











Bought of J. Averill  
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This Book contains a  
History of the different  
towns in Rensselaer County  
including Troy when a  
town viz:

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## Troy Daily Times.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, NOV. 2, 1880.

### TOWN OF SANDLAKE.

#### PROMINENT PIONEER PEOPLE.

#### THE LAW ERECTING THE TOWN IN 1812.

#### The Vicissitudes of a Man of Fortune.

The Early Manufacture of Glass in the Town—The Establishment of the Rensselaer Glass Factory—The First Library Association in the Town—The Building of the Plank-Road—The Organization of Churches—Manufacturing Interests—Village History—Census.

That portion of the manor of Rensselaerswyck which in the early part of the present century took by legislative enactment the name of Sandlake was shortly before the revolutionary war inhabited by a few Dutch and English speaking settlers. The date of each one's settlement is not easily determined, for the names of these pioneer people are mostly preserved by tradition, and only a small number of recorded papers indicate when they first leased their farms from the patroon.

#### THE FIRST SETTLERS.

Among the names remembered the following may be said to comprise those of the more prominent of the first settlers of Sandlake: Wynant Van Alstyne, John Bowman, Abram Bristol, William Butts, John Carmichael, Philip Feller, Nicholas Fellows, Abram Frear, Philip Gardner, Job Gilbert, William Goslin, Elias Gregory, Stephen Gregory, Andreas Miller, Henry Miller, Henry Moul, Eleazer Peck, Ephraim Quimby, Michael Rykert, Frederick Shaver, Joseph H. Sippery, Solomon Taylor, Andreas Weatherwax and Hendrick Young-hans.

It is said that Joshua Lockwood and William Carpenter built the first grist mill at Sandlake in 1768.

Most of these early farmers took up land in the vicinity of the several beautiful lakes or along the devious course of the Wynantskill. A great portion of the territory of the town formerly belonged to the town of Greenbush, and a part to the town of Berlin.

#### THE TOWN OF SANDLAKE ERECTED.

By "an act to divide the towns of Greenbush and Berlin, in the county of Rensselaer, into three towns," passed by the legislature, June 19, 1812, the town of Sandlake was created. In regard to the boundaries of the town the act reads:

That from and after the first day of March next, all that part of the town of Greenbush, within the following bounds to wit: Beginning at the north-west corner of the said town of Greenbush, and running easterly, on the line between the towns

of Troy and Greenbush, five miles; thence south 17° 57' west, until it intersects the northerly line of the town of Schoharie; thence westerly, on the line between the towns of Schoharie and Greenbush, until it intersects the line of the county of Albany, in the Hudson river, and thence up the river, on a line of the county of Albany, to the place of beginning, including all the islands in the said river lying nearest the east side thereof shall be considered as the town of Greenbush.

And that all the residue of the town of Greenbush, together with the three miles set off from the west end of Berlin, parallel to the present west line of said town, shall be erected into a new town, by the name of Sandlake, and that the first town meeting in said town shall be held at the dwelling house of Thomas Thompson in said town.

#### THE FIRST OFFICERS OF THE TOWN.

The first officers of the town elected in accordance with the statute were:

Supervisor, Calvin Thompson; town clerk, David E. Gregory; assessors, Lawrence Van Alstyne, John Clint, Ezra Newton; commissioners of highways, John Stevens, John North, Jacob Boro; overseers of the poor, Stephen Gregory, Lewis Bullock; collector, Jonathan Ford; constables, John Dimebark, Jonathan Ford, Henry Lord; school commissioners, Aretus Lyman, Joel Bristol, Ellis Foster.

#### THE MANUFACTURE OF GLASS.

Early in the present century the establishment of glass works on the banks of Glass lake gave the town of Sandlake an important local industry. The small collection of houses that grew up about these works assumed the name of Rensselaer village, which is now designated Glass house.

The history of these works properly begins about the year 1788, when Leonard de Neufville, Jan Hoeke and Ferdinand Walfahert, the proprietors of the Dovesborough glass works, 10 miles west of Albany, appealed to the people of the state of New York to sustain their manufacture of glass. They set forth that the state was annually drained of £30,000 for this necessary article which they could manufacture and which excelled in quality English glass. These works were visited in 1788 by Elkanah Watson. His acquaintance with the founder of this enterprise gave him the following information, which his son published in the memoirs of his father.

#### LIFE'S VICISSITUDES.

Elkanah Watson proceeded eight miles from Albany to the new glass house erected by John de Neufville, a former correspondent of his, and once a citizen of Amsterdam. John de Neufville had been the negotiator of the treaty made by Holland with the American congress, which primarily produced the war between the former and England, in 1781. He commenced business with a hereditary capital of half a million sterling, and lived in Amsterdam at his country seat in the highest affluence and splen-

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He sacrificed his fortune by his attachment to the cause of American independence. The fragments of his estate he invested in the enterprise of establishing this glass factory. Elkanah Watson found this gentleman, born to affluence, living in a solitary place, occupying a miserable log cabin, furnished with a single deal table and two common chairs, destitute of the ordinary comforts of life.

#### THE ALBANY GLASS WORKS.

In 1795 it appears that the works erected by De Neufville had become the property of Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, Elkanah Watson, Robert MacGregor and Thomas and Samuel Mather, and had been carried on for some time under the firm name of MacGregor & Co. On the 7th of April of that year the partnership was dissolved and a new company formed under the name of Thomas Mather & Co.

In February, 1796, the state legislature passed an act for the encouragement of the Albany glass factory. The proprietors of the glass works at this time were Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, John Saunders, Abraham Ten Eyck, Elkanah Watson, Frederick A. de Zeng, K. K. Van Rensselaer, Donw Fonda, Walter Cochran and Samuel Mather.

#### THE RENSSELAER GLASS FACTORY.

On the 28th of February, 1806, the legislature passed "An act to incorporate the stockholders of the Rensselaer glass factory." The preamble of the act recites that "whereas Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, Elisha Jenkins, Elkanah Watson, George Pearson, James Kane, Thomas Frothingham, Frederick Jenkins, Rensselaer Havens and Francis Bloodgood have associated for the purpose of establishing a glass factory in the county of Rensselaer, in this state," that the request of the petitioners be granted. The capital stock, it was provided, of the company should not exceed 100 shares and each share \$1,000. From the patron of the manor of Rensselaerwyck the company obtained a large tract of land lying about the shores of Glass lake and upon a portion of it, adjacent to the lake, erected a number of buildings necessary for the manufacture of glass. It is related that the company in order to secure experienced workmen sent William Richmond, a Scotchman, to England, where dressed as a beggar, he traveled as a bag-pipe player and visited the principal glass manufacturing districts and engaged the number of employees desired. Major Thomas Frothingham, who had served as an officer during the revolutionary war, was made general superintendent of the works. Under his efficient management the establishment obtained considerable popularity for the superior quality of its glass. The general appreciation in which Major Frothingham's personal abilities were held by the public led to his election as a member of the state legislature in 1800-02, at which time he very ably represented the district as a senator. The Rensselaer glass factory gave employment to a large number of workmen, for whom comfortable dwellings were erected in the immediate vicinity of the works. The company continued to manu-

facture a fine quality of window glass until 1816, when the cylinder works were destroyed by fire, which was so great a loss to the proprietors that they became peculiarly embarrassed. "An act for the relief of the president and directors of the Rensselaer glass factory," was passed by the legislature, April 13, 1819. The bill states that "it was discovered that the business could not be prosecuted any further with a prospect of profit; that heavy losses had already been incurred in the persevering efforts of the directors to render the business productive of some benefit to the stockholders, and had therefore been abandoned." As the further prosecution of it would inevitably produce still heavier losses the petitioners prayed that an act of the legislature might be passed authorizing them to dissolve the corporation, to sell the estate, pay their debts and make a distribution of their effects among the several stockholders.

#### A NEW COMPANY FORMED.

Shortly after the passage of the act referred to, Nathan R. Crandall and Isaac B. Fox purchased the works and erected new buildings. This firm began the manufacture of cylinder glass, the former company having made crown and cylinder window glass. On the death of Nathan R. Crandall the manufacture of glass at this establishment was for a time discontinued. On March 11, 1825, the property was sold by Moses Warren, sheriff of Rensselaer county, to Richard J. Knowlson.

On the 16th of April, 1830, the legislature passed "an act to incorporate the Rensselaer glass manufacturing company," by which Richard J. Knowlson, Isaac B. Fox, Daniel M. Gregory and such persons as thereafter might become stockholders of the said company were to be known by the name of "The Rensselaer Glass manufacturing company." For the purpose of making cylinder, window, crown and other glass ware, the capital stock was to be \$50,000, shares \$100 each. The subscription books were to be opened under the direction of Richard J. Knowlson, Daniel M. Gregory and Richard Spencer, jr. The affairs of the company were to be managed by five directors. About the year 1831 the firm of Knowlson & Schmeuss began the manufacture of glass at this place, which it continued for more than a year.

On the 1st of July, 1835, Richard J. Knowlson sold the land and buildings formerly owned by the Rensselaer glass factory company to Francis Stadler, Joseph Stadler, Anthony Rush and Joseph Wetser, who took the name of Stadlers, Rush & Co., in the manufacture of glass at Rensselaer village. This firm becoming involved conveyed the property to Richard J. Knowlson and Isaac B. Fox, as trustees, May 7, 1838, for the settlement of their liabilities. Subsequently, about the year 1839, A. R. & S. H. Fox began again the manufacture of glass at this place, and continued the business until the year 1853, when the works were destroyed by fire and were not again rebuilt. These and which first led the early manufacturers of glass to establish works at this place was found in time

to be unsuited for the purposes desired, and for a number of years sand was obtained from Berkshire county, Mass.

#### THE SANDLAKE LIBRARY SOCIETY.

It appears that steps were early taken to provide the people of a part of the town with a circulating library. On the second Tuesday in April, 1808, \$100 having been subscribed for the establishment of a library, the members of the Sandlake library society assembled at the house of Thomas Thompson, and after making William Van Tress chairman of the meeting, elected Uriah M. Gregory, Joel Bristol, Stephen Gregory, Aretus Lyman and Nathan R. Crandall trustees of the association.

#### THE PLANK-ROAD COMPANY.

When a number of years ago the construction of plank-roads attracted the attention of the public, it was deemed judicious by those interested in maintaining a good road between the city of Albany and village of Sandlake to obtain from the legislature the privilege of building such a road. On the 10th of April, 1849, was passed "an act to allow the president and directors of the eastern turnpike to sell a part or all of their road, and to form a plank-road from Albany to Sandlake." By this act, Erastus Corning, David V. N. Radcliffe, Samuel S. Fowler, Richard J. Knowlson, Gideon Butts, Evert van Alden, John DeForest, James Dearstyne, DeWitt DeForest, George Cipperly, Wynant Youngmans and their associates were constituted a company to construct and maintain a plank-road from the east side of the Hudson river opposite the city of Albany, through the town of Greenbush on the most eligible route to the Glass Factory village in the town of Sandlake. Although the planks of this road have almost all disappeared from the road-bed which were used in its construction, the highway is still designated as the plank-road.

#### CEMETERIES.

The Sandlake union cemetery association was organized on the 7th of June, 1847, at the house of Calvin Silter, and incorporated by the election of the following trustees: Calvin Silter, Nathan Upham, Solomon Gregory, Cornelius Schemmerhorn, Richard J. Knowlson and Albert R. Fox. In 1840 William P. Van Rensselaer conveyed to the Rensselaer burial-ground association three acres of land in the vicinity of Silter's Corners. Another acre was in 1874 obtained from Eben W. Carmichael, which, with the former ground, was neatly laid out into a rural cemetery.

The old burial ground about a mile south of the village of West Sandlake, and the graveyard in the rear of Zion's Lutheran church, in the village, contain the tombs of many of the first settlers of the western part of the town of Sandlake.

#### THE LUTHERAN CHURCH AT RENSSELAERWYCK.

The earliest religious society formed in that part of the manor of Rensselaerwyck, now the town of Sandlake, was an organization of Lutherans known as the congregation of the church called Zion at Rensselaerwyck. This

society was incorporated on the 25th day of January, 1790. On that day Andreas Weatherwax and Andreas Miller were elected trustees of Zion church. The judges of election were Henry Moeller, Henry Miller and Philip Feller. The meeting house was built of logs, on a piece of land given to the congregation by Stephen Van Rensselaer. The site of this old building, which was removed about the year 1818, is still pointed out, it being a part of the present farm of Henry S. Traver. The membership of Zion church became the basis of the organization of the First Lutheran church of West Sandlake.

#### SECOND EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEST SANDLAKE.

This society was organized in 1837. For the purpose of being incorporated the male members of the congregation on the 8th of May, 1839, assembled at the house of John Cipperly and there elected Wynant Youngmans, Bernard Uline, Bernard U. Sharp, John Cipperly and John P. Shaver, trustees of "The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sandlake." For a time after the organization of this society divine worship was held by it at the house of Bernard Uline. On the 16th of the same month of that year the trustees made purchase of a piece of ground whereon to erect a church edifice, which was subsequently built and dedicated October 5, 1839. In 1864 the building was remodeled at a cost of about \$2,500, and was rededicated January 19, 1865. The present roll of the membership of this church embraces the names of 190 persons.

The pastors who have served this congregation since its organization have been the Rev. John D. Lawyer, 1837; the Rev. Jesse S. Robinson, 1838-39; the Rev. Isaac Kimball, 1839-40; the Rev. H. L. Dox, 1841-50; the Rev.

Nicholas Van Aalst, 1850-61; and the Rev. Dr. W. Dox, July 1, 1861, to date.

#### THE GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH AT EAST SANDLAKE.

A society of German Lutherans was organized in East Sandlake, in school district No. 11, in 1865, by the Rev. F. Helmle. The old wooden Baptist church, north of the school house, near big Bowman pond, was first used by this congregation for divine worship, in July, 1865, which, on the first Sunday in August, was dedicated with appropriate services. The building cost about \$500, and has a seating capacity for about 200 persons. The church has 80 members. The following have been the pastors of this church: The Revs. F. Helmle, D. Bruno, F. A. Sydow, and the present pastor, the Rev. George Vetter.

#### SALEM CHURCH OF THE EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION OF WEST SANDLAKE, (GERMAN.)

This religious association was organized in 1845 at the present parsonage, at that time the old Lutheran church, by the Rev. J. G. Marguaret, Philip Young, Andrew Schafer, Philip Schwartz, John Scheer and John Schuster. In 1840 the old wooden schoolhouse, erected in 1840, was dedicated as a house of worship, the Rev. R. J. Derrick officiating. In 1866 the present frame church edifice was erected at a



cost of about \$7,000, which has a seating capacity for about 800 persons. In October of the same year it was dedicated by Bishop J. J. Esher.

On the 27th of February, 1867, the society became incorporated by the election of John Wagner, Andrew Schafer and John Schoer as trustees of "The Salem church of the village of West Sandlake." The church has at present 100 members. The following pastors have had charge of this church: The Revs. J. G. Marguaret, 1845-46; M. Laner, 1847-48; J. Wagner, 1849-50; R. J. Derrick, 1851-52; D. Fisher, 1853-54; L. Jacobi, 1854-55; George Eckhard, 1856-57; G. J. Grenzhauch, 1858-59; F. Lohmeyer, 1860-61; C. F. Boller, 1862-63; H. Fisher, 1864; W. Mentz, 1865-66; C. F. Schoepflins, 1867-68; M. Yanch, 1869-70; J. G. Seigrist, 1871-72; A. Luescher, 1873-75; C. F. Stube, 1876-78; and A. Schlenk, 1879-80.

#### THE TRUE DUTCH REFORMED PROTESTANT CHURCH.

Among the early religious societies of which the inhabitants of the town of Sandlake were members, was the congregation known as "The Wynants and Poestenkill True Dutch Reformed Protestant church in the towns of Greenbush and Sandlake." On the 17th of May, 1824, the members of this church assembled at the usual place of divine worship, in the town Sandlake, and elected as trustees William W. Cooper, Moses P. B. Bloomendile and Conrad Cooper for the purpose of being incorporated. On the 28th of June, 1825, the name of the church was changed to "The True Reformed Dutch church of Wynants and Poestenkill in the county of Rensselaer."

#### THE PROTESTANT SOCIETY.

A religious organization known as the Protestant society was formed at the house of Stephen Gregory on the 7th of January, 1805. For the purpose of incorporation the association elected Henry Witth, Stephen Gregory, John Stephens, Daniel Bristol, Wm. Van Trase and Isaac A. Hammond trustees. A seal was adopted, having a representation of an altar, two doves and the motto "Unite" engraved upon it.

#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANDLAKE.

The First Presbyterian society in Sandlake was organized on the 21st of December, 1809. The Presbyterian people of Sandlake, uniting with the members of the Congregational church of Nassau formed a congregation of 35 members, which took the name of the First Presbyterian church of Greenbush, before a portion of the town of Greenbush, in 1812, became a part of the town of Sandlake. When the town of Sandlake was erected the society was called the First Presbyterian church of Sandlake. The present frame house of worship was erected near Sitter's Corners in 1835. The church now belonging to the Baptist congregation at Sandlake was previous to this year, 1835, worshipped in by this society, the building then being known as the Union church. The society was incorporated on the 28th of

February, 1826, by the election of Scott Vining, Calvin Thompson, Stephen Gregory, Silas Willmot, Gilbert Bailey and Uriah Gregory as trustees of the "First Presbyterian society of the town of Sandlake." The church has at the present 62 members. The church has had the following pastors: The Revs. John Keyes, 1808-12; — Brown; — Perry; John Knill; 1808-12; — Lummis; — Metcalf; William Glynn; — Lummis; 1813-24; — Woodbury; John Younglove, 1813-24; Ezra D. Kinney, 1825-30; Thomas Wickes, 1831-32; Gardner Hayden, 1832-34; Isaac Foster, 1835-36, supply; — McDowell, 1836-37; Thomas J. Haswell, 1838-39; John Davis, 1840-43; John Sessions, 1843-47; Chaucey H. Hubbard, 1847-50; Eber M. Rollo, 1851-54; Charles Doolittle, 1855-59; John P. Cushman, 1859-62; Andrew McMullen, 1863-64; Eber M. Rollo, 1865; Albert C. Bishop, 1865-75; and James P. Vele, May, 1876, to date.

#### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SANDLAKE.

The first Baptist society of Sandlake secured its incorporation by electing on the 18th of March, 1836, Lockwood Butts, William King and Nathan Barber trustees. The society assumed the name of the First Baptist church in the town of Sandlake. This congregation worshipped in the Union meeting house, at Sandlake, now known as Averill.

#### THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF SANDLAKE.

The society which is now known as the Baptist church of Sandlake was organized in 1831 by Isaac B. Fox, Joseph Gregory, A. V. P. Gregory, R. P. Whipple, Albert B. Fox, and 13 other persons. This congregation, in connection with the Presbyterians, held divine services in the Union meeting house, which was erected and dedicated in 1805, the Rev. Mr. Woodbridge performing the dedicatory services. This building has a seating capacity for about 500 persons, and cost about \$3,000. It became the sole property of the Baptist society some years subsequent to the organization of this congregation. It was remodeled in 1842 at an expense of about \$2,000, and in 1862, at about the same expenditure.

On the 12th of July, 1835, the members of the Second Baptist society met at their meeting house, and for the purpose of being incorporated elected Stephen Gregory, Joseph Gregory, Abraham V. P. Gregory, Isaac B. Fox, Charles H. Gregory and Henry L. Wynants trustees. The church has at present 120 members.

The pastors and supplies of the church have been the Revs. Calvin C. Williams, 1832-33; Orrin Dodge, 1834-37; — Barker, 1837; E. D. Turner, 1837-39; Merritt House, 1840-41; Abel Brown, 1841-42; William L. Loomis, 1842-46; E. G. Perry, 1846-1850; J. B. Pixley, 1850-51; Alexander Milne, 1851; William W. Allen, 1855-58; Daniel Robinson, 1853-62; George W. Demers, 1863-65; Ezra D. Simmons, 1865-68; Reuben H. Weeks, 1869-80.

#### THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT WEST SANDLAKE.

A society of Methodists was early formed in the vicinity of West Sandlake. About the

year 1825 a small house of worship was erected by the followers of Wesley which took the name of Hedding chapel. The Rev. Samuel Howat was among the first ministers who watched over the spiritual interests of this society. A meeting was held on the 4th of December, 1826, in the chapel, for the purpose of incorporating the congregation, at which William Mott, William M. Martin, Benjamin Sibley, Jr., and Henry Moul were elected trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Hedding chapel society. About the year 1845 a larger and more convenient meeting house was erected in the village of West Sandlake, which is still used by the society as a house of worship.

A second certificate of incorporation was secured in 1850 by this society, which on the 13th of May of that year elected William R. Mott, Solomon Coon, Samuel Weatherwax, Henry Moul, Henry Weatherwax, Jacob Ostrander and George Uline "trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church of West Sandlake."

The following ministers have had this congregation under their charge since 1836: The Revs. Asa Hand, 1836; D. Stovens, 1838; D. Starks, 1840; — Hancock, 1842; J. Eams, 1847; John Grove, 1850; John Chase, 1853; P. P. Harrower, 1855; William Smith, 1853; W. F. Hend, 1861; Merrick Bates, 1863; J. D. Bennham, 1865; J. W. Quinland, 1868; S. D. Elliott, 1871; R. Patterson, 1872; B. O. Meeker, 1875; J. B. Sylvester, 1876; C. M. Clark, 1877; E. Marsh, 1878.

The church has on its roll of membership the names of 100 persons.

#### WESLEY CHAPEL METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

A society of Methodists was organized about the year 1830, at Oak hill, near the center of the town. A meeting of the members of the congregation was held at the house of Cyrenus Finch, on the 30th of April, 1831, at

which the Rev. John North was present. The following persons were elected trustees: The Rev. John North, Andrew A. Smith, Lewis Finch, Adam Feathers and John W. Belknap.

#### THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL SOCIETY.

Another society of the followers of John Wesley was organized in the town, which body held divine worship in the school house of district No. 14. To be incorporated the members of this congregation, which was served by ministers of the Chatham circuit, assembled at the school house, and there elected the Rev. John North, Sylvanus Babcock, Charles Dugar, Samuel H. Arnold and John McCann trustees of the Wesleyan chapel.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SANDLAKE.

The three congregations of Methodists, one at Sandlake village, (Averill,) one at Glass House, and one known as Clark's chapel in the town of Schohadack, have been consolidated into a charge and the resident pastor at Sandlake has them under his care. The congregation at Glass House embraces about 50 members. This society had a church at this point about the year 1830. Clark's chapel was erected shortly after this date. The congregation was connected for

a time with the charge at Nassau village, subsequently with the Glass House church, and latterly with the Sandlake charge. There are about 150 persons connected with this church.

Olive chapel was erected at Sandlake village about the year 1874, at an expense of about \$2,500. It was first associated as a charge with the church at West Sandlake, but in 1878 it was connected with the Sandlake charge. The Rev. Wm. W. Whitney was the first pastor of this church. The roll of membership of the congregation bears 84 names.

#### ST. HENRY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AT SANDLAKE, (AVERILL.)

This church originated about the year 1838 when religious services were first held at the house of M. Cusack, by the Rev. H. Hopkins of St. Francis Roman Catholic church of Troy. In June, 1839 it was decided that a small church should be erected, and the work of building was shortly afterwards commenced on a lot presented by J. Aken. On the 4th of January, 1870, the church was incorporated under the name of "St. Henry's church." The first services were held in the new building on Sunday, April 17, 1870. On the 10th of October, 1870, the church was dedicated by the Very Rev. V. G. Wadhams. The following priests have had charge of this church: The Revs. Father Gabriels, Father Wiebbe, Father Schoppe, and the Rev. Father Trieb, from May 31, 1879, to date.

#### AVERILL.

The village of Averill, which is situated on the Wynantskill, is a little north of the center of the town of Sandlake. The valuable water power of the Wynantskill at this point early attracted the attention of manufacturers. About the beginning of the century Thomas Thompson erected a saw mill and a forge on the stream running southward from the present village of Averill. A woolen mill was built about the year 1825 on the site of the former buildings, which was first operated by Coleman & Hemingway as a sashnet factory. Subsequently the mill was purchased by John Korr of Troy. It was afterward changed into a hosiery mill by Ezekiah C. and George C. Arnold, who were associated with Daniel Wight in this branch of manufacture. This firm was succeeded by James Aken, and he in turn by the firm of Kidder & Aken. In 1871 the building was destroyed by fire.

Where now is the hosiery mill operated by Nicholas T. Kane was, about the year 1823, a tannery belonging to Ephraim Whittaker. Subsequently it was successively owned by Caleb Finch, John Ladue, and Gershon Tabor. The tannery buildings were several times destroyed by fire. James Aken having purchased the property erected thereon a hosiery mill in 1862. In 1873 James F. Aken and Jephth P. Kidder leased it, and were succeeded a year afterward by Kidder & McCready, and they by Kidder & North. Subsequently Nicholas T. Kane purchased it of James Aken. It is known as the Aken hosiery mill, has five sets of machinery and giving employment to about 75 persons.



About the year 1830 Aretus Lyman was running a saw-mill where now is the Sandlake warp and yarn factory, owned and operated by I. McCombe & Co. A short distance south of the saw-mill was a grist-mill, which a number of years afterwards was changed to a plaster-mill. A second grist-mill was erected below this mill. Aretus Lyman and Stephen Gregory were for a number of years the owners of these mills. Coonrad Albridge erected at this point a cotton mill, where was manufactured cotton batting and yarn. On August 27, 1836, Daniel Wight, Ezekiah C. Arnold and Alfred Robinson purchased from Aretus Lyman a grist-mill, in which they began the manufacture of catinet warps. In 1870 I. McCombe & Co. succeeded to the ownership of the property. This firm employs about thirty-five persons in the manufacture of cotton warp.

An old mill known as the cloth dressing factory of John P. Albertson was in operation on this part of the Wynantskill as early as the year 1830. Where now is the Eagle hosiery mill was once the mill of Cornelius Schemmerhorn, destroyed by fire in 1870.

The site of the Beaverwyck hosiery mill, the property of Thomas Knowlson, was about the year 1835 occupied by the catinet mill of John Van Huse. For a time it was run as a grist mill by Arnold, Hunt & Wight. Subsequently Andrew B. Knowlson purchased the property and fitted up the building as a hosiery mill, which in 1874 was destroyed by fire. The mill was rebuilt, and is now called the Beaverwyck hosiery mill, and is in operation at present under the management of Andrew B. Knowlson.

About the year 1860 a paper mill was erected on the Wynantskill, south of the former mills, by Staats D. Tompkins. In 1865 the property passed into the hands of Eugene and John W. Merwin. In March, 1875, Andrew J. Smart of Troy became the owner of the mill, who at present manufactures annually about 700 tons of straw paper. About the year 1835 the furnace of William Carmichael was built at this point. Here, also, at an early day was a cloth dressing factory.

In 1836 the village of Sandlake is spoken of as being 16 miles from Troy, containing a Baptist and a Presbyterian church, a postoffice, two satinet factories, two cotton factories, a grist and a saw-mill, a furnace, a large tannery, a tavern, two stores and about 40 dwellings. The place now comprises about 100 houses, among which are the Baptist church, the Methodist Episcopal chapel and St. Henry's Roman Catholic church and the school house of district No. 7. The Sandlake collegiate institute was established here in 1839 by Wm. H. Scam. The school obtained an excellent reputation under the management of this well known educator of boys. The building is now remodelled and is owned by Horatio F. Averill, being known as the Averill house. The business interests of the place, besides the manufactures already mentioned, include at present two hotels and several stores.

The place which was until 1830 the western

part of the village of Sandlake being given a postoffice by the government, received the designation of Averill. The pretty sheet of water known as Sand lake is at a short remove from the Averill house.

#### SAND LAKE (SLITER'S CORNER'S.)

The place known as Sliter's Corners, in the town of Sandlake, is now the village of Sandlake, for here about the year 1815 was established a postoffice by the name of Sandlake. The place contains about 40 buildings, among which is the Presbyterian church. The grounds of the Union cemetery are in the immediate vicinity. At this point is a hotel, two stores, an undertaker's shop, a carriage and a blacksmith shop. The office of the Mutual insurance association of Sandlake, Poestenkill, Berlin and Stephentown is at this village. The association was organized March 21, 1878. The first directors were Joel B. Peck, Dr. E. W. Carmichael, Lewis W. Allendorph, John Vossburgh, John M. Miller, John Miller, William Upland and Arthur M. Peck. The interests of the company are mutual. About 230 persons are members of the association.

#### GLASS HOUSE.

This place was early known as Rensselaer village when the Rensselaer glass factory was in operation on the banks of Glass lake. It is a short distance south of Sliter's Corners. There are about 30 buildings at this point, among which is a Methodist Episcopal church, the school house of district No. 8, and a hotel. It is mentioned in 1836 as being 12 miles from Troy, having a Methodist church, a select school, a postoffice, a glass manufactory making cylinder glass, a saw-mill, a tavern, two stores and 50 dwellings.

#### WEST SANDLAKE.

This village, in the western part of the town, was early known by the name of Ulines, in honor of Bernard Uline, who built the first house at this point. In 1836 Ulines is

referred to in the "State Gazetteer" as being seven miles from Troy, upon the Wynantskill, having a Lutheran and a Methodist Episcopal church, a grist and a saw mill, two stores, two taverns and about 50 dwellings. A postoffice was established here about the year 1835, of which Frost Myers was the first postmaster. Successively the following persons have been his successors in office: Burton A. Thomas, Jacob Taylor, Samuel D. Seymour, Dr. Wm. H. Snyder, Jacob Wheeler and Elbert W. Moul. The village contains about 90 houses and a population of 408. There are four churches in the place, two Lutheran, a Methodist Episcopal and a German Evangelical. It has one hotel, four stores, a hosiery mill, a yarn factory, two grist mills and a plow manufactory. The school house of district No. 4 is in the village. The hosiery mill of John H. Akin and persons. The stocking yarn factory of Albert Donaldson and William Uline is also an important industry.

The Lutheran Herald was issued in 1841, at

West Sandlake, by the Rev. Henry L. Dox, pastor of the Second Lutheran church of the village. It was published for several years.

#### SOUTH SANDLAKE.

This hamlet is situated in the southwestern part of the town. It comprises about a half-score of houses, a store, a blacksmith shop and a wagonmaker's shop. The postoffice was established here about the year 1853. William Stevens has been the postmaster for many years.

POPULATION OF THE TOWN.			
1815.....	3,269	1850.....	2,308
1820.....	3,302	1855.....	2,338
1825.....	3,431	1860.....	2,593
1830.....	3,556	1865.....	2,650
1835.....	3,540	1870.....	2,650
1840.....	4,361	1875.....	3,572
1845.....	4,394	1880.....	3,570

## Troy Daily Times.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, OCT. 4, 1830.

### THE TOWN OF GRAFTON.

#### THE LATEST SETTLED TOWN IN THE COUNTY.

#### EMIGRATION FROM NEW-ENGLAND.

#### THE ERECTION OF THE TOWN.

The Beginning of the Anti-Rent War—Lighting the Candles of Industry and Economy—Troy Troops Sent to the Helderberg Region—A Dangerous Affray in the Town of Grafton—Anti-Rentism a Political Question—The Erection of Churches—Population.

It seems that the territory embraced within the present bounds of the town of Grafton was not as early occupied by settlers as were the other contiguous portions of the manor of Rensselaerwyck. The rocky roughness and mountainous character of this part of the manor were no doubt not as inviting to emigrants as were the more arable tracts of the other sections of Rensselaerwyck, and on this account it was later settled.

#### EMIGRATION FROM NEW ENGLAND.

Immediately after the revolutionary struggle a tide of emigration set in toward the upper Hudson from the older New England settlements. The patroon, in order to place under cultivation the immense tracts of untitled land lying within the manor, made such liberal overtures at this time to emigrants that not a few vigorous and industrious New Englanders were found willing to accept his offers and to lease of him certain farm lands now forming part of the town of Grafton. Dr. Amos Hall, a resident of the town, speaking of the settlement of this part of the manor in an unpublished sketch of its history, says:

There were few (if any) inhabitants within the

present limits of Grafton down to the time of the commencement of the revolutionary war in 1776. Soon after peace was restored, in 1783, many persons whose families had been reduced to poverty by the war, found it necessary to emigrate in order to regain the lost means of supplying the necessities of their families. In the midst of these circumstances, from 1785 to 1788, very many industrious, hardy yeomen came with their families and settled here. It was a complete wilderness at the time, all the country being covered with heavy timber, and, as a matter of course, they suffered the usual wants and privations of the first settlers of most new countries.

Among the first families that settled here were the Owen, the Coon and the Dummer families. Abel Owen, a revolutionary soldier, was one of the close of the war emigrated from Connecticut to Rhode Island, and settled on the farm where Stoward Allen now lives. Gen. Van Rensselaer, as an inducement to settle on the manor, gave him a deed-title to 200 acres of land. He lived in a log house on the old road, some 50 rods south of said Allen's house, and the well from which his family drew water is still in use. As early as 1787 he had many acres cleared, kept some stock, and raised his own grain and provisions. Being a somewhat prominent resident, the old road which runs through the town from Petersburg to Troy was called in all the old leases "Owen's road."

#### THE FARMS OF OTHER SETTLERS.

Francis West and family from Rhode Island took a farm in this part of the manor some time about the revolutionary period. John Babcock from the same state, and Elkanah Smith from New Jersey, also became farmers of land leased from the patroon at this early date. About the year 1779 William Scriven and wife, with two daughters and seven sons, from Rhode Island, made his home in this new section. Joshua Banker, John and Thomas Phillips, Ael Ford, Francis Brock, John and David Mills, John Monroe, Solomon Smith, Rufus Rix and Capt. Charles Ferry are also named as early settlers of the town of Grafton. John P. Hayner, Solomon Root, Nathaniel Dumbleton, Daniel Littlefield, William Snyder, James Reid, Henry Coonrad, Godfrey Howard, Andrus Miller, Lodowick Bonesteel, Marcus Simmons, John Hydrorn, Henry Hydrorn and B. Hayner are mentioned as being farmers in this part of the manor of Rensselaerwyck. The annual rent of the farms was based upon their fertility and acreage. From five to twenty-five bushels of wheat were paid for the use of land. In the town there are about 25 lakes or large ponds.

#### THE TOWN OF GRAFTON ERECTED.

By an act to divide the towns of Troy and Petersburg, in the county of Rensselaer, passed March 20, 1837, the town of Grafton was erected. The boundaries of the new town were:

All the remaining part of the town of Troy, and so much of the west side of Petersburg, as shall make seven miles in width from the east line of the town of Brunswick, cut off by a line to commence on the north line of Petersburg, seven miles east of the northeast corner of Brunswick; thence southerly parallel to the east line of said Brunswick to the south line of Petersburg; shall be a separate town by the name of Grafton; and the first town meeting shall be held at the dwelling house of Nathan Hakes.

The name Grafton, it is supposed, was given to the town at the suggestion of Nathaniel Dumbleton, the first supervisor, who had removed to this part of Rensselaerwyck from Grafton, Vt.

#### THE FIRST TOWN OFFICERS.

At the first town meeting held at the house of



About the year 1800, Nathaniel Hakes on the first Tuesday of April, 1807, the following persons were elected town officers:

Supervisor, Nathaniel Dambleton; town clerk, David S. Crandall; assessors, Patrick Agan, Ziba Hewitt and John Babcock; overseers of the poor, Joseph Burdick and Benjamin West; commissioners of highways, Samuel Pandall, James West, and Jedediah Wellman; collector, Joseph Burdick, Jr.; constables, Elisha Maxon, Simeon Smith and Joseph Burdick, Jr.; overseers of highways, and fence viewers, Thomas West, Jonathan Brook, James West, 1st, John Worthington, Nathan West, Joseph Burdick, John Phillips, Marcus Simmons, Joseph Burdick, Henry Courant, John Reid, Silas, William Snyder, Peter Wager, Stephen Chandler, Walter Durkee, William Scriven, Francis Brook, John Scriven, 2d, Jonathan M. Scriven, Michael Brennan, Charles Hall and John Babcock; poundkeepers, Thomas Smith, Joseph Scriven and John Babcock.

#### THE ANTI-RENT TROUBLES.

Upon the death of Stephen Van Rensselaer, which occurred on the 29th of January, 1839, the manor property of Rensselaerwyck, or rather the leased farms which were formerly within its boundaries, were by the will of the deceased patron divided between his two sons, Stephen and William P., the former obtaining the ownership of the farms lying on the west side of the Hudson, and the latter those east of the river. When the will of the patron was proved, notices were published requesting persons indebted to him to settle their accounts. A few of the tenants occupying the land of which he was the patron paid their arrears, while the larger number delayed their payments.

On the 23d of May, 1839, a committee consisting of Egbert Schoonmaker, Hugh Scott, Lawrence Van Dusen, Joseph Conner and John F. Shaffer, representing tenants in the towns of Rensselaerville, Westerlo, Bern, Knox and New Scotland, visited Stephen Van Rensselaer at Albany, and left with him a communication in which they set forth their complaint regarding their grievances. The statements made in this paper were mainly the following: "The enormous price put upon wheat above what it formerly was when leases were originally given, it being then \$0.75 per bushel at the extreme one day's services with carriage and team, at \$1 per day, and two fowls at 50 cents, making in all, for one year's rent, on a lot of 100 acres (at 22½ bushels per lot) at \$18.37 per lot, at which time wheat rating at from \$1.50 to \$2.25 per bushel—day's services at \$2 per day, and four fowls at \$0.75, making our rents rate at from \$35 to \$50 a year, making it now extremely difficult for many of the tenants to support their families and pay their rents without involving themselves and posterity in extreme peril and hardship."

To remedy the evils complained of the following changes were suggested: "To have the old leases abolished and new leases given, in which rents to be stipulated shall be in money; the same number of bushels allowed as in the old leases, and retail in the following order, to wit: \$1 per bushel for the first quality of land, \$0.87½ per bushel for the second quality of land, \$0.62½ per bushel for the third quality of land; \$1 per day for the day's services, and \$0.50 for the four fowls, excluding the reservation

of greater sales, water privilege, the soil under water, the privilege of buying the soil, to those who wish to purchase the same at any future time, for such sum as the interest thereof will amount to, the amount of rent on each lot now fixed."

In regard to the payment of arrearages they gave this opinion: "Those tenants whose property is incumbered to the amount of their personal effects, over and above their arrearages of rents due said proprietor, should be re-mitted in whole, or at all events in equal proportion to the stipulations to be entered into for future rents."

#### THE PATRON'S REPLY.

In answer to this complaint Stephen Van Rensselaer, patron of the western manor, wrote:

Your ancestors or yourselves who are tenants, accepted leases with a full knowledge of the kind and amount of rent to be paid, and of the reservations and conditions to which the land was subject; and it was matter of agreement, the nature of which was fully understood at the time the same was made. Such as now hold as purchasers, knew full well the rents and covenants subject to which they purchased; and I am at a loss to conceive how the conditions and covenants upon which the lands are held can now be deemed grievous unless something is now claimed by the landlord entirely new, and which operates oppressively upon the tenant; and as nothing more is claimed than has been acquiesced in and acknowledged by your ancestors and yourselves, or those from whom you have purchased, for more than half a century, I can not admit that you have now any grievances to be redressed; and especially so, as no rent was charged for the first seven years after the tenant went into possession. \* \* \*

Your last suggestion in behalf of tenants as have been delinquent in the payment of their rents as that arrears now amount to almost the value of the lands, it seems to me is a matter with which you have nothing to do. \* \* \* You seem to be under a mistaken impression as to the price of wheat, which I will endeavor to correct. Wheat as you have been charged for the last 30 years has averaged \$1.38 per bushel; for the last 20 years has averaged \$1.25 per bushel; for the last 10 years has averaged \$1.45 per bushel; for the last 40 years has averaged \$1.44 per bushel; for the last 47 years has averaged \$1.40½ per bushel. \* \* \*

I am, however, willing to charge the wheat to money rent, and to take the average price of wheat for the last 47 years as the price at which a bushel of wheat shall be estimated hereafter; the day's service and team to be \$3; and the four fowls 75-100.

And I am also willing to sell and give a release of the rents and reservations in the leases, so that the land shall and may be held hereafter as fee for the said \$5 per acre of all lands in the four west towns, but not to include any of the towns below the hill.

This answer is dated May 29, 1839.

#### REBELLION INAUGURATED.

On the 4th of July, 1839, a meeting of the west manor tenants was held at Bern, who resolved not to conform to the requirements set forth in their leases nor to the demands of the patron, saying:

We do sincerely and solemnly believe that the proposals of the standing committee to Stephen Van Rensselaer (in strict justice) is all that any welfare and prosperity of his fellow creatures could reasonably ask or expect to receive; and we consider the proposals of said Van Rensselaer to be an outrage on the laws of humanity, and therefore utterly reject and condemn the said tenants, are requested to inform said Van Rensselaer that we consider his proposals in the British parliament imposing stamp duties on certain papers and documents used in the colonies, relative to said act, that "the sun of liberty is set; you must light up the candles of industry and

economy." And that we also reply in the language of the patriot Thompson, that we shall thus driven to the alternative of choosing an unconditional submission to the will of one man, elevated by an aristocratic law, emanating from a foreign monarchy, or the resistance thereof. The latter is our choice; we have counted the cost of such a contest, and had nothing so dreadful as voluntary slavery.

The committee was also "instructed to inform the pretended proprietor of our soil that if he will establish or present a good, sufficient and valid proper title to or for the soil of the land we occupy, and then give new leases, casting aside the day's services, fowls, quarter sales, all reservations and restrictions contained in the old leases, excepting the wheat, and change that from wheat to money rent, computing the same at \$1 per bushel for each and every bushel on each and any lot as reserved in the old leases, give the tenants or any of them the privilege at any future time hereafter of buying the soil for a sum of money that the interest thereof at seven per cent. will amount to a sum equal to the value of the wheat on each and every lot at said \$1 per bushel, and reduce all arrears of rent to said \$1 per bushel, relinquishing the day's services and fowls on each and any lot against which arrears are claimed."

