett, farmer and also run a saw mill on the Shotwell farm.

Edward Greenman, father of Samuel H.

Amasa Gleason, painter, his shop was located on the present site of the engine house.

David Granger, farmer on Parker Wright's place.

James Geromomon, farmer, carpenter and joiner at Owasco.

Abijah Gilbert, farmer and carpenter; he learned his trade of Eliphalet Hoyt, and built Benson's first barn, near Holcombe Peck's.

Daniel Gardner, farmer and lived on the west lake road.

James Gardner, farmer on the Dor Austin farm.

Benjamin Gumear, farmer and lived on Obadiah Thorne's farm.

Eliphalet Hoyt, was the first carpenter in Owasco.

Seth Hall, carpenter and wagon maker; he came here October 23, 1806.

Peter Howard, farmer at Owasco.

Timothy Hatch, farmer and tavern keeper.

Jonathan Hall, physician, and made a specialty of treating small-pox.

Isaac Hodge, farmer west of Mandana, and next to Gleason's.

Israel Hodge, farmer near Mandana.

Simeon Hosmer, farmer on the old William Fuller farm.

Asa Hatch, farmer on the late Warren Hatch's farm.

Cyrus Hecox, brother of Col. Hecox.

George Haines, laborer and worked for Norman Leonard.

Judah Hopkins, physician.

David Hall came here in the month of March 1806.

Samuel Ingham, merchant and clerk for John Meeker.

Henry Jones, constable.

Elijah Jones, farmer and father of the above.

Amos Jones, lived at Mandana.

Bela Kingsley, farmer and uncle of J. A. Edwards.



Amasa Kneeland, school-master, between Joab Clift's and this village.

Asa Kneeland, joiner and carpenter.

Jesse Kellogg, agent for Sanger, and father of Dorastus.

Phineas Keith, tailor.

Ezra Lee, farmer on John Gregory's place.

Ezra Lane, school teacher.

Timothy Miller, laborer.

Elias Merrill, worked for Norman Leonard and died in 1812.

Ishmael Moffett, farmer and lived on next farm south of Holcomb Peck.

Daniel McKay, farmer and mason, lived on the Dr. Merrill place.

Benjamin Nye, father of John M. Nye.

Samuel Niles, teamster for Elnathan Andrews while he was building the old meeting house opposite the Pardee place, of which Andrews was the contractor.

William Pratt, physician.

Elijah Price, law student with Daniel Kellogg.

Alexander Price, brother of the above, and removed from here to Owasco, and afterwards to Ohio.

Jerad Patchin, farmer and owned the George Gregory farm.

Levi Pratt, lived at Alanson Edwards.

Elijah Parsons, farmer.

Thomas Read, farmer and lived near Mandana.

William Rose, farmer and lived on military lots Nos. 35 and 37.

Joseph Rhoades, farmer, Osmon Rhoades' father.

Amasa Sessions, farmer on the Bradford farm.

Peter Secoy, worked the Jerad Patchin's farm.

Nathaniel Seymour, farmer on the east side of the lake.

Briggs Shearman, farmer on the west side of the lake, and his farm was connected with the Bentley place.

Phineas Stanton, farmer and lived up the lake.

William Thomas, resided at Mottville.

John Thompson, farmer and the first settler in this locality.

Daniel Veal, jr., farmer and lived west of Mottville on the town line.

The following is a description of the village in 1807, as described by the late Nathaniel Miller.

“Winston Day, Norman Leonard, Jonathan Booth and John Meeker were the only merchants here. Samuel Ingham was the principal and confidential clerk for Meeker. Sylvester Roberts was then the only blacksmith, and his shop was situated where the Hatch house is now, on Onondaga street. This shop was afterwards removed to the opposite side of the street, lower down, and now forms the rear building of the Wildey house. The old meeting house was in process of construction, and the frame was not raised until July 3th, 1807. Moses Loss, Isaac Selover and Samuel Litherland were among those who assisted in the carpenter and joiner work. Thomas Greves was a tailor here at this time, and his shop was in the old yellow building, now known as the Slocum house. Col. Warren Hecox and Ezra Stephens were the only shoemakers. The latter was the first to introduce pegged shoes in

this place. Isaac Rawson was the only minister here when I arrived. There had been a missionary by the name of Bascomb here previously, and the religious services were then held in the old school house which was located nearly opposite what is now known as the Sommerset house. There was no other denomination here at that time. The above school house was afterwards destroyed by fire.

Perley Putnam was the only saddler and harness maker here, and I learned my trade of him. His shop was located where Dr. Campbell now resides, and his dwelling, a one-story building was immediately west of his shop and on the lot next east of the Thayer house. Putnam became interested as a partner in the wheel head factory, at what was then called Sodam, now Mottville. Lower down the stream where the brick grist mill is now, was then called Gomorrah. These scriptural names were so applied to these locations because there were a large number of Universalists in the neighborhood. Putnam's partners in the wheel head factory were Deacon Porter (he that owned the old tavern), Barker and

Lovell. Afterwards it was carried on by Porter, Putnam, Newell and Leonard, the latter was a brother of Norman Leonard.

Noah Barnes either owned or tended the flour mill here ; afterwards Peabody owned it ; and later it went into the hands of a man by the name of Miner. Soon after Lewis & Cotton purchased this property, after which Earl & Kellogg were the proprietors.

The bridge across the outlet was built in this year. It was a long wooden structure, extending from about the Bank corner to the old Van Shoick house, (now removed). It was only intended for a single carriage way, but by tight squeezing two could pass in opposite directions.

John Briggs kept a tavern in the house now owned by Packwood, on the corner of Genesee and Lake streets. A Mr. White afterwards rented it for the same purpose, latter a Mr. Sackett purchased this house and lived in it as a private residence. Briggs then purchased what is now known as the Root place. There was then a log house on this lot and he removed it, and built what is now the rear

part of the Root house. Nicholas Thorne afterwards owned this same property and built the front of the Root house. Thompson and Billings did the carpenter work, and a man by the name of Weston was the mason. This was about the year 1824.

The west building of the old tavern, where the Packwood House is now situated, was being built in 1807. Isaac Selover was the contractor, and David Hall was one of the carpenters. Isaac Sherwood kept tavern there as soon as the building was finished and Stephen Smith tended bar for him. The first house after passing the Briggs tavern on the west Lake Road, was a frame building which was located about where Arthur Barnes now lives, and a man by the name of Andrews lived in it, afterwards it was a cooper shop, and Ira Reynolds was the cooper. The next building was a low frame structure owned by David Seymour, who was a farmer, brickmaker and a shoemaker. His farm included the Furman, Field, Nye and Smith places. William Gibbs afterwards lived on this place and Mr. Booth succeeded him, he living there until his death. Stephen Gardner

lived on the Sidney Smith place and afterwards sold the place to Alexander M. Beebe. There was a two story frame building on the Lapham place and occupied by Jacobus Annis. Abraham Cuddeback had a farm where the Dr. Hurd house now is.

There were no buildings in 1807, between the Briggs tavern and where Jas. A. Root now lives. Winston Day's store was on the corner of the main street, (old lake house lot), the road running north went directly to the large elm tree now in the rear of George Barrow's dwelling, it passed over the present site of the Methodist Church. From the elm tree it ran to Aaron Austin's, thence to General Robert Earll's, and between Austin's and Earll's there were four log dwelling houses, three on the west side and one on the east side of the road. The mill house in 1807, was then occupied by Peabody the miller, no other house beyond that to the elm tree. The Winston Day dwelling house, a two story building then stood on the site of the William Marvin house, it was painted white in front and red in the rear, the next building east was Elnathan An-

drews' tavern. Andrews had a travelers' barn on the lake shore, a little to the east of opposite the tavern. An elephant, the first one ever seen in this part of the State, was housed in this barn. This barn was then the only building on the south side of the main street. John Meeker's store, frame two story building, then stood where State street now is, this was next to the tavern; then Jonathan Booth's store was next east, his residence was on the next lot east. The Meeker store was afterwards moved when State street was laid out and placed on the lot occupied by I. S. Amerman; it was afterwards taken down and Charles Pardee built the house now on its location. The Booth residence was also removed to the east side of State street. The Booth store was moved on the west side of Jordan street by Nehemiah Smith and used as a tin shop. It is now the residence of Horace Cornell. The building now owned by Dr. Campbell as an office, was built by Jonathan Booth for Alexander Beebe and John Furman for a law office.



Norman Leonard's store, a one story frame building, stood on the site of the Horton dwelling. When Horton was about to build the present dwelling, the store was moved to the lot next west (now owned by Mrs. Wheeler), and Gibbs and Horton kept the store and Charles Pardee was their clerk.

Isaac Selover's house was the next house east (on the Thayer lot). The one and a half story frame house unpainted, which stood on the John Kellogg place, was afterwards moved on the west side of Jordan street. Gordon Bingham moved the house and owned it. It was lately taken down and the dwelling occupied by J. K. Knox is on the same lot."

It will be noticed from his location of the stores in 1807, that they were all on the north side of the main street. Why the location was afterwards changed to the south side of the street is not known except possibly, the anticipation of a large lake trade that may have induced the construction of the expensive stone docks in the rear of the present row of brick stores. Had the business remained on the

north side of the street, there would have been no more attractive village in the whole State of New York than Skaneateles.

In addition to those living here seventy-five years ago, we learn the following were here sixty-five years ago.

Reuben Austin, laborer here in 1815.

Miles Allen, miller, owned the Weedmill. Robert Earll's son-in-law.

Briggs & Hall (Isaac and David), merchants here at the time.

Elkannah Benson, farmer and pottery manufacturer in Skaneateles near Owasco.

Abijah Benson, tanner, currier and shoemaker, Benson street.

Silas Belding, gate-keeper near Jacob Allen's.

Nathan Blodgett, potash boiler for John Meeker, lived in the Huxtable house.

Eleazer Burns, potash boiler for the same.

Alexander M. Beebe, lawyer, lived where Sydney Smith now resides. Went to Utica from here and edited the *Gospel Messenger*. Died in Utica.

He first came here with John S. Furman about 1804.

Myrick Bradley, farmer, lived on the S. C. Conover place, and was afterwards killed in Syracuse.

Amos Benedict, farmer.

William Burroughs, farmer, lived on the Henry Vary farm.

George Boyd, laborer here. Was intemperate.

Stephen Burnett, teamster here.

John Burroughs, farmer, Alvin's father.

Almerin Bowen, farmer, lived on the Wyckoff farm.