The patron made no reply to this defiant statement.

#### THE TENANTS IN ARMS.

The sheriff of Albany county, Michael Archer, having been resisted in serving certain legal process on the defendant tenants of the patron of the west manor, in the vicinity of the Helderberg mountains, on the 30th of November, 1839, called out a posse *comitatus* to assist him in the discharge of his duty. About 1,000 persons answered this call, who in a long procession of stages, barouches, wagons and horses, on the 2d of December, proceeded toward Reedsville. About four miles beyond Clark's tavern they were met by several hundred armed men on horseback, who opposed their further progress and compelled them to return to Albany.

#### THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOVERNOR.

For the purpose of sustaining the laws of the state, his excellency, William H. Seward, governor of the state, issued a proclamation on the 10th of December, 1839, warning all persons from hindering or obstructing the officers of justice in the execution of their duties. The governor tells the people that he has taken measures to call forth a sufficient military force to enable the sheriff of the county of Albany to execute effectually the legal process committed to him, and to maintain the supremacy of the laws.

#### THE TROY MILITARY CALLED OUT.

On Monday, December 9, 1839, an order was received from the adjutant general of the state calling out the three uniformed military companies of the city of Troy to proceed to Albany to aid the sheriff of Albany county in executing process upon the rebellious tenants of the west manor. On Tuesday morning, the Troy Citizens' corps, Capt. Pierce, the Troy City Guard, Capt. Wickes, and the Troy Independent artil-

lery, Capt. Howe, proceeded to Albany in obedience to this order. These companies, in connection with the Albany Burghesses corps, Capt. Bayeux, the Albany Union guards, Capt. Brown, the Albany Republican artillery, Capt. Strain, the first company Van Rensselaer guards, Capt. Kearney, the second company Van Rensselaer guards, Capt. Berry, all being good, marched 12 miles to the scene of disturbance, where they remained until the following Tuesday, when they returned to Albany, over a very bad road, covered with snow to the depth of 15 inches. Speaking of the deportment of the citizen soldiers, an Albany paper remarked: "Everything we hear of their bearing and deportment excites admiration and gratitude. They submitted strictly and cheerfully to a discipline as rigid as that observed in any service. Their intercourse with the inhabitants of the residing towns was in the highest degree complimentary. Their forbearance amid the taunts and insults of an excited populace awaiting their first approach is worthy of all praise. They discharged their duty fully and fearlessly, but with a due and careful regard to the rights of others, the peace of society, and the honor of the service."

The formidable appearance of this large body of military in the midst of the disaffected people had the desired effect, and the sheriff of Albany county served the processes without any opposition.

#### ELIJAH SMITH KILLED.

In the east manor, of which William P. Van Rensselaer was patron, the troubles among the tenants of the leased farms were often very alarming in their character. In the excitement of a gathering of a party of disguised anti-renters, on the 19th of December, 1843, in the town of Grafton, near the house of Oliver West, a short distance west of Grafton Centre, Elijah Smith was killed. The latter, it seems, while defensively or aggressively, had an up-lifted axe in his hand, was shot. Several investigations were held to discover the person committing the murder, and although more than 300 persons were examined, the perpetrator of the deed was not identified.

#### A POLITICAL QUESTION.

Gov. Seward in several of his annual messages called the attention of the legislature to the matters complained of by the manor tenants. A commission was appointed but nothing of a definite or a pacific character resulted from its investigations. The anti-rent feeling affected not only the local but the state politics for a number of years, particularly from 1843 to 1847. In time the vexing questions connected

with the collection of rents by the agents of the patrons ceased to trouble the public mind. In 1854 the patrons conveyed their interests in the rents due them to Walter S. Church of Albany, who for a time brought suits against the six non-paying tenants and made collections of rents.

#### THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF THE TOWN OF GRAFTON.

The first Baptist church and society of the town of Grafton, as named in the certificate of incorporation, in 1841, had its origin early in the century, when at several places in the town



small congregations of Baptists were accustomed to assemble to hear certain elders of the church preach. What is known as the Cobb schoolhouse, in the northeastern part of the town, was one of the places where divine worship was held. A second place of assemblage was the schoolhouse, at East Grafton, formerly designated as the Scriven neighborhood. Often when the congregations were too large to be accommodated with seats in the schoolhouse, it is said, the people repaired to Col. Scriven's barn, where they held some very interesting meetings. Elder Hull at this time officiated, and once ministered when the elements of the Lord's supper were partaken of by the members of the congregation in the barn. Elder Joseph Wilcox was early known as having charge of the congregation worshiping in the Cobb school house. During the summer of 1815 a meeting was held in the maple grove on the farm of the late Peter S. Hydon. It was here that the Rev. Nathan Lewis, son of Elder John Lewis, was ordained. From these several organizations the Grafton Baptist church was formed in 1827. The first church edifice, erected by the liberality of Stephen Van Rensselaer, was built near the present residence of Dr. Amos Allen. Among the first members of the society were Benajah Allen, Daniel Brimmer, John Crandall, Roswell Crandall, Cyrus Davenport, Daniel P. M. Davidson, Ezra Davidson, John Eldred, George Hakes, James Hakes, John Howard, Ira Lamphire, John L. Lamphire, Nathan Lewis, Oliver Main, Joseph D. Rogers, Ira Stone, David West and Eliza Wells. For a number of years the Rev. N. Lewis and the Rev. J. D. Rogers jointly had charge of the spiritual concerns of this congregation.

On the 14th of August, 1841, a meeting of the members of the society was held at the house of Benajah Allen for the purpose of complying with the statute respecting the incorporation of religious bodies. At this meeting Benajah Allen, Potter Maxon, Caleb W. Scriven, Joseph D. Wells, Zebulon P. Burdick and Rufus S. Watts were elected "trustees of the First Baptist church and society of the town of Grafton."

About the year 1851 the work of erecting a new church edifice was begun, the site selected being a short distance east of the old building at Grafton Centre. During the pastorate of the Rev. J. D. Rogers, about the year 1853, the new house of worship was finished and dedicated.

The following pastors have served this church since the year 1827: The Revs. Nathan Lewis, Joseph D. Rogers, H. J. S. Lewis, P. T. Shirley, — Timberman, E. D. Wilcox, Roswell Collins, — Catlin. The Rev. H. J. S. Lewis is the present pastor.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF GRAFTON.

The earnest labors of Lorenzo Dow about the beginning of the present century were fruitful in the formation of a large number of Methodist congregations along the eastern border of the state. In 1823, on the seventh day of April, the members of the Methodist Episcopal society in

the town of Grafton assembled at the usual place of worship and elected David Hayner, John P. I. Hayner and Timothy B. Wilds trustees, by which the body became incorporated. A church was erected on the road leading to Grafton Center, about a mile east of Quackenkill, which was known as the "Hemlocks church." This old building was sold, and the money used in building a parsonage at Grafton Center in 1877. For a time the old church building at Grafton Center, erected by the patron, was used by the society for divine worship. In 1877 the new church building at Grafton Center was finished, having cost about \$3,500. The Rev. G. W. Douglass was pastor of the church at this time. The present roll of membership registers the names of about 60 persons.

THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF GRAFTON.

The organization of the Free Methodist church of Grafton was effected on the 5th day of January, 1863. The Rev. A. B. Burdick was the first pastor of the church. In 1873 the society erected a house of worship about a mile east of Quackenkill at a cost of about \$1,300. For the purpose of incorporation the following trustees were elected on the 18th day of June, 1872: Edward Birdsall, Jonas Snyder, George Craver and Aaron B. Burdick.

THE FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF GRAFTON.

This Baptist society was incorporated, according to the statute, May 23, 1873. The trustees then elected were the Rev. Choate Pratt, Ariel C. Durkee and Warren Stewart.

GRAFTON CENTRE.

Grafton Center, which is situated about 13 miles east of the city of Troy, is in the center of the town. In 1836 the place was known as the Patron's Mills, where at an early date the patron of the manor of Rensselaerwyck had erected for the use of his tenants a grist mill, a saw mill, a church and a tavern. In 1833 there was a grist mill, a tavern, a store and about a half score of buildings here. In the village at present there are two churches, two hotels, three stores, two blacksmith shops, a wagon-maker's shop, a chair shop and several shirt factories.

EAST GRAFTON.

East Grafton is a hamlet containing a small number of houses. The business interests of the place include a hotel, a store, a blacksmith shop and a wagonmaker's shop.

QUACKENKILL.

This place derives its name from the stream on which it is situated. The paint mill of E. H. G. Clark, where is manufactured "Grafton mineral paint," is the most important business interest in the hamlet. From 600 to 700 tons of paint are made annually. There are a hotel and a blacksmith shop in the place.

POPULATION OF THE TOWN.

1810	1,410	1820	2,038
1812	1,410	1822	2,038
1814	1,410	1824	2,038
1816	1,410	1826	2,038
1818	1,410	1828	2,038
1820	1,410	1830	2,038
1822	1,410	1832	2,038
1824	1,410	1834	2,038
1826	1,410	1836	2,038
1828	1,410	1838	2,038
1830	1,410	1840	2,038
1832	1,410	1842	2,038
1834	1,410	1844	2,038
1836	1,410	1846	2,038
1838	1,410	1848	2,038
1840	1,410	1850	2,038
1842	1,410	1852	2,038
1844	1,410	1854	2,038
1846	1,410	1856	2,038
1848	1,410	1858	2,038
1850	1,410	1860	2,038

## Troy Daily Times.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, OCT. 15, 1880.

### TOWN OF NASSAU.

#### The Home Life of the Early Settlers.

#### The Productions of the Gardens.

#### The Summer Habits of the Indians.

**The Labors of an Early Missionary—The Erection of Philipstown—The Indian Titles of the Anti-Hunters—The Birthplace of John A. Griswold—The Churches of the Town—Its Villages and Hamlets—Population.**

The domestic life of the early settlers of the county of Rensselaer was, no doubt, dull and monotonous. Recreation in its more modern acceptation seldom lightened the constant and increasing cares of the busy households sheltered beneath the rooms of the widely scattered log houses in the manor of Rensselaerwyck. Labor, from early morning until darkening night, permitted little rest and relaxation. While the cultivation of the fields demanded the attention of men the women, besides bearing uncomplainingly a multitude of burdens, industriously toiled in the little spaces of ground attached to every dwelling, known as their gardens.

#### WOMEN'S WORK.

Referring to the various household duties which engaged the thought and labor of the females, a lady writing of life in the country during the last century, says:

Every one in town or country had a garden; but all the more hardy plants grew in the fields, in rows, amidst the hills, as they were called, of Indian corn. These lofty plants sheltered them from the sun, while the same hoeing served for both; there cabbages, potatoes and other esculent roots, with a variety of gourds, grew to a great size and were of an excellent quality. Kidney-beans, asparagus, celery, cucumbers, etc., were only admitted into the garden, into which no foot of man intruded, after it was dug in spring. Here were no trees that grew in the orchard in high perfection. Strawberries and many high-flavored wild fruits of the shrub kind abounded so much in the woods that they did not think of cultivating them in their gardens, which were extremely neat but small, not by any means calculated for walking in. I think I yet see what I have often beheld both in town and country, a respectable mistress of a family going out to her garden, in an April morning, with her great cash, her little pointed basket of seeds, and her rake over her shoulder, to her labors. There were by no means figurative, "From morn till noon, from noon till dewy eve," daily gentle in form and manner, would sow, and plant, and rake, incessantly. These fair gardeners were also great florists; telecommunication and soliloquy in this pleasing employment did produce "flowers worthy of paradise." Though not set in "curious knots," they were arranged in beds, varieties of each kind by themselves; this, if not varied and elegant, was at least rich and gay.

#### THE FRIENDLY INDIANS.

The Indians from whom the various tracts of land had been purchased, from time to time, returned to the places where they had roamed in quest of game before the white men had put the ground under tillage. They manifested in the days of peace strong friendly feelings toward the families of the settlers. The visitation of these "wild men," as the Dutch at first called the aboriginal inhabitants of the upper Hudson, were generally made in summer. The writer already quoted gives a very interesting description of the habits of the red men on these occasions, when they made their home for a season in the vicinity of the residences of the more wealthy and benevolent inhabitants of Rensselaerwyck. She remarks:

They generally built a slight wigwam under shelter of the orchard fence on the shaded side, and never were neighbors more harmless and peaceable and obliging—I might truly add, industrious, for in one way or other they were constantly occupied. The women and their children employed themselves in many ingenious handicrafts, which, since the introduction of European arts and manufactures, have greatly declined.

#### INDIAN HANDICRAFT.

Baking trays, wooden dishes, ladles and spoons, shovels and rakes, brooms of a peculiar manufacture, made by splitting a birch bark into slender but tough filaments, enriched with the most beautiful colors, which they alone knew how to extract from vegetable substances and incorporate with the wood. They made also of the birch-bark (which is here so strong and tenacious that cradles and canoes are made of it), many receptacles for holding fruit and other things, curiously adorned with embroidery not imitated, done with the sinews of deer, and leggings and moccasins, a very comfortable and highly ornamented substitute for shoes and stockings, then universally used in winter among the men of our own people.

They had also a beautiful manufacture of deer skin, softened to the consistence of the finest chamois leather, and embroidered with beads and wampum formed like bangles; these with great art and industry they formed out of shells, which had the appearance of the white porcelain, veined with purple. This embroidery showed both skill and taste, and was among themselves highly valued. They had bells, large embroidered garters and many other ornaments, formed, first of deer sinews, divided to the size of coarse thread, and afterwards, when they obtained worsted thread from us, of that material, formed in a manner which I could never comprehend. It was neither knitted nor wrought in the manner of a net, nor yet woven, but the texture was more like that of an officer's sash than anything I can compare it to.

While the women and children were thus employed the men sometimes assisted them in the more laborious part of their business, but oftener occupied themselves in fishing on the rivers, and drying or preserving, by means of smoke, in sheds erected for the purpose, sturgeon and large eels, which they caught in great quantities and of an extraordinary size, for winter provision.

Boys on the verge of manhood and ambitious to be admitted into the hunting parties of the summer, winter, exercised themselves in trying to imitate their skill in archery, by shooting birds, squirrels and raccoons. The summer residence of these ingenious artisans promoted a great intimacy between the females of the village and the Indian women, whose sagacity and comprehension of mind were beyond belief.

THE ANTI-PATHY OF THE INDIANS TOWARD THE SETTLERS.

It is a singular circumstance that though they saw the negroes in every respectable family, not only treated with humanity but cherished with respect and dislike as an interior race, and would have no communication with them. It was necessary, that all conversations should be held and all business transacted with these females by the mistresses of the family. In the infancy of the settlement the Indian language was familiar to the more intelligent inhabitants, who found it very useful, and were no doubt pleased with its nervous and emphatic idiom, and its lofty and sonorous



first consistory of the church, which included the following persons: Dennis Hardor, Henry Goes, Nicholas Smith and Abraham Welch elders, and George Mellus, Michael T. Smith, William Jacoby and Nicholas T. Smith. Until the year 1821 this charge was in connection with the church at Schodack. The Union church was first used by this congregation for public worship. In 1820 a lot was purchased of Chamney Porter, on which a house of worship was erected, which was finished December 1, 1820. The congregation purchased the old Union church or Free church building. On its site, in 1820, the present parsonage of this church was erected. The roll of membership of this church bears the signatures of about 350 persons.

The following persons have served the congregation as pastors: The Rev. Christian Bork, 1804-6; the Rev. Jesse Fonda, 1809-13; the Rev. Peter Van Buren, 1814-20; from the time of the separation of the church from the charge of Schodack, the Rev. James Romeyn, 1821-27; the Rev. J. F. Morris, 1829-32; the Rev. Christopher Hunt, 1832-37; the Rev. John Knox, 1838-41; the Rev. Edwin Holmes, 1841-52; the Rev. Richard H. Seane, 1852-63; the Rev. Isaac Collier, 1864-66, and the Rev. Alfred H. Brush, 1867 to the present time.

**THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT NASSAU.**  
About a half a century ago a class of Methodists was organized in Nassau village. The meeting house of this society was a building situated a short distance west of the place. This was sold and the present house of worship erected opposite the Dutch Reformed church. The edifice was dedicated in 1833, the Rev. — Carpenter preaching the dedicatory sermon.

The pastors of this church have been the Revs. William Anson, Aaron Schofield, — Amidon, Samuel Howe, Samuel Eichmy, Daniel Brynton, Elias Vanderlip, Seymour Coleman, Coles Carpenter, — Osborn, John Clark, John Feggs, — Pelton, Abiathan Osborn, D. D., Emerson, Edward Asa, Samuel Stover, William A. Miller, Lewis Potter, J. W. Belknap, Rufus Pratt, William N. Frazer, Hiram Chase, — Dwight, H. C. Sexton, E. Soule, P. M. Hitchcock, A. Heath, W. H. Washburn, H. W. Slocomb, A. D. Heath and C. M. Clark.

**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT EAST NASSAU.**  
This society was incorporated in 1854. On the 18th of April of that year a election was held for trustees in the Union Methodist meeting house at East Nassau, and the following persons were elected trustees of the Union Methodist church at East Nassau: Pliny Gould, Horace Clark, David Phillips, C. Rhodes and Erasmus Hemmingway. The society dates its organization in 1830. The house of worship used by the society was built in 1834.

**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT BRAINARD.**  
A society of Methodists was organized in the southern part of the town about the year 1810. A house of worship was erected that year at Brainard, on land presented by Seth Hastings.

A larger and more commodious structure was built in 1875, west of the old building. This charge is connected with the church at Nassau.

**FREE UNION METHODIST CHURCH.**  
A house of worship erected east of Dunham Hollow belongs to the society of Methodists. It is known as the Free Union Methodist church.

**ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.**  
At Nassau village there is a small congregation of Roman Catholics. A neat chapel has been built by the congregation.

**THE VILLAGE OF NASSAU.**  
This place was early known as Union village. It is situated in the southwestern part of the town, near the west boundary line. A post-office was established at this point in 1811. The village was incorporated March 12, 1819. The first village offices under the act were: Wm. B. Hermance, Chauncey Porter, Samuel B. Ludlow, Chester Griswold and Ebenezer Bassett, trustees; Henry Goodrich, collector, and Calvin Pardee, treasurer. The present charter was passed April 17, 1866.

The village is spoken of in 1836 as being in "a pleasant vale on the turnpike road from Albany to New Lebanon, 11 1/2 miles southeast of the former, 18 miles from Troy, and on the Valatie creek; has one Baptist, one Methodist and one Presbyterian church; an academy incorporated in 1835, a grist mill and a saw mill, one tavern, two stores and about 40 dwellings."

Nassau at present is a very attractive village, and has about 150 inhabitants and about 90 dwelling houses, four churches, two hotels, four stores and about 30 shops and manufacturing places. Among the latter are a grist mill, a saw mill and a foundry.

About the year 1835 a fire company was organized in the village and was known as old No. 1 Washington engine company. No. 1 was organized July 18, 1872.

The Nassau Gazette was issued in December, 1850, by J. M. Geer. It was shortly after discontinued.

The Nassau, Schodack and Chatham mutual insurance company was organized in 1855.

Gratitude lodge of F. and A. Masons, No. 674, sprang from Nassau lodge, the first meeting under the dispensation to the latter being held September 26, 1867. The charter to Gratitude lodge is dated June 19, 1863. The first officers under this charter were George L. Eichmy, worshipful master; James Van Allen, senior warden, and George B. Mitchell, junior warden.

**EAST NASSAU.**

The village of East Nassau, in the southeastern part of the town, is situated on Kinderhook creek. It was early known as Schermerhorn's—John W. Schermerhorn keeping the first tavern at this point. A postoffice was established here in 1830.

In 1836 it was described as being at the confluence of the Kinderhook and Tackawasick creeks, 16 miles southeast of Albany, 19 miles from Troy, containing one Methodist and one Baptist churches, one cotton, one woolen and one stoneware factories; a tannery, two

taverns, two stores and from 50 to 60 dwellings. The present population of the village is about 200. There are now in the village 60 houses, three churches—a Presbyterian, a Baptist and a Methodist—two taverns, two stores, two blacksmith shops, two wagon-makers' shops and two saw mills.

**NORTH NASSAU.**  
This hamlet is situated in the northern part of the town. A postoffice was established at this point about 1845, of which James H. Ball was first postmaster. North Nassau contains a Baptist church, a store and a small number of dwellings.

**HOAG'S CORNERS.**  
This hamlet is situated on the Tackawasick creek. About the year 1832 the site of this place was covered with heavy timber, and it is said that 10 saw mills were erected in the vicinity. The place derives its name from William Hoag, who here kept a hotel as early as the year 1825. About 1832 a postoffice was established at this point. The present population of the Corners is 235. There are 55 dwellings, a Baptist church, a hotel and four stores and four blacksmith shops in the place.

**BRAINARD.**  
This hamlet was early known as Brainard's Bridge, in honor of Joseph Brainard, who built the bridge over Kinderhook creek. It was afterwards changed to Brainard, in honor of the Rev. David Brainard, the Indian missionary. In 1836 it is spoken of as being upon the Kinderhook creek, 24 miles from Troy, having a cotton and woolen factory, 1 tavern, 2 stores and 40 dwellings. The Harlem extension railroad has a station near the place. The place now comprises a Methodist church, a store, a hotel and a number of dwellings.

**ALPS.**  
In 1836 this hamlet in the northern part of the town is spoken of as having two taverns, a store and about 20 dwellings, and being 10 miles from Troy. At this point at present there are a church, a store and about 30 buildings. Jonathan G. Taft had a store at Alps about a half century ago.

**DUNHAM HOLLOW.**  
This hamlet derives its name from Isaac Dunham, who settled here about the beginning of the century. It is in the northeastern part of the town, and contains a small foundry, a grist mill, a saw mill, a hoop factory, a blacksmith shop and a small number of dwellings.

**MILLER'S CORNERS.**  
This is a hamlet composed of a small collection of houses in the northwestern part of the town. About 40 years ago George Miller kept a store at this point.

POPULATION OF THE TOWN.	
1810.....	2,201
1820.....	2,247
1830.....	2,778
1840.....	2,530
1850.....	3,227
1860.....	3,314
1870.....	3,291
1880.....	3,000
1890.....	3,000
1900.....	3,204
1910.....	3,705
1920.....	3,577
1930.....	3,293

## Troy Daily Times.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, OCT. 8, 1890.

### TOWN OF BERLIN.

The Common Hardships of the Settlers.

### A SCARCITY OF FOOD.

**The Clothing of the Pioneers—The Reception of the Declaration of Independence—The Epidemic of 1813—Erection of the Town—An Awful Case of Poisoning—The Churches of the Town—Table of Population.**

The lives of the men and women who about the close of the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth centuries were the first pioneers to enter and settle within the depths of the great northern wilderness lying on both sides of the upper Hudson were marked with many hardships and self-denials. The bare necessities of furniture were found inside their log-built, bark-covered cabins. Oiled linen or greased paper were the common substitutes for window glass, and dried stalks formed the covering of the unfloored building.

**THE REMINISCENCES OF A SETTLER.**

The description given of the common experiences of the early settlers show a variety of discomforts which people of more modern times seldom endure. Among the first to penetrate the great woodland in the vicinity of the Little Hoosick river, near its source in the present town of Berlin, was Daniel Hull. In the summer of 1769 he, on 1684, left Connecticut in search of a suitable spot where he might build himself a home, and by tillage obtain a living for his family. Having found such a locality in the southern part of Hoosick valley, he returned home. His two sons began in the winter of that year to clear away the trees, and shortly he with them erected a log house near the site of the present residence of Daniel J. Hull. It is said that in 1770 he brought his family and the few household goods which he possessed as far as the Douglas farm, where now is East Stephentown. He had with him a yoke of oxen, a farm cart and a horse. Beyond this stopping point there was no open road, and he was compelled to leave the cart and pursue the remainder of his journey along an old Indian trail. Nelson Hull, in his reminiscences, thus speaks of the pioneer life of his grandfather's family in the great woods:

When they arrived at their new home their provisions were nearly consumed. Means must be taken to replenish their store. This howling wilderness was a poor market to look for stores for subsistence. Bears and deer and other game roamed in the forest. The brooks were alive with trout, but they had no time to take them. Every moment must be employed in clearing up the land to raise grain for bread and to increase their store of the necessities of life. Corn they bought of the Dutch in the Brimont neighborhood. To get it ground they were neces-



situated to carry it on horseback to a mill near the federal stores, now West Nassau. Nearly the whole of this way was a dense forest; the roads consisted of nothing but paths most of the way. The distance was full 20 miles, and it usually required about three days to make one of these mill journeys. The centre of three years a highway was opened to Williams town, Mass., the distance was shortened, but it often took three days to get a grist ground there and return home. There was no grist ground in the Hoosick till the year 1779 or 1780. This was erected by a Mr. Trial, and afterwards called the Sawmill.

They had no milk butter or meat except occasionally from the cow. They got butter and milk from the cow. On this and corn bread they mostly lived. The second year they had a small crop of wheat and purchased a cow. There was a little better. The cow had to be turned into the woods to get her living; she roamed so far away that they could not find her, the family went to bed without their supper, or supped upon dry bread, which was often the case. The second year they also raised some pork. The means for raising or fattening pork was all for raising or fattening pork. The little store of pork held in was generally consumed as an early day in the spring. If not long before. When spring opened, they commenced making sugar from the maple. To make up for milk, which they seldom had at this season, they substituted, say, porridge. Several dishes were seasoned with this beverage (maple sugar); it also took the place of butter. The facilities for making it were such they could obtain but little. The sugar seldom lasted longer than the spring months; for the remainder of the year milk and bread served them for food.

They suffered much from the cold; it was not uncommon to rise in the morning with the beds covered with snow to the depth of several inches. Their houses were open and their furniture consisted of a few articles of the simplest kind. Their outside clothing consisted of flannel or linsey coat; a jacket of the same, if they could get one; short breeches almost invariably of leather, either buckskin or sheep, shoes and stockings.

There were no factories or mills to card wool or dress cloth. Fulling mills were in use, but none existed in these parts for some years. The first fulling mill in this place was of the Swamp creek, west of Cherry Plain, near the Bailey orchard, built by Mr. Ludington. The wool taken from the sheep was carded, spun and woven. Also fulling; this was done by pounding in a trough or barrel, in the usual way of pounding clothes at the present day; lastly cut and made by their wives and daughters.

Their market was Schodack landing or Castleton. In consequence of the poor roads the market could be reached only in winter with a sleigh. The inhabitants, for several years, seldom made the journey, except when compelled to for want of salt-stuff which was very dear and a few other necessities. The little trade carried on or carried over in was among the inhabitants of the valley was in what.

There was no store in the country at first. This was opened by Joseph the house of Mrs. R. Denison Jones afterwards. The next by James Jones, 1788, at Sweet's Corners, now South Berlin.

THE PATRIOTISM OF THE SETTLERS. When the declaration of independence was received the inhabitants through the country assembled at the house of Daniel Hull to hear it read and counsel for future action. The military in front of Benjamin L. Hull's house, here publicly in the valley of the Hoosick. After the reading, inasmuch as some to sustain this declaration. Requesting the commanding officer (I think Capt. Samuel Shaw) to order his ranks to open to (Daniel Hull) stepping forth between the two lines follow him. Hearing an exulting air and smile he saw his wife, who had joined in the line of march, acknowledging her services should not be withheld in sustaining that declaration of independence. Every man joined in this line of march as volunteers in the cause of Liberty and Independence. It is said the reading of the declaration and the exercises were affecting, and a deep sense of the importance of the cause and the trust pervaded the heart of every individual

present. Much deprivation and suffering were in every part of the country. Every able-bodied man was serving his country either at home or abroad. The lands were neglected, families left in want, but all was with a willing heart for independence. The women did not withhold; they applied their hands to the tilling of the lands, etc., to keep a starving family alive, and a famishing soldier.

THE NAMES OF THE FIRST SETTLERS. Godfrey Brimmer is accorded the honor of being the first settler located on the territory now embraced within the boundaries of the town of Berlin. He is said to have made his home in the northern part of this portion of the manor of Rensselaerwyck as early as the year 1765. Reuben Bonestell came shortly afterwards. In 1769 Peter Simmons, Jacob O. Cropsey and Joseph Green were numbered among the persons occupying farms in this part of the county. Col. Caleb Bentley took to farming in the northern and Thomas Sweet in the southern part about this time. Paul Braman, James and Daniel Dennison, Nathaniel Niles, Pelagius Thomas and Joshua Whitford were also early settlers.

Nelson Hull in his reminiscences thus refers to the tide of emigration in this vicinity:

After the revolution new settlers began to come in and enlarge the boundaries of cultivation. Mechanical arts began to increase. A saw mill was built near the year 1780 by Amos Sweet, in the hollow east of the Christian chapel. A blacksmith shop was opened by Thomas Sweet, on the east side of the road, a short distance north of Sweet's Corners. This was much earlier than the above date.

The early inhabitants of the country were generally quite healthy and athletic, but a doctor saw fit to settle here, whether for wool or wool, near the year 1778—Dr. John Forbes—at Sweet's Corners.

The first frame house in the present limits of the town of Berlin was built by Daniel Hull, near the school of the revolution, on the same ground where now resides Daniel J. Hull.

In 1813 an epidemic made its appearance in the valley of the Hoosick and swept through the country like a tornado. There was little

or no exception as to age; the young and the athletic fell before the destroyer. Mourning was in almost every house; but few families escaped. Few cases were cured. It made its appearance near midwinter, and continued till warm weather.

TOWN OF BERLIN ERRECTED.

By "an act to divide the towns of Petersburg, Stephentown and Schodack, in the county of Rensselaer, into five towns," passed by the legislature March 21, 1806, the town of Berlin was erected. The boundary lines of the town were:

All that part of the town of Petersburg lying south of a line drawn from the south-east corner of the town of Troy, in a direct course with the south line of Troy, east to the line of the state of Massachusetts; and all that part of the town of Stephentown lying north of a line drawn from the north-east corner of the town of Schodack, running east to the aforesaid line of Massachusetts, shall be a separate town by the name of Berlin, and the first town meeting shall be held at the house of Charles Denison.

In 1812, June 19, a part of the territory of the town was taken to form the town of Sandlake.

The town lies near the centre of the eastern boundary of the county. The Kinderhook creek flowing southwardly and the Little Hoosick northwardly are the two principal streams watering the town. Several lakes beautify the western part of the town.

POISONED HIS WIFE.

In the year 1845 the people of the town of

Berlin were horrified by the details of a crime which for its cold-blooded character is without a parallel. The facts connected with its perpetration, as related in the newspapers, were the following: It appears that Henry G. Green, a resident of the town, became enamored of a young woman named Mary Ann Wyatt of Lowell, Mass. Green made her acquaintance while she was a member of a theatrical troupe with which her brother was associated. After a short engagement they were married. Soon after their marriage they in company with a number of other friends made a visit to Hoosick. In a merry way one of the ladies had told Green that she had once entertained hopes that she would have been his wife. By some strong fatality he at once began in a secret way to plan the death of his wife by the administration of poison. Opium was first used by him, but this only sickened his wife for a time. He then purchased a quantity of arsenic, which he put in the coffee and soup partaken of by his unsuspecting and loving wife. In his confession he admitted that his victim was all that he could have desired her to be, but that his mind was bent upon her removal so that he might marry the woman who had playfully told him that she had thought she would have been his bride. He declared that he had no fears of detection, and that the first feeling of sympathy he had for his wife was when he witnessed her sufferings from the effect of the poison. It is said that he had evinced his affection for his wife after their marriage, on the 9th day of February, by presenting her with a cloak, a dress and other articles. His wife never became aware of any want of affection on his part until she became suspicious that he was the cause of her sickness. Five days after their marriage his wife died, on the 14th of February, from the effects of the poison she had taken in her food, placed there by her husband.

The judge, in pronouncing sentence against Green, said:

An intelligent jury have found you guilty, and there is no person who has heard the trial who does not concur in the justice of the verdict. You stand condemned as guilty of having murdered your wife. Your case in all respects exceeds in enormity any of which I have ever heard. It will, no doubt, stand out on the page of history as the most criminally awful case of murder that ever came before court or jury. You murdered, but deliberately; you murdered the woman you had sworn but one short week, I may say four days before, to cherish through life; the woman whose destiny had been placed in your keeping. In less than one week after marriage you deliberately poisoned. You pursued your design day and night, repeating the deadly potion from time to time until she expired, and then added to the crime of murder the black crime of perjury, for you violated the most solemn vow you made at the altar.

For this crime Green was hung, on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 1845.

In the burying ground near the village of Berlin two marble tablets were placed, at the heads of the two graves; one bearing the following inscription:

Henry G. Green, born Dec. 30, 1823, died Sept. 10, 1845.

"Prepare to meet thy God."

Another marking the tomb of his wife:

Mary A. W. Green, died Feb. 14, 1845, in the 22d

year of her age. This monument is erected by the citizens of Berlin in memory of Mary Ann Wyatt, wife of Henry G. Green, who was married Feb. 2, 1845, and on the 14th day of the same month was poisoned by her husband with arsenic without any real or pretended cause.

Beautiful, intelligent and virtuous, she was wept over by the community, and the violated law was justly exacted the life of her murderer as a penalty for his crime.

THE SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CHURCH.

This religious society dates its organization on the 24th of September, 1780. It was first known as the Sabbatarian church of Christ in Little Hoosick. The first meeting for the purpose of organization was held at the house of Joshua Whitford, on the South Hollow road. Elder John Burdick of Hopkinton, R. I., and Elder John Davis of Farmington, Conn., were the chief organizers of this society. At the first meeting William Coon was selected as an elder of the congregation and William Greenman deacon. In 1800 the first house of worship was erected, which was first used for divine service on the 31st of October of that year. It had a seating capacity for about 300 persons and cost about \$2,000. In the month of August, 1831, the building was blown down during a tornado. In 1833 the erection of a new structure on the old church site was begun, which was completed in 1835. In 1845 it was enlarged by the addition of a vestibule and a bell tower, and in 1876 it was further remodeled. The present building was dedicated in the winter of 1823-24, elder William Satterlee officiating. During the erection of the church the society was incorporated. For this purpose a meeting was held at the school-house in the village of Berlin on the 8th of February, 1824. The following persons were elected trustees of the "Seventh Day Baptist Society in Berlin": Edward Whitford, Lodowick Saunders, Asa Coon, W. Green and Benjamin Vane.

The following elders have had charge of the spiritual affairs of the society since its organization: Elders William Coon, 1780-1821; Asa Coon, 1821; William Satterlee, 1822-40; J. L. Scott, 1847-49; J. H. Cochran, 1849-53; L. C. Rogers, 1853-57; A. W. Coon, 1857-63; Yarnum Hull, 1863-65; Solomon Carpenter, 1865-66; J. Sumnerbell, 1867-75; and Elder B. F. Rogers to the present time.

The present roll of membership of the society bears the names of 141 persons. This church is in the village of Berlin.

THE FIRST DAY BAPTIST CHURCH.

This society was organized about the close of the revolutionary war. A house of worship built of logs was erected near the present boundary lines of the towns of Berlin and Stephentown. The first settled minister over this society was Elder Justus Hull, who was ordained about the year 1784. He continued his pastoral relations with the society until his death, May 29, 1838. The first meeting held for the purpose of incorporating the society was on the 24th of January, 1824, at the meeting house at Berlin. Daniel Hull, Daniel Gray, Albin Madison, Joseph Crandall and Clark Big



were then elected trustees of the first day Baptist society in the town of Berlin. A second meeting for the same purpose appears to have been held on the 18th of January, 1834, when John Reeve, Joseph Crandall, Ebenezer Robinson, Samuel Green, Jonathan H. Rhodes, William J. Sheldon, Jonathan Nichols, Clark B. Lamphire and Henry Brown were elected trustees.

The following elders have served the congregation: Elders: Gustus Hull, 1784-1833; Joseph D. Rogers, 1834-1838; Isaac S. Clifford, 1838-1850; William Bowen, 1850-1851; William Smith, 1852-1855; Solomon Gale, 1855-1860; H. A. Gould, 1861-1865; William Garnett, 1866-1867; J. C. Butler, 1867-1868; and Elder N. Mulford, 1869 to present time. The church has at present about 300 members.

#### THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

This society dates its organization from January 27, 1830, when it was an auxiliary to the Petersburgh church. In 1832 the first house of worship, at South Berlin, was dedicated in September by the Rev. Joseph Rogers. Among the persons named as the organizers of the society are the Revs. John Spoor, Joseph Rogers, David Ford and Almer Jones. In 1895 the church building was repaired and dedicated a second time. It is a frame structure, having about 400 seats. It has on its roll of membership the names of about 45 persons.

The following persons have ministered to this congregation: The Revs. John Spoor, 1831-33; David Ford, — Martin, — Carrier, J. Hoag, — Conklin, Benjamin F. Summerbell, W. O. Cushman; — Cox, George Strevell, William Olin, — Hicks, J. R. Taylor and the Rev. George Strevell to present time.

For the purpose of incorporating the society a meeting was held on the 6th of January, 1853, at which the following persons were elected trustees of the Christian chapel of Berlin: Robert B. Hull, Lorenzo B. Dennison, Harry Hull, Jonathan Dennison, William Jones and Andrew Hewitt.

#### THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The first class of this society was organized in November, 1847, in the good temple hall in the village of Berlin. In 1778 the erection of a frame house of worship was begun on the road a short distance south of the village. It was dedicated January 19, 1879; the Revs. L. Marshall presiding elder, H. L. Starks and J. W. Coons officiating. The edifice has a seating capacity for about 200 persons, and cost about \$1,200. The church has about 35 members. The pastors of the church have been the Revs. J. M. Appleman, J. W. Coons and the Rev. Charles B. Lewis to date.

#### THE GERMAN LUTHERAN ZION'S CHURCH.

The congregation of this church was organized on the first Sunday in May, 1863, in South Berlin. In 1863 a frame building for a house of worship was erected, which was dedicated October 23, 1863, the Rev. F. A. Claassen officiating. The cost of the building was placed at \$850, and it has a seating capacity for about 250 persons. The number of its present mem-

bership is 58. The pastors of this church have been the Revs. John Boehert, F. A. Claassen, F. Heinle, Dietrich Bruno, and the Rev. George Vetter.

#### BERLIN.

This village on account of its situation in the northern part of the town is frequently called North Berlin. The eastern turnpike from Albany to Williamstown, Mass., projected in the early part of this century, passed through this place. In 1838 it is mentioned as having "a small public library, one Seventh day Baptist church, two grist mills, two saw mills, a tavern, three stores, and about 50 dwellings." In the village at present there are three churches, two hotels, a number of stores and shops and about 150 dwellings. The oldest house in Berlin is said to be the one occupied by James Irwin, which was built about the close of the last century by John Roove.

#### BERLIN CENTER.

This place is situated very near the centre of the town on the Little Hoosick creek. As early as the year 1790, the hamlet was an important point in the town, there being here a tavern, a store, a tannery and a potashery. In 1830 the place comprised a church, a store, a tavern and about 16 dwellings. At present the place includes a store and postoffice, a tavern, a carpenter shop, and about a score of buildings.

#### SOUTH BERLIN.

This hamlet is in the south part of the town, and is situated on the Little Hoosick creek. The Christian church, a cheese factory, two blacksmith shops, a steam saw mill and about 25 buildings compose the place.

#### POPULATION OF THE TOWN OF BERLIN.

Year	Population
1810	2,003
1820	2,157
1830	2,283
1840	2,149
1850	2,063
1860	2,020
1870	1,845
1880	1,845
1890	2,003

## Troy Daily Times.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, OCT. 26, 1890.

### TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN.

### BOUNDARY LINE TROUBLES.

### NEW YORK EXTENDING TO THE CONNECTICUT RIVER.

### THE SHERIFF OF ALBANY COUNTY RESISTED.

\$100 BOUNTY REWARD FOR THE ARREST OF ETHAN ALLEN.

### The First Settler of Jericho Hollow—Stephen A. Bourke's Ancestors—Houses of Entertainment in 1788—Old Military Officers—A Census of Slaves in the Town—Historic Review of Churches—Villages and Hamlets—Census Statistics.

The newly discovered country of America, which attracted in the seventeenth century a large number of emigrants from Europe to its shores, was of such vast an extent that very little of its true geography and topography was sufficiently known to furnish what might be thought correct and explicit information by which important boundary lines might be designated, as circumscribing the various land grants that had been conveyed by the kings of those countries that claimed portions of the continent by right of discovery. For more than a century after the occupancy of the different portions of the territory of the new country by various companies and individual proprietors questions arose regarding the boundary lines of the greater and lesser divisions of land.

#### THE EASTERN BOUNDARY LINE DISPUTE.

The indefinite wording of the patent of New England granted by King James I. in 1620, was for a long time the cause of much controversy and belligerence respecting the position of the boundary line which should legally separate the province of New York from the territories of the adjacent New England provinces. In 1763, December 28, for the purpose of settling the questions at issue, Lieut. Gov. Cadwallader Colden of the province of New York issued a proclamation declaring the Connecticut river to be the east bounds of the province of New York. In this paper the lieutenant governor, in addressing the people of the province, says:

To prevent therefore the incursions from becoming Purchasers of the Lands so granted; to assert the Rights, and fully to maintain the Jurisdiction of the Government of this His Majesty's Province of New York; I have thought fit, with the advice of His Majesty's Council, to issue this Proclamation, hereby commanding and requiring all Judges, Justices and other Civil Officers within their respective Functions, as far as to the Banks of Connecticut river, the undoubted Eastern Limits of that Part of the Province of New York notwithstanding any contrariety of Jurisdiction claimed by the Government of New Hampshire, or any Grants of land Westward of that River, made by the said Government, and I do hereby enjoin to me or the Commander in chief, the Names of all and every Person and Persons, who under Grants of the Government of New Hampshire, do or shall hold the Possession of any Lands Westward of Connecticut river, that they may be proceeded against according to Law.