Joseph Bentley, farmer, on the Valentine Willetts farm.

Amos Bacon, shoemaker, Col. Hecox's brother-in-law.

Samuel Belamy, farmer, on the Geo. F. Shotwell place.

Joshua Bates, farmer and blacksmith, on the John Joyce farm.

Jonathan Booth, merchant here, store site on B. Lee's office. Died Sept. 24, 1840, aged 78 years.

Micajah Benedict, farmer, Sennett, near the Owl's Nest.

Jeremiah Birch, farmer, Dutch Hollow, Niles.

Daniel Burroughs, farmer and carding machine maker on the Vine Warner farm.

Peleg Bennett, crazy man.

George H. Cotton, millwright, owned the mill here.

John Coe, painter by trade, and lived on the old Betsey Clark place.

Noble Coe, tavern keeper, owned the old tavern opposite the old meeting house.

Coe & Marsh, kept the Sherwood tavern here.

Alvin Coe, fast young man, brother of Noble.

Palmer Cady, tavern keeper in the Gulf. Husband of Mrs. Francis.

Joshua Chandler, farmer, one of the first settlers up the east side of the lake near Wm. Briggs.

Elijah Cody, farmer, near Clintonville.

Ashbel Chapman, farmer. lived on the Luther Clark place.

John Capen, brother-in-law of Selah Thompson, was blind.

George Coon, farmer, east of Compton's.

Asaph Cleaveland, farmer.

Stephen Chase, blacksmith and manufactured hoes. Moved to Lysander and died there.

James Curtis, carpenter and joiner, lived on John Clark's place.

Ezra S. Curtis, studied law with Daniel Kellogg.

Elijah Cole, farmer, owned the Community farm.

Philo Dibble, harness maker, came here in 1812. Shop was on Dr. Campbell's place.

William B. Douglass, built the Milford house, and was a patent-right peddler.

John Dorhance, farmer on Capt. Taylor's farm.

Samuel Diffins, farmer, an Irishman, and lived on the Chauncey Thorne farm.

James Daggett, teamster between Albany and this place, lived in the Gulf near Guppy's.

Daniel Dennison, farmer, on the west side of the lake.

John Dayley, farmer, turned Mormon and left town.

James Dayley, farmer, moved to Ohio, and went into the counterfeit business there.

Moses Dayley, farmer, turned Mormon and left for Ohio.

Abraham Dodge, farmer, had the best farm in Marcellus.

Stephen Dwinnell, farmer, Sennett.

Cotton Denio, sold to Samuel Francis his place in 1813.

Abner Edwards, farmer, east lake road in the old house next this side of the old Ellery place.

Alanson Edwards, jr., school teacher, once county clerk.

Abijah Earll, farmer, Col. Dan's father and on the same farm.

Cotton & Lewis Earll, millers, owned the mill here.

Horace Eells, son of Nathaniel, cooper on the Pardee place. Nathaniel, his father built the Fibbens tavern about the year 1812.

William Earll, Thorn Hill, father of Shepperd.

Watson Earll, farmer, and grand-father of Delescus.

Josepn Enos, farmer, east side of the lake.

Mancasseh Eaton, merchant, Clintonville, and afterwards kept tavern at Elbridge.

Francis Frink, attended grist mill here, was Nelson's father, colored man, rather black than otherwise.

Timothy Foote, farmer, Perry's father.

Ebenezer Foote, farmer, brother of the above, moved to Ohio, he lived where the Giles place now is.

Joseph Frost, farmer, uncle to Russel.

John Gibson, carpenter and joiner on the Loney place.

Charles Glynn, well digger, west side of the lake.

Samuel Green, tailor, shop near the bridge, where Charles Hall's yellow shop is now.

Samuel Hecox, brother to Warren, merchant, firm of Ludlow & Hecox in 1812, store about where Mrs. Wheeler is now.

Warren Hecox, tanner and shoemaker.

Augustus Hecox, tin shop, brother to Ambrose.

Barnabas Hall, farmer, on Sim Cuddeback's place, was here before 1805.

Gershom Hall, farmer, on the Brainard place.

Laomi Hall, son of Gershom.

Eli Hall, son of Barnabas.

Medad Harvey, farmer, Spafford.

John Hunt, farmer, Baptist deacon.

Thaddeus L. Hurd, farmer, on Lorenzo Sweet farm.

Eleazer Halibert, blacksmith, Borodino.

Nicholas Holt, worked in the wheel head factory at Mottville.

John Hempstead, farmer, Clintonville, on Aug. Reed's farm.

Stephen Haynes, farmer on the Bill Coon place.

Henry Harwood, shoemaker, worked for Col. Hecox.

John Harmon, laborer here.

William Illiard, was employed in the grist mill here.



Warren Kneeland, almanac peddler.

Horace Kneeland, son of Asa.

Frederick Lesley, distiller here, before 1820, afterwards went to Indiana and died there.

John Livingston, U. S. Marshal of Northern New York, in 1822, and owned the Brainard place.

Noah Levins, farmer, and tavern keeper in the old Dascomb tavern.

Salmon Lake, bed-quilt weaver in the Mrs. Warren house here.

Simon McKay, hatter, carpenter and joiner.

Levi Mason, Justice of the Peace in this town.

Eddy Mason, farmer, and Baptist preacher, Sennett.

Joel Mudge, worked in the factory.

Jeduthan Newton, was a distiller when he first came from Vermont in 1814, and had a potashery.

Aden Newton, potash boiler for Norman Leonard.

James Northam, clerk for Norman Leonard.

Alfred Northam, lawyer here, in company with James Porter or F. G. Jewett, and was Justice of the Peace for some years.

Spencer Parsons, cabinet maker.

Lovisa Pomeroy, milliner here.

Liva Peck, came here in 1807, first lived on the Will Willetts farm and afterwards owned the John Smith's place.

George Riker, stage driver for Sherwood.

Jehiel Rust, farmer, on Amos Pardee's farm.

Josiah Root, farmer, Deacon Root near Joab Clift's.

Samuel Rhoades, jr., Lewis Rhoades' father.

Christian Rice, farmer, lived where John Eggleston now lives.

Robert & Briggs, Sylvester and Harry, blacksmiths.

Eleazer Smith, jr., farmer, on the Mart DeWitt farm.

Ephraim Smith, farmer, on the Joseph Tallott farm.

Isaac Sherwood, born in Williamstown, Mass., Oct. 12, 1769, and died April 24, 1840, at the age of 70 years.

Adam Shaver, farmer, Dutch Hollow.

Simeon Skeels, farmer, east side of the lake.

Skaneateles Manufacturing Co.—William Gibbs, Samuel Rhoades and others made woolen cloth at Willow Glen.

Sherman & Gibson, carpenters.

Miles Sabin, lived at Mottville.

Chester F. Tolles, lived on the Thomas Bradford farm. Was drowned in the lake, knocked overboard by the boom of his own boat.

Reuben Thomas, farmer, west side of the lake.

Andrew Thompson, son of John Thompson the first settler here.

John TenEyck, postmaster here, also Justice of the Peace. His store was on the present site of the Episcopal church.

Jacob W. VanEtten, farmer, on the Dor Austin farm.

Ebenezer Warner, farmer, Vine Warner's father.

Warren Wilder, carpenter and joiner at Mottville, choked to death while eating dinner.

Daniel Watson, tanner and shoemaker.

Isaac Watson, brother of Daniel.

Jonathan Weston, Columbus' father.

William S. Wood, goldsmith and watchmaker, owned the Dr. Campbell place.

Daniel Waller, farmer on the George Clark farm.

Shubael Wilkinson, cousin to Alfred.

Arunnah Wightman, farmer, on the Jacob Allen place.

In the year 1815, David H. Griswold, who was a brother-in-law of Ambrose Hecox, kept the old tavern, which was on the same ground now occupied by the Hanmer buildings, next east of Judge Marvin's house. A ball room formed one of the attractions of this old hostelry. This old tavern originated about the year 1796. It was then kept by Captain Welsh, who was a militia captain. Then it was a log house situated about or near where the corner of Main and State street now is, afterwards a frame addition was placed on the west side, this was two story and about sixty feet front and extended to the line of Winston Day's lot. As stated above, the ball room was the only accommodation of that kind in the village in 1815. There was a dancing school

kept there and the dancing master's name was Bond.

After the Lake House was built in 1824, a ball room was made in the second story. The music was furnished by a Mr. Beach and his son, the father playing the violin and son the bass viol. They furnished music for all the neighboring settlements. Beach resided either in Marcellus or Onondaga, and was a devoted lover of music, a very fine player, and in a worldly way was in comfortable circumstances. He played as much for his own comfort as for his employers. In 1816, William Sandford kept a store in this village.

Dr. Hopkins was contemporary with Dr. Porter, and died about 1837. His death was the result of his being thrown from his sulky in the village of Skaneateles. He is represented as having been much beloved both as a man and physician. Dr. Evelyn H. Porter, son of Dr. Samuel Porter, commenced the practice of medicine in Skaneateles about 1830, and continued until his death, which occurred about 1874 or 1875. He exhibited excellent judgement in the discrimination of disease.

## EDUCATIONAL SOURCES.

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THE first school in this town was established in a log house built for the purpose by General Robert Earll and some of his immediate neighbors on the west side of the outlet near what is now known as Willow Glen factory. Miss Whitman was the first teacher, the late Nehemiah Earll and Daniel Watson were scholars with others in that vicinity.

The next school was in a log house situated about where Colonel Dan Earll now resides. The teacher was Dr. Munger. He had a son who practiced medicine, whose name was Jesse. He practiced all around this section of country. He was the first physician. This was before Porter came into the country. After Dr. Porter came Dr. Munger moved to a place called "Wellington" between where Elbridge and

Camillus are now, and afterward died there. A Mr. Kneeland, who had been a clock peddler, was employed by W. J. Vredenburg in 1805, to educate his children. This school was kept in a small new one story house which was on the ground where John Kellogg now resides.

There was a school kept in Ralph Hall's house in 1814-15, teacher Miss Beecher.

About the year 1818 a school was kept in the Weston house on what is now known as Somerset street. This was kept by Mrs. Stephens. Her husband taught the district school at the same time.

In 1819, there was a select school kept in the brick store which was on the north side of the main street, near where Dr. Campbell's office is now. Laura Edwards was the teacher. She afterwards kept a school in the basement of the Ingham house, which stood where Charles H. Poor now resides.