Benning Wentworth who was at this time governor of the province of New Hampshire issued a counter proclamation, March 13, 1764, commanding all the civil officers of that province "to deal with any person, or persons, that may presume to interrupt the inhabitants or settlers on said lands as to law and justice doth appertain, the pretended right of jurisdiction mentioned in the aforesaid proclamation notwithstanding."

The election of the settlers from the lands west of the Connecticut river as ordered by the proclamation of the lieutenant governor of New York, which tracts they had purchased of Governor Wentworth, as soon as the sheriff of

Albany county attempted it, was vigorously resisted. It is said that the governor of New Hampshire from the year 1763 to 1768 had granted to a large number of persons no less than 138 townships, and that many settlers, generally from Connecticut, had taken up the lands so granted.

#### TROUBLES AT HOOSICK.

As connected with the history of Rensselaer county, it may be related that the sheriff of Albany county, on the 17th of August, 1761, received intelligence from "Hoosick," that the "New Hampshire people had turned Hans Jerry Cridger, an inhabitant under the proprietors of Hoosick patent, out of possession of his lands and tenements, drove off his cattle and took with them a parcel of Indian corn, and for the redemption of the cattle compelled him to pay \$45; and the said express further informed him that the said New Hampshire people were the next day to be at the houses of Peter Voss and Bastiane Deale in order in like manner to dispossess them of their possessions, which they had peaceably enjoyed under the proprietors of said Hoosick patent for upwards of three years, except when driven off by the enemy (Indians) during the two last wars."

The sheriff of Albany county, in company with "two justices and a few other good people of this province," proceeded to Hoosick, where, on his arrival, he was told that the New Hampshire people would not come until the following Monday. Having heard that the New Hampshire people were at the houses of Voss and Deale, he went thither immediately, but on his arrival he found that they had departed. He followed the party, and, overtaking them, arrested four of the number and carried them to Albany, where they were confined in the county jail.

#### THE BENNINGTON MOB.

What was known as "the Bennington mob" at this period of local disturbance, became a great terror to the people living within the county of Albany, adjoining the province of New Hampshire. Of this lawless body of men it was said that they had seized, insulted and terrified magistrates and other civil officers so that they dare not execute their respective functions; rescued prisoners for debt, assumed to themselves military commands and judicial powers; burned and demolished the houses and property and beat and abused the persons of many of his majesty's subjects, expelled them from their possessions, and put a period to the administrations of justice, and spread terror and destruction throughout that part of the country which was exposed to their oppression.

For the purpose of suppressing these disturbances the governor, by the recommendation of the assembly of the province of New York, issued a proclamation, March 9, 1774, "enjoining and commanding all magistrates, justices of the peace, sheriffs and other civil officers of the counties of Albany and Charlotte to apprehend and take the ringleaders of the Bennington mob and "to commit them to the safe and secure custody in the goal of the city and



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county of Albany to answer for the several offenses and to be dealt with according to law." A reward of \$100 was offered for the apprehension of Ethan Allen of Bennington, yeoman, also for the apprehension of Remember Baker, and \$50 for the arrest of Seth Warner, Robert Cochran, Peleg Sunderland, Sylvanus Brown, James Bruckentidge and John Smith.

**BLOODY AFFAIRS ALONG THE MASSACHUSETTS LINE.**  
Between the years 1765 and 1769 efforts were unsuccessfully made to settle the boundary line between the provinces of New York and Massachusetts. While New York claimed a right to the territory to the Connecticut river, Massachusetts insisted on her ownership of the country as far as the Pacific ocean. Emigrants from the latter province took up land in the manor of Rensselaerwyck without any permission being granted by the patroon. Force being often employed to eject them, blood was frequently shed in doing it. Commissioners were appointed by the two provinces to determine the position of the boundary line, who met at New Haven, October 1, 1767. It was agreed by them that the western line of Massachusetts should be fixed at 20 miles east of the Hudson river, but the commissioners could not agree as to the way in which the line should be determined. However, by an agreement, dated May 18, 1773, the boundary line on the eastern part of the province was settled to begin at the northwest angle of the oblong and to run thence north 21° 10' 30" to the north line of Massachusetts.

In December, 1781 Vermont took measures to resist the territorial claims of New York respecting the position of the disputed boundary line. To enforce obedience to the laws of New York Gen. Gansevoort had marched with a body of soldiery into the districts of Schaghticoke and Hoosick, where he was confronted by Col. Wallbridge. The influence of Gen. Washington led to less bloody means for the adjudication of these conflicting claims. A proposition was made on the part of New York that if the legislature of Vermont, before the first of January, 1792, should agree that on or before the first of June, 1794, that state should pay to New York the sum of \$30,000, that all rights to lands under grants from the government of the colony of New York, or from the state of New York should cease, those excepted which had been made in confirmation of the grants of New Hampshire. The border troubles which had continued for 25 years, during which only one life had been lost, were terminated on the 28th of October, 1790, by Vermont consenting to the terms proposed by New York. On the 18th of February, 1791, Vermont became a state of the Union.

#### FIRST SETTLERS.

The largest number of the early settlers of the town of Stephentown were from the New England colonies. Many came from Rhode Island, settling upon the land of the manor of Rensselaerwyck, adjoining the Massachusetts line. Among the first of the New England

emigrants to make their homes on this part of the great manor were Joshua, Caleb and Benjamin Gardner, three brothers; Asa Douglas, Elnathan Sweet, Nathaniel Rose, Joseph Carpenter, Alexander Brown and Joseph Rogers. Most of these settled here about the year 1765. William Douglas, a grandson of Asa Douglas, is said to have been the first child born in this part of the manor. The Hon. Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois was a descendant of this Douglas family.

In the year 1766, it is said that Asa Douglas came from Plainfield, Conn., into this wilderness portion of the manor in search of suitable land for farming purposes. Having met an Indian chief he made known his object. The Indian told him that there was fertile land in what was shortly afterwards designated as "Jericho hollow." He, on a survey of the ground described by the Indian, was satisfied of its suitability for farming purposes, and at once took up about one thousand acres for cultivation. One half of this land now lies in the state of Massachusetts. Of the three Gardner brothers, Caleb's house was immediately on the boundary line of Massachusetts and New York. Joshua Gardner, in 1774, is said to have cut a private road through the thick woods from the "old east road," over the mountain to the place where he had erected his log house. Job Gardner sometime after the year 1777 moved from Providence, R. I., to the vicinity of his three brothers' farms.

Among the names of settlers which appear upon the district records in 1784, are the following: Stephen Arnold, Samuel Balloy, Gideon Brayton, Aaron Budlong, Alexander Case, Hezekiah Coon, John Forbs, Benjamin Green, Jacob Green, Edward Hoard, Jonathan Howard, Ezekiel Huntington, William Kittel, Ed., Abel Lewis, Augustus Lewis, Obadiah Matthews, Timothy Mattison, Jonathan Niles, Nathaniel Niles, William Reynolds, Wadsworth Rose, Benjamin Sackett, William Sanford, John W. Schermerhorn, Randall Shiner, Samuel Sweet, Nathan Tanner, Elijah West, Joshua Whitford, Abraham Winston and Walter Worden.

#### EARLY ROAD MAKING.

The following extract from the proceedings of the common council of Albany, of May 6, 1770, shows what measures were taken to open a road through Stephentown at that early day:

Levy Peas applied to this board for assistance to make a road from his house through Stephentown to the house of Andries Michal. Resolved, That this board will give \$30.00 to the inhabitants of Stephentown, or such of them as will undertake to make a good and sufficient wagon road and bridges from the house of Levy Peas through Stephentown to the house of Andries Michal, along the Markt Trees shown to Mr. Marcelle and Alderman Ten Brook, in behalf of the widow Van Rensselaer, undertake to pay \$0.20 more.

#### STEPHENTOWN DISTRICT.

By "an act to divide the east district of the manor of Rensselaerwyck in the county of Albany," passed March 29, 1784, that part of the manor known as the Stephentown district was formed. The act designated its boundaries as follows:

That the said east district of the manor of Rensselaerwyck, in the county of Albany, shall be and is hereby declared to be divided into two districts by the following line: Beginning at a point in the division line between the said east district of the manor of Rensselaer and the district of Kinderhook, 10 miles distant from Hudson's river, and thence running northerly to a point in the division line of the said east district of the manor of Rensselaerwyck and the district of Schaghticoke, nine miles distant from the said Hudson river.

That all the lands immediately before the passage of this act, comprehended within the said east district of the manor of Rensselaerwyck, lying westward of the aforesaid division line, shall be one separate and distinct district and be called by the name of the Rensselaerwyck district; and that all the lands immediately before the passing of this act, comprehended within the said east district of the manor of Rensselaerwyck, and lying eastward of the aforesaid line, shall be one separate and distinct district, and be called by the name of Stephentown district.

The inhabitants of the district of Stephentown to hold their first annual meeting at the dwelling house of Daniel Hull, esq., to elect a supervisor, town clerk and all the other town officers.

The designation of the name Stephentown was given in honor of Stephen Van Rensselaer, the patroon of the manor.

Under the provisions of the act Caleb Bentley was elected, in 1784, supervisor of the district, and Jonathan Niles, clerk.

#### THE TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN ERECTED.

By "an act for dividing the counties of this state into towns," passed March 7, 1789, the town of Stephentown was erected. The town was bounded as follows:

All that part of the said county of Albany bounded easterly by the east bounds of this state, southerly by the county of Columbia, westerly by the said town of Rensselaerwyck, and northerly by the north bounds of the said manor of Rensselaerwyck, shall be and hereby is erected into a town by the name of Stephentown.

A portion of the territory of the town was subtracted, March 18, 1791, to form the town of Petersburg, and parts, in 1806, to make the towns of Berlin and Philipstown, (Nassau).

#### INNS AND TAVERNS IN 1788.

The inns and taverns scattered along the public roads of the newly-settled territory of northern New York, besides being places of entertainment, were generally points at which the people gathered at certain times for the transaction of business connected with the towns and districts of the counties. At the time the town of Stephentown was erected each inn and tavern keeper was required to enter into recognizance to the people of the state of New York in the sum of \$50 not to keep a disorderly house or suffer any cock fighting, gaming or playing with cards or dice, or keep any billiard table or other gaming table or shuffle board within it. In regard to the selling of strong liquors, exceptions were made for the sale of methuein, currant wine, cherry wine and cider made by the inn-keepers. At each tavern at least two spare beds for guests with good and sufficient sheeting and covering were to be kept in accordance with the demands of the law. It was also required that each tavern keeper should provide good and sufficient stabling and provender for four horses or cattle, and hay and pasture in summer. No liquors were allowed to be sold to apprentices, servants and slaves. No inn-keeper could collect a debt higher than 10 shillings for liquors

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sold to travelers. Each keeper of an inn or tavern was required 30 days after receiving license to put up and fix a proper sign on or adjacent to the front of his house, with his name thereon. Every month's neglect in complying with this provision of the law subjected the inn-keeper to the payment of 10 shillings to the state.

#### DISTRICT MILITARY IN 1788.

In 1788 the following persons were recommended as officers to form a new regiment within the district of Hoosick and Stephentown:

Thomas Sicksels, lieutenant-colonel commanding; Peter Van Rensselaer, first major; Samuel Shaw, second major.

**LIGHT INFANTRY COMPANIES.**  
Lieutenant: Samuel Latham, ensign.  
Thomas Palmer, captain; Luke Green, lieutenant; Joshua Whitford, ensign.

**BATTALION OFFICERS.**  
Jacob Van Valkenburgh, captain; Isaac Turner, lieutenant; Henry Lansing, ensign.  
David Brown, captain; John Van Wormer, lieutenant; Thomas Powell, ensign.

Jacob Van Ness, captain; Zach. G. Sicksels, lieutenant; John Waldo, Jr., ensign.  
Eldred Pond, captain; Joseph Brown, lieutenant; Gideon Olmstead, ensign.

Charles Green, captain; Randall Spencer, lieutenant; John Green, ensign.  
Hezekiah Hull, captain; Clark Bly, lieutenant; Jonathan Green, ensign.

Matthew Randall, captain; Jacob Lammpan, lieutenant; Abel Lewis, ensign.  
Isaac Gates, captain; John Wilkinson, lieutenant; William Jones, ensign.

**STAFF OFFICERS.**  
James Sicksels, adjutant; Oliver Hull, quartermaster; David Van Rensselaer, paymaster; Joseph Spencer, surgeon; Job Tripp, surgeon's mate.

Another paper bearing date of 1788 contains the names of the following officers, and the subjoined general order:

Peter Van Rensselaer, lieutenant colonel commanding.  
Jonathan Niles, major in General Henry K. Van Rensselaer's Brigade, to rank from the 23d of March 1788 inclusive.

James Jones and Hosca Moffit, captains.  
**LIGHT INFANTRY**  
Ichabod Cone, captain; Reuben Delaune, lieutenant; Henry Platt, ensign.

John Wylie, captain; Benjamin Sackett, lieutenant; Nathaniel Spring, ensign.  
Daniel Brown, captain; Joseph Rogers, Jr., lieutenant; Libbeus Brookway, ensign.

Moses Wordin, captain; Eleanorer Cone, lieutenant; Eliza Steward, ensign.  
Daniel Gray, captain; Jeremiah Griffith, lieutenant; Stephen Moxson, Jr., ensign.

Bermon Moon, captain; Wyatt Rose, lieutenant; Roger Jones, ensign.

**General order New York:** His excellency, the commander in chief is pleased to direct that the companies heretofore commanded by Lieut. Col. Peter Van Rensselaer while a major be now considered as a regiment and formed accordingly.

Those commanded by Major Samuel Shaw and those commanded by Major Jonathan Niles, while captains, be considered as separate battalions and for their accommodation, until further orders, parade on their respective battalion parades.

#### ELECTION RETURNS.

The election returns of that part of Albany county now embraced in the county of Rensselaer, when opened on the 28th of April, 1789, for governor, showed the following vote:

Spoken.	Clinton.	Polk.
Hoosick.....	84	83
Stephentown.....	81	123
Rensselaerwyck.....	81	188
Schaghticoke.....	7	54
Pittstown.....	65	51

At this period an election in the manor of Rensselaerwyck frequently occupied an entire week, Sunday being excepted. Gov. Clinton



received at this election a majority in Ulster county, which gave him 1089 out of 1145 votes cast.

When the legislature assembled at Albany Gov. Clinton opened the session with a message which made only 82 lines in a newspaper.

#### CENSUS OF 1790.

The population of that part of the manor of Rensselaerwyck, which now forms Rensselaer county, was in 1790 the following:

	Males	Females	Slaves	Total
Rensselaerwyck.....	1,873	8,504	38	10,415
Albany.....	1,002	3,303	0	4,305
Schenectady.....	1,542	1,455	80	3,077
Watkins.....	790	894	137	1,821
THROCKMORTON.....	1,300	1,154	31	2,485

#### RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.

Peculiar to people living away from the more animated centres of busy life, such as large cities and manufacturing towns, the scattered inhabitants of the manor of Rensselaerwyck early associated themselves together in religious societies, and built themselves convenient and commodious meeting-houses at accessible points along the public roads or thickly settled neighborhoods. It is the history of these different organizations which has preserved the names of the more prominent and active men of the localities where churches were erected and divine worship steadily held.

#### FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF STEPHENTOWN CENTER.

For the purpose of organizing a society of Baptists a delegation of members of certain Baptist churches of Rhode Island and Connecticut met at Little Hoosick, now Stephentown Center, on the 13th of September, 1783. Among the persons forming the first membership of the society were Hezekiah Hull, Dorcas Hull, Benajah Corpe, Margaret Corpe, John Pool, Zerviah Pool, Watt Crum, Patience Crum and William Fanning.

The Black river school house was for a great number of years the place where the members of the society stately assembled for divine worship. In 1828 the building which was known as the "old Black river meeting house" was erected at a cost of about \$1,000. This structure was afterward removed from its first site to the present one, when the old building was in 1856 enlarged and remodelled at a cost of about \$1,500.

On the 4th of September, 1858, the society became incorporated by the election of Joel Latham, George W. Weatherly and Thomas G. Carpenter as trustees of "the First Free-will Baptist Society of Stephentown."

The following elders have served the church as pastors: Elders Benajah Corpe, 1783-97; John Allen, 1804-08; Samuel Dean, 1838-41; Isaiah B. Coleman, 1844-50; J. D. Waldron, 1851-52; A. H. Miller, 1854-55; David Hyde, 1856-58; J. Parkin, 1863-64; J. B. Randall, 1866-72; E. B. Collins, 1875-76; and W. Fuller, 1876-80.

The church has about 45 members.

#### SECOND FREE-COMMUNION BAPTIST CHURCH.

This society was organized at Little Hoosick hollow, in the eastern part of Stephentown, March 20, 1790. Elder Nicholas Northrup was ordained its first pastor. He had the pastoral

care of the society for about 35 years. Shortly after his removal to the West the congregation was broken up. In 1819 its membership was 100.

#### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AT STEPHENTOWN.

Early in the summer of 1795 steps were taken to organize this society. On the 19th of November of that year Robert Niles was made the first elder of this church. The first meetings of the society were held at the house of Asa Burtch. A church building was erected about the year 1796. The society for the purpose of being incorporated held a meeting on the 4th of November, 1825, at which Abel Tanner, Ephraim Pierce, John Russell, Rufus Sweet, Simeon G. Goodrich, Henry Stanton, William Kittel, Jr., Erastus Brown and David Sweet were elected trustees of the "First Baptist Church and Society of Stephentown."

The following pastors have been associated with the society since its organization: Elders Robert Niles, Harris, Matthew Jones, Daniel H. Grant, Elnathan Sweet, M. P. Favor and George H. Day.

#### THE UNION BAPTIST SOCIETY.

A Baptist society at the beginning of the present century, it appears, existed in the southwestern part of the town, having the designation, "The Union Baptist society." In the certificate of its incorporation, March 1, 1804, it is declared that a meeting was held in the meeting-house of the society, and that Samuel Gale, James Harris and Joseph S. Gale were elected trustees.

#### THE FREE-WILL BAPTIST CHURCH AT WEST STEPHENTOWN.

This religious society was organized on the 14th day of November, 1829, in West Stephentown, by the Rev. Andrew H. Miller, Josiah C. Humphrey, Calvin Coleman, Samuel Coleman, Isaiah B. Coleman, Clark Vary and Daniel Beers. The organization adopted the name of the Stephentown and Nassau Free Communion Baptist church. A commodious frame meeting house, seating about 500 persons, was erected at a cost of \$2,500, on the town line of Stephentown and Nassau, in 1829. The church was dedicated in November, 1829, the Revs. P. W. Lake, A. H. Miller and John Allen officiating. In 1877 the building was remodelled and a bell purchased at a cost of \$1,400. This house of worship, which has a seating capacity for about 400 persons, was dedicated November 3, 1877, the Revs. J. M. Langworthy, J. J. Hoag, W. Fuller and I. B. Coleman taking part in the dedicatory services.

In accordance with the laws of the state, the society to be incorporated, elected on the 19th day of November, 1881, the following persons as trustees: Jonathan Daboll, Isaiah B. Coleman, Ephraim B. Kendall, Samuel Coleman, Ed. and Benjamin Chase. The society adopted the name of "The First Free Communion Baptist Church." On the 6th of October, 1841, the name was changed to "Free Baptist Church." Subsequently it has been known as the "Free Will Baptist Church." The roll of the present membership of this church bears the names of

192 persons.

The following pastors have served this congregation: The Rev. A. H. Miller, 1829-1842; the Rev. J. D. Howe, 1842-44 and the Rev. L. B. Coleman 1844 to date.

#### THE SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST SOCIETY OF STEPHENTOWN.

Another organization of Baptists was formed in the southeastern part of the town in the early part of this century. On the 15th of October a meeting was held at the usual place for divine worship, at which Philander Carpenter, Calvin P. Carpenter and Joshua B. Maxon were elected trustees of the Seventh Day Baptist society of Stephentown. The church of this

society was erected in the extreme southeastern part of the town, a short distance west of the Massachusetts line.

#### THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT STEPHENTOWN FLATS.

The first record preserved of this society's organization is found in the old church book: SEPTEMBER 30, 1794. Then the Presbyterian society of Stephentown met agreeable to a lawful public notice given by William Boardman and Jacob Wylie, elders. The meeting then balloted for trustees, when the following gentlemen were chosen: William Boardman, John Wylie, Hosea Moffitt.

In 1794 the session of the church, desiring an enrollment of the names of the persons belonging to the "two churches" that had united to form this one, the following names were furnished: James Wylie, Joseph Huntington and William Boardman, elders; Hosea Moffitt, Widow Sarah Wylie, Mrs. Holmes, Mr. Brainard, William Doty, Andrew Hunter, Esther Graves, Ruth Doty, Mary Howard and Mrs. Moffitt.—13.

The first meeting house of this society was erected in 1794 on what was known as Presbyterian hill, at Stephentown Flats. In 1836 the old building was torn down and a new one erected. On December 25, 1868, this building was destroyed by fire, on the site of which the present house of worship was erected.

The church has at present about 75 members. The pulpit of this church was at first filled by stated supplies. These were: The Rev. John Warford, July, 1794, and the Rev. Samuel Sturges, June, 1799.

The pastors of the church have been the Revs. Aaron Jordan Bouge, November, 1800-January, 1809; John Younglove, July, 1806-June, 1816; Noah M. Wells, March, 1817-Jonas Coe, February, 1818-1821, (supply); Moses Hunter, February, 1821-1825; Charles G. Finney, October, 1827-November, 1827, (supply); Edwards A. Beach, June, 1828-May 19, 1834; Bowman Brown, March, 1835-April, 1839, (supply); J. G. Hall, January, 1849; Hugh Carlile, 1841-1849; Joshua B. Graves, Almon Underwood; — Gould; John Davis (two years); J. Northrup (one and a half years); John Hendricks; Fayette Shepherd, March 1, 1850, (supply); M. C. Bronson, June 29, 1850-February 10, 1858, (supply); Robert Day, June 1, 1858-May, 1860, (supply); John B. Shaw, July 12, 1860-April, 1865; Eber M. Rollo, April, 1865-September, 1874, (supply); A. G. Beebe.

#### UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

This society was organized in the southwestern part of the town. On the 1st of March, 1804, the members assembled at "the meeting house in the southwest part of Stephentown," and for the purpose of incorporation, elected as trustees John W. Schermerhorn, Ebenezer Smith and Winthrop Root.

The Baptist society formed a part of this union.

#### THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

A religious body known as the Congregational church existed in the beginning of the century in the western part of Stephentown. For the purpose of being incorporated a meeting was held by the members and the following persons elected trustees: Jonathan Emmons, Jr., Abijah Willmot and Amariah Bailey.

#### STEPHENTOWN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

This society was organized in 1898 in the Christian chapel, near the Stephentown depot. In 1870-71, a frame house of worship was erected at Stephentown Flats, which was dedicated on the 4th of April, 1871, the Rev. C. F. Burdick, presiding elder of the Troy district, officiating. The church, which has a seating capacity for about 800 persons, cost \$5,242.41. The church has a membership of 78 persons.

The following persons have been pastors of the church: The Rev. George Hudson, 1898-70; the Rev. E. A. Braman, 1871; the Revs. E. A. Braman and Francis Booth, 1872; the Rev. Nathan C. Hill, 1873; the Rev. W. F. Sanford, 1874-75; the Rev. George W. Hughes, 1876; the Rev. George Hudson, 1877-79; and the Rev. W. A. Phelps, to date.

The society was incorporated June 4, 1875, at which time a meeting was held and the following persons elected trustees: John E. Blinn, James H. Taylor, William D. Wally, Alvah Hunt and William Kittel.

#### ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AT STEPHENTOWN.

About five years ago, through the active zeal of several Roman Catholic priests, a small Roman Catholic congregation was organized in Stephentown. Shortly afterwards a church was erected. On the 14th of October, 1896, Hugh Lindsey and Cornelius McFeeley were appointed trustees of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic church.

#### HARLEM EXTENSION RAILROAD.

The Harlem extension railroad, which extends through the towns of Stephentown, Berlin, Petersburg and Hoosick, originated from the consolidation of the Lebanon Springs railroad and the Bennington and Rutland railroad, April 23, 1870, when the articles of agreement were filed. The Lebanon Springs railroad filed its articles March 25, 1865. The New York and Harlem railroad company was formed April 2, 1831. The Harlem extension railroad forms a very important line from New York city to Vermont and Canada. The length of the road is 114 miles.

#### STEPHENTOWN.

The village of Stephentown, near the centre of the town, is situated on the Kinderhook creek, and is a station of the Harlem Extension



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railroad. In 1804 a postoffice was established at this place, of which Nathan Howard was the first postmaster. In the "State Gazetteer" of 1846, Stephentown, Stephentown Centre and Stephentown Flats are apparently described as one place, as follows:

Stephentown Hollow or Centre, 21 miles from Troy and Albany, contains four woolen factories, one grist and three saw mills, one cotton factory, three wool carding machines, one tannery, three stores, one tavern, one Presbyterian and two Baptist churches, and from 50 to 60 dwellings.

Stephentown at present has a population of about 100, contains about 45 buildings, among which are the Baptist church, the Roman Catholic church, the Christian chapel, and the school house of district No. 4. The business interests of the place comprise two taverns, four stores, one tinshop, two wagon maker shops, a blacksmith shop and a saw mill.

#### STEPHENTOWN FLATS.

Stephentown Flats is a hamlet on the Kinderhook creek about a mile southwest of the village of Stephentown. The place embraces about 35 buildings, among which is the Presbyterian and the Methodist Episcopal churches. It has a hotel, a saw mill, a grist mill and several vacant mill buildings.

#### STEPHENTOWN CENTER.

This hamlet, formerly known as Mechanicville, is situated in the center of the town, on the Black river. A postoffice was established here in December, 1878, of which Ezra Chase since then has been postmaster. The place comprises about 43 buildings, which include the Free Will Baptist church and the schoolhouse of district No. 10. It has a saw mill, a grist mill, a store and several shops. The population of the place is 185.

#### NORTH STEPHENTOWN.

This hamlet is situated in the northeastern part of the town. About the year 1824 a postoffice was established here, of which Lawrence Van Valkenburgh was first postmaster. In 1830 the place is spoken of as being 20 miles from Troy, having a woolen factory, a store, a tavern and about 20 dwellings, near Black Brook, which drives several saw mills and two extensive turning establishments. At present there is a store at this point and about 25 buildings.

#### SOUTH STEPHENTOWN.

This hamlet is in the southern part of the town. In 1836 it is mentioned as being 24 miles from Troy, on the Kinderhook creek, having a cotton factory, a grist mill, two saw mills, a tannery, a store, a tavern and 30 dwellings. There is a postoffice at this point, of which William Hand is postmaster.

#### WEST STEPHENTOWN.

This hamlet is in the northwestern part of the town, a short distance east of the boundary line of the town of Nassau. West Stephentown, including Dunham's Hollow in the town of Nassau, contains within a radius of about a mile 65 buildings, among which is the Free Will Baptist church. The business interests of the place comprise four stores, a postoffice, agricultural works, a farm, a grist mill, two

saw mills and four blacksmith shops.

POPULATION OF THE TOWN.			
1790	1,793	1840	2,543
1800	4,408	1850	3,222
1810	4,567	1860	3,222
1820	5,040	1870	3,311
1830	5,390	1880	3,036
1840	5,701	1890	2,153
1850	5,716	1900	2,047
1860	5,628	1910	1,999
1870	5,738		

## Troy Daily Times.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 23, 1880.

### THE TOWN OF GREENBUSH.

#### THE GROUND OF THE INDIAN NAWANEMITT.

#### THE ARABLE LAND OF DE LAET'S BURG.

#### THE FLIGHT OF THE SETTLERS TO FORT CRALO.

**The Division of Rensselaerwyck—The Sale of Lots of the Akin Mile Square—The Burial of Thirty-three Persons in One Day—The Incorporation of its Churches—The History of its Churches—Historical Memoranda.**

In the month of May, 1629, while the Indians inhabiting the east and west banks of the Hudson were busily engaged with their spring fishing, they beheld a Dutch ship, with all its sails spread, moving slowly past them, going northward. It was the New Netherlands, which had left Holland, in March, for the fertile country bordering the beautiful river recently explored by the English navigator, Henry Hudson. There were 18 families on board that intended settling about the rudely built outpost, named Fort Orange, which had just been "thrown up and completed" near the river, on a part of the ground that is now occupied by the city of Albany.

It is said that shortly after these emigrants had built themselves "some huts of bark," the Mohicans, the Mohawks, the Oneidas, the Onondagas, the Cayugas and the Senecas, with the Ottawa Indians, "came and made covenants of friendship" with the Dutch commander, Adriaen Joris, "bringing him great presents of beaver or other peltry, and desired that they might come and have a constant free trade with them, which was concluded upon." It is further related that for years thereafter the Indians "were all as quiet as lambs, and came and traded with all the freedom imaginable."

#### DE LAET'S BURG.

This early settlement at Fort Orange, it should be remembered, was previous to the year 1629. Afterward, in 1629, the Dutch West India company permitted persons of wealth to become permanent possessors of large tracts of land, who, within four years, should settle on them colonies of 50 adult persons. Among the

several purchases of tracts of lands from the Indians made by the Agents of Killian Van Rensselaer, under this charter of exemptions and privileges, was one which embraced the ground on which Greenbush is now built. This part of the manor of Rensselaerwyck along the Hudson belonged to an Indian sachem named Nawanemitt, and was "called Semesscock, lying on the east side of the aforesaid river, opposite the Fort Orange, as well above as below, and from Poestenock, the mill creek, northwards to Negagonce, being about 12 miles large measure." Among the shareholders of the West India company considerable dissatisfaction was caused by these large acquisitions of landed estate by Killian Van Rensselaer. This wealthy patroon in order to have his patents confirmed by the legislative chambers of Holland, was obliged to divide the territory obtained from the Indians with three other directors of the Amsterdam chamber: the Dutch historian, John de Laet, Samuel Godyn and Samuel Blommert. The latter had associated with him Adam Bisels and Tonsseint Mousart.

The several divisions of the manor of Rensselaerwyck are in a general way designated on the old map of the manor made by Gillis van Schoedel in 1630. That portion of land occupied by the railroad companies' freight houses and car shops is named on this old chart *De Laet's Eylandt—De Laet's island*; the stream south of it is called *De Laet's modern kill and water-fall—De Laet's mill creek and waterfall*. On the south side of the creek, and on the bank of the river, there are several houses delineated which no doubt were intended to mark the probable site of a future village, and which is denominated *De Laet's Burg*. This was the local name given 250 years ago to the land on which the village of Greenbush is situated.

#### THE FIRST SETTLERS.

The *bonne land*, arable land, opposite Fort Orange, on the east bank of the river, soon attracted the attention of the Dutch farmers immigrating from Holland. The several streams of water emptying contiguously into the river very likely reminded them of the fatherland, where numerous canals diversified the dyke-protected country. Gerrit Teunissen de Rous, *schepen*, sheriff, as early as 1631, had built himself a home and had a well stocked farm, in the vicinity of the *Greenen bosch*, the green or pine woods, which formed a part of the landscape in the vicinity of De Laet's mill creek. At the south end of this wood, Teunis Cornelissen van Vechten was living in 1648. North of him, Teunis Dirksen van Vechten had a farm. He had emigrated from Holland in 1633, having taken passage in the *Arms of Norway* with his wife, child and two servants. In 1649 Evert Pels van Stellyn, a brewer, was living near the river, on the bank of Mill creek. For the purpose of facilitating communication between the people living on the west and east banks of the river, as early as 1643 a ferry was established between Fort Orange, or Beaverwyck, as the village around the fort was early called, and *Greenen bosch*,

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now Greenbush. Hendrick Albertson had charge of it.

#### FORT CRALO.

As a means of protection against any sudden attack of the Indians the patroon of Rensselaerwyck had a small fort constructed on his farm at Greenbush. This newly built fort, in June, 1663, when the news of the massacre of the people living at Esopus reached the ears of farmers dwelling in the vicinity of it, became a very important place of safety to them. The alarm at the time was widespread, and the entire neighborhood was deserted by those who for weeks found a home within its walls. The following extract from the "Resolutive boek der Colonie Rensselaerwyck" refers to what took place among the early settlers who had fled to Fort Cralo:

12th JUNE, 1663.—Information rec'd of murders and burning which occurred at Esopus, last Thursday, 7th inst, the Court of Rensselaerwyck renewed the resolution of the 1st of April, 1660, for the establishment of a night watch. Cornelis van Nee was appointed captain, and Willem Fredericks Bout, corporal. List of colonists in Greenbush: Under the chief officer Cornelis van Nee: Cornelis Stevenen Mullen, Adam Dingemans, Gerrit van Nee, Jan Juriansen, Jan van Nee, Jan Jacobus Jansen, Tymon Hendricksen. Under Corporal Willem Bout: Jan Oothout, Hendrick van Nee, Hendrick Maessen (van Buren) Gerrit Tonnissen, Frans Jacobsen, Hendrick Willemsen, Claes Claessen. The officers shall take good care that none of the watch shall be unless when necessary, under the penalty of six guilders for the first twelve for the second, and an arbitrary correction for the third offence. Aetum in *Greenen Bos* in the Colonie Rensselaerwyck, this 12th June 1663.

In July, 1664, war broke out among the Indians, and the Mohawks inhabiting the west side of the river drew the hatchet against the Mohicans, or *Makicans*, as the Dutch called the Indians living on the east side. Jeremias Van Rensselaer, writing to Director Stuyvesant from Fort Orange, July 14, says that the latter "are led from the Mohawks, and the next consequence was that the Indians of the colonie have, on last Monday, the 7th instant, at one onslaught, killed nine head" of cattle "in Director Rensselaer's bouwerie in Greenbush." Subsequently the Indians became quite friendly,

and for a long time gave no occasion for settlers to fear any secret.

#### THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR.

In 1689 the people were once more alarmed by fears of incursions from the French and Indians, who, by rapid marches, made sudden descents from Canada upon the New England colonies and the farmers of northern New York. The following minutes of a convention assembled at Albany, August 31, 1689, exhibit the apprehensions of the people residing along the upper Hudson:

Resolved to acquaint ye inhabitants of ye County ye news ye received of Col. Frynchen, That Pennsylvania was taken by ye Indians and french & People Kill & Taken—also that there should be a sign be come to Quebec of ye french with news of wars Between Engld & france & therefore nothing can be Expected but ye french will doe all ye mischief they can to this government & therefore every one to be upon there guards & take care that they be not surprised. Mr. (D.) Wessels and Royler baristes were Deputed to communicate this to the farmers of Kinderhook & Claverack. Capt. (J.) Wendel & John Lanning the People above. Richd. Prety & Evert Banker at Schoharie & Canastota.

Two days afterward the people of Greenbush it seems were thrown into great alarm by a sud-



posed attack upon them by the Indians. This is apparent from the records of the convention held at Albany:

The 8th day of August, 1830. Resolved, That ye inhabitants of ye County be informed of ye alarm which was last night at ye Green Bush occasioned by some Malicious Persons firing of several guns with Balls throw ye door and house of John Wilmot which was done by letters accordingly.

The 23th of August, 1830. Resolved, ye Parent Gerrits of Beulahem who is suspected to have had a hand in ye late disturbance yt was at Green Bush, or least Privy to it yt be give 50 2 security to answer when he shall be called for to be Examined about yt Business.

In time the disturbing elements of hostility were repressed by the strong arm of the English government and peace and prosperity blessed the province.

#### THE TOWN OF GREENBUSH.

On the 10th day of April, 1793, the state legislature passed "An act for dividing the several towns therein mentioned," by which the town of Greenbush was formed. The territory embraced was the following:

All that part of the town of Rensselaerwyck, which lies north of a line to be drawn from a point on the east bank of the river Hudson, eight miles distant from the southwest corner of the town of Rensselaerwyck, and running from thence east to the west bounds of Stephentown, shall be and is hereby erected into a separate town, by the name of Greenbush; and that the first town meeting in Greenbush shall be held at the dwelling house of Abraham M. de Forest, in the said town. And that all the remaining part of the town of Rensselaerwyck shall be and remain a separate town, by the name of Rensselaerwyck; and that the first town meeting in Rensselaerwyck shall be held at the dwelling house of John J. Miller in said town.

A second act relating to the town was passed March 17, 1795. A portion of the town was taken off June 19, 1812, to form the town of Sandhike. To make the towns of Clinton (now East Greenbush) and North Greenbush, another part was subtracted February 23, 1855.

#### THE AKIN MILE SQUARE.

The ground on which the village of Greenbush is situate was on the 29th day of March, 1810, conveyed by Stephen Van Rensselaer and Stephen N. Bayard, the surviving trustees of John J. Van Rensselaer, to William Akin of Pawlingtown, Dutchess county, Titus Goodman and John Dickinson of Pittsfield, Mass., for the sum of \$60,000. It was purchased for speculative purposes, and was laid out into building lots and streets. Embracing an area of ground a mile square, it was thereafter designated "the Akin mile square." The lots near the river were 100 feet wide in front and in the rear 66 feet. The greater part of the blocks contained three and two-third acres of land. In the smaller blocks the lots were generally 300 feet long by 50 feet wide. In 1778, this portion of the manor of Rensselaerwyck appears on a map made by Robert Yates. The residence of John Van Rensselaer, esq., widow Ten Broeck, widow Lumbus, John Yates, John McLellan, Henry Cuyler and Jacob Van Schaek seem to form the embryo hamlet which grew into the village of Greenbush. The first sale of lots was quite remunerative, but the second attracted only a few buyers, and the project of the purchasers ended in a long litigation. In 1813, it is said that

50 buildings had been erected on this plot.

#### A MELANCHOLY DAY.

Among the events connected with the growth of Greenbush was one which was long remembered by its inhabitants. In the spring of 1807 the ferry-boat plying between the little hamlet and Albany was swamped by a south wind and 33 persons on it were drowned. Among the lost were a large number of leading persons living in the vicinity and in Albany, and their funerals made one of the most melancholy days known in the history of the two places.

#### THE VILLAGE OF GREENBUSH.

The act incorporating the village of Greenbush was passed April 14, 1815. Subsequent acts were passed April 5, 1823; March 22, 1854, and April 26, 1863. The present bounds of the village are found in the act passed April 25, 1871:

Beginning at a point in the Hudson river, opposite the city of Albany, on the division line between the counties of Albany and Rensselaer, on a line running 150 feet north of the northerly line of Catharine street, thence running easterly, and parallel to, and 150 north of the northerly line of said Catharine street, to its terminus; thence easterly on the same parallel, across the lands now owned by Dr. James McNaughton, to a point 150 feet east of the westerly line of the lands known as the Mason farm; thence southerly, 150 feet east of the westerly line of the said Mason farm, to a point 150 feet south of the southerly line of Partition street; thence westerly, parallel to and 150 feet south of the southerly line of Partition street, to a point 150 feet east of the easterly line of Cottage Hill street; thence southerly, parallel to and 150 feet east of the easterly line of Cottage Hill street, to a point 150 feet south of the southerly line of Mill street; thence west, parallel to and 150 feet south of the southerly line of said Mill street, to a point where the said line will intersect the west bounds of the county of Rensselaer; thence north along the said west bounds to the place of beginning, shall be known and distinguished as the village of Greenbush. \* \* \* The officers shall be a president, eight trustees, clerk, street commissioner and treasurer, and three inspectors of election in each ward.

#### CHURCHES.

As early as the year 1820 the people of Greenbush were accustomed to meet together in the village school house to hear on Sundays various preachers discourse upon selected Bible texts. The certificate of incorporation of the First Presbyterian church of Greenbush declares that "a meeting of the male inhabitants of full age who have been steadily in the habit of attending public religious worship at the upper room in the school house in the village of Greenbush \* \* \* was held at said room on the 27th day of April, 1825, pursuant to a notice read at said room for two Sabbaths preceding said 27th day of April, immediately after divine service ended and the first notice given more than 15 days previous to said 27th day of April, 1825, for the purpose of choosing a board of trustees with a view to the incorporation of a religious society in said village according to the statute." The trustees chosen were Samuel Cheever, Hugh Gordon, Jacob S. Miller, Samuel Tibbals, Jr., John Alden, Solomon Cone and Merrick Ross. The organization took the name of "The First Presbyterian church in Greenbush."

In 1827 a house of worship was erected on land donated by William Akin. The Rev. Edward Stratton, the present pastor, was installed June 23, 1874.

The organization of the First Methodist

Episcopal church of Greenbush took place in the village school-house, February 22, 1833. At this meeting the following persons were elected trustees: James Walker, Rhos Northup, Benjamin Bradbury, Robert D. Kemp and James Hallenbeck. In 1833 the congregation began the erection of a frame building for a place of worship on Washington street, which was first used for worship May 11, 1834, the Rev. Joshua Poor being the first pastor. In 1833 the old building was torn down, and a handsome structure of brick, 65x42 feet, erected near its site, at a cost of about \$8,000. It was dedicated in January, 1834. In 1893 the building was enlarged by the addition of a transept 24x62 feet, at a cost of \$7,000. The Rev. R. H. Robinson became pastor of this congregation in 1879.

The first Protestant Episcopal church organized in Greenbush was that of the "Church of the Messiah." The congregation, which had been meeting since 1851 in the village school house, assembled on the evening of the 19th of July, 1859, Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, chairman. A vote being taken, Jeremiah Van Rensselaer and Henry Finch were elected church wardens, and George S. Weaver, Alexander H. Henry, Thomas R. Mather, Frederick G. Lane, Francis Van Rensselaer, Benjamin B. Kirtland, John M. Bondy and Squire Greenough vestrymen. The present church edifice, on the corner of Third avenue and Washington street, was erected in 1883-4. The Rev. Edgar T. Chapman is the present rector of this church.

St. John's Roman Catholic church was organized about the year 1850 by the Rev. John Cory, who became the first resident priest. A small church was erected shortly afterward, which in 1857 gave place to a new building, built at an expense of \$12,000. The Rev. James E. Duffy is the present pastor, and the Rev. M. Scanlon assistant. The church has about 2,000 communicants.