In 1819, a Mr. Whitney taught the district school near the Pardee residence. Among the scholars at the time were John Kellogg, Sam, George and Lyle Francis. The first stove for burning wood was set

up in the middle of the school. There were also two large fire places on opposite sides for burning four foot wood.

Mr. Thomas Allis came to Skaneateles in 1818, and soon after commenced teaching at the district school, which was on the site of the house now occupied by Stephen Potter. In 1820, he opened a select school in the house now owned by Lemuel Hall. In 1822, he kept a school in a building which was on the site of the house now owned and occupied by Jesse Simmons, about half a mile east of the village, on the old Seneca turnpike. Benjamin Lee's son, now the Episcopal bishop of Delaware, was one of the scholars, also Dorastus Kellogg and Augustine Kellogg, both of whom came over from Marcellus daily, also some of our prominent ladies received their early instruction from Mr. Allis. He afterwards kept school in his own house, which is known as the Huxtable place, about opposite Mr. Humphryes' residence. William H. Jewett, Edward Gould and other boys were scholars. This was about 1823-32.



In 1826, a school was in the Maltby house, now owned by J. Hoagland. This was kept by a Rev. Mr. Brower, who from certain weaknesses was incapacitated from preaching, so taught school for a living.

In '27, there was a school in one of the frame stores, about where Hollon's drug store now is, the one then occupied by B. S. Wolcott, in the third story. Teacher's name unknown.

Miss S. Watson was a school teacher in this village in '28.

Miss Abigail R. Higley taught the first school under St. James' Church after it was built. This was in July, '28.

It may be interesting to publish a list of scholars who attended Miss Graham's school under St. James' Church fifty-two years ago. This memorandum is in Miss Graham's handwriting.

“Susan B. Graham commenced teaching school at Skaneateles, Monday morning, May 11, '29. A list of the scholars' names.—

Mary Ann Briggs,	Sarah Ann Allen,
Emily Francis,	Nancy Lewis,
Elizabeth Smith,	Ann Bingham,
Sophia Hall,	Eliza Burnett,
Caroline Hopkins,	Frances Heacox,
Barton Hopkins,	Lousia Huff,
Julia Eliza Lewis,	Mary Jane Horton,
Harriett Gibbs,	Nany Hall,
Amanda Gibbs,	Julia Rust,
Alexander Horton,	Richard Tallcott,
Frederic Horton,	Harriet Hopkins,
Ann Maria Perry,	Julia Smith,
George Perry,	Catherine Coon,
Mary Ann Creed,	George Tallcott,
Elisha Hopkins,	Augustus Dibble,
Mary Hall (or Hale,)	Cordelia Jackson,
Esther Brooks,	Joseph Tallcott.

In 1832, Rev. Mr. Lyman had a school in Ambrose Hecox's house. Captain DeCost's children attended, also scholars from Marcellus and Elbridge. Mr. Lyman was a talented man and a most excellent teacher.

The Union Free School, with an Academic Department, was organized in '66. The building, occupying the old Academy site, was erected in '55, and enlarged by an addition on the north in '71.

## STAGE COACHING.

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WE copy the following items in relation to stage coaching from the "Centennial History of Marcellus," written by Israel Parsons, M. D., which are as applicable to Skaneateles as Marcellus.

"Before the time of railroads, the running of stages formed quite an important business. These villages along the East and West road, were wonderfully enlivened day by day, by the arrival and departure of the stage coaches drawn by four horses.

As the stages were descending these hills to enter the village, the drivers would make the valley reverberate with the music from their tin horns. They became amateurs in the art, and vied with each other in the use of the horn. Their object in blowing the horn was to notify the drivers at the stables to make ready their horses for a change ; the landlord, that the meals might be in order for the passengers.

In those days brakes had not been introduced on the stages, consequently they descended the hills with quite a velocity. The horses used were of the first quality—athletic, sure footed and strong. Each stage weighed twenty-two hundred pounds, and carried eleven passengers with their baggage, which was moderate compared with the individual baggage of the present day. Two coaches were run regularly each way every day, besides extras, which were frequent to meet the demands of travel.

The class of young men who turned their attention to stage driving were natural lovers of horses, and, as a result of this, became very skillful in the management of their horses, taught them many tricks, and to perform feats. Each horse had a name, and when called by that name, obeyed the mandates of its master. The driver's whip was composed of a stalk from four to five feet long, to which was attached a lash ten or twelve feet in length and on the end of the lash a nicely braided silk cracker. It was a piece of dexterity to hold the reins of four horses, and so wield the whip as to give

a smart crack with it; or in coming down one of these hills, to lay the whip upon the top of the stage and blow the horn, holding the four reins in one hand with the horses under full speed.

These drivers were usually daring men, but very energetic and faithful in the performance of their duties. To their good judgment, skill, and energy, multitudes have owed the safety of life and limb.

Hiram Reed of this village (Marcellus), relates an instance which well displays the combination of these qualities in one driver. When a lad, at school in Skaneateles, he and a fellow schoolmate wishing to go to Auburn by stage, secured seats outside with the driver. As they were descending the steepest hill between the two places, one of the pole straps broke; (two straps leading from the front end of the pole to the collars of the wheel horses, and with which they held back the stage), the driver, ready for any emergency, said to Reed and his mate, "hold on boys," and at once laid the whip on his horses, so that they went with full speed down the remainder of the hill in safety—passengers, coach and horses

unharméd. Mr. Reed says he never after sought a ride on the outside of a stage. The driver secured the safety of the stage through the leaders making a constant draft on the pole to which they were directly attached. But amidst all the confusion he did not forget the boys.

Of the large number of stage drivers who used to drive over these hills, and contend with darkness, storm and tempest, but one is left living among us, and that is Adolphus Newton. Much of my information on this subject was derived from him. He commenced the arduous duties of stage driving in 1819, when but sixteen years of age, and continued eleven years. Nothing delights him more at the present, than to sit down before a good listener, and recount the adventures of his youthful years in this department of his life. He says at one period he drove what was called the "Telegraph." This was a stage with a limited number of passengers, and that carried the mail. It run eight miles an hour when the roads were good. They changed horses every ten miles, but one driver went through from Auburn to Manli-

us, a distance of thirty-three miles. He says that on some special occasions of carrying important personages, he made the distance in three hours. Once he had for passengers Governor Seward and Black Hawk, and drove ten miles in fifty minutes. It was a rule to give such men what was called "extra rides." Another load consisted of General Scott, Governor Marcy and Martin VanBuren. There were three periods during Mr. Newton's driving, when opposition lines were placed upon the road; only one of these proved to be a serious annoyance to the Sherwood line. This was what was called the "Pioneer" line. It was well stocked with first-class horses and fine coaches, but with inexperienced drivers. Fast driving became a natural consequence to competition in staging. This proved the value of experience in drivers as well as in all other situations of trust connected with responsibility. For in making quick time, there is called into requisition good judgment in the management of horses, which is based only on successful experience, as when to drive fast, when slow, and when to drive moderately. Also to the

care given to the horses at the end of each route, in feeding, watering and exposure. The result was that the old drivers proved themselves heroes in the strife. For although in the frequent racing of stages to which they were subject, the pioneer was fully their equal; yet soon the new line showed impaired horses, the consequence of indiscretion in driving, and want of care at the stables; this gave rise to such a monstrous relay of horses, that it finally broke down the opposition line.

As "variety is the spice of life, and competition the life of business," so in this racing of the stages, the inhabitants of this whole region were no idle spectators, but their every-day "humdrum life" was spiced by the daily news of hair-breadth escapes, and the jehu-feats of the drivers; and, as in these days, so then, quick time increased the amount of travel. Stages were entirely removed from this route in December, 1838, when the cars were first run by horse power, and this was changed to steam power in June, 1839. The great stage proprietor, whose talents were as celebrated in that day for staging, as



Commodore Vanderbilt's have since been for rail-roading, was Isaac Sherwood. His residence was in Skaneateles. The cut in the front part of this work is similar to the stages used by Mr. Sherwood. He is said to have weighed three hundred and eighty pounds.

His first effort in business was in carrying the mail on foot from Onondaga Hill to the different settlements west of that place including Skaneateles. From this small beginning he rapidly advanced so as to own first a horse, then a horse and wagon, and finally a stage coach with which to carry mails and passengers. He had a wonderful perseverance in all his undertakings. It is not known when he came to Skaneateles, but as early as 1818, he was quite extensively engaged in this business. It is stated on the authority of the late David Hall, that Sherwood had a contract for a short time with the Syracuse and Auburn Railroad Company. After the road bed had been completed and ready for the iron rails, which were flat at first and before the "H" rails were used, he leased the road for a short time and placed wood-

en rails on the string pieces and operated the road by horse power until the Company were enabled to procure their rails.

His head-quarters during the time when his business was the most extensive was at Skaneateles. He then owned the old tavern where the Packwood House is now, and had his office there. He did not personally attend to the duties of landlord, but left that to his son Milton. In order to show the extent of his stage business during his residence here, the following copy of a contract with the Post Office Department is here given :—

No. 510. From New York to Albany and back daily, 30 hours.

No 584. From Utica to Sackett's Harbour and back daily, 50 hours.

No. 587. From Albany to Buffalo and back twice a day.

No. 589. From Albany to Auburn and back daily, 48 hours.

No. 665, From Elbridge to Rochester and back twice a day, 17 hours.

No. 672. From Rochester to Lewiston and back daily, 6 hours.

No. 697. From Buffalo to Youngstown and back daily.

Supplying all the intermediate offices and convey the mail in four-horse post coaches—at the rate of fifteen thousand, one hundred and thirty-four and fifty-hundredths dollars for every quarter of a year, making sixty thousand, five hundred and thirty-eight dollars, (\$60,538.00) to be paid in drafts on post masters, or in money, at the option of the P. M. General, in the months of May, August, November and February. This contract shall commence on the first day of January, 1833, and continue until the 31st day of December, four years.

No. 574. From Denmark to Ogdensburg, 3 times a week, at the rate of two hundred and fifty-two dollars for every quarter of a year, making one thousand and eight dollars to be paid as above.

\$ 1,008.00
60,583.00
\$61,546.00

No. 587. Leaves Albany daily during the suspension of steamboat navigation on the Hudson at 3 P. M., and arrive at Buffalo in 50 hours. But during steamboat navigation, leave Albany at 9 A. M., and arrive at Buffalo in 50 hours.

2nd Mail.—Leaves Albany daily at 9 P. M., and arrive at Buffalo the third day by 9 P. M., leave Buffalo same time and arrive at Albany same time.