The Greenbush Baptist church sprang from a mission established by the Albany Baptist

240x80 by union. A congregation was organized May 27, 1874. The society was formally incorporated May 27, 1874. The following trustees were then elected: Merritt H. Waterbury, Thomas Garrison, D. O. Denison, William Brooks, Sylvester Waterbury, James E. Aiken, and James A. Campbell. The present pastor, the Rev. Adoniram Waterbury, was installed February 1, 1874.

The second Protestant Episcopal church organized in Greenbush was the body known as the "Church of the Epiphany," in 1873. Several years after a church building was erected on the corner of Catharine and Third streets. The Rev. Richard Temple is the rector.

The Greenbush Congregational church was organized in 1879 by the Rev. B. Stanton, the present pastor, and 16 other persons from various sister churches. The church building, on the corner of Partition and Third streets, was erected in 1879-80.

#### NEWSPAPERS.

The Greenbush Guardian was first published in August, 1856, by A. J. Goodrich and after-

wards by J. D. Comstock.

The Rensselaer County Gazette had its first issue September 8, 1870. Thomas McKee and Duncan MacFarlane, publishers and proprietors. Early in the summer of 1871 Thomas McKee became the editor and owner of the paper.

The Greenbush Democrat began its publication December 2, 1876, by Philip F. Bray, the present editor and proprietor.

#### POPULATION.

The village of Greenbush is known locally by two names. The lower or southern part is called by the former name, while the northern part is generally designated as East Albany. The Albany and Boston railroad freight houses and workshops are on the island opposite, as is also the Greenbush depot.

In 1836 Greenbush contained two grist mills, on Mill creek, a distillery, two churches, a flourishing academy, four hotels, eight stores and from 80 to 100 dwellings.

At present the steam saw mill of T. Miles & Co., that of C. Warren & Son, the grist mill and malt house of William M. Irwin & Co., the grist mill of Charles C. Lodewick, the steam cracker bakery of Jonas Whiting & Co., the tannery of J. Ruyter & Son, the shoe factory of Walden & France, and the Albany stamping works, Hoy & Co., are the important manufacturing interests of the village.

The population of the town of Greenbush since 1800 is as follows:

1800.....	3,472	1845.....	4,732
1810.....	4,428	1850.....	5,945
1820.....	5,368	1855.....	6,361
1830.....	5,794	1860.....	6,992
1840.....	5,914	1865.....	7,770
1850.....	6,316	1870.....	8,209
1860.....	7,345	1875.....	8,704
1870.....	8,701	1880.....	9,744

#### SOCIETIES.

The masonic societies of Greenbush embrace the Greenbush lodge of F. and A. M., No. 237, chartered July 1, 1854. The Greenbush Chapter, R. A. M., No. 274, organized February 3, 1876.

The Independent order of 'Odd Fellows have one lodge, the Farmers' and Mechanics', No. 157.

Of temperance societies there are Irving lodge I. O. of G. T., No. 36, and St. Patrick's Father Matthew society.

## Troy Daily Times.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, SEPT. 8, 1880.

## TOWN OF PETERSBURGH.

### Indian Attacks upon the Settlers.

### FARMERS KILLED AND CARRIED INTO CAPTIVITY.

Proceedings of the First Town Meeting—Notes of a Travelling Missionary—Erection of Churches in the Town—The Villages Described—Population of the Town.

The early settlers who dared to enter the



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great forest-country north of Albany, in the middle of the eighteenth century, for the purpose of clearing the tree-covered land in order to cultivate it, were persons of no common courage and physical ability. When ploughing, sowing or reaping in the stumpy spaces of ground from which their axes had removed the closely growing trees, these intrepid pioneers, as a means of self-protection, always carried their guns aloft to meet any sudden attack of Indians. Protected from observation as they were by the surrounding woods, hostile bands of savages often surprised and massacred these industrious farmers while at work tilling the virgin soil of the newly occupied territory.

#### BORDER WARFARE.

In the summer of 1784 the few settlers of the Hoosick valley were repeatedly the victims of many barbarous outrages, perpetrated by Indians from Canada. Among the bloody deeds committed by these ruthless savages was an attack by day made by a party of Indians upon John G. Brimmer and his three sons, — John, George and Godfrey, — while at work in a field of their farm along the Hoosick river, near the site of the village of North Petersburg. The first intimation they had of the close proximity of their unobserved foes was the discovery of a number of Indian blankets. The father at once hastened to his house to defend its inmates, having previously instructed his sons to unharness the horses and follow him. While carrying out their father's commands four Indians made their appearance on the borders of the field. The young men immediately grasped their guns and prepared to defend themselves. In the first exchange of shots, George was killed. Godfrey, seeing his brother fall, ran and hid behind a brush fence. While thus concealed the Indians approached his hiding place. Just as he was about to fire at them he was discovered in the act, and one of the Indians exchanged shots with him. Both balls missed their marks. Godfrey, seeing another one of the Indians about to fire at him, dropped the butt of his gun upon the ground, placed one hand over the muzzle and extended the other towards the Indian in token of surrender. One of the Indians then seized him by the collar, passed one of his fingers three times around Godfrey's neck, after which he laid his hand upon his head signifying that Godfrey was his prisoner. John fled to an island in the river, but the Indians threw stones at him until he was compelled to surrender himself. John was 16 years old, being five years younger than his brother Godfrey.

The Indians at once started off with their captives toward Canada, going by the way of Lake Champlain, where they had left their boats. When they reached St. Johns they were met by about 300 other Indians, who formed a circle around the white men, and ordered them to sing. This, it is said, they refused to do, although ordered a second and a third time. This so angered the Indians that they were about to brain them with their war clubs, but at this juncture Godfrey discovered

in the crowd of Indians one who had once partaken of the hospitalities of his father's house. He immediately spoke to the Indian, who, recognizing him, interfered and saved the prisoners from the dreadful tortures which the Indians would have inflicted upon them. They remained at St. Johns for six weeks, and were then sold as slaves to the French. After a hard term of five years' servitude, they obtained their freedom on the surrender of Quebec to the English in 1759. They immediately started for Albany, but before reaching the city they were detained as prisoners by the British at Lake George. However, in a short time they were released, and joined the other members of the family at Rhinebeck, who had not heard anything concerning them since the day of their capture.

It is further related that a body of soldiers that had been sent from Albany up into the Hoosick valley, 10 days after this attack upon the settlers found the dead body of George Brimmer, which they buried by the side of a rock.

After the treaty between France and England, John G. Brimmer, with his family, re-occupied his deserted farm, which is still in the possession of his descendants.

#### THE FIRST SETTLERS OF THE TOWN.

On the map of the manor of Rensselaerwyck, made by Jno. R. Bleeker in 1767, the following names of the settlers of that part of the county of Rensselaer now known by the name of the town of Petersburg, appear:

West of the little Hoosick river were the houses of Peter Bachus, John Ruyter and Henry Litcher. On the east side that of Hans Bachus.

Along the west side of the Hoosick river, near the north manor line, were the farms of Baront Hogg and Jacob Best; and near the eastern boundary, the house of Schoolmaster Watson.

On the east side of the Hoosick river lived the following persons, taking them in their order, beginning near the north line of the manor and going southwardly: Hans Lantman, — Primmer, Jacob Best, Petrus Vosburgh, Bastian Deel, Frans Burn, Juria Krelger, Henry Young, — Devoot and heretofore Long Andries.

Other settlers followed the above and took tracts of land for cultivation. William M. Reynolds, in 1780, came from Rhode Island; Ichabod Prosser, from Vermont, in 1794; Asa and David Maxon from Rhode Island; Sterry Hewitt from Connecticut; Stanton Bailey from the same state; Joseph Allen from Rhode Island, about 1790; William Hiscok, from Rhode Island, several years earlier; James Weaver and Thomas Phillips from the same state; Joshua Thomas and Benjamin Randall, Abraham Lewis, Augustus Lewis, Oliver Spencer, Stephen Card and Sylvanus Stephens settled at an early date at Lewis's Hollow. John and Nathaniel Church came into the valley in 1790. Simon Odell occupied a farm at East Hollow shortly after the close of the revolutionary war. John Green, Hezekiah Coon, Aaron Cole, John Nichols, Abel Russell, George Gardner, Jehad

Irish, William Clark, Leban Jones, David Hustis, John G. Crog, Stephen Potter and Lyman Matre were also early settlers.

This part of the manor of Rensselaerwyck, in the county of Albany, was made a part of the district of Stephentown by the general assembly March 26, 1784.

#### THE TOWN OF PETERSBURGH ERECTED.

On the 18th of March, 1791, the state legislature passed "an act for dividing the towns therein mentioned." Among its provisions is the paragraph respecting the boundary lines of the town of Petersburg, erected by the act. It reads:

That from and after the first Monday in April next, all that part of the town of Stephentown, in the county of Rensselaer, which lies north of a line to be drawn east and west from the south bounds of Peter Seaman's farm, until it intersects the east and west bounds of the said town of Stephentown, shall be and is hereby erected into a distinct and separate town by the name of Petersburg, and that the first town meeting of the inhabitants of Petersburg shall be held at the house of Hezekiah Coon, in the said town.

The town boundary line was changed on January 4, 1793; parts of the towns of Berlin and Lansingburgh were subtracted March 21, 1806; and parts of Grafton and Nassau, March 20, 1807.

#### THE FIRST TOWN OFFICERS.

The proceedings of the first town meeting, held according to the act of the state legislature, are thus recorded in the town book:

At a town meeting holding at the dwelling house of Hezekiah Coon, in Petersburg, April 5, 1791, this day voted Hezekiah Coon, moderator; Jonas Odell, supervisor; John Greene, town clerk; Benjamin Hanks, Randall Spencer, John Nichols, assessors; Abel Russell, Luke Greene, Matthew Randall, commissioners; David Randall, Hezekiah Coon, poundmasters.

Voted, That the constables and collector shall procure sufficient bail.

Voted, That there shall be but two constables for the town of Petersburg in the year 1791.

Stephen Maxon, Phineas Lewis, constables and collectors; Charles Greene, Abel Russell, Hezekiah Coon, fence viewers.

Voted, That sheep runs from the 15th of September until the 15th of November be kept in if the rams is ketches out the run shall be forfeited to the poor of said town.

Voted, Benjamin Hanks and Hezekiah Coon, poundmasters.

Voted, That wolves caught and killed in Petersburg shall receive a bounty of ten pounds, to be paid in produce.

Voted, That the next annual town meeting be at Hezekiah Coon's.

JOHN GREENE, T. Clerk.

#### CHURCHES.

This town has only a small number of churches. It is said that the first church erected in this part of the county was by a number of Lutherans about the year 1798, at North Petersburg. There are no records of this religious society preserved.

#### PETERSBURGH BAPTIST CHURCH.

Some years before 1822 there was a small society of Baptists existing in South Petersburg. For the purpose of complying with the statute in regard to the incorporation of religious societies, the male members of this congregation assembled "at the Baptist meeting-house, near Aaron Worthington's," on Monday, July 8, 1822, and elected Aaron Worthington, James Allen, Asa Sullman, Asa Maxon, Jr., Gardner Hiscok, Walter P. Burlingame, Zebulon Scriven, Sanford Hewitt and Ebenezer Robinson trustees of the Petersburg Baptist church.

tees of the Petersburg Baptist church.

In 1823 the congregation built a house of worship, which has since been remodeled. The names of most of the pastors that have served this congregation are the following: The Rev. Nathan Lewis and the Rev. J. D. Rogers, 1823; the Rev. Asa H. Palmer, 1833; the Rev. Gardner C. Tripp, 1836-37; the Rev. Nathan Lewis, 1838; the Rev. Edwin Wescott, 1841-43; the Rev. E. B. Cranfill, 1843-51; the Rev. A. Waterbury, 1850; the Rev. D. Eldridge, 1852; the Rev. A. Waterbury, 1856-70; the Rev. J. G. Phillips, 1871-72; the Rev. N. B. H. Gardner, 1873; the Rev. G. H. Day, 1874; the Rev. N. C. Hill, 1875-76; the Rev. J. G. Phillips, 1877; the Rev. L. Benedict, 1878, and the Rev. G. W. Adams to the present time.

#### PETERSBURGH FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The success of the itinerancy of Lorenzo Dow among the people settled along the eastern limits of Rensselaer county was marked by the organization of a number of Methodist Episcopal congregations. This remarkable evangelist was induced in 1793 to visit North Petersburg by the invitation of Daniel Moon, who had heard Lorenzo Dow preach at Williamstown, Mass. The request made by Daniel Moon was complied with, and Lorenzo Dow, in company with James Millard of Stratford, Vt., preached to a goodly number of persons assembled at Moon's house.

By Dow's appointment the Rev. Joseph Sawyer, then on the Pittsfield circuit, preached at Petersburg. — On one of his visits to this place he discoursed on the barren fig tree, which was the means of the conversion of Ebenezer Washburn. The latter was then appointed the leader of a class of which his wife, John Prosser and wife and John G. Crog and wife were members. From this time for a number of years divine services were held at John G. Crog's house.

In 1799 Daniel Bramley of the Pittsfield circuit had this society under his charge. In 1821 the name of Petersburg was given to the circuit.

This society of Methodists had so greatly increased the number of its members, that, in 1831, it built a commodious house of worship at North Petersburg at a cost of \$1,000. The Rev. C. B. Lewis is the present pastor of this church and of the one in Petersburg.

#### THE SOUTH PETERSBURGH METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The work of organizing a Methodist society in the south part of the town of Petersburg was begun by the Rev. Joseph Mitchell in 1800. He formed a class of the small number of new converts to Methodism and preached to them at the house of George Springer. This congregation grew rapidly and in 1830 was able to build a house of worship at South Petersburg, which is still used by the society.

For the purpose of making it an incorporated body, on Monday, March 4, 1822, a meeting of the male members of the church was held at the meeting house and the following persons



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were elected "trustees of the Petersburg first Methodist church": Joshua Randall, Joshua Lamb and Job W. Matteson.

#### THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF PETERSBURGH.

The certificate of the incorporation of this society recites that the members of it assembled at the place wherein they had stately met upon Sundays for divine worship, on the 10th of September, 1855, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon and had there elected, according to the notice previously given, the following trustees of "a religious society denominationally called Christians and nothing but Christians to the exclusion of all names of faction and party or of any addition thereto in Petersburg and Grafton": Elijah Reynolds, Ebenezer Stephens, Aaron Worthington, Martin T. Brown, Orlando D. Thurber and Elijah S. Randall. In 1843 the erection of a house of worship was begun, but the building was not finished until 1855. The pastors of the church have successively been the following: The Revs. Samuel F. Dreter, R. D. Hawes, Thomas Taylor, H. B. Haight, James Summerville, James Hayes, John M. Woodward and Joseph W. Stearns.

The names on the roll of the membership of this society number 105.

#### THE TOWN IN 1802.

When in 1799 the building of the public road from the village of Bath-on-the-Hudson to Williamstown was in contemplation, the commissioners, David Fonda, James Maine, John E. Van Allen and David Gray, gave notice that a book for recording subscriptions to the capital stock of the Eastern turnpike company was opened at the house of James Maine, in Petersburg.

The Rev. John Taylor, a traveling missionary, thus wrote in his diary of his observations in the town of Petersburg in 1803:

July 22. Left Williamstown about 8 o'clock, took the road to Albany across the mountains, on the ground of the proposed turnpike. After passing a high mountain, came into a valley and into the town of Petersburg, in the state of New York. This town contains about 20 inhabitants. There are two churches of pious Baptists and one of Sunday Baptists. After passing in this valley about 3 miles, I saw another mountain and for 10 miles found a most intolerable road.

#### SOUTH PETERSBURGH.

This village was the earliest settlement in this part of the county of Rensselaer. In 1836 it was known by the name of Petersburg Corners, at the junction of the Little Hoosick creek with the Hoosick river. It then contained a tavern, two stores, one Methodist church and 20 dwellings. It is 23 miles northeast of Albany and 27 miles from Troy. The village at present has about 300 inhabitants. About 25 buildings make up the place. There is one church, two hotels, one store, a blacksmith shop and a wagonmaker's shop in the village. It is a station on the Harlem Extension railroad. A postoffice was established at this point about 50 years ago.

#### SOUTH PETERSBURGH.

This place was early known as Benaescher's mills. It is situated on the Little Hoosick river on the Harlem extension railroad. In 1835 it is referred to as being 30 miles east from Troy,

having "a grist, saw, oil, carding and cloth dressing mills, three stores, one tavern, one Methodist and one Baptist church, and 80 dwellings." As a post village it bears the same name as the town in which it is situated. There are at present 80 dwellings in South Petersburg, which has a population of about 300 persons. There are three churches, four hotels and six stores in the place. Its manufacturing interests embrace three shirt manufactories, a shoe factory, a machine shop, three blacksmith shops, a wagon maker's shop and a cabinet making shop. About the year 1825 a postoffice was established at this point. Star lodge No. 670, F. and A. M., was established about 1861. The lodge has a neatly fitted-up hall in the village and numbers over 50 members.

#### STILLMAN VILLAGE.

This name is applied to a neighborhood some distance west of South Petersburg. The milling interests at this point are of some importance.

Several other neighborhoods in the town are distinguished by the names of "East Hollow," "Hell Hollow" and "The Kitchen."

POPULATION OF THE TOWN.	
1810.....	3,000
1820.....	3,751
1830.....	3,248
1840.....	2,088
1850.....	2,011
1860.....	1,800
1870.....	1,901
1880.....	1,870

## Troy Daily Times.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 30, 1890.

### TOWN OF EAST GREENBUSH.

THE GREAT FOREST EXTENDING TO CANADA.

THE BUILDING OF A FORT AT PAEPSKNEE.

AN OLD DUTCH KIRKEN BOEK.

The Famous Springs of Harrowgate—The Home of Minister Genet—The Military Cantonment at Greenbush—The Establishment of Riding in a Whirligig—The Election of the Town of Clinton—Present Statistics—Population.

It was Cowper who longingly sighed:  
"O for a lodge in some vast wilderness,  
Some boundless solitude of shade,  
Where rumor of oppression and deceit,  
Might reach me no more."

The peace-loving poet no doubt believed that the somber surroundings of a great, continuous forest were protective against the evil machin-

isms of men. Had he lived in America, about the year 1689, on the east side of the Hudson river, where then, as it is said, was a vast and closely grown wood that extended from Kinderhook to Canada, perhaps, he would not have thought it a proper place for the realization of his fanciful conceptions of a contented retirement from the disturbing enmities of mankind. Through the sunless depths of this immense forest bands of horribly painted Indians and companies of hostile French soldiers sometimes secretly moved on murderous missions.

#### PAEPSKNEE ISLAND.

The first Dutch settlers who, with cleaving axes, had felled here and there, near the river, green trees of this old forest of pines, de-greened, and had upon these clearings built themselves log farm-houses, were often alarmed by the sudden incursions from Canada of massacring bodies of savages and revengeful French soldiery.

Opposite the mainland now known as East Greenbush, at a close remove from the shore, is a long island which at a quite early date had received the name of Paepsknee. This isolated piece of land, sometimes called Paepskenekeos and Paepskenece, it would seem, was selected by the Dutch people living in the vicinity as a place of refuge from the bloody tomahawks of the Indians and the capturing hands of the Canadian invaders. For at a convention held in Albany on the 4th of September "in the first year of ye Reign of our Sovereign Lord and Lady, King William and Queen Mary of Engl., France & Ireland &c Defenders of ye Faith, A.D. 1689," the following action was taken for the defense and security of the farmers living in the vicinity of Paepsknee island:

Resolved, Since there is such eminent Danger threatened by ye French of Canada and there Praying Indians to come into this Country to kill and Destroy there Majes Subjects that there be Immediately An Express sent down to Capt. Leyster and ye Rest of ye Militia officers of ye City and County of New York for assistance of one hundred men or more for ye securing of there Majes Fort and ye out Plantations of this County as also a Recruit of six hundred weight of Powder and four hundred Bale viz to 200 Two Pounders and 200 four Pounders with some match & one hundred hand grenades out of there Majes Stores and two hundred Pounds out of there Majes Revenue which we understand is daily collected by there Majes Service for ye Securing ye frontier Parts of this County from any incursions of sd Indians or French.

Resolved, That there be a fort made at Paepsknee in ye most convenient Place & ye Magistrate abrah Claes van Patten marte Cornelis gerik cybertson & ye inhabitants of Paepsknee make ye same for there security to retreat into upon occasion & that allet tryckman & John Beckman see it effected.

#### THE FIRST DUTCH CHURCH.

For a long time after the settlement of the territory now included within the town of East Greenbush the farmers and their families were in the habit of attending religious worship at the Dutch church in Albany. When, however, the community of farmers was large enough for the organization of a congregation, the settlers were gathered together and a society formed, which took the name of the Reformed Protestant Dutch church of Greenbush. This was done in the year 1787. The first pastor of this rural

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church was the Rev. Jacobus Van Campen Romeyn, who, being licensed by the synod of the Dutch Reformed church of New York, October 5, 1787, began his pastorate in February, 1788. Shortly after the passage of the state law in regard to the incorporation of churches, this congregation took the necessary steps to comply with the legal enactment. As stated in the preamble of the legal certificate of the meeting held for this purpose the proceedings of the members of the church were according to "an act making such alterations in the act for incorporating religious societies as to render the same more convenient to the Reformed Protestant Dutch congregations, passed the 7th day of March, 1788. The meeting was held in the church at Greenbush, in the county of Albany, on the 12th of August, 1788. The Rev. Jacobus Van Campen Romeyn, minister; Christopher Yates, Abraham Ostrander and Peter M. Van Buren, elders; and Abraham Cooper, Kasparus Witbeck and John E. Lansing, deacons, were then and there, by virtue of the said act, organized as "The minister, elders and deacons of the Reformed Protestant Dutch church of Greenbush."

#### AN OLD CHURCH BOOK.

The records of the congregation of this date are still preserved in the church book, which is written in "black Dutch." On the title-page is the following:

Kerken Boek  
van het  
Gemeene Hys  
Bekende een register van gedogte, huwelijck, bekenissen, handelingen, etc., begonnen door,  
Jacobus Van Campen Romeyn,  
Predikant van de nedrige Gemeenten van het  
Gemeene Hys en Schodack. Anno 1788.  
[The church book of Greenbush, containing a register of baptisms, marriages, services, proceedings, etc., begun by Jacobus Van Campen Romeyn, preacher of low German at Greenbush and Schodack. Year 1788.]

Among the first members of the church were Anthony Abrams, Nancy Abrams, Andries Bartel, Hendrick Brezes, William Buswell, Peter Dingman, Peter Fonda, Abraham Lansing, Dirk Hansen, Samuel Hitecock, Hendrick Hollenbeck, John Holliday, Matthew Holliday, Thomas Mesick, Stephen Muller, Francis Ott, James Patten, Jacobus Salsbury, Jonathan Salsbury, Joseph Salsbury, John Schermerhorn, Robert Scharp, Jeremiah Shano, Johannes Spoor, Christian Spring, Adam Tod, Benjamin Van den Bergh, Cornelius Van Buren, Isaac Van der Pool, Jonathan T. Witbeck, Peter W. Witbeck and Tobias Witbeck.

The various pastors of this church since its organization have been the following: 1783-89, the Rev. J. V. C. Romeyn; 1801-11, the Rev. J. L. Zabriske; 1811-13, the Rev. I. Lahagt; 1814-22, the Rev. N. J. Marselis; 1822-23, the Rev. B. C. Taylor; 1824-29, the Rev. A. H. Dumont; 1830-34, the Rev. J. A. Liddell; 1834-42, the Rev. E. P. Stinson; 1842-49, the Rev. J. R. Talmage; 1851-55, the Rev. P. Q. Wilson; 1856-77, the Rev. W. Anderson; 1877 to date, the Rev. John Steele, D. D.

The site of the old church edifice was near that of the present one. Although services



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were held in the old one as early as 1788, it was not completed for a number of years afterward. On February 10, 1794, the committee of the house of assembly to whom was referred the petition of a number of the members of the church for an act permitting them to create a lottery to raise money to complete the church, reported against granting the petition. The second church edifice was built in 1860 and dedicated in 1861. The church has a large and active membership, and an excellent Sunday school.

#### THE TOWN OF GREENBUSH.

The territory which is now known as East Greenbush, on April 10, 1792, was designated by the legislature as part of the town of Rensselaerwyck at that time. The Tienken kill, or Mill creek, rises in the town of East Greenbush and flows into the Hudson, opposite Albany, by a meandering course of seven miles. Moordener's creek, having its source in the town of Sandlake, flows through the southeast part of the town and empties into the Hudson, at Castleton. Along the Hudson, opposite Albany, the land belonging to East Greenbush rises to elevations varying from 100 to 300 feet. A high hill, conspicuous to an observer looking eastward from the new capitol building in Albany, is known by the name of Ponokose, a name said to have been given it by an old Stockbridge Indian. Eastwardly from the bluffs along the river the surface spreads into a rolling upland, rising gradually toward the eastern boundaries of the town. The soil is composed of gravel, sand and clay, and is quite fertile.

#### THE HARROWGATE SPRING.

In 1799, about half a mile from the Greenbush ferry, a spring of water was found, which was deemed a discovery of no little importance at the time. Having mineral properties similar to the famous Harrowgate springs, 20 miles west of York city, England, and valuable to persons having diseases of the skin, scrofula and gout, this spring was designated by the same name, which it retains to the present day. A suitable building was erected for visitors seeking the use of the water. Until the war of 1812 this spring attracted considerable attention, but when in 1812 a military encampment was formed near it, the frequenters gradually decreased, and the establishment lost favor with the public. In 1822 a second effort was made to popularize the spring by the erection of bathing houses and other accommodations, but the project was a failure.

#### THE HOME OF GENET.

The name of Edmund Charles Genet at the close of the eighteenth century was a very familiar one to the people of the United States. He had been sent from France in December, 1793, as minister plenipotentiary and consul-general to this country. The aversion of the people of the United States, engendered by the war of the revolution, toward Great Britain, had not been much abated, and the sympathy of the people toward France was still generous and affectionate. When the French republic de-

clared war against England, Washington, as president, was obliged to issue in 1793 a proclamation enjoining strict neutrality on the part of the United States. Genet, misled by the enthusiastic reception given him on his arrival in this country, immediately began to use his influence to excite the people into a state of opposition to this proclamation. He went so far as to fit out vessels and to commission officers in America to sail the high seas in quest of British shipping. In these measures, it is said, he was supported by an opposition party, or as it began to be called, the Democratic party, which now undertook, under the direct management of Genet and in imitation of the associated parties in France, to form democratic societies throughout the United States. At the desire of President Washington the French minister was superseded. In 1794 Genet married Cornelia Tappan, daughter of Gov. George Clinton, and settled on a farm, at Jamaica, L. I. In March, 1810, his wife died, after which, he took up his residence in the town of Greenbush, now East Greenbush, where he purchased a farm and lived for the most part of his life until the day of his death. His residence was known as Prospect hill, and was south of a small stream called Mill brook, in district No. 1, and west of the Boston and Albany railroad. The Genet homestead is now owned and occupied as a summer residence by Nelson Davenport of Troy. In 1814 Genet married his second wife, Martha Brandon Osgood. In 1816 he removed to New York, but returned to his farm in Greenbush in 1818. Ex-Minister Genet was taken sick on July 3, 1824, in consequence of getting wet in a rain while going to attend a meeting of an agricultural society of which he was president, and before which he was to deliver an address. His illness continued until the 14th of the month, when, at 10 o'clock in the evening, he died.

#### THE TOWN OF GENET.

In the burial ground in the rear of the Dutch church in East Greenbush is the grave of ex-Minister Genet. The slab which marks his grave bears the following inscription:

Under this Humble Stone are interred the remains of Edmund Charles Genet, Late Adjutant-General, Minister Plenipotentiary and Consul-General from the French Republic to the United States of America. He was born at Verailles, Parish of St. Louis, in France, Jan. 8, 1763, and died at Prospect Hill, Town of Greenbush, July 14, 1824. Driven by the storms of the revolution to the shades of retirement, he devoted his talents to his adopted country, where he cherished the love of liberty and virtue. The pursuits of literature and science cultivated his peaceful soul, and he devoted his life to usefulness and benevolence. His last moments were, like his life, an example of fortitude and true Christian philosophy. His heart was love and friendship's sun, which has set on this transitory world to rise with radiant splendor beyond the grave.

By the side of his grave are the tombs of his two wives.

#### THE UNITED STATES CANTONMENT.

In the month of May, 1812, the United States government purchased about 300 acres of land, one mile and a half east of the village of Greenbush, for the purpose of using it as a military post, for the organization of recruited men into regiments, for service in

the war against Great Britain then existing. The persons conveying the tract of land to the government were Henry Ward, Thomas Leggett, James Thompson, Samuel Danton and James Head. After the purchase had been made it was discovered that an exclusive title had not been obtained to the property. A deed, however, was some time afterward given by Stephen Van Rensselaer, which secured the full right of the land to the United States. Maj.-Gen. Dearborn, the commandant of the post, began at once the erection of the necessary buildings. Eight frame buildings, known as the barracks, each 332 1/2 feet, two stories high, with basements, were erected, four on each side of the parade ground, which occupied a space of half a mile in width. Four buildings, 90 feet in length, two stories high, for officers' quarters, were also built, on opposite sides of the parade ground. Two large buildings for the use of the commissary department, a fire proof arsenal, built of brick, three large structures, two stories high and 90 feet long, for the general's headquarters, hospital and medical departments were erected on an eminence commanding a view of the surrounding country. Other buildings for shelter for men, horses and cattle were constructed upon the ample grounds of this large farm.

#### RIDING IN THE WHIRLIGIG.

It is said that the commanding general was a man of many eccentricities. To him is attributed, perhaps, without any authoritative proof, the construction of an instrument of punishment called a whirligig. It was a rudely-made box or cage, faced with slats, that could be revolved with rapidity around an upright post that passed through it. The person to be punished for the commission of an offense was put in it, his hands being first secured to the upper part of the box, which was whirled around the post. The exposed position of the offender thus being punished, it is said, never failed to attract the idle crowd of hangers-on about the cantonment. The rapid revolutions of the box soon, it is said, caused extreme giddiness, and prevented the person subjected to this punishment from retaining an upright position, but who was kept from falling by the firm fastening which retained his hands.

The Greenbush cantonment, had accommodations for over 5,000 troops. The elevated position of the camp, sometimes called "Mount Madison," was thought at first to be a very healthy one; but during the first year much sickness occurred. After the treaty of peace of 1815, very few soldiers were stationed at the post, and finally, on May 2, 1831, the property was sold by the government to Hathorn McCulloch of Albany, who made the place his residence until his death. The property in 1843 was divided, one part of which is the now the property of William A. McCulloch, son of Hathorn McCulloch, and the remainder is retained by the latter's grandchildren, William H. Kirtland, Albert B. Kirtland and Mrs. A. G. Genet.

#### THE TOWN OF CLINTON.

The town of East Greenbush was first known

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by the name of Clinton. The board of supervisors of Rensselaer county, in answer to a petition of more than 12 freeholders of the town of Greenbush, granted the erection of the town of Clinton, on the 23d of February, 1856. Following the description of the boundaries of the town of North Greenbush, which was erected at the same time, are the following words describing the limits of the town of Clinton:

All the remaining part of the town of Greenbush, excepting that part thereof embraced within the present limits of the village of Greenbush, and bounded northerly by the southern boundary line of said village and the southern boundary line of the above-named town of North Greenbush, hereby erected; easterly and southerly by the present easterly and southerly boundary lines, respectively, of the town of Greenbush; and westerly by the present westerly boundary line of the town of Greenbush, and the easterly boundary line of said village, is hereby erected and constituted a new and separate town by the name of Clinton.

The first annual meeting in the said town of Clinton hereby erected shall be held at the house of William R. DeForest, in East Greenbush, in said town of Clinton hereby erected. Said meeting shall be held on the first Tuesday of April, 1856, and annually thereafter, at such places as a majority of the electors of said town shall determine. Frederick R. Rockefeller, John J. Sitter and Philip L. Ryedorph, three electors of said town of Clinton hereby erected, are hereby designated, whose duty it shall be to preside at the first annual meeting in the respective towns as aforesaid, appoint a clerk, open and keep the polls, and exercise the same powers as justices of the peace when presiding at town meetings.

#### THE FIRST TOWN OFFICERS.

The first annual town meeting, as ordered, was held at the place appointed, on April 3, 1856. The following persons were selected officers of the town of Clinton:

Supervisor, Frederick R. Rockefeller; town clerk, William R. DeForest; assessors, Barney Hoes, David DeForest, Jr., Martin D. DeForest; commissioner of highways, David Phillips; overseers of the poor, Adam Bing, John W. Craver; justices of the peace, Andrew L. Wetherway, Frederick Rockefeller, Thomas E. Simmons, William Holeapple; superintendent of common schools, Henry J. Genet; collector, Harris N. Elliot; constables, Henry Ostrander, Frederick B. Comber, Jacob Baring, Harris N. Elliot; inspectors of election, A. B. Kirtland, Leonard L. Ryedorph; poundmasters, John W. Craver, W. R. DeForest, Victor G. Carr.

The act to change the name of the town of Clinton, in the county of Rensselaer, to that of East Greenbush, was passed April 14, 1858.

#### THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

For some time previous to the organization of the Methodist Episcopal church of the village of East Greenbush in 1875, the people of this denomination had been in the habit of assembling together in private houses for religious worship. The first regular pastor of this church was the Rev. Joseph Zwiefel, who served from 1875-77; the Rev. J. S. Bridgeford, 1877-1878; 1878 to date the Rev. Charles W. Rowley. The society possesses a very commodious church in the village of East Greenbush.

#### THE VILLAGE OF EAST GREENBUSH.

The only village in the town is that of East Greenbush, which is situate very near the middle of the southern boundary line of the town. The present population of the village is 101 persons. Twenty-five houses comprise the number of buildings in the village. There are two churches, one hotel, one store, one blacksmith shop and one paint shop in the



place. A postoffice was established here, February 28, 1835.

POPULATION OF THE TOWN.	1855	1860	1870	1880	1890
1855	1,606	1,606	1,606	1,606	1,606
1860	1,607	1,607	1,607	1,607	1,607
1870	1,608	1,608	1,608	1,608	1,608
1880	1,609	1,609	1,609	1,609	1,609
1890	1,610	1,610	1,610	1,610	1,610

## Crop Daily Times.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, SEPT. 24, 1880.

### TOWN OF POESTENKILL.

#### DOMESTIC FEATURES OF SLAVERY.

##### Remarkable Fidelity of Family Servants.

##### The Emancipation Act—First Settlers of the Town—The Election of Religious Officers—The Organization of Religious Societies—Population Statistics.

The elements of a quiet, unpretentious existence are peculiarly associated with country life. The isolation which the occupancy of a broad acreage of land establishes naturally affects the disposition and character of those who live surrounded by the continuous solitude of the fields in which they plough, sow and reap. The rural tranquility of their homes is seldom disturbed by the excitements of sudden and novel occurrences which so frequently quicken the pulse of the inhabitants of cities. The self-same, commonplace round of daily toil, changing only its phases with the recurring seasons, engages the thought of him who drives his team afield at the first rosy blush of the eastern sky and weary returns to the sheltering roof of his home when night begins to robe the earth with its dusky garments. The incidents of country life glow with no great significance upon the page of history. It is only now and then that the beauty and simplicity of humble farm life attract us when they are charmingly portrayed in the gentle songs of Burns, in the melancholy meditations of Gray, or in the tender thoughts of Wordsworth.

The ownership of slaves by the early settlers of the manor of Rensselaerwyck was in its domestic relationship, about the close of the last century, a peculiar feature of the households of many farmers living along the Poestenkill at that time.

**SLAVERY IN THE MANOR OF RENSSELAERWYCK.** The emancipation of negro and mulatto slaves, in the state of New York, was due to the enactment of a law passed by the legislature March 17, 1817, by which every negro, mulatto or mustee within the state, born before the 4th of July, 1790, should be free from and after the 4th of July, 1827. By a former law it was provided that all persons born of slave parents after July 4, 1790, were born free, the males being required to do service until they were 27 years of age, and the females until they were

25 years of age.

In the entertaining book entitled the "Memories of an American Lady," by Mrs. Grant, an allusion is made to the possession of slaves in the manor of Rensselaerwyck, and the care and affection that were bestowed upon those who by dutiful service had endeared themselves to the members of the family in which they had been reared. The writer remarks:

When a negro woman's child attained the age of three years it was solemnly presented the first New Year's day following to a son or daughter, or other young relative of the family who was of the same sex with the child so presented. The child to whom the young negro was given immediately presented it with some piece of money and a pair of shoes; and from that day the strongest attachment grew between the domestic and the destined owner.

##### THE FIDELITY OF SLAVES.

I have nowhere met with instances of friendship more tender and generous than that which here subsisted between the slaves and their masters and mistresses. Extraordinary proofs of them have been when a young man and his slave have gone to the trackless woods together, in the case of fire, loss of a canoe, and other casualties happening near hostile Indians. The slave has been known, at the imminent risk of his life, to carry his disabled master through unrequited wilds, with labor and fidelity scarce creditable; and the master has been equally tender on similar occasions of the humble friend who stands closer than a brother; who was baptised at the same baptism, nurtured under the same roof, and often rocked in the same cradle with himself.

These gifts of domestics to the younger members of the family were not irrevocable; yet they were very rarely withdrawn. If the kitchen family did not increase in proportion to that of the master, young children were purchased from some family where they abounded to furnish those attached to the rising progeny. They were never sold without consulting their mother, who, if expert and sagacious, had a great deal to say in the family, and would not allow her children to go into any family with whose domestics she was not acquainted. These negro women pinned themselves on teaching their children to be excellent servants, well knowing servitude to be their lot for life, and that it could only be sweetened by making themselves particularly useful and exelling in their department. If they did their work well it is astonishing, when I recollect it, what liberty of speech was allowed to those active and pious mothers. They would chide, reprove and expostulate in a manner that we would not endure from our hired servants; and sometimes exert fully as much authority over the children of the family as the parents, conscious that they were entirely in their power. They did not crush freedom of speech and opinion in those by whom they knew they were beloved, and who watched with incessant care over their interest and comfort. Affectionate and faithful as these home-bred servants were in general, there were some instances (but very few) of those who, through levity of mind, or a love of idleness, betrayed their trust or habitually neglected their duty. In these cases, after every means had been used to reform them, no severe punishments were inflicted at home. But the terrible sentence, which they dreaded worse than death, was passed—they were sold to Jamaica. The necessity of selling them was bewailed by the whole family as a most dreadful calamity, and the children were carefully watched on their way to New York lest they should evade the sentence by self-destruction.

##### EARLY SETTLERS OF POESTENKILL.

Some time previous to the revolutionary war a number of farms of the territory, now belonging to the town of Poestenkill, but then to the manor of Rensselaerwyck, was obtained by settlers by lease from the patron of the manor. The names of these early farmers and of a few who followed them at later dates, before the close of the century, were: J. Berringer, T. Berringer, Johannes Burger, Peter Clapper, Craver Coons, J. Coons, C. Cooper, P. Cooper, W. Cooper, David J. De Frost, N. Fulman, P. Heynes, A. Homoecker, B. Ives, LARSEN Ives,

W. Kilmer, J. Leibbitt, Archelus Lynd, P. Link, S. Muller, E. Nightart, Grant Peck, Wm. Peck, Barent Polock, W. Seamon, C. Sluyter, E. Strouk and J. Sater, Jr.

##### THE TOWN ERECTED.

By "an act for the division of the town of Sand Lake, and to erect the town of Poestenkill," passed by the legislature March 2, 1848, the town of Poestenkill was created. Its bounds were:

Beginning at the northeast corner of the town of Greenbush, running thence east along the south line of the town of Brunswick and Grafton, to the northwest corner of the town of Berlin; thence southerly along the west line of the town of Berlin, four miles to the south line of the eighth range of lots in the Middletown survey, in the line of lots known as numbers 123 and 134; thence west along the line of said range of lots to the north side of the dwelling house of John Peck; thence west to the intersection of the roads, about four rods easterly from the Troy and Sand Lake turnpike toll gate; thence westerly to the north side of the dwelling house of Conrad Reichard and Andrew Link and to the Greenbush line; thence northerly along the east line of the town of Greenbush, to the place of beginning, shall be and is hereby erected into a separate town by the name of Poestenkill, and the first town meeting shall be held on the first Tuesday in April next, at the inn of Jeremiah Becker, in the said town of Poestenkill.

##### FIRST TOWN OFFICERS.

At the first town meeting, held at the house of J. L. Becker, on the 4th of April, 1848, the following persons were elected the first town officers:

Supervisor, James Henderson, Jr.; town clerk, David Lise; superintendent of common schools, Eleazer Flint; assessors, John I. Vosburgh, Benjamin B. Randall, Harmon Vanderzee; commissioners of highways, Barnum Welles, Stephen Austin; justices of the peace, George Cottrell, George Barker, Benjamin Wilkerson; overseers of the poor, Christian C. Cooper, Samuel Cooke; constables, John Barker, Alonso Whyland, William Cooper, John F. Whyland; collector, John Barker; scaler of weights and measures, James D. Simons.

##### THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

The first society of Baptists in the town was organized in 1814. The meetings of the society were first held in a building formerly a wagon-maker's shop, standing on the highway about a mile west of East Poestenkill. The present house of worship was erected about the year 1850, in East Poestenkill. Among the names of the pastors so administered to this society are those of: Alderman Baker, Joseph Rogers, Peter Ambrose and Edwin Westcott. The present pastor is the Rev. Charles S. Catlin.

##### THE FRANKEN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The congregation which assumed the name of the Franken Evangelical Lutheran church of Poestenkill, dates its organization from the 11th day of August, 1833. The formation of this religious society was due to the active ministrations of the Rev. J. D. Lawyer. At the time of its organization the society had 73 members. Three stations—Poestenkill, West Sand Lake and Raymertown, formed one charge. The first church, erected south of the village of Poestenkill, on the road leading thence to West Sand Lake, in 1833, was dedicated on the 13th of November of that year,

the Rev. George Lintner, D. D., and the Rev. J. D. Lawyer officiating.

The pastorate of this church has been successively filled by the following ministers: The Rev. J. D. Lawyer, August 11, 1833-38; the Rev. J. S. Robinson, April 1, 1838-39; the Rev. Isaac Kimball, July 1, 1839-40; the Rev. G. W. Porter, 1840-49; the Rev. R. Smith, Jr., 1850-57; the Rev. J. A. Roenberg, 1857-67; the Rev. John Kling, August 1, 1867-74; the Rev. H. A. Straut, 1874-77; the Rev. Silas W. Young, March 14, 1877, to date.

The present house of worship was erected in 1865, on the site of the first church, at a cost of \$8,000. It was dedicated December 24, 1865, the Revs. N. Van Alstyne, H. L. Dox, J. A. Rosenberg and M. W. Emple taking part in the service.

The present roll of membership of the church has the signatures of 120 persons. The Sunday school embraces five officers, seven teachers and 102 scholars.

##### THE FIRST FREE BAPTIST CHURCH.

The First Free Baptist society was organized about the year 1836, at which time its meetings were held at different places in the vicinity of Oak Hill. Shortly afterward the congregation erected a meeting house on Oak Hill. A second edifice was subsequently built a short distance from East Poestenkill.

Of the number of pastors of this church, the following ones may be mentioned: Elders Miller, L. B. Coleman, J. D. Howe, Isaac Hoag, Hyde, Ketcham, Van Erden and Smith, the present elder in charge. The present meeting house, erected about the year 1872, is situated a mile west of East Poestenkill.

##### CHURCH OF CHRIST.

The religious society known as the Disciples of Christ was organized at the house of Miles Clark on April 2, 1850. Among the founders of the body were Elder Dexter Moody, Francis Parsons, Durfee Read, Matthew Moody, Marvin Moody, Miles Clark, Eliza Read, Sally A. Clark, Martha Read and Diana Wooster. In 1850 a frame house of worship was erected in the village of Poestenkill, which was dedicated September 20, 1850. The building cost about \$800 and had seating capacity for nearly 200 persons. The present frame building was erected in the village of Poestenkill, in 1864, at a cost of \$4,000. At its dedication August 18, 1864, Elders A. N. Gilbert, L. R. Gault, D. Moody and Chamberlain took part in the services. The present membership of the church is 109.

The following elders have served the congregation at different periods: Elders: Dexter Moody, one year; M. J. Streator, two years; L. J. Lowell, two years; Elder Parsons, two years; Elder Wakefield, one year; J. G. Starks, one year; J. H. Gordinier, three years; L. R. Gault, one year; Elder Olin, three years; Elder Reynolds, one year; J. S. Bell, three years; J. Callyean, two years; Elder Easel, two years; J. Benenstul, one year, and Elder Theodore Crooks.

##### THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Through the missionary efforts of the Rev.



George Hudson, a small congregation of Methodists was gathered near Dyking pond, on Berlin mountain, where he preached. Subsequently divine worship was held in Lewis Horton's hall, in Poestenkill. In 1872, the Rev. E. A. Blanchard was appointed to take charge of the Dyking pond congregation and the one at Poestenkill village. That year the present meeting-house at Poestenkill village was erected at a cost of \$6,500.

The following pastors have officiated in this church: The Rev. E. A. Blanchard, 1872-74; the Rev. Thomas Monroe, April 18, 1874-76; the Rev. John Sumner, 1876-78; the Rev. John W. Coons, April, 1878-80. The membership of the Poestenkill church embraces about 110 persons.

#### POESTENKILL.

The village of Poestenkill is on the Poestenkill, a stream from which it derived its name. It is somewhat west of the center of the town, and contains about 50 buildings, among which are two churches, three hotels, a grist and a saw mill and three stores. The village has about 350 inhabitants. At a quite early date in the present century the medical spring at a close remove from the village attracted the attention of invalids for its curative properties in cutaneous diseases. A number of bathing houses were erected to accommodate the people resorting to the spring. These buildings, together with a number of other structures, were subsequently swept away by a remarkable freshet in the Poestenkill, caused by a heavy fall of rain for two days. Dr. Luther H. Barber was made the first postmaster of the postoffice established at this point about the year 1835.

#### EAST POESTENKILL.

The hamlet of East Poestenkill is situated in the eastern part of the town. The place has about 100 inhabitants and contains two churches, two stores, a hotel and several shops. East Poestenkill was known at one time by the name of Columbia. Cyrus Amidon was the first postmaster of the postoffice established at this place.

#### BARBERVILLE.

Some distance east of the village of Poestenkill is Barberville, which contains about a half score of houses, a hotel, a store and one or two shops.

#### IVER'S CORNERS.

Iver's Corners is the name given to a small collection of houses near the centre of the town.

POPULATION OF THE TOWN OF POESTENKILL.			
1850.....	2,662	1870.....	1,729
1855.....	1,873	1875.....	1,227
1860.....	1,633	1880.....	1,705
1865.....	1,669		

## Troy Daily Times.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, SEPT. 17, 1880.

## TOWN OF BRUNSWICK

The First Farms Along the Poesten and Quacken Kills.

## BEAVER DAMS BUILT IN THESE STREAMS.

### The Manufacture of Black Salts.

## THE OUTRAGES OF THE ROYALISTS

### The First Town Officers—An Old Kerk—The Erection of Churches—The Villages of the Town—Population.

That portion of the manor of Rensselaerwyck lying immediately east of the territory now the site of the city of Troy was occupied by a number of settlers as early as the year 1730. The farm of Derick Van der Heyden at that time extended from the Hudson river eastwardly to the west side of the land of Albert Bratt. The latter's property embraced the extensive plateau of ground on the eastern range of high lands, beginning at the old mill on the Poestenkill southwest of Ida falls and continuing to the woods east of Meadow creek, a stream which emptied into the Hudson a little north of the old Hoosick road. The farm house of Albert Bratt was on the north side of the road running eastwardly over the hill from Van der Heyden's ferry, afterwards the home of Baront Bratt.

#### THE NAMES OF OTHER EARLY SETTLERS.

The names given on the map of the manor of Rensselaerwyck, made by Jon R. Bleecker in 1767, designate other early settlers who had secured land from the patroon by lease. On the south side of the road leading to Van der Heyden's ferry, not far south of the farm of Baront Bratt, lived Wilhelmus Smith, and southward of his farm, on the south side of the Poestenkill, Peter Fonda. Very near the site of Winne's hotel, on Oakwood avenue, was the homestead of Lavinus Winne. A short distance to the northeast of the latter was the dwelling of Henry Van Arneem. Northward were the farms of Peter Hoewey and Robert Wendell. Adam Beem and Frans Hogg had farms northwest of the beaver dam. David Benn and Melger Pret northeast of it, along the west side of the ferry road. West of the drowned land, *Verdronken land*, were the farms of Hans Muller and Jacob Quackenbos. North of the drowned land lived Hans Heyner.

#### THE HOME OF THE BEAVER.

Among the places frequented by the beaver when the Dutch first established a trading post at Fort Orange were the Poestenkill and its tributary streams. A number of well-preserved dams thrown up by these fur-bearing animals were still visible in the town of Brunswick at the beginning of the present century. It was along these water courses that the Mohican Indians had trapped the beavers, the skins of which they exchanged for small trifles with Henry Hudson, when in 1609, this famous English navigator explored the river which now bears his

name, as far as its confluence with the Mohawk.

#### BLACK SALTS, POT AND PEARL ASH.

Besides the products of their farms the early settlers of the upper Hudson sold to manufacturers of pot and pearl ash in Troy and Albany the ashes of the green wood, especially that of oak, which they obtained by burning the non-resinous trees of the great forests which surrounded their cultivated land. The farmers of the town of Brunswick were first induced to bring their ashes to Vander Heyden's ferry in 1787, when Benjamin Thaurber built his potashery near the forks of the Hoosick and River roads, and advertised that he "continues to receive ashes, as usual, to supply his new erected pot and pearl ash factory, and will pearl black salts in the best manner on equitable terms; and will give the highest price for black salts."

When Duke de la Rochefoucault-Liancourt visited Troy, in 1795, and mentioned in his description of the new settlement its potash works, then belonging to Ten Eyck and Pawling, he further wrote:

I shall here insert such information as I have collected on the manner of preparing this salt which is generally observed in the United States. This alkaline salt is extracted from common ashes after they have been previously purified from all heterogeneous matter. It is obtained by solution and evaporation. Large tubs with double bottoms are filled with ashes; the uppermost bottom, which contains several holes, is covered with ashes, about 10 or 12 inches deep, while the under part of the tub is filled with straw or hay. Water being poured over the ashes extracts the particles of salt and discharges all the heterogeneous matter, which it may yet contain on the layer of hay or straw. The lye is drawn off by means of a cock, and if it should not yet have attained a sufficient degree of strength, it is poured again over the ashes. The lye is deemed sufficiently strong when an egg swims on it. This lye is afterwards boiled in large cauldrons, which are constantly filled out of other cauldrons in which lye is likewise boiling. Then the lye begins to thicken in the cauldron until all the aqueous particles are separated and the whole is completely inspissated and endurated. This salt is of a black color and called black potash. The process of preparing the potash requires more or less time, according to the quality of the ashes and the lye, and to the degree of strength of the latter; the medium time is 34 hours.

By a general estimate from 600 to 600 bushels of ashes yield a ton of potash. Pearl ash is potash purified by calcination. To this end the potash is put into a kiln constructed in an oval form of plaster of Paris; the inside of which being made otherwise perfectly close, is horizontally intersected by an iron grate, on which the potash is placed. Under this grate a fire is made, and the heat reverberated by the arched upper part of the kiln completes the calcination, and converts the potash into pearl ash.

#### TORTISE RAMPANT.

Peculiar to this portion of the manor of Rensselaerwyck a great number of the earlier settlers were Germans. When Burgoyne invaded the province of New York, in the summer of 1777, many of them, on account of their national relationship to the Hessians, hired by British money to take an armed and offensive part against the Americans, manifested extreme partisanship toward the royal cause, which soon stirred up among the patriotic supporters

of the continental rebellion considerable ill-will. On the closer approach of the English forces many of the loyal farmers fled to Albany, and the royalists, believing that the English crown was about to conquer the rebellious Americans, committed many transgressions, both in the way of personal insults, appropriation and depredation of property. It is related that Abner Roberts, who belonged to the army of the North, was waylaid, murdered and scalped on the old Hoosick road, a short distance from Troy, by the Tories as they were called. When, however, Burgoyne was forced to surrender to Gates at old Saratoga, (Schuylerville), these royalists were forced to flee to Canada, from which they never dared to return to enter again into the possession of their deserted farms.

#### TOWN OF BRUNSWICK ERECTED.

By "an act to divide the towns of Troy and Petersburg, in the county of Rensselaer," passed by the state legislature March 20, 1807, the town of Brunswick was erected. The boundary lines of the town are thus given:

All that part of the present town of Troy, bounded on the west by the town of Lansingburgh and Troy aforesaid, and on the east by a line to commence on the north line of said town of Troy, seven miles and one-third of a mile east of the southeast corner of the town of Lansingburgh; thence southerly in a straight line to intersect the north line of the town of Greenburgh, seven miles and one-third of a mile east of the southeast corner of the town of Troy; shall be a separate town by the name of Brunswick; and the first town meeting shall be held at the dwelling house of Nathan Betts.

A portion of the town was added to the town of Troy April 15, 1814.

#### THE FIRST TOWN OFFICERS.

In accordance with the act of the legislature the first town meeting was held on the first Tuesday in April, 1807, at the house of Nathan Betts, inn holder. Robert McChesney, Daniel Wagar and John McManus, presiding justices. The following persons were elected town officers:

Supervisor, Flores Bancker; town clerk, Daniel Wagar; assessors, south-east district, Daniel Simmons, north-east district, Gilbert Alexander, western district, Lavinus Leverage; collector, Bernard J. Wagar; overseers of the poor, Daniel Simmons, Augustus Burdick; commissioners of highways, Augustus Burdick, John Filkins, Isaac Bucklin; constables, Thomas Betts, G. Y. Goewey, John Filkins, John Wilson, Andrew Myers, Daniel Kiser, Bernard J. Wagar, Abner Roberts; fence-viewers, John Wheeler, Frederick Myers, John Wagar, John P. Goewey, John H. Shaver; pound masters, Gilbert J. Travers, Hiram Clowes; commissioners of schools, Robert McChesney, Flores Bancker, Lemuel Hawley; overseers of highways, Abraham Roberts, Nathan Betts, George Brust, Isaac Filkins, George Oppenry, Daniel Van Pelt, Benjamin Brewster, John Dick, Jacob J. Wagar, William Smith, Water McChesney, Michael Phillips, Philip H. Conradt, Henry Conradt, Cornelius Dubois, Lemuel Hawley and Moses Buschultz.

#### GILEAD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AT CENTER BRUNSWICK.

The first religious society organized in this part of the manor of Rensselaerwyck was one known as the congregation of the Gilead Lutheran church. In the "kerkenording" or constitution of this congregation, 1777, it is stated that a log church had been built about the year 1757, where now is the village of Hayner.



ville. The erection of a second church was begun in 1777, because the members were fearful that the old edifice "might fall down and kill" them. It is said that the first pastor of the church on account of his changed views of church polity joined the church of England. The Rev. Samuel Schwerdtfeger, in 1768, was called from Frederick, Md., to the pastorate of the Gilead Lutheran church, in which office he remained for 24 years. While he served this congregation the members were divided into two parties, one favoring the revolutionary acts of the people of America and the other espousing the royal cause. No little anarchy existed at this time in this society, and the denomination suffered very much from local disturbances. The frame church building, the erection of which began in 1777, was not finished until 1783. This second house of worship was built between the old log church and the burial ground. Samuel Collamer is said to have done some of the carpenter work of the new church. John Barnett, Jacob Wager, Jr., Casper Frats and Sebastian Lohms were then the church council. The parson, it is said, presented to the congregation as a free gift 114 acres of land, a part of which was occupied by the two church sites and the burial ground. The first church and parsonage grounds are now the property of Charles Mickel. The present church is situated about a mile west of Croproville and east of Brunswick Centre.

The certificate of incorporation, filed in the Rensselaer county clerk's office, states that at a meeting of the members of the congregation, held on the 15th of June, 1790, at their meeting house called Gilead in Rensselaerwyck, Bastian Lohms, John Hanor and John Godfrey Knauff were elected trustees of the church. To this document Nicholas Bonesteel and Albertus Seymour, as elders and church wardens, set their hands and seals on the 21st of July, 1790. Among the early members of the church were: John Barnett, Johannes Bergman, Christopher Beckman, Albert Bratt, Jacob Bratt, James, John and Thomas Burnside, Jacob Clipperty, Heinrich Conrad, Henry and Johannes Dader, Philip and Andor Derk, John Ferguson, John Gerhard, Heinrich Gross, John Gunther, Conrad and Johannes Halner, Abraham Kunz, George Klockner, Petrus Loose, John McChesney, Duncan McMullen, Adam Ostrander, Bernhard Polak, Abner and Abraham Roberts, Laurentius Schneider, Jacob Schmidt, Johannes Straub, Wilhelm Van Alstyne, Hermann Van Baehren, Jacob Waeger, Petrus and Laurentius Weiderwaks.

In 1817 a third church edifice was erected, and on its site a new church was built at a cost of \$13,000 in 1825.

The pastors who have successively served this congregation are the following: The Rev. Samuel Schwerdtfeger, 1768-92; the Rev. Frederick Meier, 1791-94; the Rev. George Seigmund Lieblein, 1794-95; the Rev. George Joseph Wichterman, 1795-1801; the Rev. Anthon Theodore Braun, 1802-12; the Rev. John Bach-

man, D. D., L.L.D., 1814-15; the Rev. John Molther, 1815-16; the Rev. William McCarthy, 1816-21; the Rev. John R. Goodman, 1821-23; the Rev. Jacob L. Sanderling, D. D., 1823-23; the Rev. David Kline, 1823-24; the Rev. Philip A. Strobel, 1824-28; the Rev. P. M. Ristmyer, 1828-71; the Rev. Alonzo P. Ludden, 1871-75; the Rev. J. Nelson Barnett, 1875-80.

The present roll of the membership of this flourishing church contains about 300 names.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BRUNSWICK.**  
Through the zealous interest of the Rev. Jonas Coe of the First Presbyterian church of Troy the first Presbyterian society of Brunswick was organized. At a meeting held on the 11th of June, 1809, over which he presided, the following resolutions were passed:

First, That all proper measures be adopted as speedily as possible to obtain the preaching of the gospel in this town in the English language in a regular and stated manner, as we have already lived too long without it.

Second—Resolved, That Francis Collison, Reuben Merriman, Hiram Clowes, William Bidwell, Samuel De La Mater and John Filkins be appointed a committee for making funds and procuring a preacher as soon as convenient, and they are authorized to treat with the Rev. John Keys of Sand Lake and with the trustees of that congregation for one-fourth of his time to be appropriated here should he be settled there.

A subscription paper was then circulated which read as follows:

We, the subscribers in the town of Brunswick, in the county of Rensselaer, being desirous of having the Gospel of Christ preached among us, do hereby promise to pay to Francis Collison, Reuben Merriman, Hiram Clowes, William Bidwell, Samuel De La Mater and John Filkins the several sums annexed to our respective names yearly, for the term of five years, in quarterly payments for the Rev. John Keys, to preach one-fourth part of the time for the said term of five years in the town of Brunswick, at such place or places as a majority of the subscribers shall deem proper in said town, or on the borders of adjoining towns.

This paper, it is said, bears the signatures of 63 persons, the total amount subscribed being \$115.57, the largest subscription written was 88 and the smallest 37 cents, made "by the widow."

At a meeting held September 25, 1809, it was determined that meetings should be held on Sundays, in the school house near the residence of Matthias Abbott. It was in this building that the Rev. John Keys began his ministry, in this pastorate in the fall of 1809.

In the following year on the 23d of July, 1810, a meeting was held "at the usual place of public worship in the vicinity of Matthias Abbott's" house, for the purpose of electing trustees for incorporating the congregation, which was to be distinguished by the name of the "First Presbyterian society of Brunswick." The trustees elected were William Bidwell, Matthias Abbott, Walter McChesney, James Cox, Jr., and Francis Collison.

About the beginning of the year 1812 the erection of a frame house of worship was begun upon ground offered to the congregation by Matthias Abbott, at the meeting held in July, 1810. William Bidwell having taken the contract of building the church, so far completed it that on Sunday, June 31, 1812, the Rev. John Keys preached for the first time in the pulpited building to a large congregation.

The edifice was finished early in the year 1813, at a cost of about \$1,500. Shortly after the Rev. John Keys ended his connection with the society, May 1, 1813, the church became disorganized. A reorganization, however, was effected on Thursday, July 11, 1816, when 17 persons having certificates of dismissal from the First Presbyterian church of Troy, elected John Hutton, J. B. Goodrich and John Abbott, ruling elders. The Rev. John Younglove, who had for several months previously been filling the vacant pulpit of the church, was called to the pastorate. In this office he continued until December 29, 1827, when he died suddenly of heart disease.

The second certificate of incorporation of this church is dated April 9, 1825, at which time the following persons were elected trustees of "the First Presbyterian congregation of the town of Brunswick": Philip M. Coons, Philip P. Dater, George Derrick, Valentine Cropsey, John H. Lansing and Walter McChesney.

This congregation, through the generosity of the patron, Stephen Van Rensselaer, came into possession of 25 acres of land, together with a suitable building for a parsonage, June 23, 1825, the date of the deed.

In 1861 the work of remodeling the old house of worship was begun. When it was completed in 1863, the expense incurred was reported to be \$2,583.88. The church is about one mile south of Croproville. The pastors who served the congregation after the death of the Rev. John Younglove were the Rev. John Clayton, 1828-1830; the Rev. Leonard Johnson, 1830-33; the Rev. Gardner Hayden, 1834-49; the Rev. Joseph E. Lamb, 1852-53; the Rev. Samuel M. Wood, 1860-75; the Rev. J. V. Griswold, 1876 to date.

The present membership of this church embraces about 110 persons.

**METHODIST EPISCOPAL SOCIETY OF CENTER BRUNSWICK.**

The first Methodist society organized in the town of Brunswick was formed about the year 1834. This body for the purpose of incorporation, held a meeting on February 2, 1835, at the dwelling house of David Files, where they had been in the habit of assembling for divine worship, and elected David Files, Martin M. Hayner, Joseph Cleveland, Jacob E. Adams and Hiram Van Pelt trustees of "the Methodist Episcopal society in the town of Brunswick." The first house of worship was erected during the summer of 1836, on the Stone road, four and one-half miles from Troy. This frame building was dedicated in December 1835, the Rev. Buel Goodsell, presiding elder of the Troy district, preaching the first sermon and the Rev. Noah Levings the second on that day. The building was erected at an expense of \$1,898.50. In 1890 it was remodeled.

The following ministers have been pastors of this church: The Rev. Charles Pomeroy, 1836-37; the Rev. P. M. Hitchcock, 1838; the Rev. D. Starks, 1839-40; the Rev. D. Stevens, 1841; the Rev. Asa C. Hand, 1842; the Rev. J. R. Craig, 1843-44; the Rev. Wm. M. Frazer,

1845-46; the Rev. John Graves, 1847-48; the Rev. Charles Deroi, 1849; the Rev. M. Wilkey, 1850; the Rev. S. Tutts, 1851-52; the Rev. John Chase, 1853-54; the Rev. Wm. Smith, 1855-56; the Rev. Joseph Eames, 1857-58; the Rev. H. Chase, 1859-60; the Rev. David Osgood, 1861-62; the Rev. C. Meeker, 1863-65; the Rev. Louis N. Beaudry, 1866-68; the Rev. H. W. Stocum, 1869-72; the Rev. D. T. Elliott, 1872-74; the Rev. Wm. Clark, 1874-76; the Rev. E. A. Brumar, 1877-79; the Rev. W. L. Smith, 1880 to date.

**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT MILLYVILLE.**  
The second society of Methodists in the town of Brunswick was organized in 1849. The members of the congregation on the 24th of April of that year held a meeting to incorporate themselves as the society of the Methodist Episcopal church at Millyville, now known as Eagle Mills, by electing the following persons trustees: Adam Conrad, Lodowick Myers, Ambrose Eddy, Joseph McChesney and Edward L. Roberts.

The congregation that year began the erection of a frame house of worship at Millyville, at a cost of \$1,275, which was dedicated January 17, 1850. There are about 60 names on the roll of membership of this church. From the year 1849 until the spring of 1889 the same pastors officiated in this church as are mentioned as filling the pulpit of the Brunswick Methodist Episcopal church, beginning with the Rev. John Graves. Since his disconnection from the Brunswick church it has been connected with the Pawling avenue Methodist Episcopal church of Troy. The present pastor of the church is the Rev. W. H. Groat.

**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF EAST BRUNSWICK.**

This society was organized in that part of the town known as Rock Hollow, in 1874. The certificate of incorporation is dated March 28, 1874, at which time a meeting was held in the school house of district No. 14, it being the place where the members of the society had steadily attended divine worship. At this meeting the following persons were elected trustees of the East Brunswick Methodist Episcopal church: Levi Hayner, Jacob Housinger, Willard D. Green, Orrin McChesney and William Wager.

During the summer of 1874 a frame church building was erected, which was dedicated on the 18th of November of that year, the Rev. J. E. Bowen, presiding elder of the district, the Rev. — Whitson and the Rev. D. T. Elliott officiating. The pastors of the church have been the Rev. D. T. Elliott, one year; the Rev. W. Clark, two years; the Rev. A. E. Brumar, three years, and the Rev. W. L. Smith, the present pastor.

**CHURCH OF THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST.**

This religious society was formed December 14, 1853. For the purpose of incorporating it, a meeting was held in Millyville on the 12th day of March, 1853, at which J. H. Allen presided. The trustees elected were William Kinloch, John Welch and Henry Myers. The name



40  
adopted by the body was "the Church of the Disciples of Christ at the village of Millville." A frame church building was erected during the summer of 1833, at a cost of about \$1,200. At its dedication on the 5th of February of the following year Elder Silas E. Shepherd of New York city preached the dedicatory sermon. The pastorate of this church has been filled by the following elders since the organization of the society: Elder H. C. Parsons, Elder Bartlet, Z. P. Birdsall, Dexter Moody, Edwin Wakefield, James A. Garfield, J. H. Gardner, J. C. Stark, J. O. Cutts and J. G. Ensel.

#### EAGLE MILLS.

The village of Eagle Mills was first known as Milltown, and subsequently as Millville. It is situated on the Poesten kill, and is about four miles distant eastwardly from Troy. In 1836 it was spoken of as having a grist mill, a saw mill, a tavern, a store and 10 or 12 dwellings. Eagle Mills now embraces about 60 buildings, two of which are churches, the Methodist Episcopal and the Disciples' church, and one district school house. The valuable water power of the Poesten kill at this point makes the place important as a manufacturing centre. In 1851 Joseph H. Allen purchased the old flour mill of Sheldon, DeForest and Van Alstyne, built in 1831, and converted the building into a bit and auger factory. In 1854 the Millville manufacturing company was organized, which erected new buildings near the factory of J. H. Allen, for the purpose of making cable chains. Subsequently this property came into the possession of J. H. Allen, who began the manufacture of farming hoes in these buildings. The Planters' hoe company, represented by J. H. Allen and George T. Lane, after the close of the late civil war, was formed, which entered very largely into the manufacture of hoes in the buildings previously mentioned. Besides this manufacturing interest there are a foundry, a saw mill, three blacksmith shops and a wagonmaker's shop in the village. There are also two stores and a hotel in Eagle Mills. The population is about 500. A postoffice was established here a number of years ago.

#### CROPSVILLE.

This village, which is near the eastern bounds of the town, contains about 25 buildings and has a population of 115 persons. In the summer of 1854 a postoffice was established at this point. The business interests of the place comprise a store, a grist mill (built by Henry Clum in the latter part of the last century), a saw mill, a harness shop and two shoemaker shops. About one mile south of Cropsville is the First Presbyterian church of Brunswick, and also the parsonage.

#### BRUNSWICK CENTRE.

This hamlet is situated about the centre of the town of Brunswick, on the old Stone road. Sweet Milk creek runs through the place. Brunswick Center comprises a schoolhouse, a store and a small number of dwellings. The Gilead Evangelical Lutheran church is a short distance east of the place. A postoffice was

established here a number of years ago.

#### HAYNEVILLE.

Hayneville is in the northern part of the town. It has a postoffice. The school-house of district No. 8 is in Hayneville. A store and a wagon maker's shop comprise the business interests of the place.

#### CLUM'S CORNERS.

Clum's Corners are about half of a mile west of Cropsville. The number of people living in the immediate vicinity is about 40. At the corners are 10 dwellings, a hotel, a blacksmith shop and two wagon maker shops.

#### PLATETOWN.

This hamlet is about one and a half miles northeast of Clum's Corners. District school No. 12 is situated at this point. The place is also known by the name of Tamarac.

#### ROCK HOLLOW.

This place is about a mile northeast of Cropsville, and on the Quaken kill. The hamlet embraces about 25 buildings, a Methodist Episcopal church, a school house, a hotel, a brush block factory, a paper mill and a blacksmith shop.

#### POPULATION OF THE TOWN OF BRUNSWICK.

1810	2,308	1850	3,140
1820	2,628	1860	3,101
1830	2,318	1870	3,112
1840	2,478	1880	3,173
1850	2,575	1890	3,230
1860	2,671		
1870	2,763		
1880	2,853		

## Troy Daily Times.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, SEPT. 3, 1880.

### TOWN OF PITTSTOWN.

### THE LETTERS PATENT OF GEORGE III.

### THE TOWNSHIP NAMED IN HONOR OF WM. PITT, EARL OF CHATHAM.

### GRANT OF 2,000 ACRES ALONG THE TOMLENACK.

Provision Made for Ministers of the Gospel—Singular Dispensations of Justice—The Great Northern Turnpike—A Score of Churches—James A. Garfield Preaches at Pittstown—The Villages of the Town—Table of Population.

The first settlers of the territory lying north of Albany, on the east side of the Hudson, it would seem, were generally a very religious class of people. Whenever their number became sufficiently large to form a respectable

sized congregation, steps were at once taken to secure a minister who should steadily preach in one of the school-houses erected here and there along the roads through the newly occupied country. It sometimes occurred that in the petitions for land patents the parties desiring to obtain such proprietary rights would set forth such an intention specifically as regarded the provisions necessary to be made for religious teachers and schoolmasters. A purpose of this kind is made a special feature of what is known as the Pittstown patent, whereby an association of 62 persons obtained from the English crown about 60,000 acres of land, a part of which included the greater portion of the territory now embraced within the boundary lines of Pittstown.

#### THE PITTSTOWN PATENT.

Following the customary preamble of the sovereignty of his majesty, the king of Great Britain, etc., the instrument recites that "our loving subjects Isaac Sawyer, John R. Bleecker, Abraham Jacob Lansing" and their named associates had presented a petition on the 10th of June, 1701, in which they declared that they had purchased of the Indian proprietor four tracts of land, on the east side of Hudson's river, containing in the whole about 60,000 acres exclusive of the allowance for highways, and humbly prayed his majesty that the same might be confirmed to their use by letters patent. In this petition the petitioners proposed making an immediate settlement on part of the two largest tracts, and to settle to the number of 62 families on the whole of the land purchased within the term of three years, the time to be computed from the termination of the existing war with France, and to seat and establish a township on each of the said two large tracts, "reserving and setting apart for the support of a minister of the gospel and the maintenance of a schoolmaster in each township forever the quantity of five hundred acres of each of the said two large tracts." In answer to this petition, his majesty, George III., granted respectively to each of the petitioners 1,000 acres of the land described in the royal patent.

#### THE SECOND TRACT OF 3,700 ACRES.

The first tract mentioned lay near the Hudson river. The second began "in the north bounds of the manor of Rensselaerwyck, six chains west from a brook or creek called Tomlenack." This point was "the beginning of a certain tract of 2,000 acres of land granted to John Schuyler and Nellie Bradt." The line of the second tract ran along the bounds of the last mentioned tract to a tract of 600 acres of land formerly granted to John De Peyster, and then along this tract to the land granted to David Abrahamson Schuyler and others, and along it, and thence back to the place of beginning. This tract contained "2,700 acres of land and the usual allowance for highways." It chiefly lies in the southwestern part of the town of Pittstown.

#### THE THIRD TRACT OF 24,650 ACRES.

The third tract began "in the north bounds of the manor of Rensselaerwyck at the southeast corner of the aforesaid tract of 2,000 acres of

land granted to John Schuyler and Nellie Bradt," which southeast corner is 170 chains east from the point, "six chains west from the aforesaid brook called Tomlenack." It ran thence along the bounds of the land conveyed to John Schuyler and Nellie Bradt to the aforesaid tract of land granted John De Peyster, then along it to another tract granted to David Abrahamson Schuyler, Frederick Morris, Charles Williams, Thomas Clarke, Edward Collins and Sarah Williams, then along it and crossing one other tract granted to the latter persons and then by several courses to the north bounds of the manor of Rensselaerwyck and along this line to the place of beginning, "surrounding the greatest part of the last mentioned tract of land granted to the said David Abrahamson Schuyler and others." The third tract contained 24,650 acres of land and the usual allowance for highways. This tract is the southeastern part of the town of Pittstown.

#### KING GEORGE III. CALLS THE THIRD TRACT PITTSTOWN.

The name of Pittstown, given, it would seem, by George III. to the third tract, was in honor of William Pitt, earl of Chatham, who was at this time the leading statesman of England. The king says:

We do by our own special grace, certain knowledge and meer motion create, erect and constitute the tract or parcel of land hereunto granted and distinguished as aforesaid by the name and distinction of the third tract and every part and parcel thereof a township forever hereafter to be, continue and remain, and by the name of Pittstown. And we also ordain and establish that there shall be forever hereafter in each of the said townships, to-wit: one collector, one treasurer, two overseers of the highways, two constables elected and chosen out of the inhabitants of the said townships respectively yearly and every year, on the first Tuesday in May, at the most public place in the said townships.

#### THE CONSIDERATION MONEY.

The patentees were to pay yearly and every year at the king's custom house in the city of New York unto his receiver general, on the feast of the annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary, commonly called Lady day, the yearly rent of two shillings and six pence sterling for each and every hundred acres of these granted lands. The patent is dated July 23, 1701, the first year of the reign of George the third. Previous to this grant there was another recorded known as the Tomlenack patent.

#### THE TOMLENACK PATENT.

For the purpose of obtaining a royal patent to a certain tract of land north of Albany, on the east side of the Hudson river, John Schuyler and Joakim Bradt petitioned John Montgomery, the governor of the province of New York, July 23, 1730, for a grant of over 2,000 acres. Joakim Bradt died a short time after making this request, and the patent was then granted to John Schuyler and Nellie Bradt, being dated July 23, 1737. The line of survey began "at a certain white oak tree standing in the line of the manor of Rensselaerwyck, six chains west from the said brook called Tomlenack and running thence from the said white oak tree" by several courses to the "west corner



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of the land granted to Myndert Schuyler and company, thence east along the line of their lands," by several courses, "to the patron's line of his land there, thence along the same line west 179 chains to the place from whence the said tract or parcel of land first began, containing near 2,000 acres of land besides the usual allowance for highways."

#### THE SCHUYLER PATENT.

In the tenth year of the reign of George II., May 19, 1737, a patent of 11,350 acres of land was granted David Abrahamson Schuyler, Frederick Morris, Charles Williams, Thomas Clarke, Edward Collins and Sarah Williams. The line of survey began at the northeast corner of a tract of land previously in possession of Johannes Becker, and ran "to a certain brook called Tomhannock, then up the stream of the said brook to the said tract of land now in possession of the said Johannes Becker," etc. This the third tract was designated as being on the east side of the Tomhannock.

#### THE DE PEYSTER PATENT.

Another tract of land lying within the county of Albany, on the west side of the Hudson river "high to Schactekok," beginning at a certain marked tree standing near to the dwelling house of one Johannes Becker, and running from the said marked tree along the lines of the tract formerly granted to John De Peyster, was conveyed by patent, dated November 10, 1743, to John De Peyster, containing 1,375 acres.

#### THE HOOSICK PATENT.

The several patents previously referred to embraced the greater part of the present territory of the town of Pittstown. The northern portion of the town, along the Hoosick river, was part of the tract included in the Hoosick patent, dated June 2, 1688. Subsequently small tracts adjoining the former tracts were granted to a number of individuals.

#### THE FIRST SETTLERS.

Among the first settlers that are said to have made their homes within the territory of the different tracts were William Pendergraft, Stephen Hunt and Edmund Aiken in the vicinity of Johnsonville; Ludovicus Vele near Valley Falls, in 1772; Christian Fisher and Michael Vandercook in the Cooksborough neighborhood about the year 1772. A few years earlier William Shepard began farming on 500 acres of land lying in the township. In 1774 Moses Van Namee occupied a farm a short distance north of Pittstown Corners. Benjamin Aiken took a farm of 950 acres about 1779; Isaac Carpenter came to the town about 1784; Joseph Abbott about 1785, and Gilbert Eddy a year or two before the latter date.

#### INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PITTSOWN.

By "an act for dividing the counties of this state into towns," passed by the legislature March 7, 1788, the town of Pittstown was erected. Its boundary lines were: "All that part of the said county of Albany bounded southerly by Rensselaerwyck and Stephentown, westerly by Schactekoko, northerly by Schactekoko and Cambridge, and easterly by a line beginning at the distance of ten miles east from Hudson's river, on the north line of

Schactekoko continued east and running from thence to a place in the north bounds of Stephentown, at the distance of 13 miles from Hudson's river, shall be and hereby is erected into a town by the name of Pittstown." These lines bounding it were altered February 14, 1793. The town lies along the northern boundary line of Rensselaer county, between the towns of Schaghticoke on the west and Hoosick on the east.

#### THE FIRST TOWN OFFICERS.

The first town officers were elected at the town meeting held on the first Tuesday in April, 1789. They were: Supervisor, Israel Thompson; town clerk, Evans Humphrey; assessors, John Francisco, Harmon Vanvarter, Hazael Shepard, Benjamin Milks, John Rowan; collectors, Gilbert Eddy, Hazael Shepard; postmasters, Simon Vandercook, George Gago, Stephen Hunt; constables, Gilbert Eddy, Hazael Shepard, Aaron Van Namee, John Rowan, Jr., and Stephen Hunt.

#### A VARIETY OF VERDICTS.

It is said that at the July term of the supreme court, held in Albany in 1789, Ellihu Smeeds of Pittstown, indicted for the murder of Ezekiel Mitchell, and convicted of manslaughter, was to receive 39 lashes at the public whipping post and be imprisoned three calendar months. Six others, convicted of stealing, were condemned to receive 39 lashes each, while about the same time Francis Uss, convicted of breaking open and robbing a store in Poughkeepsie, was publicly hanged.

#### AN EARLY POST ROUTE.

In 1790, when the New York mail arrived at Albany twice a week, one of the routes taken by a post-rider distributing letters and newspapers through the country north of Albany, was the following: Leaving Albany on Monday evening for Vermont, he arrived at Pittstown on Tuesday, at Bennington, on Wednesday, at Little White Creek and Cambridge on Thursday, at Tomhannock and Schaghticoke on Friday, and at Hoosick on Saturday.

#### THE NORTHERN TURNPIKE.

Previous to the building of the northern turnpike from Troy to Vermont the following notice was given to those interested in the construction of this important thoroughfare:

Notice is hereby given that the books of the first company of the Northern turnpike road are opened, agreeably to the direction of the statute incorporating said company, and are lodged with the commissioners, at the following places, viz: At Lansingburgh, with John Lovett; at Pittstown, with John Carpenter; at Buskirk's Bridge, with Martin Van Buskirk; at Cambridge, with Edmund Wells, Jr.; at Salem, with John Williams; at Herborn, with David Long; at Granville, with Timothy Leonard. All persons desiring to subscribe for shares in said company may apply to either of said commissioners at either of the aforesaid places. June 11, 1790.

#### REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH AT PITTSOWN.

A document which preserves in part the history of this church is the certificate of incorporation dated November 26, 1800. At that time the officers named as "the elders and deacons of the Reformed Dutch church at Pittstown," were John Van Woert, Jonathan Yates, Simon Vandercook, Stephen Jackson, Israel Shepard and Enoch Haskins. On the organization of the Presbyterian society in the south part of Pitt-

stown, it would seem, this congregation became connected with the latter body.

#### THE PRESBYTERIAN SOCIETY IN THE SOUTH PART OF THE TOWN.

For some time previous to the year 1817 a congregation of Presbyterians had been holding religious services in the south part of the town. On the 20th of December, 1817, a meeting was held "at the usual place of divine worship" and the following persons were elected trustees: Simon Vandercook, Enoch Haskins, Jr., Joseph Brown, Reuben Halstead, Tisdale Eddy and James Stitt. The name adopted for this legally organized body was "the Presbyterian society in the south part of the town of Pittstown." This church after many years of embarrassment and unsuccessful growth, ceased to exist, and in 1868 the property passed to the Evangelical Lutheran church.

#### THE PITTSOWN UNION SOCIETY.

The members of the Pittstown Union society on Monday, February 15, 1819, met at the school house near Naham Taft's house, where they had usually met for divine worship, to elect "trustees for the building a church for said congregation." The following persons were then chosen as trustees of the "Pittstown Union society": Abraham Van Woert, Royal Abbott, Reuben Williams, Otis Taft, Walter W. Groesbeck, Jeduthan Hall and Naham Taft.

This organization, it appears, changed its legal name in 1819. A meeting of the male members of the society was held at the house of Elbert L. Willett, on the 23d of March, that year, at which John Van Woert, Robert S. Bostwick, Jacob P. Yates, Thomas Henderson, Jonathan Rouse and Jesse Smith were elected trustees of "the Dutch and Presbyterian society in Pittstown."

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT TOMHANNOCK.

This congregation being the after growth of the former society about the year 1835 held a joint session meeting with the Presbyterian society in the south part of the town. The two churches united in calling a pastor, the Rev. Solomon Lyman, who was installed January, 1836. He was succeeded by the Rev. Joseph P. Tyler in 1839. The Rev. Phineas Smith served the Tomhannock church from 1839 to 1833; The Rev. Oren Brown 1833-34; the Rev. J. J. Dana 1834-36; then successively the Rev. Mr. Hayden, the Revs. B. Brown, J. B. Hubbard, P. Barber, — Toombs, F. Harman, P. Gordon, — Veleo, — Hall, A. Ostrom, J. H. Noble and the Rev. R. J. Jones, who served both the Tomhannock and Johnsonville congregations.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT JOHNSONVILLE.

The legal organization of this church is dated the 11th day of February, 1856, when there was a meeting held "at the place of worship in the village of Johnsonville," and the following persons were elected trustees of "the Presbyterian congregation of Johnsonville": J. H. Akin, Jr., C. Jenkins, G. MacRae, Alexander Ross, E. F. Hurd and J. Westinghouse. This

society has a very neat and commodious church.

#### EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AT HAYMERTOWN.

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This religious society was organized the 24th of August, 1840, and held religious services in the Presbyterian church, known as being in "the south part of the town of Pittstown." In 1808 the Lutheran congregation became the owner of the old Presbyterian church. On the first day of January, 1850, the members of the "Frankan Lutheran church and society of Haymertown" assembled at their stated place of worship to further perfect an organization made by the said church in the year 1835 under the name of "the Evangelical Lutheran church and society of Raymertown in South Pittstown." The following persons as trustees appear in the certificate of incorporation: Conrad Clum, Charles U. B. — — — — —, John E. Twogood, Martin Shipperly, Jacob L. Snyder and William Stanton. A new church edifice was erected in 1871, at a cost of \$8,500. The membership now embraces about 135 persons. The Rev. N. Van Alstyne is the present pastor of the congregation.

#### THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

Some years before the opening of the present century a society of Friends was organized in the town of Pittstown. For the purpose of a site for a meeting house and for a burying ground, Claudius Lamb sold to the society two pieces of land belonging to his farm along "the middle road," between the two turnpikes, one of which ran to Buskirk's bridge and the other to Hoosick and Bennington. The meeting house place was on the north side of "the middle road," about two miles north of Pittstown Corners. The burying ground was on the south side of the road. About the year 1834 a new meeting house was erected, the old building being used afterward as a horse shed. Among the early Friends living in the neighborhood of the meeting house were David Norton, Micajah Hunt, Asa Hoag, John Osborne, Simon Brownell and Nathan Peckham. The present leader of the society is Caleb Norton. Meetings are still held in the forenoon of First day, in the meeting house, by the present small congregation of Friends.

#### THE BAPTIST CHURCH OF PITTSOWN CORNERS.

The first Baptist church at Pittstown Corners was organized about the year 1784 under the name of the Pittstown Baptist church. In 1793 the Rev. Isaac Webb accepted the pastorate of this church. He was succeeded by the Rev. Lemuel Covell in 1799. The Revs. Charles Lahatt, Charles Somers, Stephen Olmstead, Richmond Taggart, Wilber Sherman, H. Slade, Solomon Gale, Jr., and Harvey Slade, subsequently served as pastors of the church. The first meeting house was erected about the year 1789. About the year 1847 a new house of worship was erected. On the 13th of September, 1847, a meeting was held at the church for the purpose of electing trustees and to organize a Baptist church and society, the Rev. D. S. Dean being chosen moderator and Benjamin Bosworth and Norman Baker clerks. It was resolved that



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the new society should be known by the name of "the Baptist church and society of Pitts- town." The following persons were elected trustees of the new organization: Henry Warren, Benjamin Bosworth, George Gibbs, Anthony Hydron, Hugh Reid, Jonas Halstead, Timothy Allen, James L. Halstead and Joseph L. Patterson. The pastors of this church have been the Revs. D. S. Dean, Foster Hartwell, William Hart, William Lucas, O. C. Kirkham, William Bowen and L. Sellick. For a number of years no services of this denomination have been held in the church. It is now occupied by the Disciples.

**THE DISCIPLES CHURCH OF PITTS TOWN CORNERS.**  
This society was legally organized on the 3d of September, 1847, when the following persons were elected trustees: Joseph Haskins, Samuel S. Hyde, Benjamin Chapman, Solomon W. Thompson. The name adopted by the society was "the Baptist Church in the town of Pitts town." The Rev. Porter Thomas was the first pastor to serve this congregation. His successors were the Rev. Warren L. Hayden, 1850-54; the Rev. A. R. Chamberlain, 1854-59; the Rev. George Lobingier, 1859-72; the Rev. W. H. Rogers, 1872-75; the Rev. J. G. Ensel, 1875-77; the Rev. Edgar Farde, from October 28, 1877, to the present time. The names on the roll of membership number about 190. This society now occupies the old Baptist church, which in 1890 was enlarged and re- modeled. It was in the church of this society that Gen. James A. Garfield, when a student at Williams college, preached.

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH AT BOYNTONVILLE.**  
In 1888 a Christian church was organized in the southeastern part of the town now known as Boyntonville. In 1840 a house of worship was erected on Main street, which was dedi- cated in the month of February, 1841. In the certificate of incorporation, dated July 25, 1835, the congregation is denominated a religious so- ciety, "called Christian and nothing but Christian to the exclusion of all the names of factions and party, or of any addition thereto, in Pitts town and Graf- ton in the county of Rensselaer." On the day mentioned, according to a notice given by Elder Aaron Eldred, the following persons were elected trustees: Aaron Eldred, Titus B. Todd, Erasmus Geer, William Rowland, Whiting B. Slason and Richard Vandenberg. About five years ago the church was remodeled. The present membership of the church is 64. The fol- lowing ministers have served the congregation: Elder Wilson Mosher, Elder S. F. Dexter, Elder Joel Gallup, Elder Aaron Eldred, Elder Ansel Bourne, Elder Thomas Taylor, Elder J. W. Stearns, Elder Stephen Mosher, Elder J. G. Ensel, Elder James Wright, Elder A. H. Hans- com, Elder J. W. Stearns and Elder Joel Gal- lup.

**COOKSBOROUGH METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.**  
Some time previous to the year 1815 a Meth- odist society had been organized in the south- western part of the town of Pitts town. For a meeting was held in the church of this congre- gation in Cooksborough, on Friday, the

twentieth day of January, 1815, at which Cornelius Fikins, Andrew Follett, William Haner, John Priot, Anthony Loggrow and Joseph Priot were elected as the trustees of the society, which was to be known by the name of the "Cooksborough Methodist Epis- copal church."

**TOMHANNOCK METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.**  
The work of Itinerant Methodist preachers in the vicinity of the present village of Tomhan- nock was successful in the early part of the century, in collecting, from time to time, con- gregations to hear the gospel preached in the school-house, near the house of Solomon Tins- ter. For the purpose of better accommodating the number of people attending these services a subscription paper was circulated in 1811 to secure money sufficient to build a house of wor- ship. In order to organize this congregation legally a meeting was held on Tuesday, March 9, 1811, at the school-house where the peo- ple had been assembling for divine worship. In accordance with the notice previously given an election was then held for trustees, result- ing in the choice of Christopher Snyder, James Deyoe, Simon Newcomb, Jr., Anthony Miller, Daniel Carpenter and Amasa Horrick. As a corporate body they were to be known as the trustees of the Tomhannock Methodist Epis- copal church. At a cost of about \$1,900 a frame building for a house of worship was shortly afterwards erected, on the west side of the northern turnpike. In 1845 a commodious brick building was erected on the site of the old church, at an expense of \$3,800, having a seating capacity for 650 persons. One hundred and twelve names are on the present roll of membership. The Rev. Edward N. Howe is the present pastor of this church.

**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE SOUTH PART OF PITTS TOWN.**

A congregation of Methodists had for some time previous to the year 1835 been worshipping in the schoolhouse in the neighborhood of Raymertown, in the south part of the town of Pitts town. For the purpose of incorporating themselves legally as a religious organization, at a meeting held on the 11th of May, 1835, the following persons were elected trustees of this Methodist Episcopal church in the south part of the town of Pitts town: Gilbert Alexander, Devotion E. Williams, James Mosher, Samuel Davis and David Snyder.

**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT VALLEY FALLS.**

This church grew from the small beginnings of missionary work of various itinerant preach- ers of the Methodist church. From private houses where little gatherings of people had assembled to hear the gospel preached by the zealous followers of Wesley to the large assem- blages in school houses, in which revival meet- ings were held, was the first step of the ad- vancement toward an organized body possess- ing church property. The building of a house of worship by the Meth- odists began in 1839, at which time a frame edifice was erected on State street, Valley Falls, at a cost of about \$1,200, having

about 200 seats. In 1854 this church was en- larged and remodeled. In 1870 the congre- gation became a separate charge. The following pastors have served this church since its dis- association from the Pitts town circuit: The Rev. E. Goss, 1850; the Rev. R. Cook, 1857; the Rev. J. K. Cheeseman, 1857-58; the Rev. Wm. J. Heath, the Rev. Isaac McCann, 1859-70; the Rev. H. Blanchard, 1872; the Rev. Andrew Mc- Gilton, 1872-75; the Rev. H. Dunn, 1875-78; the Rev. B. M. Hall, 1875-76; the Rev. D. Brough, 1876; the Rev. G. C. Morehouse, 1877-80; the Rev. H. W. Slocum, 1880 to date. The number of persons connected at present with the church is 150.

**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF PITTS TOWN CORNERS.**

The Methodist Episcopal church at Pitts town Corners was legally constituted September 5, 1848. At the meeting held on that day John M. Abbott, Leonard Reed and James G. Jeffers were elected trustees. Shortly afterwards a small house of worship was erected, and a par- sonage in 1878. This and the Methodist Epis- copal churches at Boyntonville, and at Potter Hill, in the town of Hoosick, are served by the same pastor.

**NORTH PITTS TOWN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.**

The meeting house in which the Methodists of Millertown, now North Pitts town, were ac- customed to hold divine services, was built about the year 1842. In this house of worship a meeting was held on Tuesday, April 3, 1850, for the purpose of legally incorporating the church, which was thereafter to be known by the name of the North Pitts town Methodist Episcopal church, previously called the Mil- lertown Methodist Episcopal church. At this meeting Francis Ingraham, John Comstock, John G. Davenport, William L. Bancus and Simon Lamb were elected trustees. There are about 140 names on the roll of membership of this church.

**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT BOYNTON- VILLE.**

The incorporation of the "Methodist Epis- copal society at Boynton," which was included in the circuit with the Methodist church at Ray- mertown was effected on the 16th of November, 1850. The Rev. Reuben Washburn was then pastor of the two charges. The following per- sons were elected trustees of the society: Erasmus Geer, William Boynton, Benjamin Brock, Wm. H. Rowland and Kingsley Slade.

**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT EAST PITTS- TOWN.**

This Methodist society was incorporated February 15, 1860. The congregation which had been sometime previously organized, assembled on that day in the Union church in which it had been worshipping, at East Pitts- town and elected William P. Abbott, John Rus- sell, Hiram Benson, Platt Sherman, Parker H. Bosworth, Benjamin Street and Fletcher Ward as trustees of the church. This society pur- chased the meeting house formerly belonging to the Pitts town Union society, built about the year 1820.

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**ST. PAUL'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT JOHNSONVILLE.**

The Protestant Episcopal church at John- sonville was erected about the year 1871. A meet- ing for the purpose of having the officers of the church a corporate body was held on Novem- ber 4, 1872, in the chapel, over which the Rev. W. Bogert Walker, rector, presided. George O. Catlin and Charles J. Joslin, church wardens, and William A. Osborn, Charles W. Arrand, John T. Peel, A. H. Johnson, C. A. Banker, Thomas Thomas and Orlando G. Johnson, vestrymen, were named together with the rector to be incorporated as "the rector, church war- dens and vestrymen of St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal church," at Johnsonville.

**THE JOHNSONVILLE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.**

The zealous missionary work of a few Roman Catholic priests was successful about the year 1874, at Johnsonville, in gather- ing together a number of believers in the faith of the Roman Catholic church. After the dis- organization of St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal church this congregation purchased the Epis- copal chapel and since then have held regular services in it.

There is a Roman Catholic church a short dis- tance north of Pitts town Corners.

**PITTS TOWN CORNERS.**

This village contains about 35 buildings, among which are the Disciples', the Baptist and the Methodist Episcopal churches. The school house of district No. 2 is in the place. The business of Pitts town Corners is repre- sented by three stores, a saw-mill and a blacksmith shop. In 1836 it is described as being 13 miles from Troy, containing one Baptist church, two stores, one tavern and about 20 dwellings. A postoffice was established here at a very early date.

**JOHNSONVILLE.**

Johnsonville is situated on the south side of the Hoosick river, on the lines of the Troy and Boston and the Boston, Hoosac tunnel and Western railroads, which here connect with the Johnsonville and Greenwich railroad. The place has about 600 inhabitants. In 1836 it is described as being 19 miles from Troy, a mile northwest from the northern turnpike, having one tavern, three stores, one grist mill, one saw mill, a woolen factory and about 30 dwell- ings. The number of buildings at present is about 100, of which three are churches, the Presbyterian, Methodist Episcopal and the Roman Catholic. There are two hotels and six stores in the place. The manufacturing places and shops are the Johnsonville axe manufacturing company's works, owned by Lane & Gale of Troy, at which 75 men are employed; 2 grist mills, 1 flax mill, a cabinet maker's shop, a blacksmith shop, a tin shop and a harness shop. The post- office was established in 1850.

The place was early known as "the Lick." It is said to have derived its present name from William Johnson, who having built a grist mill at "the Lick," one day surprised his neighbors by displaying the name "Johnsonville" in large letters on the front wall of his mill.



Isaac M. Singer, the famous sewing machine inventor, was born in the village of Johnsonville.

Lodge No. 411, Independent Order of Odd Fellows has a neatly fitted up hall in the place

#### VALLEY FALLS.

The village of Valley Falls is built on both sides of the Hoosick river, the northern part being in the town of Schaghticoke. It has about 800 inhabitants and about 100 dwellings. The one house of worship is the Methodist Episcopal church. There are three hotels and five stores in the place. Among its manufactures is a mosquito-net factory, a paper mill, a mowing machine shop, a linen twine mill and a flour mill. There is also an iron furnace and three blacksmith shops. It is a station on the lines of the Troy and Boston and the Boston, Hoosac Tunnel and Western railroads.

#### TOMHANNOCK.

The village of Tomhannock is built on Otter creek, a tributary of the Tomhannock. Early in the present century it was known as Reed's Hollow. When the postoffice was established the place took its present name. In 1836 it is spoken of as Tomhannock on the northern turnpike, 13 miles northeast of Troy, having a grist mill, a Presbyterian and a Methodist Episcopal church, two taverns, three stores and about 30 dwellings. At present there are about 50 buildings in it and two churches, the Methodist Episcopal and the Presbyterian. A school house of district No. 10 is in the village. One hotel, three stores, two grist mills, a machine shop, two blacksmith shops, a harness shop, a cooper shop and a wagonmaker's shop embrace the business interests of the village.

#### RAYMERTOWN.

The village of Raymertown is on the old turnpike road leading from Troy to Bennington and is about 10 miles from Troy. It contains about 50 dwellings, among which is the Evangelical Lutheran church, and a school house of district No. 3. There are in the village limits one hotel, two grist mills, two flax mills, a saw mill, three stores and three blacksmith shops.

#### BOYNTONVILLE.

The village of Boyntonville is in the southeastern part of the town, and has about 25 buildings in it, two of which are the Methodist Episcopal and Christian churches. A school house of district No. 1 is in the place. The business interests of the place embrace two hotels, three stores, a harness shop, a tin shop and two blacksmith shops. The number of inhabitants is about 200. A postoffice was established here June 21, 1875.

#### NORTH PITTSBURGH.

This place was early known as Millertown. There are about 20 houses in the place, one of which is the Methodist church. All of these villages have postoffices.

#### EAST PITTSBURGH.

This name is given to the eastern part of the town, district No. 15, where is a Methodist Episcopal church.

#### COOKSBOROUGH.

This name applies to a neighborhood in the southwestern part of the town, where is a

school house and a Methodist Episcopal church.

POPULATION OF THE TOWN OF PITTSBURGH.			
1790.....	3,447	1840.....	3,838
1800.....	3,488	1850.....	2,732
1810.....	3,099	1860.....	2,007
1820.....	3,208	1870.....	2,809
1830.....	3,272	1880.....	2,531
1840.....	3,246	1890.....	2,008
1850.....	2,702	1875.....	2,905
1860.....	2,007	1880.....	2,531
1870.....	2,809	1890.....	2,008
1880.....	2,531	1890.....	2,008
1890.....	2,008	1890.....	2,008

## Troy Daily Times.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 27, 1890.

### THE TOWN OF HOOSICK.

#### THE LAND EXTENDING TO NACHAWICKQUAK.

#### THE TRACT CALLED WALLUM-SCHAAK.

#### TREES PRESERVED FOR MASTS FOR THE ROYAL NAVY.

#### The Burning of Houses and Barns at Hoseck.

#### THE OLD SETTLEMENT OF SANCOIK.

The Defeat of the British at Wallum-schack—Numerous Churches Erected in the Town—A World Renowned Manufacturing—The Unexcelled Record of a Great Invention—Nearly 25,000 Reaping Machines Made in 1880—The Wilder Collection—The Villages of the Town—Population.

The unoccupied condition of the vast territory north of Albany, within the province of New York, no doubt induced the English government to convey by letters patent in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries large tracts of this land for small considerations to different individuals and associated persons. To have this wooded wilderness occupied by a class of frugal, industrious people would not only give greater prosperity to the new country, but such frontier farms would also of themselves be a protective girdle of safety to the growing settlements southward along the Hudson. There may have been some personal favoritism in this method of conveyance, but as there was such an immense tract of unsettled land to be disposed of, the question of partiality did not likely form the subject of any special comment or criticism at the time the letters patent were obtained, as had been the case when Kiliaen Van Rensselaer acquired his patroonship of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck.

#### THE HOOSICK PATENT.

This grant of an extensive tract of land

was recorded for Maria Van Rensselaer and her associates, July 28, 1688. It reads:

Thomas Dongan Capt. Genl. & Governor in Chief in and over the Province of New York and Territories Depending thereon in America under his most Sacred Majesty James the second by the Grace of God King of England Scotland France & Ireland Defender of the faith &c.: To Gretna Wherens Maria Van Rensselaer of widdow, Hendrick Van Ness of the same place, Yeoman, Gerrit Tunnissen of Kattis Van Cortland of the City of New York Merchant by Virtue of my License Consent and approbation have Purchased of and from the Indians Natural owners and Possessors of the same all that Tract of Land with its appurtenances situate lying & Creek Called Hoseck beginning at the Bounds of Schackoock and from thence extending to the said Creek to a Certain fall Called Queenick and from the said fall upwards along the Creek in Breadth to be to say two English Miles on English Miles that is to say two English Miles on the one side of the said Creek and two English Miles on the other side of the said Creek the whole breadth being four English Miles, and is in length from the bounds of Schackoock aforesaid to the said place called Nachawickquak. \* \* \* Successors yearly, and every year, the quantity of ten bushels of good sweet marchantable Wheat, to be delivered at the City of Albany unto such officer or officers as shall from time to time be Empowered to Receive the same as a Quit Rent.

The patent is dated the "Second Day of June in the fourth Year of his Matis Reigns and in the Year our Lord, 1688."

This territory extended along both sides of the Hoosick river, being the middle portion of the present town of Hoosick, stretching from the north bounds to the southern limits of the town.

#### THE WALLUMSAG PATENT.

This conveyance of 12,000 acres of land begins as follows:

George the second, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting Whereas our loving subjects, Cornelius Van Ness, John Lindsey, Gerrardus Stuyvesant, Stephen Rensselaer, Charles Williams and Frederick Morris by their humble [petitions] presented on the twenty-fifth day of August in the Year Seventeen hundred and thirty-two To William Cosby, Esqr, our Late Governor and Commander in Chief of our Province of New York, &c. In Council Have set forth of His of the Native Indians and Proprietors had by their Deed under their Hands and seals bearing Date the twenty-eighth day of January in the Year Seventeen hundred and thirty-two Tract or Parcel of Land Containing twelve thousand acres of land, &c. \* \* \* Whereas James Province and Edward Collins Gent by their humble Petition presented to our trusty and wellbeloved George Clarke, Esqr, now our Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of our said Province, &c. In Council on the Seventeenth day of which was presented as aforesaid to our said late Governor the Name of John Lindsey was made Lancy and the Name of Cornelius Van Ness in Trust for the said Edward Collins.

In accordance with this petition the grant was made to "Edward Collins, James De Lancy, Gerardus Stuyvesant, Stephen Rensselaer, Charles Williams and Frederick Morris," conveying to them

All that Certain Tract or Parcel of Land Called Wallum-schack situate lying and being in the county of Albany to the Eastward of a Place Called Hoseck, beginning at a Certain marked Tree which is 14 chains distant from the late Dwelling House of Gerrit Cornelius Van Ness,

then used on a Line running South 75° east from the southeast Corner of the said House to the said Tree and running from the said marked Tree North 30° 30' West 30 Chains and 40 links then North 40° 15' East 20 Chains then North 77° East 90 Chains then South 87° East 64 Chains then South 66° West 82 Chains then North 44° 30' West 150 Chains then North 70° West 120 Chains then North 20° West 120 Chains then South 66° West 170 Chains and then North 4° West 76 Chains to the place where this Tract of Land first began Containing twelve thousand acres of Land and the usual allowance for Highways. \* \* \*

In this patent, "all Trees of the Diameter of twenty-four inches and upwards at twelve inches from the Ground" were excepted "for Masts for our Royal Navy, and also all such other Trees as may be fit to make planks, Knees and other things Necessary for the use of our Said Navy only, which now are Standing Growing and being or at any time hereafter shall be Standing Growing, or being in or upon the above Granted Lands or any part thereof." \* \* \* "The Yearly Rent of two shillings and six pence for each hundred acres of the above Granted Lands" was to be paid at the custom house in the city of New York, on Lady Day, the annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary.

The patent is dated the 13th of June, in the thirtieth year of George II.'s reign, and in the year 1739. The tract of land given by this patent lies in the northeastern part of the town of Hoosick.

#### THE SCHNEYDER PATENT.

The patent granted to Hendrick Schneyder, John Wettick, Hendrick Lake, John Johnson, Garret Williamson, Nathaniel Archerly, Benjamin Abbot, William Taylor and Martinus Voorheis, all of the province of New Jersey, and Daniel Hallenbeck of the city of Albany, embraced:

All that certain Tract or parcel of land situate lying and being in the county of Albany on the East side of Hudson's river, beginning at the Southwest corner of a Tract of land granted to Cornelius Van Ness and others, known by the name of Wallum-schack and runs thence South 72° east 214 chains to another corner of the aforesaid tract called Wallum-schack, then along the South bounds of the last mentioned Tract, south 75° east 130 chains, and South 44° 30' east 120 chains, then south 51° chains to the north bounds of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck, then west 42° chains, then north 35° west 120 chains, then west to the east bounds of a tract of Land granted to Maria Van Rensselaer, Hendrick Van

Ness and others commonly called and known by the name of Hoseck, and then along the said east bounds of the said tract called Hoseck to the place where this tract first began Containing 10,000 acres of land and the usual allowance for Highways.

Two shillings and six pence sterling were to be paid yearly at the custom house in the city of New York, on Lady day, for each and every hundred acres of the above granted land. The patent is dated March 24, 1782.

#### THE FIRST SETTLERS.

Among the early settlers of the territory now embraced in the town of Hoosick were Hendrick Van Ness, Abraham Fort, Lewis and Peter Viele, Adam Vrooman, John Van Buskirk, Walter Van Vechten, Jacob Oudekirk, Daniel Bradt, Reykert Bowie, Jan Outthout.

The farms of these intrepid pioneers of the Hoosick valley were mostly adjacent the Hoosick river. As was common to frontier life in North America at this early period of its history, the constantly occurring sanguinary



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struggles between the English and French governments brought very frequent distresses to these forest homes in the great wilderness north of Albany. When the English ministry in the spring of 1745 ordered Gov. Clinton of the province of New York to make immediate preparations for carrying on an offensive war against the French and their Indian allies, great alarm at once began to prevail among the frontier settlers of the province. The wary and sudden attacks from the hostile Indians associated with the French, made life in these exposed positions almost a burden to the Dutch farmers, whose minds were more intent on the cultivation of the land on which they had recently built log houses for their families than on the bloody strife which brought so much distress and loss to them. Col. Schuyler and Major Collins, who commanded a body of soldiers at Saratoga, now Schuylerville, were compelled to abandon the construction of six block houses which they were building as places of protection for the settlers against the sudden attacks of the Indians. When the calamitous visitation came upon the peaceful settlers those who escaped massacre fled southward to the older settlements. It is said that even Kinderhook, Claverack and Poughkeepsie, although on the east side of the Hudson were not exempt from danger. A vast forest extended from Kinderhook to Canada, and the settlement of Hoosick was made in a part of it.

In 1747 four companies of soldiers were posted at Halfmoon, two at Schaghticoke and three at old Saratoga, now Schuylerville. The main force was stationed at Albany. In October, 1747, peace was concluded between Great Britain and France, and the dispersed farmers shortly afterwards returned to their abandoned farms.

#### THE TRIBULATIONS OF THE SETTLERS IN 1754.

As will appear from the following correspondence the early settlers were again molested, and were a second time compelled to flee from their farms on account of the invasions of the province by the French and their hired savages.

In a letter to the English lords of trade, Lieut. Gov. De Launcey writes as follows on October 8, 1754:

"On the 8th August a Party of French Indians and to be of Belknap, a place between Quebec and Montreal, made an invasion into this Province and burnt the houses and barns full of grain at Hoosick, a place lying about 10 or 20 miles East from that part of Hudson's River, which is 10 Miles above Albany; they carried off with them the few remaining Indians of Schaghticoke, being between fifty and sixty in Number. Men, Women and Children; these had a little before, when I was at Albany, assured me of their fidelity. The Indians who did this mischief live among the French, and are entirely under the direction of the General of Canada, so that there is no room to doubt of their being encouraged to this barbarity by him, especially as the French officer at Crown Point furnished them and the Schaghticoke Indians, whom they had drawn from this province, with a vessel to carry them back to Canada across the Lake Champlain.

In another letter addressed to the same persons, dated New York, October 21, 1754, he remarks he had omitted to say in his letter of the 8th what steps he had taken since the incursions of the French Indians into the province: "I immediately ordered the city of Al-

bany to be inclosed with Stockades in the places where wanting, the Blockhouses to be repaired, two hundred Men of each Regiment of Militia of the adjoining counties to be held in readiness to march, and the whole Regiment in case of need, to the assistance of Albany. I sent the Independent Company posted in Fort George in this City to Albany, detaining a sergeant and the Invalids to do the Fort duty; and had also directed a fort to be built at a Pass on the Hudson River about forty miles above Albany, but no workmen would undertake it on the credit of the Governor."

#### BARBARITIES COMMITTED BY THE FRENCH.

The reprehensible conduct of the French in instigating the Indians to invade the peaceful Hoosick valley, and there murder and lead into captivity so many innocent people, was thus censured by Lieut. Gov. De Launcey, in a letter to the governor of Canada, dated New York, October 16, 1754:

"I have received accounts from Albany that several of the Indians of the Onondaga and other Tribes domiciled within your government, and as I have been well informed entirely in your direction, have lately made incursions into this and the Neighboring provinces and have burnt and destroyed the Houses and Barns of the Poor Farmers living at and near Hoosick within my government; this, in a time of profound peace between His Britannick and Most Christian Majesty, is a practice so Barbarous as I think is not warranted by any orders, and I persuade myself will not be approved of by the Most Christian King; and I would willingly flatter myself, that you will permit me to say, it is with difficulty I can conceive, that those Indians would have attempted this piece of cruelty without your privity and connivance since those Indians live among the French and are under your direction, what adds to the difficulty is, that I am told the commanding officer at Fort St. Frederick furnished these Indians and those of Schaghticoke whom they had taken with them with a vessel to carry them back to Canada. I am in duty bound to lay these things before the King my Master.

Speaking of the defenselessness of the northern part of the province, the Lieutenant governor thus writes to Sir Thomas Robinson, dated New York, December 15, 1754:

"I think it my duty to lay before you the defenseless state of the northern frontier of this province, and to point out some measures which seem to me of general utility. From Albany northwards towards Canada there is no fort; we had one before and in the late war at a place on Hudson's river called Saratoga (Schuylerville), about 36 miles above Albany, which was abandoned and destroyed, so that the country lies entirely open.

He then proposes that forts should be built: "one at Wood creek and one on the south end of Lake St. Sacrament; the waters of this creek and lake pass Crown Point and fall into the Lake Champlain, and so into the river St. Lawrence, and make the common passage between this country and Montreal, and from this creek and lake the French and their Indians can and do enter this province, Massachusetts bay and New Hampshire."

For a number of years the successive terrors of Indian and French animosities deterred new settlers from making any further efforts to occupy the territory of the Hoosick valley. But in time treaties of peace were made and emigrants began to seek homes along the Hoosick and its tributary streams.

#### THE HOOSICK.

It is believed that the French in their various

incursions into the Hoosick valley had given to the small settlement in the vicinity of the confluence of the Wallomiscoe with the Hoosick river the name of St. Croix. The former stream is often designated as the St. Croix or Wallomiscoe river. There seems to have been a very careless way of writing the name of the place, for often it appears as Sancoik, St. Croix, Sancoick, St. Holck, Sancoik and Saintcoix. The hamlet before the dark days of the revolutionary war is said to have contained a grist mill, saw mill, a pot ashery, a tavern, a meeting house and a number of farm houses.

#### THE HOOSICK DISTRICT.

By "an act to divide the counties of Albany and Tryon into districts," passed March 24, 1772, the Hoosick district was erected. Its boundaries were the following:

"That all that part of the said county of Albany which lays to the northward of Rensselaerswyck district to the southward of the said line from the mouth of Lewis's creek or hill, continued to the west bounds of the county of Cumberland and to the eastward of Schaghticoke district, and to the westward of the county of Cumberland, shall be one separate and distinct district, and be henceforth called and known by the name of Hoosick district."

#### THE INVASION OF BURGOYNE.

When in the summer of 1777 Gen. Burgoyne was making almost an unopposed invasion of the northern part of New York from Canada, the people of the Hoosick valley were greatly alarmed by the reports of the barbarous cruelties of the Indians which the British commander had sent forward as a band of terror to the rebellious people. In the vicinity of Fort Edward he dispatched Col. Frederick Baum on a "secret expedition to the Connecticut river," having been informed that the Americans had gathered together there "a considerable depot of cattle, cows, horses and wheel carriages, most of which were driven across the Connecticut river from the provinces of New England; and, as it was understood to be guarded by a party of militia only, an attempt to surprise it seemed by no means unjustifiable." He received Burgoyne's instructions on August 9th, that he was "to try the affections of the country; to disconcert the councils of the enemy; to mount the Riedesel's dragoons; to

complete Peter's corps; and to obtain large supplies of cattle, horses and carriages." Having performed these and other things mentioned in the instructions he was then, in order to form a junction with the main army of Burgoyne, to proceed expeditiously with his force "by the great road to Albany." Col. Baum departed on this mission with about 500 Hessian mercenaries, Canadians, Tories and Indians and two cannon. Col. Philip Skene accompanied Col. Baum for the purpose of advising him "upon all matters of intelligence." On the 14th of August, Baum reached the little settlement at Sancoik. Here, in a grist mill, on Little White creek, a small stream emptying into the Wallomiscoe, he wrote a letter to Burgoyne regarding his progress:

SANCOIK, 14th August, 1777, 9 o'clock.—Sir: I have the honor to inform your excellency that I arrived here at eight in the morning, having had intelligence of a party of the enemy being in possession

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of a mill, which they abandoned at our approach, but, in their usual way, fired from the bushes and took their road to Bennington. A savage was slightly wounded; they broke down the bridge, which has retarded our march over an hour; they left in the mill about 25 barrels of very fine flour, 1,000 bushels of wheat, 20 barrels of salt, and about 21,000 worth of pork and potatoes. I have ordered 30 provincials and an officer to guard the provisions and the pass of the bridge. By five prisoners taken here, they agree that from 1,500 to 1,800 are at Bennington, but are supposed to leave it on our approach. I will proceed so far to-day as to fall on the enemy early to-morrow, and make such dispositions as I may think necessary from the intelligence I may receive. People are looking in hourly, but want to be armed. The savages cannot be controlled, they ruin and take everything they please. I am your excellency's most humble servant.

F. S.—Beg your excellency to pardon the hurry of this letter, as it is written upon the head of a barrel.

The mill in which this letter was written is still standing, it is said, and that on one of the timbers of the structure there is, to be seen the inscription "A. D. 1776," the supposed date of the erection of the building.

#### THE BATTLE OF WALLOOMISCO.

On the night of the 14th of August, Baum "blivouacked at the farm of Walmscott, about four miles from Sancoik, and three from Bennington." On the 15th there was "a perfect hurricane of wind," and a great fall of rain. During the day the skirmishers of the provincial militia under Gen. John Stark several times drew the fire of the British pickets. Meanwhile Col. Baum took a position on an eminence near the "farm of Walmscott." "He posted here the dragoons, with a portion of the marksmen on their right, in rear of a little zig-zag breastwork, composed of logs and loose earth. Such of the detached (houses of which there were about half a dozen log ones) as came within the compass of his position he filled with Canadians, supporting them with detachments of chasseurs and grenadiers, likewise entrenched behind breastworks; and he kept the whole, with the exception of about 100 men, on the north side of the stream, holding the woods upon his flanks, in his front and rear by the Indians."

Gen. Stark with his brigade of New Hampshire militia and a number of companies of Vermont and Massachusetts militia, on the morning of the 16th, moved against Baum in the position taken by the latter on the 15th. Gen. Stark, in his report of the engagement, says:

"I divided my army into three divisions, and sent Col. Nichols with 300 men on the rear of their left wing. Col. Herkimer in the rear of their right with 300 men. \* \* \* In the meantime I sent 200 men to oppose the enemy's front to draw their attention that way. Soon after I detached the Colonels Hulbert and Stickney on their right wing, with their dragoon corps, and their light infantry, that he stood in need of a reinforcement, which I readily granted, consisting of 100 men, at which time he commenced the attack, precisely at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, which was followed by all speed. Our people behaved with the greatest spirit and bravery imaginable. Had they been Alexander's or Charles's Swedes they could not have behaved better, which time we forced their breastworks at the muzzle of their guns, took two pieces of brass cannon, with a number of prisoners, but before I could get them into proper form again I received intelligence that there was a large reinforcement within two miles of us, on their march, which de-



casioned us to renew our attack. But lucky for us, Col. Warner's regiment came up, which put a stop to their career. We soon rallied, and in a few minutes the action began very warm and desperate, which lasted till night. We used their own cannon against them, which proved of great service to us. At sunset we obliged them to retreat a second time. We pursued them till dark, when I was obliged to halt for fear of killing my own men. We recovered two pieces more of their cannon, together with all their baggage, a number of horses, carriages, etc., killed upwards of 200 of the enemy in the field of battle. The number of wounded is not yet known, as they are scattered about in many places. I have one lieutenant-colonel, since dead, one major, seven captains, fourteen lieutenants, four ensigns, two cornets, one judge-advocate, one barron, two Canadian officers, six sergeants, one aide-de-camp and seven hundred prisoners. I almost forgot one Hessian chaplain. \* \* \* Our wounded are forty-two. Ten privates and four officers belonging to my brigade are dead. The dead and wounded in the other corps I do not know, as they have not brought in their returns yet.

In the engagement Col. Baum was shot through the body and mortally wounded.

#### THE FIGHT AT THE BRIDGE OF SANCOCK.

Col. Breyman, who had been sent by Burgoyne to reinforce Col. Baum, reached the "mill at St. Cypk" at half-past 4 o'clock on the afternoon of the 16th, being then only two miles distant from the main body of the British forces then engaged by the force under Gen. Stark. He had not marched but a little ways beyond "the bridge of Sankoyek" when he saw through the woods "a considerable number of armed men, some of whom wore blouses and some jackets" moving toward a hill on his left. In a very short time he came upon a portion of Baum's force in retreat, but he having reformed the men was about to push on toward the place where Baum had been engaged. At this juncture he was attacked by Stark and shortly after by a reinforcement under Col. Warren, by which he was soon forced to retreat toward Cambridge. To obstruct the advance of the Americans, Breyman set fire to the bridge at "St. Cypk." It was in this last engagement that for the second time that day the Americans took two cannon from the routed British. Among the different points of interest shown visitors viewing the battle ground are the old Irish mill of David Van Rensselaer, who fled to Albany on the approach of the English, and where Baum wrote his letter. The mill, at North Hoosick, is now owned by John G. Burk; "Hessian hill" is now a part of the farm of Seymour G. Gooding, the place of Baum's selection on the 15th; the ridge beyond the village of Wallomase where Breyman was routed; and the spot where the body of Baum's men was captured being in the vicinity of the residence of William P. Chase, not far from North Hoosick.

#### THE ERECTION OF THE TOWN OF HOOSICK.

By "an act for dividing the counties of this state into towns," passed by the legislature, March 7, 1788, the town of Hoosick was erected. Its limits were the following:

All that part of said county of Albany bounded easterly by the east bounds of this state, southerly by Stephentown, westerly by Phulstow, and northerly by the north line of Schaghticoke and Pittstown continued, to the east bounds of this state, shall be and lawfully is erected into a town by the name of Hoosick.

#### TOWN OFFICERS OF 1789.

The record of the town officers of 1789 is the oldest preserved paper of the proceedings of the town meetings. It furnishes the following names of the officers selected that year:

Supervisor, Thomas Sickles; town clerk, Zachariah W. Sickles; assessors, Jacob Van Ness, Henry Breese, Nicholas Snyder, Reuben Thayer, Isaac Bull, John Johnson, Zachariah W. Sickles; collector, Henry Brown; commissioners of highways, Thomas Sickles, William Kerr, Nicholas Snyder; overseers of the poor, Ebenezer Arnold, William Kerr; constables, Henry Brown, Squire Read, Henry Walker, Samuel Latham; fence-viewers, James Williamson, Henry Snyder, John Van Buren, Henry Breese, John Van Ness, Zachariah W. Sickles, Godfrey Stark, Asel Gray; pound-keepers, Squire Read, Harper Rogers, Timothy Graves, Benjamin Walte; pathmasters, John Millman, Samuel Latham, John Ryan, Anthony V. Surdam, George Nichola, Samuel Surdam, Garrett Van Horn, Isaac H. Lansing, Daniel Rogers, John Boyle, Godfrey Stark, Jonathan Case, Ezekiel Hodges, Jonathan Mosely, William Briggs, William Mollen, Jr., David Brown, John Johnson, Luke Frink.

#### THE WAR OF 1812.

The loyalty of the people of the town of Hoosick was conspicuously exhibited during the existence of the hostilities between Great Britain and the United States in 1812-15. Volunteers patriotically sought positions in the ranks of the various military organizations which bore honorable record during the war. Among these were Benjamin Baker, Clark Baker, Ebenezer Cross, Jacob Case, Job Cass, Stephen Chapman, Talman Chase, William Coon, Garret Hallenbeck, John Hallenbeck, John H. Hayes, Jacob Haight, William Palmer, Lemuel Sherwood, Benjamin G. Sweet, Isaac Webb, Edward Webb, John Walworth, Reuben H. Walworth and Solomon Wilson. The memorable expedition in September, 1777, for the defense of Plattsburgh, under command of Brig. Gen. Gilbert Eddy, formed for years an interesting subject of conversation to the members of the militia organizations who took part in it. The militia of the town were represented by Capt. Thomas Osborne's artillery company, Capt. Abram Keach's company of infantry, that of Capt. Nathaniel Bosworth, and one company of volunteers under Capt. George R. Davis.

#### THE DUTCH CHURCH AT SANKOYOK.

It would seem that at a very early date there was a Reformed Protestant Dutch church in the town of Hoosick. In the Albany county clerk's office a certificate of incorporation is filed which recites that the elders and deacons of the Reformed Protestant Dutch congregation established at Schaghticoke became on the 25th day of February, 1780, the officers of another church which was then organized in the town of Hoosick, the corporate title of which was "The minister, elders and deacons of the Reformed Protestant Church of Sankoyek." The certificate is signed by Cornelius Van Ness, Philip Van Ness, David Becker and Lewis van Woert. It is said that Cornelius Van Ness gave the piece of land on which the church was built. The building, it is said, was erected on the south side of the Cambridge road, near where is now the residence of Mrs. David Gooding. The old building remained in a dilapidated condition until about the year

1829, when it was torn down. There are no records apparently preserved of this old church.

#### THE REFORMED PROTESTANT CHURCH AT TIOSSOOK.

Some time previous to the month of August, 1791, there was a small religious society worshipping at "Tessock" in the town of Hoosick. This fact is shown from an old and well-preserved document which reads:

Where as the Revd Mr. Samuel Smith of Saratoga has in time Past showed his Willingness to serve us in the Gospel one Fourth part of a Year for the Neighborhood of Tessock on South side of the River Each an Equal Chance to Preach one half of the time on the One Side of the River and the Rest part of the time on the other Side of the River. We to show our Readiness to have and our Willingness to Communicate to him such Sums as Teach- ing in Such Things as are Necessary for his Support. Have Given us Ability and hearts to bestow on him who may be sent to labour Among us.

Then follow the names of the subscribers and the sums which they contribute: Philip van Ness, £2; Lewis Velely, £1.10s; Martin van Buskirk, £1.10s; Peter Velely, £1; Francis S. Pruyn, £1; Walter van Vechten, £1; Richard v. Buskirk, 8s; John van Buskirk, 18s; Joseph v. Buskirk, 4s; Samuel Brown, 9s; John Bratt, £1; Abraham I. Fort, 8s; Timothy Tomes, 4s; Peter D. Goes, 12s; Cor's. Sebring, 4s; Nicholas W. Groesbeck, 10s; Winant C. Van Denbergh, 10s.

In January, 1792, a further sum of £30.3s is subscribed by 58 persons as the salary of the Rev. Samuel Smith for serving them "in the gospel one-fourth part of the year."

On May 3, 1792, it was determined by the congregation that the church should be "in communion with the reverend classis of Albany and the reverend Reformed Protestant Dutch synod of New York and New Jersey." At this meeting Philip Van Ness and Lewis Velely were elected elders and John S. Quackenboss and Peter Velely deacons.

The congregation having given the Rev. Samuel Smith of Saratoga a call to become pastor of the church on July 2, 1792, the same was accepted by letter, July 13, 1792. The letter is addressed to "The Reverend Consistory of Tioosook."

In the fall of 1793 the house in which the society met being too small and inconvenient it was determined that the congregation in the ensuing season would build a church "on the south side of the river, on Mr. Peter Velely's land."

On the 15th of February, 1794, the consistory contracted with Tens Van Der Werken and Abram Clute "to frame and inclose a church 35x40 feet, and lay the upper floor," etc. Twelve widows and a gallery were several of the appointments of the building. Forty-five pounds was the sum paid for this part of the work. On the 1st of September, 1794, Daniel Bratt contracted to finish the inside work for £7. "The pulpit and the seats of the clerk and consistory were to be made like the church in Seetickon."

In 1823 a new church was erected at Buskirk's Bridge, which was dedicated on the 2d of May of that year. This edifice was enlarged

in 1872.

The following pastors have served this congregation: The Revs. Samuel Smith, Peter D. Froleigh, Stephen Ostrander, Abram J. Switz, J. H. Fitcher, H. Hermance, A. T. Seales, J. B. Shaw, F. A. Gardner, P. Furbeck, and from December 1875, the Rev. J. G. Ogden. The number of the present membership of this old church is 64.