Sherwood did not, of course, own all the stages on these different routes, but had an interest in nearly all of them, and some he owned entirely. He had agents in all of the principal cities and villages in the State where his mail contracts were located. He had a partner, Amasa Parker, who attended to the business in Utica, he was a brother-in-law of Winston Day, our first merchant, he having married his sister. Sherwood removed from this village to Auburn about the time he built the Auburn House in that place. The great mail contractor and stage operator of those early days, merits the space given of him and his business in this volume.

His successor was his son, John Milton, who was

almost as ponderous as his father, and as wonderful a stage proprietor. The stage fare was five cents a mile, so that in the winter season a trip from this place to New York and back cost \$30. But the people traveled principally in their own conveyances. Riding on horseback was the usual mode of traveling for the first twenty years or more, of the settlement of the country. Consequently people became very expert in that practice. The old and young, irrespective of sex, would readily mount their steeds and go far and near as occasion required. They used to make extensive journeys in that manner. A lady would go from here to Massachusetts or Connecticut, and her whole wardrobe would be back of her saddle in a valise.

Pillions were also in use ; so that families whose number of horses were limited, or whose horses at times were mostly engaged in the necessary business of life, could accommodate themselves by riding two on a horse. These exhibitions were of daily occurrence. Horses were early trained under the saddle, and being thus in almost daily use, became de-

lightful riding horses. This was a healthy mode of riding. Most long journeys, simply for prospecting or visiting, were made in this way. Mrs. Cody, the grandmother of Hiram Reed, came from Massachusetts sometime before the year 1800, alone and on horseback. She was a widow, and this was her prospecting tour for a home in this great wilderness. After reaching this place, she rode around viewing different portions of the town, and finally made a purchase of six hundred and forty acres, the northeastern corner of which afterwards included what is now Clintonville.

It must be borne in mind that, although a lady was thus journeying through an almost uninterrupted forest, without any appointed traveling companions, still there was a continuous procession of travelers on the road, either emigrating or prospecting, so that she was not alone, and although all were strangers to her, yet distributed all along among that stretched out multitude, there were very many mothers and grandmothers in reality, who, as the nature of society was in those days, would be interested in any moment in the situation of such a person.

## RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS.

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THE following article in relation to Churches is taken from the History of Onondaga County, recently published by D. W. Mason & Co.

“The first church families who setteled in this village and the immediate vicinity, were Gen. Robert Earll, in 1796, Jonathan Booth, in 1801, Wm. J. Vredenburg, and Charles J. Burnett, in 1803. During these latter years, Rev. Davenport Phelps, a noble missionary of the church visited Auburn and officiated there. It is believed he visited Skaneateles. The first remembered services were held in the house now occupied by Mrs. Burnett, in '03, and at the “Red House,” residence of Gen. Robert Earil, during the same and the following years. Afterwards also in a small wooden building situated where this

church now stands. One half of this building was used for the first postoffice, and the other half was used and fitted for church purposes. Mr. Charles J. Burnett, W. J. Vredenburg, John S. Furman and a Mr. Letherland, here read the services. St. Peter's Church in Auburn, was organized in '07, and the Rev. Davenport Phelps became the rector. The church building there was consecrated in '12, on the 22d day of August, by the saintly Bishop Hobart. Mr. Vredenburg was one of the wardens of that church, and Jonathan Booth a vestryman. The church people here very generally attended church service in Auburn. Rev. Davenport Phelps, while rector of St. Peter's, frequently came here and officiated. His first service was held in the upper hall of the Vredenburg mansion, seats being arranged for the people who very generally attended the services. Mr. and Mrs. Burnett received their first communion in this house, from the hands of the Rev. Davenport Phelps, in '09. He also baptized their first child. Mr. Vredenburg died in '13.



Services were held more or less regularly by lay readers, or an occasional missionary visitor—among the latter the Rev. W. A. Clarke, who followed Mr. Phelps as rector of St. Peter's Church, Auburn, until the year '16, when the first written record of the life of this parish appears. This is the act of incorporation of St. James' Parish, Skaneateles, attested by Mr. John TenEyck, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, bearing date, January 4, '16. At the same meeting of the incorporators and others, the Rev. Wm. A. Clarke presided, and Jonathan Booth and Charles J. Burnett were elected wardens, and Edward G. Ludlow, John W. Livingston, Zalmon Booth, Stephen Horton, John Pierson, John How, Samuel Francis, and William Gibbs, were chosen vestrymen. Rev. William A. Clarke was ordained in '12. He resigned St. Peter's Church in '14.

In '16, an attempt was made to build a church, a conditional subscription being raised for the purpose, But as only \$1,500 of the \$2,000 required, was raised. the enterprise fell through and the organization was

abandoned, although lay reading and occasional visits from clergymen were continued with more or less regularity.

On the 19th day of April, '24, the parish was re-organized under the same name, and the organization was attested by Levi Mason, of the Court of Common Pleas, and R. L. Hess, Clerk of the same Court. At the same time the following gentlemen were elected officers of the society: Wardens, Jonathan Booth and C. J. Burnett; Vestrymen, William Gibbs, John Daniels, Stephen Horton, John Pierson, Charles Pardee, J. W. Livingston, Samuel Francis, Elijah P. Rust. The meeting for the election of these persons was presided over by the Rev. Augustus L. Converse, of whose after history we can learn nothing.

Another blank follows until the 27th day of March, '26, when a meeting of the congregation was held, at which the Rev. Amos Pardee presided. The same vestry was elected with the exception of John Daniels, who was replaced by John Furman. The following year, '27, the Rev. Amos Pardee was still

officiating, and the name of James M. Allen appears among the Vestrymen.

Although there is no mention made in the proceedings of either of the last mentioned meetings, of the project of building a church, yet we find a paper bearing date August 3d, '27, which is a contract between the Wardens and Vestry of St. James Church, and Enos P. Root, in which Mr. Root agrees to build the church and make it ready for occupancy. Of the same date there is also a subscription paper, on which is subscribed the sum of \$2,595. Messrs. Burnett and Gibbs were this year the Wardens, and Butler S. Wolcott's name appears among the Vestrymen.

In the report of the Rev. Amos Pardee to the Convention of the Diocese, held in Trinity Church, New York City, Oct. 17, '27, appears the following :

“ In Skaneateles the past year our members have increased, and our prospects are very much improved. A church was commenced in the last summer, and is now nearly or quite enclosed.”

On the 25th day of January of the following year, ('28,) the Rev. Algernon S. Hollister was called to officiate as Rector for one year from the following

Easter and Timothy Baker and Augustus Kellogg were elected on the Vestry ; and the following from Bishop Hobart's address to the convention of '28, held in Trinity Church, New York, October 16th and 17th, shows at what date the church was consecrated :

“ On Tuesday, the 23d of September I consecrated the church at Skaneateles, where a small congregation has for several years been kept together, and at last by extraordinary exertions have erected a neat edifice for worship.”

On the 26th of May, '34, the old parsonage and grounds were purchased of Mr. Lucas and an additional strip of land from Alanson Edwards. Under the same date the thanks of the Vestry are tendered to the “ Circle of Industry” for the donation of \$100 towards the purchase of a parsonage.

In August, '45 the necessity for the enlargement of the church was first discussed by the Vestry, indicating very clearly the growth of the parish. The old parsonage was sold in March, '46, and with the proceeds, \$100 from Bishop De Lancy, \$300 from Trinity Corporation, New York, and the proceeds of

a subscription, the building was enlarged and improved in '47.

In May, '53, a lot and house adjoining the church were purchased of Mr. Vowles, and in the following month the house was improved and arranged for a parochial school.

In February '54, the Ladies' Society saved the school house from sale under foreclosure of mortgage by paying through the Treasurer, Miss Harriet T. Gibbs, the sum of \$150, for which the Vestry returned a sincere vote of thanks.

The corner stone of the present St. James Church, was laid by the Bishop on the 30th of May, '73, and was consecrated January 6th, '74.

The following have been Clergymen of this Church: Augustus Converse, Amos Pardee, Algeron S. Hollister, Joseph T. Clarke, Charles Seymour, A. C. Patterson, Mr. Page, E. Moyses, R. M. Duff, Thomas Smith, John A. Staunton and C. P. Jennings.

The following have been among the prominent members, wardens and vestrymen of St. James Parish:

Messrs. Dyer Brainard, J. G. Porter, Dr. E. H. Porter, Thomas Yates, L. Bartlett, W. M. Beauchamp, J. Snook, Jr., N. J. Roosevelt, Ransom Crosby, Justin Redfield, D. T. Mosely, R. I. Baker, E. N. Leslie, W. H. Jewett, D. W. Hall, F. W. Stotwell, H. Q. Knight, John Humphreys, E. B. Coe, C. W. Abeel, H. J. Hubbard, and others, vestrymen. N. J. Roosevelt, Samuel Francis, W. M. Beauchamp, J. B. Marshall, William Marvin, E. Ruel Smith, and others, wardens.

Statistics — Families, 150; communicants, 191; Sunday School scholars, 125; contributions for all purposes for the year ending 1877, \$3,679.99; value of church property, \$30,000; rectory, \$4,500.

The first settlements in this village were made in March, 1796. Five years after its settlement it contained about one hundred buildings of different kinds, when, on the 20th of July, 1801, the first church in the village—bearing the name of “The First Congregational Church of Marcellus”—was organized by the Rev. Aaron Bascom. The Articles of Faith and Covenant were subscribed to by Joshua

Cook, Solomon Edwards, Simeon Hosmer, Asa Harwood, Daniel Cook, and Aaron Cook. They were incorporated as the First Church of Christ in Marcellus, and the same day on which the church was organized, the following persons were received: James Porter, Mary Cook, Elizabeth Edwards, Lucretia Hosmer, Electa Edwards, Anna Clark, Hannah Annice, Martha Seymour, and Rebecca Cook. The same day Aaron Cook was elected Clerk of the Church.

The first church edifice was erected in '08 and was dedicated March 1, '09.

The following are the names of the clergymen who have served as pastors of this Church :

Revs. Swift, Benjamin Rice, B. B. Stocton, Alexander Cowan, Samuel W. Brace, Samuel W. Bush, Selden Haines, William B. Dada, A. Mandel. On the 20th of April, '62, the present pastor, M. N. Preston began laboring with this people. He was ordained and installed on October 2d, '62.

In January, '18, it was unanimously resolved to adopt the Presbyterian form of government, and the

church was received under the care of the Presbytery of Cayuga. By the new boundaries of presbyteries established by act of General Assembly in '69, this church was separated from Cayuga Presbytery and became a part of the Presbytery of Syracuse.