#### THE HOOSICK BAPTIST CHURCH.

This church, which was first known as the Mapleton Baptist church, was organized March 16, 1785. In 1810 its name was changed to that of the Hoosick church. About the year 1835 the congregation became disorganized and ceased to have any regular pastor. The pastors connected with this congregation were the Rev. Samuel Rogers, the Rev. David Rathbun, the Rev. James Glass, the Rev. Thomas Parington, the Rev. I. Keach, the Rev. Obed Warren, the Rev. Isaac Webb, the Rev. George Witherell and the Rev. L. Keach.

#### BAPTIST CHURCH AT HOOSICK CORNERS.

Many of the Baptist families residing near Hoosick village, finding it inconvenient for them to attend the services at the Baptist church in the Mapleton neighborhood, erected a church about the year 1831 on the hill north of the hamlet. The Rev. Isaac Keach was the first pastor of this church. The subsequent pastors were: The Rev. Archibald Kenyon, 1840-41; the Rev. J. B. Wilkins, 1842-43; the Rev. J. Mitchell, 1844; the Rev. C. G. Gurr, 1846-48; the Rev. Wm. Arthur, 1849-52; the Rev. H. D. Doolittle, 1853. Between the years 1854 and 1864 a number of pastors filled the pulpit. The Rev. Thomas Rogers was pastor from 1864 to 1870, who was succeeded by the Revs. Conover, Raymond and Hill. In September, 1873, the Rev. Thomas Rogers again was called to the pastorate. About the year 1840 a new building was erected in the village at a cost of \$12,000.

#### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AT HOOSICK FALLS.

The First Baptist church of Hoosick Falls was organized October 30, 1847. On the 8th of May, 1851, at a meeting held at the place of worship, John Lyon, Jonathan Case, Allen Spencer, Hosea Daniels and Edmund Leonard were elected trustees of the Hoosick Falls Baptist church. The certificate of incorporation is dated May 16, 1851.

The following have been the pastors of the church: The Rev. John M. Gregory, 1847-50; supplies for several years, the Revs. Grant and Thos. Rogers from Hoosick Corners; the Rev. O. C. Kirkham, 1850-63; the Rev. Thos. Rogers, the Rev. William A. Doolittle, the Rev. William Wilcox, the Rev. William Garret, 1867-69; the Rev. E. T. Hunt, 1869-73; the Rev. A. B. Whipple, 1873-74; the Rev. H. W. Webber, 1874; the Rev. H. A. Morgan, 1875-76; 1876 to present time, the Rev. George R. Robbins.

This congregation has occupied since its organization "the meeting-house" of the Warren society, erected in 1800. The roll of the present membership shows the names of about 200



# PERSONS.

## THE WARREN SOCIETY.

In 1800 the first meeting-house for religious worship was erected at Hoosick Falls. The ground on which the wooden edifice was built was the property of Sylvester Noble. The latter conveyed it, April 6, 1804, to John Ryan, Benjamin Walworth, Samuel Burrell and Joseph Dorr, for 50 cents consideration money. The indenture recites that "the said John, Benjamin, Samuel and Joseph \* \* \* with the said Sylvester Noble \* \* \* were on the 17th of February, in the year A. D. 1800, appointed a committee for the purpose of building a meeting-house near the Falls Quick Quack, \* \* \* with express directions to secure a good and sufficient title to the land on which the said house was to stand, for and on behalf of the proprietors to the said house, being now members of a society denominated Warren society." The lot purchased was "on the south line of a lot called the parade lot. The lot was 74 by 114 feet. The Warren society, it is believed, took its name from the Rev. Obed Warren, a noted Baptist missionary of the town of Warren, R. L., where, about the year 1767, the first New England Baptist society was organized. The first holders of pews in the meeting-house were Sylvester Noble, John Ryan, Benjamin Walworth, Samuel Burrell, Joseph Dorr, Daniel Noble, Thomas Osborne, John Comstock, Elam Buel, Reuben Faxon, Daniel Comstock, Joseph Coon, Abram Kesch, Benjamin Lewis, John Mattison, Edward Richmond, James Brown, David Wing, Jacob Martin, Richard Covell, Moses Armstrong, John Palmer, John Baker, A. D. Patchin, Nathaniel Bishop, Theophilus Comstock, Jacob A. Faxon, Josiah Buel, A. Cronkrite, Alex. Wilson, Edward Haynes, Jonathan Case, Timothy Graves, Samuel Cotterell, Thomas Eldridge, Rufus Johnson, Elijah Wallis, John Haviland, Ebenezer Cross, John Baker, Israel Starin and Henry Johnson.

Among the Baptist ministers serving the society successively were the Rev. Samuel Rogers, the Rev. David Rathbun, the Rev. James Glass, the Rev. Thomas Farrington, the Rev. Isaac Kesch, the Rev. Obed Warren, the Rev. Isaac Webb, the Rev. George Witherell, and the Rev. Israel Kesch. About the year 1840 the society lost its organization.

## THE BAPTIST CHURCH AT HOOSICK.

The Baptist church of Hoosick was legally constituted April 19, 1811. The first trustees were: Philip Harrington, Stephen Faddock and Israel Sheild. The house of worship is known as the Union church, having been built by the general contribution of the people in that vicinity.

## PREBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOOSICK FALLS.

On the 8th of January, 1826, a number of the inhabitants of Hoosick Falls assembled at the Warren meeting house, on Main street, and there organized a religious society by the name of the "Presbyterian society of Hoosick," and elected the following permanent trustees: Timothy Graves, Garret T. [unclear], John March, Harry Patterson, Samuel Burrell and Robert

Haswell. In 1829 the congregation erected on Church street a frame meeting house, which, when finished, was dedicated by the Rev. N. S. S. Beman, D. D., of Troy, the Rev. A. Peters of Bennington, Vt., and other Presbyterian ministers. This building cost about \$1,500 and had seats for about 300 persons. In 1854 the old building was removed, and the present church edifice was erected at a cost of about \$7,000 and having a seating capacity for about 500 persons. It was dedicated in the spring of 1854, the Rev. N. S. S. Beman, D. D. LL. D., of Troy, the Rev. J. H. Noble, D. D., of Schaghticoke and the Rev. A. M. Beveridge officiating. The membership of the church is about 190, and the Sunday school 140. The first Sunday school of Hoosick Falls was organized in 1825 by persons belonging to this congregation and those connected with the Warren society. Both persons was the first superintendent.

The different pastors of this church have been the Rev. C. Cheever, 1825-26; the Rev. Samuel W. May, 1826-29; the Rev. Robert Shaw, 1830-31; the Rev. Luther P. Blodgett, 1831-36; the Rev. Leonard Johnson, 1837-39; the Rev. Thomas Gordon, 1841-40; the Rev. A. M. Beveridge, 1851-58; the Rev. A. De Witt, 1859-65; the Rev. A. B. Lambert, D. D., 1865-68, and the Rev. John Tatlock, 1868 to the present time.

## ST. MARK'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF HOOSICK FALLS.

This religious society was organized in 1833 under the ministrations of the Rev. Nathaniel O. Preston. The first services were held in the village schoolhouse. On the first of November, 1834, the members of the church met at the place of worship for the purpose of incorporating themselves according to an act of the legislature. The Rev. N. O. Preston was made moderator of the meeting. George M. Tibbits and Salmon Moses were chosen church wardens, and L. Chandler Ball, Jonathan Eddy, Jr., George M. Tibbits, Salmon Moses, Harry Patterson, Seth Parsons, Samuel Shaw Crocker, and Hezekiah Munsell, Jr., elected vestrymen. These were incorporated as the rector, church wardens and vestrymen of St. Mark's Protestant Episcopal church in the village of Hoosick Falls. For a number of years thereafter the church continued to exist in a very weak way. In the year 1858 the society was reorganized, and shortly thereafter the erection of the present church was begun, the corner stone being laid in the summer of 1858 by the Right Rev. Bishop Horatio Potter. The first services were held in the church on Sunday, August 23, 1860. On the 5th of May, 1863, the building was consecrated. In 1871 an addition of a chapel arcade and a campanile was made to the building, which, the present year, has been further enlarged and remodelled. The bell, clock and chimes of the church were purchased at an expense of \$4,000. The rectors of the church have been the Rev. Nathaniel O. Preston, the Rev. Ebenezer Williams, the Rev. James Henry Morgan, 1861-65; the Rev. George A. Weeks, 1865-65; the Rev. George Huntington Nicholls, from 1865 to the present time. There are about 175 names

of communicants on the parish register.

## THE TIBBITS PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT HOOSICK CORNERS.

The Protestant Episcopal church at Hoosick Corners was organized and a handsome church edifice costing about \$20,000 erected by the liberality of the late George M. Tibbits. The church is popularly designated as "the Tibbits church." The rector of the church is the Rev. John B. Tibbits. The church is not connected with any diocese.

## THE WALLOOMASCO METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The members of the Methodist Episcopal church who early in the century had formed a Society at Walloomasco, met on the 13th of April, 1811, at the house of Thomas Millman, where they had been assembling for divine worship, and elected the following persons: John Matthews, Benjamin Barnet, Isaac Mosher, Thomas Millman, Simeon Sweet and John Comstock as trustees of the Walloomasco Methodist Episcopal church. On June 2, 1838, the church was reincorporated as "the Methodist Episcopal society of Hoosick circuit." Shortly after this time services were no longer continued at this point by the Methodists. It was known as the "up-river church."

## THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT HOOSICK FALLS.

This society was legally incorporated April 12, 1838. On that day the members of the congregation assembled at the place of worship, the meeting house of the Warren society, and elected Stephen Williams, William A. Stoney, John V. Carney, Jesse F. Dunham and Asa Colgrove "trustees of the Methodist Episcopal society at the village of Hoosick Falls." In 1839 a frame church edifice was erected on Main street, in which services were first held on Christmas day of that year, at which time it was dedicated, the Rev. J. E. King, D. D., preaching the sermon on the occasion. The building cost about \$3,300 and had a seating capacity for 200 persons. It was further enlarged in 1877. The present membership embraces 270 persons. The pastors of the church have been the following: The Rev. Ruben Washburn, 1838; the Rev. Joseph Barnes, 1839; the Rev. Jesse Brown, 1839; the Rev. A. Vile, 1861-62; the Rev. B. B. Loomis, 1863-66; the Rev. William H. Washburn, 1866-69; the Rev. George C. Morehouse, 1869-73; the Rev. J. K. Wager, 1873-74; the Rev. M. A. Seuter, 1874-76; the Rev. George Skene, 1876-79; the Rev. William H. Meeker, 1879 to present time.

## NORTH HOOSICK METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The society known as the North Hoosick Methodist Episcopal church was organized, January 5, 1865, in the district school house, where religious services had been held by the Methodists for 30 years. The first trustees were William P. Chace, Warren Cox and Edward Spalding. In the summer of 1890 a frame church building was erected on the main street of the village of North Hoosick, which was on October 18 of that year used for worship and dedicated. The dedication services were performed in part by the Rev. Wm. Griffin, presiding elder, the Rev. Wm. H. Washburn, pastor

in charge, the Rev. S. M. Merrill of North Adams, Mass., the Rev. John W. Carnart of Troy, and the Rev. Joel Easton of Cambridge. The building cost about \$4,000, and had a seating capacity for 300 persons. In 1874 it was enlarged. The church has a membership of 50 persons. The following persons have been pastors of the church: The Rev. W. H. Washburn, 1866-69; the Rev. George C. Morehouse, 1869-72; the Rev. Joel K. Wager, 1872-75; the Rev. John W. Belknap, 1875-76; the Rev. Thomas Munroe, 1876; the Rev. Geo. A. Kerr, 1877; the Rev. M. F. Lee, 1878; the Rev. A. S. Clark, April, 1879, to the present time.

## THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT BUSKIRK'S BRIDGE.

This society was organized near Buskirk's Bridge, March 8, 1843. Nicholas Eyselhymer was the first and prominent person to take part in its organization. A frame building for worship was erected in 1843 which was dedicated in June of that year. The present brick building was erected in 1869 on the ground where the first building stood. The new church was dedicated January 11, 1860. The following ministers participated in the dedicatory services: The Rev. Jacob Leonard, pastor in charge, the Revs. Lewis Potter, John B. Shaw, John P. Newman and Truman Seymour. The cost of the structure was \$4,191.73, the whole amount having been paid. It has a seating capacity for 4,000 persons. The following have been pastors of the church: The Rev. Jacob Leonard, one year; the Rev. Hiram Blanchard, two years; the Rev. G. G. Ford, two years; the Rev. E. A. Soule, two years; the Rev. John M. Webster, two years; Wm. Clark, three years; the Rev. J. B. Sylvester, one year; the Rev. R. G. Adams, one year; Wm. W. Foster, three years; the Rev. Wm. Earl, three years; and the Rev. D. M. Schell, 1880 to present time.

## CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AT HOOSICK FALLS.

As early as the year 1833, through the missionary efforts of various Roman Catholic priests there had been gathered quite a respectable congregation at Hoosick Falls of believers in the teachings of the Roman Catholic

church. In 1849 the erection of a church on South Church street was begun by the Rev. Father Quigley, which was finished in 1851. In 1870-71 a larger edifice was built on Main street, the corner stone having been laid on August 12, 1869. The church was dedicated December 10, 1871, by the Rev. T. Galberry. The present pastor of the church is the Rev. Father Waldron, assisted by the Rev. Father O'Farrell.

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AT BUSKIRK'S BRIDGE.

At Buskirk's Bridge a Roman Catholic congregation was organized a number of years ago, and built a very neat and commodious house of worship. The Rev. Father Waldron has it included in his pastorate.

## THE MAPLETON LIBERAL RELIGIOUS SOCIETY.

A number of the inhabitants of the southeastern part of the town of Hoosick, commonly called Mapleton, convened at the school house



in school district No. 4 on Saturday, January 2, 1836, for the purpose of organizing a religious society to rebuild and recoupy the site and premises where the old Mapleton meeting house was standing at that time. The persons assembled organized themselves under the name of the "Mapleton Liberal Religious Society." On the 23d of January, the following persons were elected trustees: Moses Armstrong, Joseph Percey, Daniel Rogers, David Wallace, James Percey, Lyman Andrews, Jonathan Hayner, Randall James and Garret Van Hoosen. It is often known by the name of the Union church. Various denominations hold meetings in the church.

#### HOOSICK FALLS.

The first known lease of land of the Hoosick patent, at Hoosick Falls, was made of 230 acres by Jonathan Fuller from Augustus Van Horne of New York. The survey of this tract began at a marked brick tree standing below the falls of Queenick. This farm was next conveyed to Henry Northup of North Kingston, R. I., who shortly after removed to it, where he lived until his death in 1797. The other part of the village west of Main street and east of the Hoosick river was a part of the farm of 250 acres belonging to Henry Barnhart. The first store in Hoosick Falls, it is said, was one opened in 1785 by Isaac Turner. In 1784 Joseph Dorr came to Hoosick Falls and leasing of Barnardus Pratt 230 acres of land together with all the water power on the north side of the river, began the erection of a carding and fulling mill. Subsequently a flax mill, a distillery and a saw mill were also erected there. Benjamin Colvin, about the year 1780, built a grist mill on the south side of the river. His successors were John Chase and Theophilus Comstock. In 1791 the first bridge was constructed over the river at Hoosick Falls. In 1822 the first postoffice was established in the place, Seth Parsons being made postmaster.

In 1823 Joseph Gordon, a Scotchman, built what was known as the Caledonian cotton factory on the south bank of the Hoosick river between the bridge and the grist mill. About 150 persons were employed in the factory. In 1827 the factory was purchased by Samuel S. Crocker, John Knickerbocker, John House of Waterford and Jacob Merritt of Troy. In 1838 this property was sold to the Walter A. Wood reaping and mowing machine company.

On April 14, 1827, the village of Hoosick Falls was incorporated, Seth Parsons being elected president of the board of trustees. It is said that at the time of its incorporation the population of the village was 300, the number of buildings 35, the electors 50, and the valuation of the property \$96,370.

In 1831 George W. and Lyman Benedict erected the Tremont cotton factory on the north side of the river. About 25,000 yards of cloth were manufactured weekly, the number of employes being about 70. In 1835 the property was sold to Walter A. Wood. The first stockholders of the Tremont cotton factory were Seth Parsons, H. Parsons, Lyman Wilder, Harry Patterson, Norman and Hiram

Herrington of Hoosick Falls, Joseph Case of Petersburg, Daniel Wight of Troy, and Erastus Ball of New Orleans.

In 1836 the following description was given of the place in "Gordon's Gazetteer" of the state:

Hoosick Falls, 34 miles from Troy, on the right bank of the river, which has a fall here of 40 feet within 12 rods, affording fine water power, nearly all of which is unemployed, contains 1 Baptist and 1 Presbyterian churches, grist, saw, oil, carding and cloth dressing mills, 2 large cotton factories, a manufactory of shearing machines (of Lyman Wilder), which supplies with that article almost the whole of the United States; 1 tavern, four stores, and about 50 dwellings.

The Ball seminary, named in honor of L. Chandler Ball, was erected in 1842, at a cost of about \$4,500. It was incorporated April 11, 1843; the first trustees being L. Chandler Ball, Seth Parsons, Lyman Wilder, Harry Patterson, Adin Thayer, Hial Parsons, Thomas Gordon, Andrew Russell, John White, William Palmer, Willard Herrington and John Renwick. In 1861 the property was given to school district No. 1 of the town of Hoosick.

The First National bank of Hoosick Falls, which began business in April, 1880, has the following officers: President, T. J. Wallace; vice president, C. A. Cheney; cashier, Addison Getty.

#### WALTER A. WOOD'S WORKS.

The most celebrated manufactory of harvesting machines in the world is at Hoosick Falls. The immense establishment is the property of the Walter A. Wood mowing and reaping machine company, the officers of which are the Hon. Walter A. Wood, president; J. Russell Parsons, vice president; A. C. Geor, secretary; Willard Gay, treasurer; J. M. Rosebrooks, superintendent.

The history of these extensive works at which, during the months of June and July of the present year, were daily made and completed 114 perfect machines, and manufactured during this season 27,003 of the world-renowned harvesters, begins in the year when Walter A. Wood, a young man of vigorous mind and active body, came to Hoosick Falls and engaged himself as a journeyman machinist to work for Seth Parsons, being at the time 29 years of age. Subsequently he became interested in the manufacture of plows and other agricultural implements. In 1852, having carefully inspected the working of the combined mowing and harvesting machine patented by John H. Manny of Illinois, Walter A. Wood was induced to purchase a territorial right, and to begin the manufacture of the machines at Hoosick Falls. Besides occupying the old foundry building, he in 1855 purchased the old Tremont cotton factory. In 1858 Ball & Parsons, who had also been engaged since 1852 in manufacturing the same machines, quitted the business, leaving Walter A. Wood the only one to carry on this branch of manufacturing in Hoosick Falls. In 1859 finding that he needed more conveniences for his increasing business, Mr. Wood rented the mill formerly occupied by Ball and Parsons. In November, 1860, a disastrous fire swept away in flame all of the buildings. The same year the work of rebuilding began, and the new

buildings erected on the site of the old ones were the next year noisy with the hum of machinery, and another period of manufacture began. "The Wood Mower," constructed by the mechanical ingenuity of Mr. Wood in 1859, was sent out among the farmers and achieved a notable success. In 1861 "the self-raking reaper," patented by Mr. Wood, which was further perfected in 1863, added to his greater celebrity as a maker of excellent harvesters.

In 1870 a second fire swept away all the buildings. The Caledonia mill having been bought in 1869, became the workshop where most all the machines were constructed during the year 1870. From the date of this calamity new buildings have, from year to year, been erected, which now form this extensive manufacturing establishment.

The present stock company, known as the Walter A. Wood mowing and reaping machine company, was formed in 1863. From this time until 1879 various useful attachments and additions were made to the machines invented by Mr. Wood. In 1874 the wire self-binding harvester was brought out and achieved the signal success which has made the machines of this character known in all the grain-producing countries of the earth. Oliver Dalrymple, the great grain grower, employed in 1879 in harvesting his immense fields of grain, 106 of these machines, each of which reaped on an average 15 acres of grain a day.

#### A CONSTELLATION OF MEDALS.

Writing of the first trial of the Wood automatic twine binder in England, in October, 1879, on the farm of Simon Leather, Delamere lodge, near Northwich, Cheshire, an observant witness says: "I saw it make 500 sheaves without one stoppage, in the most perfect manner possible, at the rate of 27 sheaves per minute." The highly merited praises bestowed upon these wonderful and useful machines have not only placed thousands and tens of thousands of them upon the great grain plains of the United States, but have carried them to those of Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, Australia and New Zealand. As the visitor inspects the 200 and more gold, silver and bronze medals handsomely displayed in the vice president's room, at the works at Hoosick Falls, awarded to Walter A. Wood as testimonials of the unexcelled merits of his harvesting machines, he cannot but think that "worth makes the man." In field competi-

tions between American and European reaping machines in Europe, the Wood harvesters took 207 first prizes. The brilliancy of this honorable mention is further increased by the Wood machines during the same time taking 109 first prizes on other fields of competition against all the leading machines. In 1876 at the centennial exhibition he obtained the highest awards for his harvesters. Austria conferred upon him the knight's cross of the imperial order of Francis Joseph, and France, in 1890, decorated him with the cross of the chevalier of the legion of honor, and in 1878 added two gold medals and the cross of officer

of the legion of honor—the highest award of honor. The amazing record of the machines manufactured since 1853 at the Hoosick Falls establishment is the following:

1853.....	500	1868.....	17,500
1854.....	800	1869.....	23,000
1855.....	1,200	1870.....	23,000
1856.....	2,500	1871.....	15,000
1857.....	3,500	1872.....	15,771
1858.....	4,500	1873.....	15,997
1859.....	5,500	1874.....	20,713
1860.....	6,000	1875.....	20,439
1861.....	6,500	1876.....	23,577
1862.....	6,500	1877.....	23,366
1863.....	6,500	1878.....	19,973
1864.....	6,500	1879.....	23,000
1865.....	6,500	1880.....	27,000
1866.....	10,500	Total.....	344,915

The monthly pay roll is \$45,000, the number of regular employes being about 1,000.

#### SOCIETIES IN HOOSICK FALLS.

The masonic association was first represented at Hoosick Falls by Federal lodge No. 33 F. and A. M., which was organized September 8, 1823, and which erected and dedicated a masonic hall in the place October 6, 1824. It forfeited its warrant during the anti-masonic excitement in 1832. Among the founders of the lodge were Thomas Sickles, William Castle, Robert Sim, Henry Ten Brock, Samuel Cray, Stephen Read, Barney Read, Solomon King, William Roberts, Abraham Van Tuyl, Enoch Stall, Andrew White, Benjamin Hawks, George Eager, James Fairbairn, Henry Brown, William Brae, Thomas Hartwell and Jonathan Chase.

Van Rensselaer lodge No. 400 F. and A. M. received its dispensation in 1856 and held its first meeting February 26 of that year.

The warrant to open and hold a mark lodge by the name of Hoosick mark lodge was granted on February 8, 1867. In 1825 and 1836 dispensations were granted; and on February 13, 1869, one was issued to open and hold Raymond chapter, U. D., at Hoosick Falls. The first convocation was held February 18, 1869. The dispensation was renewed June 18, 1870, and a charter granted February 8, 1871, to Raymond chapter 248.

The independent order of Odd Fellows is represented by Hoosick Falls lodge No. 430. The Knights of Pythias have also a lodge.

The temperance cause is represented by the Continental Temple of Honor, No. 21, and a Father Matthew T. A. B. society, No. 1. There is also the ancient order of Hibernians, No. 1, and the Robert Emmet association, No. 1.

The Mower and Reaper band, organized in 1897, has earned an excellent musical reputation.

The Hoosick Falls veteran association was organized about the year 1873. On the 30th of May, 1878, the town having voted \$800 and the village \$500, a beautiful soldiers' marble monument was erected at the intersection of Classic and High streets. The inscription on the monument reads: "The Citizens of the town of Hoosick hold in grateful remembrance the men who fought to save the Union. 1861-1865." The total cost of the monument was \$1,500.

#### NEWSPAPERS.

The first newspaper issued at Hoosick Falls was the Hoosick Falls Gazette, published by A. C. Eddy about the year 1863. This paper had been known previously as the Cambridge Valley



News. It was published about one year. Subsequently, about the year 1809 the Hoosick Falls Independent was published for a year by Botsford.

The *Rensselaer County Standard* was first issued, at Hoosick Falls, Nov. 15, 1873, by James H. Livingston, editor and proprietor.

On the 6th of March, 1880, the paper became the property of Benjamin Horsley, who ably continues its publication.

#### THE WILDER COLLECTION.

For many years the large and splendid collection of minerals made by Lyman Wilder was one of the chief attractions of Hoosick Falls for visitors. They were tastefully displayed in an octagonal shaped building south of the naturalist's residence. Being the finest and largest collection in the United States, Williams college through the liberality of Dr. Edward Clark of Copenstown, who purchased it for the nominal sum of \$5,000 in 1879, became possessed of this grand cabinet of nature's handiwork. Mr. Wilder is now in his eighty-third year, and is still all aglow with the early enthusiasm which for years impelled him to give many of his hours of rest after the labors of the day to perfecting this unequalled collection of beautiful crystals, fossils, etc.

#### THE HOOSICK FALLS MALLEABLE IRON WORKS.

These works were originated by a stock company with a capital of \$40,000, in 1871; Isaac G. Johnson of New York, president, and William Nicholls of Hoosick Falls, secretary and treasurer. The establishment is situated about a mile from the village on the Troy and Boston railroad. About 70 employes are regularly engaged in the production of agricultural implements, carriage fixtures, carpenter's tools, etc.

The lawn mower manufactory of Lyman Wilder, near the Walter A. Wood works, also adds to the manufacturing interests of Hoosick Falls.

The fire department is represented by the 8th Ramona steamer company.

The present population of the village is 4,640.

#### HOOSICK.

This place is situated on the Hoosick river and on the line of the Troy and Boston railroad and the Boston, Hoosac tunnel and Western railway, and was the first postoffice, about 1785, in the town of Hoosick, when stages ran between Troy and Bennington, on the turnpike that lay through it. Asher Armstrong was postmaster here from 1820 to 1832. In 1830 the place had 1 Baptist church, 2 taverns, 3 stores and about 30 dwellings. The village at present contains 2 churches, 1 Baptist and 1 Protestant Episcopal, 2 hotels, 3 stores, 1 button factory, 2 grist mills, 2 saw mills, 1 fax mill, 2 blacksmith shops and 1 wagon-maker shop. There are about 140 buildings in the village, which has about 1,000 inhabitants within the radius of the postoffice delivery.

#### NORTH HOOSICK.

North Hoosick is on the Troy and Bennington railroad, in the northern part of the town. The Walloomsac creek flows through it. It is a short distance east of the site of the old settle-

ment of Sarcoik. In 1836 North Hoosick is spoken of as having a large dannel factory, scythe factory, a store, a tavern and some 20 dwellings. At present there are about 75 buildings in the place. Stevens & Thompson's wall paper manufactory is the chief industry of the place. The Methodists have a flourishing church in the village.

#### EAGLE BRIDGE.

Eagle Bridge is at the junction of the Troy and Boston railroad with the Rutland and Washington branch of the Delaware and Hudson canal company's road. It is also a station of the Boston, Hoosac tunnel and Western railway. There are here 2 hotels, 4 stores, 1 commission house, 2 wagon maker shops, 2 blacksmith shops, 1 rope mill, 1 cord and thread mill, 2 grist mills and 1 saw mill; also a Methodist church. The buildings number 67, and the population is 315.

#### WALLOOMSAC.

This hamlet is on the Walloomsac creek, and is east of North Hoosick, on the Troy and Bennington branch railroad. It contains about 17 buildings. Here are also the Walloomsac paper company's mills, owned by Stevens & Thompson.

#### BUSKIRK'S BRIDGE.

The hamlet of Buskirk's Bridge is in the northwestern part of the town on the Troy and Boston and the Boston, Hoosac tunnel and Western railways. There are three churches here, a Reformed Dutch church, a Methodist and a Roman Catholic church. About 40 buildings comprise the place.

#### WEST HOOSICK.

This place is near the western boundary line of the town. It is in what is known as the Nepimosee valley, and has a school-house, a grist mill, a store, a blacksmith shop and about 15 buildings.

#### PETERSBURGH JUNCTION.

This place is at the junction of the Troy and Boston and the Harlem Extension railroads. It is also a station on the Boston, Hoosac tunnel and Western railway. It is near the southern boundary of the town. In the vicinity are several fax and grist mills. On the Brott farm are several excellent mineral springs.

#### POTTER HILL.

Potter Hill, which has a postoffice, is in the southwestern part of the town.

#### POPULATION OF THE TOWN OF HOOSICK.

1790	3,035	1845	3,070
1800	3,141	1850	3,724
1810	3,115	1855	4,113
1820	3,067	1860	4,448
1830	3,073	1865	5,783
1840	3,481	1870	5,723
1850	3,534	1875	6,320
1860	3,582	1880	7,950
1870	3,529		

## Troy Daily Times.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 16, 1880.

### THE TOWN OF LANSINGBURGH

#### THE ORIGINAL PATENT OF STONE ARABIA.

#### THE OLD INDIAN DESIGNATIONS.

#### A BIG FISH IN THE RIVER.

**De Nieuw Stadt on the Upper Hudson—The First Settlers of Lansingburgh—No Slaveish Submission to Great Britain—Commodore Haddock's Presentation with Plate—Lansingburgh in 1822 and 1836—Summary of the History of its Churches—Manufacturing Interests—Census of the Town from 1770.**

The old, original, parchment patents relating to the possession of landed estate by the first settlers of the province of New York are quite impressive in the manner in which they are worded. These documents translate us to a period when the people living in this part of the continent of America were loyal subjects of English kings, whose favor was sought through deputies to give the necessary legal confirmation to the patents by which they acquired ownership of tracts of land once possessed by the Indians. The patent of Stone Arabia, the first name given by the Dutch to a part of the territory now included in the present bounds of the town of Lansingburgh, is a large parchment manuscript, to which, by a red and blue cord, a large disk of figured wax, the royal seal, preserved in a silver box, is attached.

#### TASCAMONICK.

The grand, monarchical phraseology with which the instrument is worded is rather peculiar to our democratic ears:

Thomas Dongan, lieutenant governor and viceregal of New York and its dependencies under his majesty, James the Second, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c., supreme lord and proprietor of the colony and province of New York and its dependencies in America, &c., to all whom these presents shall come, sendeth greeting: Whereas, Francis Lovelace, Esq., one of the gentlemen of his majesty's honorable privy chamber and late governor of the province as aforesaid, did by patent under his hand and sealed with the seal of the province, bearing date the first day of September, last did give, grant, ratify and confirm unto Robert Saunders of Albany a certain tract or parcel of land called by the Indians Tascamontick, lying on the east side of the North river, and stretching along the said river from the second to the third spring which runneth over to the west side of the river, striking into the woods up to the high hills and including within it pieces of the ground or hog valley; and the said Robert Saunders, his heirs and assigns, paying as a quit rent for the same yearly and every year, two bushels of winter wheat, it demanded unto his royal highness.

And whereas Sir Edmund Andros, late governor of this province, as aforesaid, did likewise by pat-

ent under his hand and sealed with the seal of the province, bearing date, 22d March, 1699 and 30, did give, grant unto the said Robert Saunders of Albany, a certain parcel or piece of woodland lying on the east side of the North river, above Albany, to the south of the said land above recited, called by the Indians Pessequassick, as also a small island near thereto, commonly known by the name of the whale fishing island, containing in breadth to the north, one hundred, seventy rod, and to the south one hundred rod, in length four hundred and ninety rod, amounting in all to one hundred and one quarter of a morgan or about two hundred twenty acres and a half. The said Robert Saunders, paying therefor yearly and every year unto his majesty's highness as a quit rent, one bushel of good winter wheat, &c.

From the above tract there was excepted "a certain piece of woodland, which he, the said Robert Saunders, did sell and alienate to Peter Van Woguelum, lying to the southward of Piskawen kill, which creek or kill separates and makes the bounds between the above recited land, and what was sold unto the said Peter Van Woguelum as by Robert Saunders's deed under hand bearing date the 13th September, 1681."

#### PAENSICK.

The patent which also transfers this property of Robert Saunders to Johannes Wendell, a farmer, of Albany county, further recites that the said Johannes Wendell did by Governor Dongan's license "purchase of the native Indians another piece of woodland adjoining to the northernmost part of the several tracts of land above recited and stretches along the river side, northward to a certain kill or creek called by the Indians Paensick, over against Jan Van Wessels's land, that lies in the Half-moon, and from the said creek unto the woods as far as the high hills, and from thence southward to the bounds of the lands above said."

The above patent, which conveyed the property of Robert Saunders to Johannes Wendell, was signed by Gov. Thomas Dongan, July 22, 1680, and afterwards confirmed May 28, 1755, by Gov. James De Lancey.

#### WALVISCH EYLAND.

Whale island, or as the Dutch called it, *Walvisch eyland*, purchased by Robert Saunders, has, by the building of the state dam, been submerged by the higher waters of the Hudson. The story as related by Van der Donck, in his description of New Netherland, runs as follows: The winter of 1646-7 was extremely cold, and the river closed November the 25th and remained so for four months thereafter. In the month of March a great freshet occurred, "by which the water of the river became nearly fresh to the bay, when at ordinary seasons the salt flows up from 20 to 34 miles [a Dutch mile is about three English miles] from the sea. At this season two whales of common size swam up the river 40 miles, from which place one of them returned and stranded about 13 miles from the sea, near which four others stranded the same year. The other ran further up the river and grounded near the great Chabos falls, about 43 miles from the sea. This fish was tolerably fat, for, although the citizens of Rensselaerwyck broiled out a great quantity of train oil, still the whole river, (the current being still rapid) was oily for three weeks, and cov-



ered with grease. As the fish lay rotting, the air was infected with its stench to such a degree that the smell was offensive and perceptible for two miles leeward. For what purpose those whales ascended the river, so far, it being at the time about 40 miles from all salt or brackish water, it is difficult to say, unless their great desire for fish, which were plenty at this season, led them onward."

The citizens of Rensselaerwyck, of whom Van der Donk speaks, did not live in the immediate vicinity of Whale Island, for at the early date mentioned, the land at the confluence of the Mohawk and Hudson rivers was still unoccupied by settlers.

#### THE PURCHASE OF ABRAHAM JACOB LANSING.

The conveyance of the territory embraced in the Stone Arabia patent, by Robert Wendell, Jr., heir of Johannes Wendell, to Abraham Jacob Lansing, begins with these words: "This indenture made and concluded the 21 day of June in the 3 year of the reign of King George the third &c of our Lord 1763, between Robert Wendell of Stone Arabia, in the county of Albany, in the province of New York, yeoman of the one part, and Abraham Jacob Lansing of the same place, gentleman, of the other part." The price paid for the land was "the sum of three hundred pounds currency money." From the above tract was excepted a part which had been sold previously to Simon Van Antwerp, but which was then owned by William Rogers.

The name Stone Arabia, or Stone Arabia, given to this land was bestowed most likely on account of the great quantity of coarse gravel and water-worn stones which were thickly embedded by deposition in its surface soil. It was perhaps, this peculiar condition of the land that induced Abraham Jacob Lansing to have a part of it surveyed and laid out into building lots in 1771.

#### NEW CITY.

The map of this survey is to be seen in the Albany county clerk's office. A description of the city of Lansingburgh is engrossed upon it, as follows:

This map describeth a tract of land lying on the east side of Hudson's river, about eight miles above the city of Albany, and is layed out in a regular square for the founding of a city by the name of Lansingburgh; the lots are one hundred and twenty feet long and fifty wide. The streets are seventy feet wide, and the alleys 30 feet wide; the oblong square the Green or Park in the center is reserved for public uses. Laid down by a scale of ninety feet to an inch. June 7, 1771. Joseph Blinckard, surveyor, May 11, 1771. A. Jacob Lansing.

Undoubtedly the purpose of Abraham Jacob Lansing in thus dividing up his estate, eight years after purchasing it, was of a speculative character. His shrewd discernment was well rewarded when the tide of emigration from the New England provinces set towards it, and made the newly laid out city a notable place of trade and commerce at the head of navigation. The Dutch name, *de Nieuw Stadt*, the New City, in contradistinction to *de Oude Stadt*, the Old City, as Albany was called, was, either in its Dutch or English form, the most common term by which Lansingburgh was at first known.

#### THE NAME OF ITS FIRST SETTLERS.

The growth of Lansingburgh is in part marked by the sale of the lots exhibited on the old map. The limits of the new city were North, East and South streets, and on the west, the river. The names of the first settlers, and the time of their purchase of lots, are given in the following list:

Names and time of purchase.	No. of lot or lots.
Robert Yates, March 7, 1770.....	81, 82, 102
John Dunbar, March 9, 1770.....	113
Benj. French, March 20, 1770.....	114
Edwin Taylor, May 28, 1770.....	115
Jacob A. Lansing, Oct. 7, 1770.....	116
Abm. Blau, Oct. 25, 1770.....	117
Isaac Lansing, Oct. 25, 1770.....	118
Jonathan Wickwire, Dec. 9, 1770.....	119
Samuel Halstead, Dec. 19, 1770.....	120
John Barber, Jan. 30, 1771.....	121
Anne Hamerley, March 30, 1771.....	122
Flora Bancker, June 8, 1771.....	123
Charles Mead, June 8, 1771.....	124
Anthony Rutgers, June 8, 1771.....	125
Evart Bancker, June 11, 1771.....	126
Peter Curtin, June 11, 1771.....	127
Alex. McLean, June 11, 1771.....	128
Walden Blau, June 18, 1771.....	129
Jonathan Brewer, Aug. 24, 1771.....	130
Edw. Fonda, Dec. 8, 1771.....	131
John D. Fonda, Dec. 27, 1771.....	132
Mayfield McCoy, Dec. 27, 1771.....	133
Isaac H. Lansing, Dec. 30, 1771.....	134
Abm. K. Van Vleet, Jan. 31, 1772.....	135
Jonathan Severs, Feb. 29, 1772.....	136
Charles Reed, Feb. 29, 1772.....	137
Francis Lansing, April 24, 1772.....	138
Hendrick Lansing, April 24, 1772.....	139
Abm. Blau, June 29, 1772.....	140
Abm. Blau, June 29, 1772.....	141
Abm. Blau, July 21, 1772.....	142
Thomas Blau, July 21, 1772.....	143
Cornelius S. Schuyler, July 21, 1772.....	144
James Van Vleet, July 21, 1772.....	145
John D. Wirt, July 21, 1772.....	146
Barnet De Clyn, July 21, 1772.....	147
James Morrell, Nov. 18, 1772.....	148
Volker Dawson, Feb. 8, 1773.....	149
John Kipp, July 10, 1773.....	150
Levitt and Catherine Van Vleet, July 21, 1773.....	151
Ralph Watson, Sept. 14, 1773.....	152
Joseph Norris, Oct. 25, 1773.....	153
John Dickinson, April 7, 1774.....	154
Patrick Smith, June 3, 1774.....	155
John Thuma, Aug. 8, 1774.....	156
Margaret Tillman, Aug. 8, 1774.....	157
Amos Graves, Nov. 24, 1774.....	158
Peter Weaver, Dec. 9, 1774.....	159
Peter Goody, Feb. 21, 1775.....	160
Samuel J. Quaker, March 3, 1775.....	161
Joseph Young, April 6, 1775.....	162
Francis Lansing, April 27, 1775.....	163
Wynkoop and Ten Eyck, May 8, 1775.....	164
Moses Holt, Sept. 29, 1775.....	165
William Nichols, Feb. 15, 1776.....	166
Patrick McKim, Feb. 8, 1777.....	167
William McGill, April 9, 1777.....	168
William Conklin, June 28, 1777.....	169
James Thompson, April 11, 1778.....	170
Lyman Hitchcock, May 3, 1778.....	171
John Tibbitt, Oct. 27, 1780.....	172
Cornelius Cooper, Oct. 30, 1780.....	173
Ezra Hitchcock, June 10, 1783.....	174
Joy Chambers, March 9, 1784.....	175
Hogeland and Seymour, March 7, 1785.....	176
Thomas Knight, April 28, 1785.....	177
John Van Cortlandt, Nov. 1, 1785.....	178
Paul and William, April 24, 1786.....	179
Maria Ross, March 7, 1788.....	180
John Van Rensselaer, June 1, 1788.....	181
Caleb Carr, June 10, 1788.....	182
Abm. Blau, July 12, 1788.....	183
Benjamin Snyder, July 28, 1788.....	184
Cornelius Vandevoort, Sept. 10, 1788.....	185
August Murray, Sept. 13, 1789.....	186
Nathaniel Jacobs, Nov. 15, 1789.....	187
Francis Cook, March 13, 1789.....	188
Jaques Bruce, Nov. 15, 1789.....	189
William Lander, Jan. 14, 1790.....	190
William Adams, no date.....	191
John Burdham, no date.....	192
James Caldwell, no date.....	193
Jeremiah Constock, no date.....	194
Peter Riege, no date.....	195
Hugh McFarly, no date.....	196
James McFarly, no date.....	197
Aaron Kelle, no date.....	198
Samuel Kelle, no date.....	199
William Kelle, no date.....	200
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THE TOWN AND BOROUGH OF STONE ARABIA.  
The local government of the town and borough of Stone Arabia was in 1771 vested in

committee of five persons, chosen by the inhabitants and freeholders yearly. The other officers elected annually were a moderator, a town clerk, a pathmaster and three fence-viewers.

The first officers of the town and borough in 1771 were:

Moderator, Ebenezer Marvin; clerk, Thomas S. Diamond; committee, Abraham Jacob Lansing, Isaac Bogart, John Barber, Ebenezer Marvin and Benjamin French; pathmaster, Abraham Wendell; fence viewers, Robert Wendell, Levinus Lansing and Isaac Van Arnum.