The society erected a new brick house of worship in the year '30. The manse was purchased in the year '32.

Deacons—Eli Clark, Joshua Cook, Samuel Belamy, James Porter, Ebenezer Warner, Chester Moses, Philip Crosbey, Foster Clark, Henry T. Hooker, William Clark, Sereno Field.

The present membership of this church is 220; attendance at Sunday School, 160. Three members became missionaries in foreign countries.

The Baptist Church, was a branch of the church of the same denomination at Elbridge, and began about '20. The church edifice at first occupied was built by the Congregationalists on the hill east of the village, in '07, and was subsequently bought by the Baptist Society, moved down and refitted. The



present building was erected in '42, and cost \$5,000. The ministers officiating have been Revs. Amasa Smith, Nathan Denison, Charles Elliott, John G. Zeeple, S. S. Relyea, William Roney, Henry Bowen, E. B. Palmer, George K. Allen, C. H. James and M. F. Negus. Present membership, 153; average attendance in Sunday School, 100.

The Society of Friends, in this village, was organized from '10 to '14. Joseph Frost, Russel Frost, Silas Gaylord, William Willetts and Abner Lawton were among the early members. The meetings were held in the meeting house now occupied by that branch of the friends known as the "Hicksites," about two and a half miles southwest of the village, near the Octagon School House.

In '28, a division of the society into the two branches of Orthodox and Hicksites occurred, the latter being the followers of Elias Hicks, a distinguished liberal preacher among the Friends. Among the most prominent members of the Orthodox branch were Joseph Tallcott and his two sons, Richard and Daniel. Of this branch Sarah Tallcott was the first

minister. They held their meetings in the old red meeting house which was built on the farm of Richard Tallcott, just within the present corporate limits, and which was torn down in '73, during which year the present edifice was erected. The present membership is about forty, and value of church property \$3,000. Present minister, Chauncey B. Thorne.

The branch known as Hicksites continued to hold meetings at the old meeting house, in which they still worship. Their first minister was Adin Cory. At that time William Willetts, Warren Giles, Abner Lawton and Silas Gaylord, were among their prominent members.

The earliest meetings of St. Mary's of the Lake, Roman Catholic, were held in the village about '45, In '53, the first church was begun on the site of the present edifice, and was dedicated September 7, '56. It was a wooden building and cost \$2,500. Rev. William McCallian officiated from the organization of the church till his death, in '64, and was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Butler, O. S. F. Rev. F. J. Purcell

assumed the pastoral charge in June, '65. The first church was destroyed by fire, May 23d, '66, and the present edifice erected by Rev. Purcell and dedicated in June, '67. Present membership six hundred; Sunday School fifty.

St. Bridget's is a Chapel at Skaneateles Falls, four miles distant from St. Mary's of the Lake, built to accommodate parties too far from the church. It was erected by Rev. Purcell, and was dedicated in September, '74. It belongs to the same parish of St. Mary's of the Lake.

For several years previous to 1832-'33, the circuit preachers of the Methodist Episcopal Church held religious services in a school house located nearly opposite the present parsonage on West Genesee street. A class was early formed which was largely increased through the means of a revival conducted by "Father" Bibbins. Following this revival was a movement for the building of a chapel to better accommodate the needs of the growing society, which resulted in the purchase of a lot on West Gene-

see street, and the erection of a building thereon in 1834, under the pastorate of Rev. Lyman R. Redington.

In '53, this chapel was enlarged and beautified at a cost of about \$800. At the completion of these repairs the expenses were all provided for with the exception of seventy-five dollars. To meet this indebtedness the society resolved to hold a re-opening service at which an effort would be made to liquidate the debt. Rev. C. P. Bragdon was secured to manage the financial part. Rev. Mr. Burritt, a former pastor, preached morning and evening, and Rev. Mr. Denison, the Baptist pastor, in the afternoon. Through their united efforts the necessary amount was raised, and the society was accommodated in this chapel until '59, when David Hall, Esq., built at his own expense a plain brick church, and presented it to the society. In '68 the church edifice was enlarged, remodeled and refurnished. Rev. William C. Steele delivered the address at the laying of the corner stone of the first brick church and Bishop E. S. Janes delivered the dedicatory sermon, and at the

rededication of the church after its enlargement, Dr. Peck, now "Bishop," delivered the dedicatory sermon.

The following named pastors have served the church here, viz: "Father" Bibbins, Lyman R. Reddington, Jesse T. Peck, Selah Stocking, I. Hutchinson, Joseph Cross, C. W. Harris, V. M. Coryell, John Robie, Walter Hare, Thomas Pearne, Isaac Parks, John Mitchel, Charles Burritt, Joseph Hartwell, William Cobb, O. Hesler, S. H. Brown, E. N. Cuykendall, William Miller, Isaac Foster, William Searles, William Burr, William Bixby, M. S. Wells, T Bissell, William Reddy, R. Redhead, George White, Mr. Eastwood, A. Roe. Present membership, one hundred and seventy; number of Sunday School scholars one hundred and seventy.

The Skaneateles Falls Methodist Episcopal Church is located in this town about three and a half miles north of the village, and the first meetings were held in the house of Mr. Bannister, class leader, late in 1867, or early in '68, and in '73 or '74, the school house was occupied for religious services,

and from '75 to '77, inclusive, a room in the brick block provided by Thomas Mortin. A very creditable church building, 24 by 40, with basement, has been erected, chiefly through the aid of Mr. Weeks, a member of the church in this village.

It was dedicated in February, '78; the present membership is twenty; the average attendance at Sunday School is about forty. Although the Protestant people within reach are not numerous, yet they are generally interested and enterprising in their support of the church.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Mottville, in this town, is comparatively young as a distinct society, though the place had been a Methodist appointment with more or less regularity for about twenty-five years, and meetings were held in private houses or the school house until '73, when under the supervision of Rev. William Reddy, D. D., pastor of the church in the village, the old school house was purchased, moved to its present site and fitted up for church purposes at a cost of \$1,000. The dedication occurred January 24, '73. Among the origi-

nal members were O. Coleman, Chester Benton, Mrs. Catherine Blodgett, Mrs. Maria Hunsiker, William Barber, Mrs. Esther Young and Mrs. Charlotte Bradley.

Rev. O. N. Hinman was the next pastor, and he was followed by Abram Fancher. Rev. M. J. Wells, the present incumbent, was appointed pastor in September, 1877. The present membership is forty-three, the average attendance at Sunday School about the same, congregation good, and social meetings well attended."

The following was copied from vol. A, page 34, from the book of miscellaneous records in the County Clerk's office:—

"Marcellus, October 29, 1801. At a meeting of the Schanecateles Religious Society, holden at the school house, the usual place of meeting for Public worship, for the purpose of establishing a Religious Society, agreeable to law in such cases made and provided, for which purpose Ebenezer R. Hawley and Aaron Cook was unanimously chosen to superintend the said meeting.

Now we, the said Ebenezer Hawley and Aaron Cook, do hereby certify that the said Society being so meet, did elect and chuse Ebenezer R. Hawley, Joseph Clift, Judah Hopkins, Peter Putnam and Daniel Cook, to be trustees for the said Society and that the said Society should forever be known and distinguished by the name of The Schanateles Religious Society."



## THE SKANEATELES LAKE.

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WHEN the first settlers reached its shores, the dense forest stretched almost to the water's edge. There were numerous points jutting from the shores on either side covered with trees and underbrush, the most prominent of which was at the terminus of what is now known as the Shotwell brook, which at that time was a very considerable stream of water. This point projected far into the lake, and it was from about this locality that a sand bar ran across to near mile point, over which a man could wade across from shore to shore with his head above water. All the points before mentioned were the terminus of inlets into the lake, all of which carried a much greater volume of water than they do now. At that period while forests were intact, the springs on the hill sides flowed all the year around. The

rays of the sun had but little effect on the surface beneath, and the snows of winter remained on the ground until late in the spring months, the gradual melting of which together with the rains, were much more abundant than at the present time, supplied the springs with water throughout the year with occasional interruptions in the summer months during a dry season. As a result of this, the level of the surface of the lake was generally very uniform. On occasions of a very rainy season, the rise would not average over one foot, which gradually subsided from the natural flow through the outlet.

The line of shore at the lower end of the lake ran from about the northern boundary of the Lapham Place in nearly a semi-circle where Jas. E. Porter now resides or perhaps a little further to the east. The southern terminus of the present coffer dam was the outline of the original shore. Between that and the present shore in the rear of the brick stores, was a swampy flat, interspersed with pools of water and very similar in appearance to the woodland now on the direct road to Auburn, beyond the county line.

This flat was covered with old forest trees, principally elm and red oak, and considerable underbrush. The outlet ran through this flat and was filled with driftwood, the debris, which had accumulated there from time immemorial. This driftwood formed a bridge for the first settlers to cross the outlet.

It is presumed that the upper end of the lake was similar in appearance, but more rugged.

The first dam was constructed of logs, and was about upon a line with the north end of the present bridge, it did not raise the water more than three or four feet, and was constructed by Jesse Kellogg for Judge Sanger, about the year 1797. Sanger built the first grist mill, and Kellogg built the first saw mill, which were both supplied with power from this dam.

The first name given to Mile Point, was Barney's Point, named from Barnabas Hall, who settled on the military lot adjoining. There was, very early, a log house erected on this point by a man by the name of Bebee, after his death his widow, called by the boys, "Granny Bebee," lived in it for many

years; she was called a witch, and all the boys and girls were afraid of her. After her death, a man by the name of McMullen lived in it. His wife, Kate McMullen, worked for many people hereabouts, particularly Zalmon Booth.

The effect of raising the water in the lake by the dam, was to flood not only the swampy flat at this end, but nearly all the picturesque points, which were covered with trees, the stumps of which could be seen for many years thereafter, particularly at this end of the lake. Another effect was the continual washing away of the shores undermining the roots of the trees, causing drift wood and snags in the body of the lake and on its shores. This gradual washing away has greatly enlarged the surface from what it was originally. At the present time, the rise and fall of the water from extreme to extreme is about seven feet, so that when the water is at high water mark the whole surface of the lake is seven feet higher than it was when Abraham Cuddeback came here in 1794, and settled on the west shore.

The first building on the lake shore in the village was a large travelers' barn belonging to Elnathan Andrews who kept the old tavern. The next one was put up by John Legg for a blacksmith's shop, on about the present site of Legg Hall. The next was a frame harness shop erected about the year '12, by Philo Dibble. The next was a frame one-story lawyer's office built by Alfred Northam; this was east of Dibble's shop.

The first steamboat of the Lake, the *Independence*, was constructed in '31, on the shore of the lake about where H. L. Roosevelt's boat house is now. It was about eighty or one hundred feet in length. The cabin was partly below deck, so that in entering there were a few steps to descend to it. The engine was a horizontal one, and the boat had side wheels. The money to build it was raised by subscription among the people of the village. Captain Wells, who came here from Cayuga Lake commanded her. He invested largely in the enterprise himself. The hull had a counter stern and was a fair model for those early days. The boat was built

by a ship carpenter by the name of Winchell. There was also a barge built for the purpose of carrying freight and passengers, to be towed up and down the lake by the steamboat.

On the occasion of the launch, which took place July 4, '31, there was an excited demonstration by the leading spirits of the village. A young lawyer named Hillis, who was then studying law in the office of F. G. Jewett, delivered a speech on the occasion, and a high time was indulged in, ending with a dance, the music for which was furnished by a negro clarionet player.

It was not long before an opposition steamer was started. During the same year Captain Fowler brought a small steamer about forty feet in length from the Hudson River by canal, and had it trucked up to the lake by means of a large number of oxen. This craft had side wheels and was driven by a small steam engine. The owners of the *Independence* were obliged to go to Robert Fulton and Livingston to get a license to run a steamboat on this lake, as the State had granted them a monopoly to run steamboats in this State.

Captain William Fowler did not belong about here, but came with his boat, which was named *The Highland Chief*, from the Hudson River. He had an impediment in his speech; stammered so that it was almost impossible to understand what he was trying to say. But he could whistle, and after his boat was changed into a sailing craft he made use of his whistling powers to invite the wind whenever there was a calm.

In the course of three years it was found that steamboating did not pay here. The engine and boiler were sold under execution, by a merchant then in business here, and the hull was turned into a sailing craft, and finally the whole investment proved a total loss to all concerned, more especially to Captain Wells, who invested all his money in the venture. The opposition boat shared the same fate.

## INTERESTING ANECDOTES.

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THE original Village Lots were probably laid out by Judge Sanger. As a general rule they were 100 feet front and twenty rods in depth. The Thayer lot, was village lot number six. It was first conveyed by Sanger to Seth McKay, January 16, 1801. Consideration \$5. July 21, 1802, Seth McKay conveyed it to Norman Leonard. Consideration \$200. Norman Leonard afterwards sold it to John Legg. Sanger sold village lot number eleven to Joseph Pearce, house carpenter, for twenty dollars. Warren Heacox purchased a one acre lot on the west side of the outlet of the lake from Sanger, October 12, '01. Consideration \$10. Deed witnessed by Asa Hatch and Samuel Porter.

These lots as laid out were termed "village plots on the north end of Skaneateles lake."



The "Dark Day" was one of the epochs of the early settlers and was caused by an unusual eclipse of the sun which took place June 16, '06. The day was cloudy and the obscuration produced almost total darkness. The many forest trees which surrounded the dwellings of the people had the effect to deepen the darkness. The feathered tribe all retired to roost and the day was one long remembered.

Samuel Litherland and Isaac Selover were engaged in laying the floors of the Vredenburg house on that day; it became so dark that it was impossible to go on with the work, so Mr. Vredenburg supplied them with candles. Litherland was in the habit of recounting his experience on that occasion to his friends throughout his life.

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The first excitement among the early settlers was when the dam broke away about the early part of the present century. This occurred during a Saturday night and on the Sunday morning following the people became much excited, as the breach deprived them of the facilities of the grist mill. The

news spread rapidly throughout the settlement, and the missionary, (supposed to be Rev. Isaac Rawson), who was employed by the year to preach in the old school house on the hill, where the meeting house was afterwards erected, learning of the catastrophe sent a boy to the place of meeting, directing him to inform the assembled congregation to adjourn and assist to repair the mill dam, as it was more important for them to have bread than to hear him preach. This brought a crowd of assistants who worked lustily under the direction of the minister, and the work was thoroughly completed before sundown.

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During the War of 1812, a detachment of cavalry stopped here on their way to the frontier and employed John Legg to make horseshoes and horseshoe nails. Legg had all the blacksmiths in the surrounding country to work for him in completing this order, as it was necessary to have the utmost dispatch.

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In the month of August, 1814, one hundred and sixty-eight British prisoners captured in the attack

Fort Erie passed through this place. They bivouaced over night on the lake shore on the land now owned by Fred Roosevelt. They were on their way to the Cantonment at Greenbush on the Hudson River.

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As early as 1815, there had been no negroes brought into this part of the State, but Mr. Vredenburg brought from New York a black wench as cook. The children were all afraid of her and ran as soon as she made her appearance in the streets. There were, however, two native born negroes, in either Mr. Booth's or Mr. Furman's family. Their names were Jack and Kate. They were born about '12, and were slaves and belonged to either of the above named families. These became free under a law afterward passed by the State. An Irishman was a curiosity in those days; there were no Irish women. The hired help were all natives, who were glad to hire out at 75 cents per week. The conditions for prime help were that in addition to the ordinary house work, they would agree to spin twenty knots and do the milking night and morning.

But hired help was then treated as equals in the family. The Vredenburg family being more aristocratic, wanted servants who were not treated as equals and such could not be found about here, consequently they had to import all their help from New York.

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It is said that Colonel Vredenburg had brought with him from New York, among other things, some of the best Holland gin, imported in half gallon jugs. One of these jugs, sealed perfectly tight, was placed in one of the chimneys and cemented immediately back of the fire-place, (rather a warm place for gin.) One of the masons who worked on the building when the chimney was built, and who assisted in placing the jug of gin in the brick work, passed through this village about the year '46, at which time the gin ought to have been buried some forty years. This man must have been at least sixty-five years old. Said he had never been in the village since he worked on the house. He told the tale of the jug of gin—that it was in the southwest chimney of the

old mansion. His personal appearance indicated his affection for kindred spirits, and after detailing the story, he exclaimed:—"I would give five dollars, (if I had it,) for one smack of that gin."

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Previous to the year 1846, a day was set apart for the general turnout of the militia, which was called General Training Day. This was the product of the revolution. On this day a regiment would assemble, alternately in this village and the village of Marcellus, "armed and equipped as the law directs," for the purpose of military drill and parade. These regimental drills occurred day by day, succeeding each other, until all the regiments in the Brigade had been successfully inspected by the Brigadier General. With the movements of the Brigadier General and his aids, from one general training place to another, there followed a perfect caravan of peddlers, trucksters and all sorts of people who would arrange themselves early in the morning, in convenient places in the village. These were followed by endless streams of people who were to make up the various actors

and spectators of the day. General training day was about the middle of September. With the exception of an independent company of sixty, called the Rifle Company, the others were denominated Bear Foot and Floodwood companies. Probably these names were given them on account of the striking contrast they presented to the Rifle Company, which was a trim, beautiful company of selected men, whose uniform was a dark gray suit, pants with a black stripe running down the outside of the leg, dress coat, single breasted with one row of gilt military buttons set closely together, extending from the waist to the neck, a stiff straight collar with three or four parallel strips of yellow tinsel lace extending over each shoulder and around the cuffs of the sleeves. A tall beaver hat with a thin brass plate, ornamented with figures fastened on the front of it, and from behind this plate, apparently growing out of the top of it, was a tall, bushy, red feather. Each man carried a first-class rifle, in complete order, and a powder flask suspended from a belt fastened around his waist. Occasionally this

company assembled on the Fourth of July for the purpose of escorting and doing honor to the old veterans. The "Floodwood Companies," although made up of men like the Rifle Company, had the appearance of having emanated from some dark region of the earth, on account of the utter carelessness manifested by a portion of them, in dress and personal appearance. Having no uniform, every man was dressed to meet his own views of taste and comfort, so that when formed into one body as a regiment, there was very much the appearance of dazzling light leading hideous darkness. The Floodwood Company were equipped with musket and bayonet, a cartridge box hanging one side and a bayonet sheath the other, each suspended by a strap passing over the opposite shoulder. Although on company training day, (which was always the first Monday in September,) there were many departures in the Floodwood Companies from the regulations of the day, but on "General Muster" order prevailed, for the scrutiny of the higher officers peculiar to this day, was such that whoever ventured to violate

rules, was sure to be returned to Court Martial, and there to meet with a retribution, which destroyed all desire ever afterward to repeat the misdemeanor.

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“When I was a boy about seven years old, there stood a two story frame house on the west shore of the lake, which had been occupied as a tavern. The house was painted a dingy brown, and near by stood a small barn for the accommodation of travelers’ horses. This house had the reputation of being haunted. A well-known peddler had disappeared and the last that was seen of him was in that house. With all the vivid stories of the ghostly apparitions which took place in that house every night, that were floating around the village, particularly among the boys of my age, I became imbued with awe and hardly dared to go out after dark. However I was obliged sometimes to go to the stores from my home, which was in the eastern part of the village. One evening, I recollect distinctly of passing on the south side of the turnpike along where the “boulevard” now is, between Legg Hall and the Episcopal



church. I looked up the lake shore and was horrified by the light of two rows of fluttering lights passing in opposite directions through the trees and bushes. One row of lights going directly from the haunted house in nearly a straight line clear down to the lake, and into the water, another row, I should judge about ten feet from the other row, were running from the water to the house. I could not see that there were any persons carrying the lights and came to the conclusion that owing to the rapidity of the lights through the air, that it was not done by human agency. At the time of the disappearance of the peddler, folks said the family had not a very good name. By and by, the family moved away. The man who bought the house, while one day digging the refuse accumulations out of the cellar, found the peddler's bones, at least everybody supposed they must have been the peddler's, as nobody else was missing at that time. Nobody claimed them and the man chucked them in the corner of a pasture lot near by. The boys used to visit the location in the day time and amuse themselves by kicking the

bones around for fun. Some of the boys cracked butternuts with the peddler's shin bone, at least that is what they said. The man who owned the place and who found the bones, moved his family into the house. They had not got fairly settled before the chairs began to tumble around and the dishes rattled in the cupboard, the doors would not stay shut, and the windows rattled and banged, as if some one was all the time shaking them. The owner of the house said, every night some one he could not see kept shaking something about his ears, that sounded like bones in a bag. Then a big yellow dog, with red eyes, got to appearing in the house and when any of the family would go near him, he would not be there sometimes going up into the air, and sometimes fading away right where he stood, this is what the family said and everybody believed them. The circumstance of the man's treating the peddler's bones so unchristianlike as to throw them in the corner of a lot was sufficient cause, in the opinion of everybody, for the house being haunted, and there was no use

of having any peace in that family until the bones were buried decently, and everybody told the man he had better do it. So he went to work to see if he could not get the peddler together, and lay him to rest in the grave yard. He found a few of the bones and buried them decently, to see if the advice he had received from everybody proved true. The doors and windows banged and the chairs kept moving about as usual, but the bag of bones did not rattle so much and the mysterious yellow dog, that looked all along so fierce with his eyes very red, was not so fierce looking, after the few bones had been planted, and his eyes changed to a mild blue, and just before he disappeared he gave his tail a little wag.

This encouraged the family, and they went to work hunting for more of the skeleton. They offered the boys ten cents a bone for all they could find, and the family joined in the search until they got all but the skull. Well, these were all buried with the first ones. The effect was, that the chairs kept still and the windows and doors did not bang so much,

and the bag of bones quit entirely, but the queerest result was the action of the dog, the children could almost get him to play with them, and they said he looked so pleased when he dug out and went into the air with a playful skip.

The family, now, only wanted the skull, but with the most careful search it could not be found. Some time after, a boy was picking berries along the fence not far from where the bones had been originally thrown, when he stepped on a rolling stone, which threw him on the ground in the brush, when to his surprise he discovered that he had stepped on the peddler's skull, which every boy in the neighborhood had been searching for. He immediately carried it to the man, who faithfully rewarded him for finding it. The skull was buried with the other collection of the remains of the unfortunate peddler, and from that day the house was perfectly quiet, and the family lived in peace thereafter.

I do not vouch for the truth of all these stories, as I had no personal experience, being too small a boy to join the larger ones in kicking around the

bones, but I heard the details from the other boys. Perhaps some of the old inhabitants who were then living hereabouts, may dispute some of the circumstances above related, but it must be borne in mind that I was a small boy then, and could not take any active part with the larger boys, who kicked the bones around for fun, and that my information was principally derived from hearsay, my ears were always open and any statement made by the boys, made an indelible imprint on my youthful memory. In after years, I used to hear the frequenters of the old tavern, (which stood next east to the present residence of Mr. Marvin,) talk about the haunted house, and relate circumstances identical with those I have detailed."

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The late Augustus Kellogg, as is well known, died Oct. 30th, 1871. It is not generally known however, that he committed suicide by taking laudanum. On Sunday morning, Oct. 29th, John Slocum stopped into his office and found Kellogg in a deep sleep, and endeavored to awaken him, but did not

succeed. In about an hour Slocum went in again, and found Kellogg in the same state of apparent insensibility, and thereupon gave the alarm to his relatives. The neighbors flocked in and the rooms were filled all day long. Kellogg remained in the same state in which he was found until the morning of Oct. 30th, when he died.

In connection with this subject it may be interesting to state that the late Charles Pardee prepared an epitaph, which he designed to have cut on a second-hand gravestone, to be placed over Kellogg's grave. He wanted a cheap stone and promised to select one from among those which might be offered, but as he never called, the order could not be carried out. The following is an exact copy of the epitaph, and is in Mr. Pardee's handwriting :—

AUGUSTUS KELLOGG,

Died Oct. 30th, 1871, aged 67 years.

Born in affluence, talents and education of the  
first order.

Died as the fool dieth—buried

in midnight-darkness by his request.

With the talents of an Angel—a man  
may be a fool.

In the year 1812, during the war of that period, there was, about half a mile north of the village of Marcellus, a central point where there was a grist mill, saw mill and whiskey still, which in those days was of considerable importance in furnishing a market for surplus grain which otherwise could not find sale nearer than Albany. There was also a wool carding and cloth dressing machine patronized by the farmers for the purpose of having the product of their family's looms finished for domestic use. There was also a store to supply whiskey and other merchandise for the needy, who had the wherewith to buy or exchange. The store and still were owned by Joseph Platt and the still was run by Alvin North. There was also a paper mill owned by John Herring, and a powder mill owned by some one else. This collection of mills and the store together with the still, comprised an attractive business centre where the inhabitants of the surrounding country met for business purposes and to discuss the news of the day. Politics at that time were uppermost in

the public mind, and the war of opinions at times was very bitter by members of opposite parties, which on some occasions led to literal knock down arguments, at other times to fun and frolic or to the ridiculous, especially when both parties were not under the influence of liquor.

Reuben Farnham, a resident of Skaneateles and a man by the name of Tompkins, who resided in the vicinity of the whiskey still, had a discussion. The theme was politics, the subject was the Hartford Convention and its purpose and effect. Farnham had a special weakness for fire-water and was inclined to imbibe whenever an opportunity presented itself and the day these two men met, he was very noisy and intoxicated. Tompkins was a Democrat and Farnham a Federal. The discussion was very heated and Tompkins made such insulting charges against his adversary, that Farnham seemingly took offence and demanded an apology, which being insultingly denied, challenged Tompkins. He would only meet him again on the field of honor and pis-



tols were to be the arbiter of the insult. Tompkins accepted the challenge, and seconds were selected by each party. Joseph Platt being one and Alvin North the other, and with them all matters were left, to arrange the preliminaries of the meeting, they to furnish and prepare the weapons, place the parties in position and to give the signal to fire.

According to this pre-arrangement, the duellists met in a large room selected for the purpose, were placed at either end by their respective seconds, the pistols placed in their hands and at the signal, both fired simultaneously. Tompkins fell heavily to the floor, bleeding profusely from the left breast, deluging the room with blood and after a few struggles and gasps, was to all appearances dead.

When Farnham realized the scene, he seemed dumbfounded, a reaction in his feelings overpowered him with remorse, and he wept like a child and swore that he would give himself up to the authorities and meet the legal consequences.

Tompkins' body was carried off by his friends.

The affair caused the most intense excitement in the neighborhood and preparations were made for the arrest of Farnham, but before that took place the secret leaked out that Tompkins had not been killed, the duel was all a sham and there were no bullets placed in the pistols. Tompkins had previously placed a small bladder of some red liquid under his vest, which was punctured at the proper time, which accounted for the profuse flow of blood, especially as he purposely fell on the left side where the bag of fluid was placed.

The duel was to all parties, together with the spectators, except Farnham, a practical joke. To him it seemed a terrible reality, seeing blood, as it appeared running from the dying man's breast after he fell on the floor. After the company was fully satisfied with the sport, Tompkins re-appeared as sound as ever. When Farnham discovered that he had been fooled by a practical joke, his anger was unbounded and threatened Tompkins' life in revenge for the deception, but

soon cooled off, sense and reason came to his relief, and the whole matter was finally settled by the company present making up a subscription and sending over to the store for a jug of whiskey of which all joyously partook.



# INTRODUCTORY.

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BY BYRON E. OSBORN, M. D.

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I tell the tale of a hundred years—  
The ancient lore of our now fair town,  
The hopes and the fears, the joys and tears,  
And all its history of renown.

How the wild warrior in his bark canoe  
Skimmed o'er the lake's placid waves,  
And woo'd the heart of his dark Zouloo,  
'Neath the shades of his ancestors' graves.

I tell the tale of the pioneers,  
Of their struggles for loved ones at home,  
Of their few sweet days and long sad years  
They waited for happiness to come.

Then we see their children on the wave,  
The same wave that bore the dark Zouloo,  
And a fair stalwart youth just as brave,  
In the sunlight pulling his canoe.

Then prosperity, like a shy maid,  
Comes slowly with lillies in her hands,  
And a nation springs to joyous parade  
To make obeisance at her commands.

Then joyous firesides and happy homes,  
Learning, wealth, and bliss on every hand ;  
Schools and churches, with gigantic domes,  
Signal God's love and majestic wand

*Auburn, N. Y., March 1st, 1882.*

## APPENDIX.

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SINCE the first part of this book was printed, the following facts of interest have been learned, which appear under their respective heads.

### EARLY PIONEERS.

David Welch came to this town from Fort Ann, Washington Co., in 1798, and settled on military lot, No. 73, on land which is now the first farm this side of Mandana. He was a private in the Revolutionary war, was at the battle of Bennington where he was wounded in the shoulder. He built the first frame barn in 1800.

Samuel Welch, brother of David, came here in 1800, from the same place, was born in 1773, was 27 years old when he came, arrived here in March, with two yoke of oxen and a wooden shod sled, his son Samuel was then three years old. Came by the

way of Oneida and through Marcellus. He served in the war of '12. A carpenter by the name of Johnson built a frame barn for him in '04.

The first Cuykendall that settled in this town was Henry. He was born in the town of Minnisink, Orange Co., in 1778, came to Owasco in the spring of the year 1800, resided there six years, and in '06, moved to Skaneateles, about one and a half miles north of Mandana on the farm now occupied by the Huff family. Henry's family consisted of nine children, five boys and four girls, of which only two children survive.

Moses Cuykendall was born in the town of Minnisink, came to the town of Sempronius, in '09, learned the blacksmith's trade with his uncle, and in '15, came into this town and purchased fifty acres of land, worked at his trade and on his farm until his death in '59. His family consisted of ten children, six boys and four girls, of whom all are dead but one.

Jacob W. VanEtten was born in Minnisink, in 1770, came to the town of Skaneateles, purchased a

farm north of Mandana, and died on his farm in 1850. He had four children, one son and three daughters, of whom all are dead but the youngest daughter, who is now residing in Minnesota.

Eli Clark, the father of Foster Clark, came to this village, from Northampton, Mass., in the month of Oct., 1800, and came on foot. In looking around he was particularly attracted by the situation of the land which he finally purchased. After dilligent enquiry he ascertained that this land belonged to Robert R. Burnett and other parties in the city of New York, so he set out on foot to go to the city and negotiate a purchase. This resulted in his buying from said Burnett and others who were joint owners, fifty acres on Military lot No. 35, on the 22d of January, '01. He also bought fifty acres additional adjoining John Thompson's land, and paid six dollars per acre for the whole.

He then went back to his old home in Massachusetts and with his family and effects, started for his new home in New York State, in the beginning of the month of February, '01 with an ox sled drawn

by two yoke of oxen and one horse. They came along very well until the settlement of Whitestown was reached, where the ground became bare of snow. Mr. Clark then rigged some old wheels on his sled and started again, and after many difficulties and mishaps finally arrived here in the latter part of March. Foster Clark was at that time six years old—he is now in his 87th year, and his wife in her 79th year.

Eli Clark's original purchase included a part of the Sumner Fuller farm, also the land now owned by John Hudson.

Dr. David Kingsbury practiced medicine hereabouts for nearly forty years, residing in Clintonville. He was contemporary with Drs. Porter and Hopkins. Died March 7, '41, in the 64th year of his age. He was the father of Mrs. Schuyler Moore of this place.

Henry Root, was born in Westfield, Hampshire county, Mass., Nov, 21, 1788, and died at Hudson, Mich., Feb. 25, 1873, aged 85 years. Mr. Root, accompanied by his father, mother and three sisters,



(he had seven sisters,) left his native home, Oct. 13, '04, and came to this place. They came with their own conveyance, and was two weeks on the road. His father purchased one hundred and fifty acres of land, which composed the farm Henry always lived upon. Their nearest neighbors were Nathan Leonard and Bethuel Cole.

Tunis VanHoughten was among the first, if not the very first, supervisors of this town. The Town Records show that he was supervisor in '36, in which he was succeeded by Chester Clark. Mr. VanHoughten evidently was a man of good education, as some very old books here show that he set the pattern by which all the records have since been kept.

Amos Miner was born in Norfolk, Litchfield county, Conn., Nov. 10, 1776. He came to this part of the country about 1800.

He brought from his native State much of that energy, which is characteristic of the New Englander, and combining with this he had an inventive turn of mind which he soon brought into requisition. In the course of a year or two after his arrival here,

while engaged in breaking up some new land, was accidentally injured, so much as to be confined in his bed, and was kindly cared for by his immediate neighbor. While lying in bed in the same apartment where the women of the household did their work, Miner noticed the disadvantage the women had to undergo in the use of the spinning wheel. Sufficient velocity to spin the thread satisfactorily, required Herculean power, yet this power had to be furnished by the woman with one hand, while the thread was drawn out with the other. Miner lay on his bed day after day in the presence of this spinning wheel, thinking how he could improve this old-fashioned device, and before he was well enough to go to work, had mentally accomplished his contemplated improvement. His first attempt to put it into practice was to add to the staff which supported the spindle, a wooden arm with an upright attached to it to hold a wheel which was separately geared to both spindle and to the large wheel by two bands. This was a great improvement, but the sale of it was confined to his immediate vicinity, because every old

spinning wheel had to be brought to him to have the device attached.

It soon became evident to him that in order to meet the growing demands, he must so arrange his improvement as to be portable, so that it could be attached to any spinning wheel without his personal assistance. This he soon accomplished by great perseverance in what he called Miner's Accelerating Wheel Head, for which he obtained a patent Nov. 16, '03. About this time Winston Day and others were preparing to send a drove of cattle to the Philadelphia market and had engaged Jessie Kellogg to take charge of them. Of course, men must be had to drive, and when Miner had perfected his model for the wheel head, the drove was ready to start, so he came to Kellogg and hired out as a driver, and taking his model, followed the drove to Philadelphia, where he received his wages, and then went to Washington. He had no difficulty in obtaining his patent right and paid the expenses with the wages he received for driving cattle.

All the separate parts of the wheel head were made of hard wood, and in those parts where there was the greatest friction, such as the collars or gudgeon blocks were made from knots. All these parts were turned in a lathe, and it became necessary, to have other than foot power to turn his lathes, consequently, in '04, he purchased 27 acres of land, on military lot No. 44. On this land was a stream of water which ran from south to north across the road. He desired to locate his shop on the north side, as his land did not extend on the south side. But he had difficulty to get the full height of the stream across the road to his own premises, but as his perseverance never failed in an emergency, he led the water from some distance in a raceway, and in crossing the road ran the water into an upright basswood hollow log, down to another hollow log which ran horizontally across and under the roadway, and from this it was forced into another log on the north side of the road.

From the top of this log the water was fed into his first experiment of an over-shot wheel, which

was a leather band with buckets on it similar to a modern elevator in a flour mill for carrying grain. This wheel was not a success and Miner soon constructed an ordinary over-shot wheel and erected a small work shop. Here he manufactured sufficient wheel heads to supply the demand as well as flails and flail caps, fork handles and such other wooden utensils as were demanded at those times.

The site where Miner's factory was, is now the farm of George Clark.

The introduction of Miner's accelerating wheel head was a perfect boon and benefaction to all the farmer's families as well as the hired help in the land. The demand was such in a few years after the introduction of this indispensable necessity that they were sent in peddlers' wagons to all parts of the then settled states from Maine to Georgia. Like many other inventors, however, Miner profited little by it financially.

The late Charles Pardee, in a short address to the Sunday School scholars at a picnic of the Methodist society, held about 1840, near the location of Miner's

old factory, pointed out to the children the little brook where the factory was located in which, as a little boy he had worked for Miner.

In '05, Miner sold out his land to Daniel Waller, and purchased ten acres on the southwest corner of lot No. 68. There is a small brook on this location, but whether Miner ever had a factory there, is not known. He afterwards established a factory at Five Mile Point, where he manufactured wheel heads, as one of the firm Miner, Deming & Sessions.

He soon afterwards sold out his patent right and his interest in the factory, and located at a point between Skaneateles and Otisco lakes, where he erected a grist mill and saw mill.

In the year '16, he left this place and located at what was then called "Sodom," (now Mottville,) and afterward at a place called "The Hollow."

Before leaving the subject of wheel heads it may be of interest to state that when Miner first offered them for sale, they were retailed at \$3.00 each, then \$2.50, then \$2.00, and kept declining until the introduction of spinning jacks, when they were sold as low as 25cts each, and finally the demand ceased.

Miner sold out as soon as his patent became money making so that he might turn his attention to other inventions.

His next invention was machinery for making pails, for which he obtained a patent April 25, 1823. One of the greatest obstacles he had to encounter to complete his invention was to give the staves a cylindrical form, but this he overcame by inventing the cylinder saw which he used for this purpose. In theory it seemed to be just what was wanted, but in practice it was partially ineffectual, because it did not always saw with the grain of the wood, he found that cross grained staves made poor pails. This cylinder saw he did not patent but it has been in use ever since for many other useful purposes.

Miner invented machines for making window sash and secured letters patent for the same, in July, '23. In '25, he obtained another patent for an improvement in making keelers or pans for holding milk.

He afterwards owned a grist mill between Jordan and Skaneateles, but its exact location or in

what year he operated it, is not known. Miner made a further improvement in his window sash machines, for which he took out a patent, Nov. 19, '33. The celebrated and well known Miner pump was patented by him, July 7, 1835.

The memory of Amos Miner deserves special honor from the citizens of Skaneateles, humble as he was, always pleasant and agreeable, but he was more than that, he possessed an inventive genius hardly excelled.

The superintendent of the patent office at Washington in one of his reports said that Amos Miner of Skaneateles, N. Y., had invented and patented more really useful machines than any other man in the United States in those early times. He was poor, very poor, and yet he made many rich.

He once told Howard Delano that people gave him more credit than he deserved for an inventive genius, he did not consider that he had much of that quality, but what he really claimed to have, was a perseverance and energy which was never satisfied until the desired end was accomplished. He could



not sleep at night while his mind was occupied during the day in any of his mental researches.

About the close of the year '35, he emigrated from New York State, and settled in Morgan county, Illinois, and there erected a grist mill and a saw mill at a place called Little York in that county.

Here, surrounded by his children, who came with him, with the exception of two, who had previously settled in Western Pennsylvania, he passed the last years of his life and died in the 66th year of his age, June 2, '42.

Anna Miner, the sister of Amos Miner, was the mother of the late Charles Pardee and of Aaron, Allen, &c. She came from Connecticut and settled in this village, but whether she came at the same time her brother did is not known.

### EARLY INDUSTRIES.

The following incidents happened about the year 1806: Nathan Leonard built the house now owned by Joab Clift. Bethuel Cole built the house now on the Luther Clark place. John Thompson, the first settler, built a frame dwelling on his place. The Briggs tavern was completed this year.

## THE PRESS.

The following are the names of the Newspapers that have been published in this village.

*The Skaneateles Telegraph* was first issued July 28, '29. W. H. Child was the publisher, and D. B. Drake editor. The following extracts from the leading editorial are of interest:—

“Though we have labored under many embarrassments of a discouraging nature in the undertaking, we have at length issued the first number of our paper. \* \* It will be observed that this paper is dated several days forward, so that the second number will not be issued till the 4th of August. In the meantime we trust we shall have a large accession to our subscription list. This number will be sent to every dwelling in the village. If any should be neglected it will be unintentional. Those who may feel themselves unable or unwilling to subscribe will return the first number as soon as convenient.”

The editor then goes on to define his position in regard to politics. Gen. Jackson was then President

Advertisements—The Skaneateles Hotel was kept by N. D. Caldwell and K. Wallis. "The subscribers having refitted and newly furnished this extensive establishment, formerly occupied by S. & J. Hall, offer their services for the accommodation of the public. Its delightful situation on the margin of the lake, the beauty of the scenery and the healthfulness of the climate give it every natural advantage." They also flatter themselves that the convenience of the accommodations, the excellencies of their table and bar, and the most assiduous attention of all belonging to the establishment will render it a pleasant retreat for travelers or parties of pleasure.

N. B. Seats may be taken every day in the different stages running to Homer, Ithaca, Jordan, Syracuse, Buffalo and Albany.

Dr. Parsell opened an office for the practice of medicine at the hotel. John H. Johnson was sheriff and Joseph Dascomb was his deputy.

The following marriage notices are also found :

July 6, 1829, Mr. Holland W. Chadwick was married to Miss Matilda Earll.

July 2d, Joseph S. Mott to Miss Mary Thorne daughter of Nicholas Thorne.

In Elbridge, July 4th, E. D. Wheadon to Miss Sarah Marvin.

*The Skaneateles Weekly Democrat*, was commenced in 1846, by Wm. Beauchamp. It was subsequently issued by W. H. Jewett, Philo Rust and Jonathan Keeney. In '49, it passed into the hands of Harrison B. Dodge, who has conducted it ever since. It is independent in politics and is one of the best family papers in the county.

*The Naval Bulletin* was issued from the *Democrat* office, a short time in '53.

*The Minerva*, was a short time published by W. H. Beauchamp in '44, but finally merged into the *Democrat*.

*The Juvenile Repository*, was also published here in '58, by Luther Pratt. In '40 it was removed to New York, and soon after discontinued.

*Skaneateles Free Press*, was commenced in '75, by John C. Stephenson. It is one of the spiciest sheets published in Central New York. Its circulation is about 1,200.



















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