The records of these town meetings contribute the following names to the list of the inhabitants of Stone Arabia at this early period:

1773—William Spotten, William Pemberton, Ralph Watson, Joshua Austin, Josiah Rose, Abraham Stephens, Nathaniel Oaks, John Walker, Archibald Campbell, Aldab Fonda, Anthony Van Schick.  
1774—Roger Noble, John Breeding, Stephen Marvin, William Carr, James Wilson, Benjamin Evans, Joseph Joy, Obadiah Benthouse.  
1775—David Collins, Christopher Tillman, John Wirt, John Follett, Daniel Tonery, John Clark, Adolph Starnborough, Cornelius Noble, Frederick Weaver.  
1777—James Williams.  
1784—Albert Pawling, Jeremiah Hoogland.  
1785—John Van Rensselaer, Horace Seymour, Sidney Perry, Samuel Cogswell.

#### A PATRIOTIC PLEDGE.

The news of the battle of Lexington, fought on the 19th of April, 1775, when heard by the people of Lansingburgh, awakened all their pride and love of country. They felt the necessity of defending themselves against the aggressions of the British soldiery. They held meetings and discussed the questions affecting the interests of the people. They pledged one another in an agreement which is remarkable for its patriotic fervor and loyal sentiments. It was as follows:

LANSINGBURGH, May 22, 1775. A general association agreed to and subscribed by the freemen, freeholders and inhabitants of the town of Lansingburgh and patent of Stone Arabia: Resolved, That the salvation of the rights and liberties of America depends, under God, on the firm union of its inhabitants in a vigorous prosecution of the measures necessary for its safety—convicted of the necessity of preventing the anarchy and confusion which attend a dissolution of the power of government, we, the freemen, freeholders and inhabitants of the town of Lansingburgh and patent of Stone Arabia, being greatly alarmed at the unwearied despotism of the British ministry to raise a revenue in America, and shocked by the bloody scenes now acting in Massachusetts by government, in the most solemn manner, do hereby solemnly swear, and do associate ourselves under all the ties of religion, honor and love to country, to adopt and to endeavor to carry into execution whatever measures may be recommended by the continental congress, or resolved by our provincial convention, for the purpose of preserving our constitution, and opposing the execution of the several arbitrary and oppressive acts of the British parliament, until a reconciliation between Great Britain and America, on constitutional principles can be obtained, than which we wish for nothing more ardently, and we do hereby covenant, promise and agree that we will in all things follow the advice of our general committee respecting the purpose aforesaid, the preservation of peace, good order and safety of the individuals and private property.

Abraham Jacob Lansing, Christopher Tillman, John D. Wynkoop, Daniel Tonery, Jonathan Severs, Henry Follett, Michael Housewilt, John Kipp, Stephen Marvin, James Boggs, Abraham Underkirk, Ephraim Griswold, Samuel Higgins, James Wilson, Jactus Brown, John Clark, David Layton, Francis Hogle, John Sloan, Gerry Lane, Samuel Burns, Isaac Van Arnum, Robert Wendell, Fomell Brown, Frederick Weaver, Levinus Lansing, William Thompson, Joseph Bacon, John

Dunbar, Feleiah Winchel, John Young, Levius Levere, Gershom French, Joseph Jones, John Stillington, Thomas Cook, William Nichols, Alexander Bogart, John Wirt, Josiah Rose, James Shaw, Aaron Ward, William Conklin, Edward Bruner, Samuel Bruner, Jacob A. Lansing.  
A line copy of the original association paper, drawn this 15th day of June, 1775.  
CHAS. TILLMAN, Town Clerk.

#### SOLDIERS OF THE REVOLUTION.

Lansingburgh, in the dark hours of the revolutionary war, sent forth, from their new homes, bands of patriotic men, who with willing hearts defended, while connected with the army of the North, the frontier towns on the upper Hudson, from the invading army under Burgoyne. Under Gens. Schuyler and Gates they won honorable mention. The following muster and pay-rolls exhibit the names of the officers and privates of two Lansingburgh companies doing service as militia men of Albany county in 1777:

A roll of the Lansingburgh company of Col. Stephen F. Schuyler's militia, Feb. 15, 1777.

Christopher Tillman, captain.  
Abraham Ten Eyck, Jonathan Severs, Lieutenants.

John Clark, ensign.  
Daniel Tonery, Aaron Ward, William Conklin, Jonathan Douglas, sergeants.

William Willoughby, James Barber, James Sloan, Stephen Marvin, Jr., corporals.

George Lane, Abraham J. Underkirk, Henry Van Arnum, Robert Thompson, Samuel Burns, Levinus

Lansburgh, William Thompson, Samuel Bennett, Michael Housewilt, Confort Shaw, George Martin, Robert Armstrong, Conrad Hentlebecker, John

Dunbar, Robert Dunbar, John Hogg, Feleiah Winchel, Henry Campbell, Benjamin Bruner, Samuel Bruner, John Young, Levinus Levere,

Solomon Goewy, Francis Hogle, Isaac Van Arnum, Thomas Martin, Ephraim Griswold, James Griswold, William Carr, John Wool, Christopher

Pamper, John Barber, John Paddock, William Spotten, Nicholas Fisher, Jactus Brown, James Forins, Joseph Perkins, John Watkins, George Van

Vleet, George Boyd, Leonard Miller, William

Boyd, John Follett, Phineas Bacon, William Douglas, privates.

Pay-roll of Capt. Cornelius Noble's company in Stephen F. Schuyler's regiment of Albany militia, to August 11th, 1777.

Cornelius Noble, captain.  
Samuel Shaw, John Clark, Lieutenants.

John Bly, ensign.  
Hugh McMann, William Greenfield, Samuel

Kape, Ezekiah Hall, William Norton, sergeants.  
James Barber, Stephen Marvin, Samuel Fraser,

John S. Fine, corporals.  
Emanuel Hentlebecker, drummer.

Heracles Kroeckhite, Abraham Kroeckhite, William Crannell, Hendrick Struel, Jacob Fe-

low, William Cooper, John Van Ostrand, Hendrick Floss, Jr., Jacob Smith, William Morris,

John Hamah, Isaac Crannell, Samuel Evans, John Paddock, William Willoughby, John Page, Matthew

Martin, Andrew Colchamner, Daniel Greyberger, John Van der Warken, Ephraim Griswold, David

Randel, Joseph Doty, Bethuel Greenfield, Solomon Griffiths, Stephen Millard, John Barto, Stephen

Randal, Reuben Bompie, Ephraim Jackson, Israel Brooks, Jacob Van Severy, Philip Hanner, Joseph

Benson, Andrew Barott, Ebenezer Baker, Francis Hogle, John Fraser, John Carner,

Follett Miller, Peter Mlinch, Andrew Parker, Casparis, Valentine, Jost Harwick, John Wattar,

Ruel Ostrum, John Lansing, Thomas Martin, John Kelly, Solomon Rader, Hendrick Floss, Peter

Cooms, Israh Durham, privates.

#### THE OLD LANDMARKS.

The sites of several of the homesteads of the earlier settlers of Stone Arabia are marked on the map of the mayor of Rensselaerwyck, made by Jno. R. Bleeker in 1787. The north line of the manor, north 88° east, is placed north of the fourth branch of the Mohawk river, about where is now the Union bridge between Waterford and Lansingburgh. On Sauthier's map of the



60 province of New York, 1779, the inclosing boundary lines of the patent of Stone Arabia are south of this line. A map of Rensselaerwyck, drawn by Robert Yates, alderman of the city of Albany, who made a survey of the manor lines in 1773, assisted by Gerardus Lansing, a baker of Albany, and Nicholas Marselius, a silversmith of the same city, as chairman, the north line of the manor is located south of the second branch of the Mohawk river. This line, instead of being the north line of the manor, was most likely the south line of the patent of Stone Arabia. This inference is well supported by the lines given by Southier, Bleeker and Yates agree in the location of the points. On the latter's map appears a small stream, north of Lansingburgh, named Koble Kill, south of this creek iser Berg creek, south of it iser Berg, then the fourth sprout of the Mohawk, then the third sprout, then Stone Arabia, or Lansingburgh, opposite of which is an island, on which is the name of Anthony Van Schaick, then Whale Fish Island, then the middle or second sprout, on the south line of which, extended to the east side of the river, is the house of William Rogers, then a long line, erroneously drawn as the north boundary of the manor of Rensselaerwyck, which is described as "a line north 70° west as the needle pointed, 1737, from the present northwest corner of Massachusetts bay to Hudson's river, 21 miles, 21 chains, 75 links." This line appears to be about 1,500 feet north of the Piscawken kill. The residence of Abraham Jacob Lansing is still to be seen on the east side of State street, No. 405, north of the oil cloth manufactory of Deborah Powers & Sons. The three sons of Jacob A. Lansing were Jacob A. Lansing, who died February 25, 1801; Cornelius Lansing, who died April 23, 1842; and Levinus Lansing, who died in 1837. Cornelius Lansing's residence was what is now known as the Abbey property; and that of Levinus Lansing, where now is the home of David Judson, No. 3 Grove street. Jacob C. Lansing, the son of Cornelius Lansing, and father of Charles J. Lansing, Esq., died July 10, 1822.

#### THE GROWTH OF THE NEW CITY.

In 1768 Ekanah Watson, while making a tour through New York, visited New City and wrote as follows concerning it: "I spent a day in examining this locality, [Vanderheyden, the site of Troy], and then walked on the banks of the Hudson, a distance of three miles to New City, where I continued several days. This place is thronged by mercantile emigrants, principally from New England, who have enjoyed a very extensive and lucrative trade, supplying Vermont and the region of both banks of the Hudson, as far as Lake George, with merchandise; and receiving in payment wheat, pot and pearl ashes and lumber."

Ekanah Watson was at this early date inspecting the country and examining the river for the purpose of ascertaining the cost of a canal to the west. Alluding to this project, he

further writes:

In the view of ascending by locks from the Hudson into the Mohawk river, it appears to me that the obstacles at this place [Cohoes falls] will be much greater than to cut a canal across the pine plains, into a grand basin, back of Albany. I took passage in a bateau at New City to Albany, for the purpose of sounding the river. The result of my examination satisfied me that in ordinary tides five or six feet may be carried to within a mile of New City, and from thence to that town 15 or 18 inches.

Respecting the navigableness of the river to New City, the following paragraphs from the *American Spy*, March 8, 1793, published in Lansingburgh, show the size of the vessels which ascended the river to that height:

The sloop Arabia, of 90 tons burden, arrived at this place yesterday and is now loading for New York.

It is of great importance to the business of the place that vessels of 80 or 90 tons can generally load at our docks through the spring season, at which time the most of the produce of the country is shipped off; and it is contemplated that the same advantage will continue through the whole season after the present year, as dams are to be erected next summer to give a sufficient depth of water up to this town to navigate vessels of 40 and 50 tons burthen.

Previous to the establishment of a postoffice at Lansingburgh letters were transmitted to the postoffice at Albany by postriders or stage-drivers. Ananias Platt, to whom had been granted in 1789 by the state legislature the exclusive right to run a line of stages between Lansingburgh and Albany, advertised in the *Federal Herald* that "the public will please take notice that fourpence will be required, as postage, for each letter which may be conveyed by the stage from Lansingburgh to Albany, or from Albany to Lansingburgh. Those who wish to have their letters conveyed by the year, will make their arrangements with A. Platt."

In April, 1791, Stephen Gorham was appointed deputy postmaster for Lansingburgh, but a postoffice was not established in the place until June, 1792.

The increase of travel between Lansingburgh and the neighboring places was thus spoken of in 1796:

A few years ago there was but one stage between this town and Albany. It was established and maintained at great expense by A. Platt, and for a considerable time had little encouragement. He, however, persevered, and at this day, this mode of traveling has so increased, that 20 stages pass and repass daily between the neighboring towns of Lansingburgh, Troy, Waterford and Albany, averaging more than 150 passengers per day, a proof of our growth and prosperity.

#### LANSINGBURGH INCORPORATED.

The preamble to the act under which the first trustees of Lansingburgh were appointed passed April 5, 1790, begins with a historical statement that "whereas, in that part of the town of Rensselaerwyck, in the county of Albany, hereinafter described, a considerable number of houses are already erected and occupied by merchants, mechanics and others, to the advancement of commerce and manufactures in the state; and in order to enable them to regulate their internal police and secure the benefits of certain commonable lands lying within the same, have prayed that they might be enabled to appoint trustees."

It was then enacted that John Van Rensselaer, Christopher Tillman, Elijah James, Aaron Ward, Stephen Gorham, Ezra Hickok

and Levinus Lansing should "be the first trustees for the freeholders and inhabitants of that part of the town of Rensselaerwyck commonly called Lansingburgh."

The powers conferred upon the freeholders and inhabitants at their annual town meetings, made it their duty to direct the use and management of their common lands, and respecting the cutting of the wood on the same; to establish prudential rules relative to the cleaning and keeping in order and repair the common streets and highways of Lansingburgh; to compel the housekeepers of Lansingburgh to furnish themselves with a sufficient number of proper fire-buckets, and with necessary tools and implements for extinguishing fires.

The trustees appointed by the act were to act as inspectors of election; the first one to be held on the third Tuesday of May, 1790, at which time "seven discreet inhabitants, being freeholders," were to be elected "by a majority of voices," to hold office for one year; and annually thereafter, the same number was to be elected.

Since that time the following persons have filled the offices of president, clerk and treasurer:

1790, President, Abraham J. Lansing; clerk, John D. Dickinson; treasurer, Aaron Lane.  
1791, President, Abraham J. Lansing; clerk, John D. Dickinson; treasurer, Aaron Lane.  
1792, President, Levinus Lansing; clerk, John D. Dickinson; treasurer, Aaron Lane.  
1793, President, Aaron Lane; clerk, John D. Dickinson; treasurer, William Bell.  
1794, President, John Van Rensselaer; clerk, John D. Dickinson; treasurer, William Bell.  
1795, President, James Hickok; clerk, Joseph Alexander; treasurer, Joseph Alexander.  
1796, President, James Hickok; clerk, Joseph Alexander; treasurer, William Bell.  
1797, President, James Hickok; clerk, Joseph Alexander; treasurer, William Bell.  
1798, President, James Hickok.  
1799, President, Elijah James; clerk, Joseph Alexander; treasurer, Charles Selden.  
1800, President, John D. Dickinson; clerk, Joseph Alexander; treasurer, Charles Selden.  
1801-5, President, David Allen; clerk, Charles Selden; treasurer, E. W. Walbridge.  
1806, President, E. W. Walbridge; clerk, James Dougrey; treasurer, E. W. Walbridge.  
1811-13, Records lost.  
1814-15, President, John M. Caswell; clerk, Marcus L. Filley; treasurer, Horace James.  
1816, President, John M. Caswell; clerk, Marcus L. Filley; treasurer, Jabez F. Parmelee.  
1817, President, John M. Caswell; clerk, Richard McDonald; treasurer, Jabez F. Parmelee.  
1818, President, John M. Caswell; clerk, M. L. Filley; treasurer, Jabez F. Parmelee.  
1819, President, John M. Caswell; clerk, R. McDonald; treasurer, Jabez F. Parmelee.  
1820, President, Nicholas Weaver; clerk, Cornelius L. Travy; treasurer, Gerrit Fort.  
1821, President, John B. Chipman; clerk, Richard McDonald; treasurer, Gerrit Fort.  
1822, President, Nicholas Weaver; clerk, Richard McDonald; treasurer, Gerrit Fort.  
1823, President, John B. Chipman; clerk, Stephen S. Hunt; treasurer, Gerrit Fort.  
1824, President, John S. Fiske; clerk, Walter Chipman; treasurer, Gerrit Fort.  
1825, President, John S. Fiske; clerk, Stephen S. Hunt; treasurer, Gerrit Fort.  
1826-6, President, John S. Fiske; clerk, Charles C. Parmelee; treasurer, Gerrit Fort.  
1827, President, John C. Filkin; clerk, Charles C. Parmelee; treasurer, B. G. Hathaway.  
1828, President, John B. Chipman; clerk, Isaac Ransom; treasurer, B. G. Hathaway.  
1829, President, John G. McMurray; clerk, J. F. Knickerbocker; treasurer, Charles Hitchcock.

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1830, President, John E. Whipple; clerk, J. F. Knickerbocker; treasurer, Charles Hitchcock.  
1831, President, Bailey G. Hathaway; clerk, Isaac Ransom; treasurer, John Matra.  
1832, President, John G. McMurray; clerk, Elram Bleckman; treasurer, Ed. P. Pickett.  
1833, President, Henry A. Mercer; clerk, B. G. Hathaway; treasurer, Stephen Helmstedt.  
1834, President, Joseph Fox; clerk, B. G. Hathaway.  
1835, President, E. B. Leonard; clerk, B. G. Hathaway.  
1836, President, John G. McMurray; clerk, William J. Lamb; treasurer, Ed. P. Pickett.  
1837, President, Thomas Curran; clerk, James D. Constock; treasurer, Ed. P. Pickett.  
1838, President, Henry A. Mercer; clerk, Daniel King; treasurer, Ed. P. Pickett.  
1839, President, B. G. Hathaway; clerk, Daniel King; treasurer, Ed. P. Pickett.  
1840, President, Charles Clark; clerk, Daniel King; treasurer, Ed. P. Pickett.  
1841, President, J. E. Whipple; clerk, Daniel King; treasurer, Ed. P. Pickett.  
1842, President, Robert Dickson; clerk, Daniel King; treasurer, Patrick Fitzgerald.  
1843, President, Robert Dickson; clerk, Daniel King; treasurer, Ed. P. Pickett.  
1844, President, Edward P. Pickett; clerk, Daniel King; treasurer, Edwin Adams.  
1845-6, President, Robert Dickson; clerk, Louis Ransom; treasurer, M. L. Fancher.  
1847, President, William Allen; clerk, John W. Gaston; treasurer, B. G. Hathaway.  
1848, President, William Allen; clerk, John Higgins; treasurer, Ed. P. Pickett.  
1849, President, Seth P. Welch; clerk, S. B. Kirkpatrick; treasurer, Edwin Adams.  
1850-71, President, Seth P. Welch; clerk, John M. Chambers; treasurer, Edwin Adams.  
1872, President, Seth P. Welch; clerk, John B. Burke; treasurer, Edwin Adams.  
1873, President, Robert Dickson; clerk, Milo Thompson; treasurer, Edwin Adams.  
1874-5, President, Robert Dickson; clerk, C. W. Witbeck; treasurer, Thos. Rourke.  
1876, President, James McGuire; clerk, C. W. Witbeck; treasurer, Thos. Rourke.  
1877, President, Chas. H. Dauchy; clerk, John Quinn; treasurer, Thos. Rourke.  
1878, President, Chas. H. Dauchy; clerk, C. W. Witbeck; treasurer, Thos. Rourke.  
1879, President, Frederick E. Draper; clerk, C. W. Witbeck; treasurer, J. E. West.  
1880, President, Frederick E. Draper; clerk, C. W. Witbeck; treasurer, J. E. West.

#### THE DUTIES OF ASSESSORS LAST CENTURY.

Under the act providing for the valuation of lands and dwelling houses, and the enumeration of slaves, within the United States, Ephraim Morgan was appointed in October, 1798, principal assessor, and Eliphalet W. Closs, Joseph Alexander, Jacob A. Fort, John Knickerbocker, Jonathan Brown and John Carpenter were appointed assistant assessors for the seventh district of the fifth division, comprehending the towns of Troy, Hoosick, Schaghticoke and Pittstown. The assessors gave notice of their beginning the assessment in this vicinity and of the peculiar requirements of the law governing their duties. It ran thus:

The inhabitants of the villages of Troy and Lansingburgh are earnestly requested immediately to prepare their lists, describing the size and number of their lot or lots, as they are known on the charts of said villages; also, the size and height of their dwelling houses, with the particular dimensions of all the windows therein contained; and also, the number, age and sex of all their slaves, if between the ages of 12 and 20 years.

The assessors think it their duty to mention, that in case any fraudulency or omissions are discovered in the aforesaid lists, the offender will be subject to a fine of not more than \$50, nor less than \$10, to be recovered with costs of prosecution.

The prosperity of Lansingburgh at the close of the year 1799 was quite notable and attracted considerable comment both from travelers visiting the place and from newspapers reviewing its rapid growth and local interests. Lansingburgh had now a population of 1,200 inhabi-



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tants; there were two churches; from 1787 five newspapers had successively been printed and issued weekly to the citizens of the thriving village; a postoffice had been established; and a very remunerative traffic in grain and other agricultural products was compensating the active and indefatigable efforts of the New England men who had become its leading merchants.

#### THE WAR OF 1812

During the war of 1812 the people of Lansingburgh, besides contributing men to the defense of the northern border often hospitably entertained United States soldiers, who, while on the march to the scene of hostilities, bivouacked over night in the village. Several British officers having been taken prisoners and being paroled, were for a time, quartered in Lansingburgh. At the termination of the war the inhabitants celebrated the ratification of peace with a procession and an illumination. A great bonfire blazed upon Diamond rock; a decorated balloon floated away from the village, and a public supper at the hotel, were special features of the occasion.

The presentation of an elegant service of silver plate to Commodore T. Macdonough, the hero of Lake Champlain, by the citizens of the patriotic village, was an event of no little interest to the inhabitants of Lansingburgh. Commodore Macdonough, having arrived in the village on Saturday, April 8, 1815, on his way to Washington, a committee met him at the hotel, and in the presence of a large number of the principal citizens of the place presented him with two large silver pitchers and twelve goblets. The inscriptions on the pitchers were: "Commodore T. Macdonough, with an inferior force, captured the British squadron on Lake Champlain, Sep. 11, 1814;" and, "Presented by the citizens of Lansingburgh to the Hero of Lake Champlain." On the silver goblets: "The citizens of Lansingburgh to Commodore Macdonough."

To the presentation committee, consisting of James Hickok, Daniel Smith, Elias Parmelee, John Topping, Elijah James, Gardiner Tracy, James Adams and James Reid, the commodore returned the following reply:

Gentlemen: It is with much pleasure and satisfaction I receive the several pieces of plate which you, on behalf of the citizens of Lansingburgh, have been pleased to present me. This handsome Lake Champlain is highly valued, and will be carefully preserved among other precious and honorable presents with which my countrymen have graciously honored me. Permit me to reciprocate your congratulations on the return of peace to our country. With sentiments of the highest respect and esteem, I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,  
T. MACDONOUGH.

#### THE TOWN OF LANSINGBURGH

The village of Lansingburgh, after the erection of the town of Troy, in 1791, was within the bounds of the latter, until March 20, 1807, when the town of Lansingburgh was formed from parts of the towns of Troy and Petersburgh. A part of the town of Schaghticoke was annexed in 1819; in 1836 a part of the town was added to the town of Troy, and a part to the town of Branswick in 1859. The min-

utes of the town meeting in 1807 are in part as follows:

At an annual town meeting of the freeholders and inhabitants of the town of Lansingburgh, begun and held at the house of Robert Ward on the 7th day of April, A. D. 1807, the following persons were elected to office for the ensuing year, viz.:

Town clerk, Ebenezer W. Walbridge; supervisor, Cornelius Lansing; assessors, Elias Parmelee, Aaron B. Hinman, David Henry; collector, John Williams; overseers of the poor, James Adams, David Henry; commissioners of highways, John Gaston, Shubael Gorham, Allen McLean; commissioners of schools, Charles Selden, Thomas Wallace; constables, John Williams, John Walcott, William Bancker; fence viewers, Aaron B. Hinman, John Walcott; poundmaster, Asa Bart; overseers of the highways, David Thomas, district No. 1, James Hickok, district No. 2, Aaron B. Hinman, district No. 3.

#### LANSINGBURGH IN 1824

To what importance Lansingburgh had grown in 1824 is briefly disclosed by Horatio Gates Spofford, LL. D., in his gazetteer of the State of New York of that date. He says:

It is regularly laid out in blocks or oblong squares, 400 by 200 feet, bounded by capacious streets in right lines, and it is two miles long and a half mile wide. There is a bank with a capital of \$200,000, and a handsome banking house; five churches; a flourishing academy, occupying two semidomed buildings with about 200 students. The whole number of houses and stores including public buildings, 380; population of the village, 1,520. Upwards of 8,000 beavers were slaughtered and packed here during last year, and it is acknowledged that as a pork market this town does more business than any other on the Hudson north of the city of New York. There are two extensive breweries, which sold 6,000 barrels of ale last year. There are large tanneries also, and mill works, and a brush factory, that produces about \$8,000 to \$12,000 worth a year. It has a very respectable printing establishment, a weekly newspaper, and some book stores.

I suppose I must also mention Batetown, halfway between Troy and Lansingburgh, for it has a tavern, and, if I mistake not, a few shops.

In 1836 the village contained 2 Presbyterian, 1 Baptist, 1 Methodist, 1 Episcopal and 1 Universalist churches; an excellent academy, 7

schools, a printing office, where was published the Lansingburgh Gazette, 4 hotels, 6 wholesale and 40 retail stores. Of manufactories there were 2 oil cloth, 1 brush and bellows, 1 tin, 1 gun, 2 breweries, 3 milleries and 2 grist mills. Also a bank and several slaughtering and packing houses. The number of buildings in the place was estimated at 500.

On Sunday afternoon, July 9, 1848, a fire, which originated in the stables of the Rensselaer house, destroyed between 30 and 40 buildings on State, Congress, Richard and Elizabeth streets.

On Sunday night, July 23, the same year, another fire consumed 12 buildings on State street, between Richard and Elizabeth streets.

#### THE WAR OF REBELLION

When the dark clouds of war again lowered over the land in 1861, many of the citizens of Lansingburgh left their peaceful occupations to stand in their loyalty before the enemy for the defense of the union of the states. The first full company formed was organized for the thirtieth regiment, New York State Volunteers, Col. Frisby commanding. It was mustered in as company A, Samuel King captain; John H. Campbell lieutenant, and Francis Dargen ensign. Capt. King and Ensign Dargen were both killed at the first battle of Bull Run, as were

also five privates of the same company. Capt. King is buried in Greenwood cemetery, and Lieut. Dargen in St. John's cemetery. A number of Lansingburgh's brave sons also joined company A of the twenty-second regiment, New York volunteers. Channsey F. Vandusen, of this company, lost his left arm at the second battle of Bull Run. Company K, one hundred and sixty-ninth regiment was raised by Captain Daniel Ferguson, who was killed at the explosion of the mine at Fort Fisher. There were also many who were connected with the one hundred and twenty-fifth, one hundred and ninety-second regiments, the Griswold cavalry, and other military organizations.

The first war committee in 1832, consisted of A. E. Povers, J. E. Whipple and E. P. Pickett. On the 23d of August, the town resolved to levy a tax of \$6,000 for bounty money, \$50 being paid for an enlistment. In September following an additional bounty of \$50 was voted. This was followed, during the progress of the war, by other public contributions.

#### THE VILLAGE OF DORT

The territory which now forms the north part of the town of Lansingburgh previous to the year 1819 belonged to the town of Schaghticoke. The site of the hamlet of Spiegeltown, which is about two miles north of Lansingburgh, was in 1796 called the village of Dort. The village plat, as it was "laid out and constructed by a scale of 100 feet to an inch by F. Bancker, May, 1796," on a piece of parchment, is still preserved. On it are marked three roads, which diverge from a common point, a little south of which was a building, the site of which is now occupied by the residence of James H. Rice. The road to the north is designated "St. Colic road," the one leading eastwardly "Cooksbury road," and the one to the south "Lansingburgh road." On the northeast part of the plat appears the name of John Follet; on the southeast that of William Douglas; on the south that of Rattison & Van der Spiegel; on the southwest that of William Douglas, and on the northwest that of Charles Follet.

On another map appears the names of John Crab, Crab & Boos, Leonard Wager and Abraham Francisco, who were residents of the immediate vicinity at that time. The name of Spiegeltown no doubt derived its name from the Van der Spiegel who was a partner of Rattison in 1796. Of the score of buildings which form the hamlet of Spiegeltown, there is a hotel, the Union church, school house No. 2, a blacksmith and wagon-making shop, The Germantown Union church of North Lansingburgh was incorporated July 23, 1844. The first trustees were John Storm, Aaron Perry, Nicholas Lapo, Charles T. Overocker and William Mills. The church is now connected with the Cooksbury charge of the Methodist Episcopal church.

#### CHURCHES

The first religious society organized in Lansingburgh was "The Protestant Reformed

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Dutch church," on the 25th of September, 1784. Its first officers were Zachariah Garnsey and Flores Bancker, elders, and Albert Pawling and Christopher Tillman, deacons. The Rev. Brandt Schuyler Lupton was ordained pastor of this church on the third Sunday of November, 1788. Traditionally it is said that a building once standing on the west side of State street, between Lansing and South streets, was first used as a meeting house by the membership of this church. After the organization of the first Presbyterian church the Dutch church rapidly lost its members, and about the close of the century its pulpit was no longer filled by ministers of the latter denomination.

The record of the incorporation of the First Presbyterian church of Lansingburgh affords us the principal facts concerning the early history of this society: "Be it remembered, that on the 9th day of August, A. D. 1792, the inhabitants of Lansingburgh, in consequence of due notice, convened in general meeting for the purpose of organizing themselves in a religious society, agreeably to the direction of an act of the legislature of the state of New York, etc., and in pursuance of the directions of said act, did, on this day, elect Levins Lansing, John Lovett, John D. Dickinson, James Dole, Jonas Morgan and Shubael Gorham trustees for said congregation; and the said inhabitants did vote and agree that the said corporation should be known by law by the name of the trustees of the First Presbyterian church and congregation of Lansingburgh." It was determined that a house for worship should be built of brick, 30x40 feet, at the north end of "The Green," the rear of the building toward Hoosick street. The cornerstone of the edifice was laid on Thursday afternoon, July 5, 1793, by the Rev. Jonas Coe, pastor of the United Presbyterian congregations of Lansingburgh and Troy. On the 23d of June, 1794, the church was dedicated.

In 1844-45 the present Presbyterian church was erected on the east side of Congress street, between Elizabeth and Market streets. The Rev. Jonas Coe, D. D., was pastor of this church from June 25, 1793, to 1804. His successor was the Rev. Samuel Blatchford, D. D., who began his pastorate July 19, 1804, which he held to March 18, 1828. The Rev. A. M. Beveridge, the present pastor, entered upon his ministry in this church on the third Sunday of July, 1838.

The first Protestant Episcopal church in Lansingburgh was duly organized on the fifth of January, 1804, by the election of the following persons as officers: John Young and David Smith, wardens; John Rutherford, William Bradley, Stephen Ross, John Walsh, Joseph S. Mabbett, Jonathan Burr, John Stewart and Henry Davis, vestrymen. The organization took the name of Trinity church of Lansingburgh. A frame building, 45 by 50 feet, it is said, was built the same year, on the northwest corner of John and Market streets. The Rev. David Butler, D. D., was rector of this church, and also of St. Paul's,



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Troy, from January 9, 1800, to 1814. As rector of Trinity church, in 1814, he was succeeded by the Rev. Parker Adams. A new church edifice was built in 1869-70 on the northwest corner of John and Market streets. The Rev. Byron J. Hall has been the rector of Trinity church since December 16, 1897.

The first Baptist society of Lansingburgh was formed on the 11th day of June, 1803. The first trustees were Daniel Seymour, Aaron B. Hinman, Francis Choate, Nathaniel Jacobs and William Spafford. The meeting house was erected on the corner of North and John streets. A reorganization of this society was effected July 28, 1858. The present church building, on the east side of John street, between Richard and Elizabeth streets, formerly belonged to the Second Presbyterian church. The present pastor, the Rev. A. C. Ferguson, entered upon his ministrations over this society October 1, 1878.

In 1810 the members of the Methodist Episcopal church in Lansingburgh erected their first house of worship on the river bank, at the foot of Elizabeth street. In 1837 the following persons were the trustees of the church: Ephraim Goss, Jacob Helmsstreet, Edwin Filley, Alexander Van Pelt, Jr., Thomas Ward, Benjamin Cass and Alexander Van Pelt, sr. The present house of worship, on the northeast corner of Congress and Elizabeth streets, was erected in 1845. The Rev. Joel W. Eaton is the present pastor of the church.

The first Universalist society of Lansingburgh was formed December 15, 1832. A small church was erected in 1834 on the corner of John and North streets. The property subsequently was purchased by the trustees of St. John's Roman Catholic church.

The Second Presbyterian church was organized June 24, 1835. A house of worship was erected on the east side of John street, between Elizabeth and Richard streets, which is now occupied by the Baptist society. The first trustees of the Second Presbyterian church were: William Van Vleet, Jonathan Wickware, Nathan Strutton, Lemuel Kennedy, William McMurray and Chauncey Ives. The Rev. Samuel P. Spear was the first pastor of the church. This congregation since the resignation of the Rev. George P. Tyler, D. D., in June, 1874, has not continued its organization. Some of the members of this body, however, erected a mission chapel on the northwest corner of Congress and Clinton streets, which was dedicated September 1, 1877.

St. John's Roman Catholic church was organized about the year 1841. On June 5, 1842, James B. Smith, James Halligan, Keating Rawson, John Higgins, George T. Gillespie, Barnet Evers, John Dooley, John Driscoll and Daniel Murray were chosen trustees. The church was dedicated in 1844, by the Right Rev. John McCloskey, D. D. The present edifice used now by the old congregation of St. John's church, known as St. Augustine's church, is on the east side of John street, between Market and Elizabeth streets, and was erected in 1864-65 at an expense of \$40,000.

The Free Methodist church was organized at Whipple hall, October 15, 1897. That year a house of worship was erected on Ann street, south of Elizabeth street. The Rev. George E. Perrin was the first pastor of this church.

Among the early religious societies organized in the village, one known as the Scotch Seceders is said to have occupied about the year 1760 as a place of worship, a building on the northwest corner of John and Richard streets.

The African Methodist Episcopal church of Lansingburgh was incorporated May 15, 1841. Twenty-five years after its organization the society dissolved.

#### MANUFACTURING INTERESTS.

The most prominent manufacturing business of the place is the making of oil cloths. Early in the year 1817 William Powers advertised that he had engaged in the business of manufacturing oil cloths. The extensive establishment of Deborah Powers & Sons and that of R. C. Haskell, in the southern part of the village, indicate the local importance of the business.

William McMurray, in 1818, began the manufacture of brushes in the village. His business, since that date, has grown into one of the leading industries of Lansingburgh. The wide reputation which the various factories of the village enjoys throughout the United States for the excellent quality of the various kinds and styles of brushes made by them is quite notable. The principal brush manufacturers are J. G. McMurray & Co.; George Scott, Peter B. King, E. & C. Wood, J. C. Pushee & Co., James McQuide, Flyn Brothers, Comeskey Brothers, F. Hoyt and Thomas Curran.

The manufacture of crackers in the village dates back to 1806, when the father of Joseph Fox was engaged in the business. The large steam cracker establishment of Joseph Fox and the well-known cracker bakery of R. M. DeForest enhance the value of Lansingburgh's manufacturing interests. The firm of Edward Tracy & Co. has long been established in the manufacture of malt. The Ludlow valve manufacturing company, which since 1872 has been extensively engaged in making the celebrated "Ludlow sliding stop valves," for the safe and economical distribution of water, steam and gas, and also the "Ludlow patent friction hydrants," at the extreme south part of the village, gives employment to a large number of workmen. The carriage factory of Edwin Chamberlain, the knit goods mill of Harder & Co., the scale works and foundry of Arnold & Rowe, and the brewing establishment of Samuel Bolton & Sons add industry and prosperity to the place.

#### LANSINGBURGH NEWSPAPERS.

The *Northern Centinel and Lansingburgh Advertiser*, issued on Monday, May 21, 1787, as a weekly, by Claxton & Babcock, King street, between Hoosick and South streets. Lansingburgh was the first newspaper published in the territory now embraced in the county of Rensselaer.

The *Federal Herald*, weekly, by Babcock & Hickok, succeeded the *Northern Centinel* May 5, 1788.

The *American Spy* was the name of the newspaper which followed the former, April 8, 1793, published by Silvester Tiffany.

The *Northern Budget*, by Robert Moffitt & Co., became the successor of the *Spy*, June 30, 1797.

The *Lansingburgh Gazette*, after the removal of the *Budget* to Troy, May 15, 1798, had its first issue on September 12, 1798, and was first edited and printed by Gardiner Tracy. A. B. Elliott is the present editor and proprietor of this well known journal.

The *Farmer's Register* was issued for the first time January 25, 1803, by Francis Adancourt.

The *Democratic Press and Lansingburgh Advertiser* had its first publication January 18, 1833, by William J. Lamb.

The *Literary Cabinet* was the next paper, November, 1841.

The *Golden Rule*, January 1, 1844, monthly, by the Rev. Rolla J. Smith.

The *Antiquarian and General Review*, a monthly, by the Rev. Wm. Arthur, March, 1847.

The *Lansingburgh Daily Gazette*, by Mitchell & Kirkpatrick, January 3, 1860.

The *Sent Weekly Chronicle*, April 6, 1864, by J. D. Comstock.

*Our Little Paper*, September 13, 1872, by E. D. Ayres.

The *Enterprise*, November 29, 1873, by J. D. Comstock.

The *Lansingburgh Courier*, December 24, 1875, by Isaac L. Van Voast and William H. Engel.

#### BANKS.

The first banking institution of the village was the bank of Lansingburgh, incorporated March 19, 1813. The building in which the bank began business was the one now known as No. 331 State street. The first board of directors was: Elijah James, Shubael Gorham, Abraham C. Lansing, James Dennison, Gardiner Tracy, James Hickok, James Adams, Jonathan Burr, Timothy Leonard, Silvanus J. Penniman, Elias Parmelee, John Stewart, Calvin Barker, James Dougrey and Asa Burr. Elijah James was chosen president and James Reid cashier. The amount of capital authorized was \$200,000. This institution, by the depreciation of the value of its assets, discontinued business March 16, 1877.

The Rensselaer county bank was established in Lansingburgh January 1, 1853. John S. Fake was the first president of the institution. On the 13th of July, 1873, the bank discontinued business.

Bank of D. Powers & Sons was established March 29, 1877. Deborah Powers, Albert E. Powers and Nathaniel Powers being sole partners in the institution.

#### LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.

The first masonic organization that was formed in Lansingburgh was Hiram lodge, No. 35, the warrant granted by the grand lodge, bearing date May 15, 1787. The lodge room in the year 1790 was on the second floor of Hammer's tavern, which stood where now is the Phoenix hotel. Early in this century Hiram lodge ended its work.

Phoenix lodge No. 361 has its warrant dated

June 23, 1823. Under a dispensation of the grand lodge in September, 1825, Benjamin W. Horr, Chauncey Ives, Nathan Morrey, Alvan Hawley, Samuel H. Mulford, Ephraim Goss, B. B. Stearns and Jonathan Choate met together for the first time on September 26. The political crusade against masonic bodies about the year 1834 led the few remaining members of Phoenix lodge to surrender its charter on January 6, 1836. In 1838 the grand lodge was petitioned for a new charter, which was granted, and on June 7, 1839, Phoenix lodge No. 58 assumed its second existence. The lodge room is in the Masonic hall, No. 635 State street.

In 1854 Jerusalem lodge No. 335 was organized.

Phoenix chapter No. 153 received its dispensation Nov. 22, 1849.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows is represented by Bethlehem Rebecca degree lodge No. 49.

The temperance cause is advocated by Diamond Rock Temple of Honor No. 35 and by the Christian Temperance Union of Lansingburgh.

The Lansingburgh academy was incorporated February 20, 1796.

#### CENSUS OF THE TOWN OF LANSINGBURGH.

1770	50	1830	3,268
1775	90	1840	3,320
1780	150	1850	3,492
1785	250	1860	3,730
1790	400	1870	3,730
1795	600	1880	3,772
1800	800	1890	3,772
1805	1,000	1895	3,914
1810	1,200	1900	4,074
1815	1,400		
1820	1,600		
1825	1,800		
1830	2,000		
1835	2,200		
1840	2,400		
1845	2,600		
1850	2,800		
1855	3,000		
1860	3,200		
1865	3,400		
1870	3,600		
1875	3,800		
1880	4,000		
1885	4,200		
1890	4,400		
1895	4,600		
1900	4,800		

From 1771 to 1815 the population of the village is estimated. From 1820 it is the census of the town of Lansingburgh.

## Crop Daily Times.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 25, 1890.

## RENSSELAER COUNTY.

### A CHAPTER OF ITS EARLY HISTORY.

### Peculiar Colonization Scheme of the Dutch.

### The Purchases of Kiliaen Van Rensselaer.

### Extent of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck.

### NAMES OF THE FREEHOLDERS IN 1720.



# **The Public Whipping of Slaves— The Province of New York Divided into Counties—Courts of Pypowder Held in the Manor— Erection of Rensselaer County— The First Court Held at Platt's Inn—County Officers— First Censuses.**

The history of Rensselaer county properly begins with the first purpose of the Dutch to colonize the attractive and fertile country which bordered the river explored by Henry Hudson, the English navigator, in 1609. The project, if we except a possible fear of the Indians inhabiting this inviting region, was one that would readily captivate the attention of speculators, especially those living in a land where the labors of agriculturists were of an extremely arduous character. A people whose vigilance and work preserved their fields and homes from the constant danger of inundation from the high tides of a troublesome ocean, we may suppose, would look with favoring interest upon a scheme of emigration that would release them from such continuous cares and give them larger and more satisfying rewards for their industry and thrift.

## **PATROON PRIVILEGES.**

In Holland there was in 1629 a guild of wealthy merchants known as the West India company. Conscious that by right of discovery the country adjacent to the river explored by Hudson 90 years previously was a possession of Holland, the association petitioned the legislative bodies of the United Provinces to grant it the exclusive privilege for 24 years of taking charge of this territory and of developing by means of emigrants its agricultural and mineral products. This petition was granted, and by the powers conferred by it the West India company issued its charter of liberties and exemptions under which the colonization of the possessions of the Dutch in North America began.

Inquiring persons will find in this charter of the West India company valuable information regarding the inducements offered to emigrants and what gave the patroons the proprietary right to such extensive tracts of land, as that of the manor of Rensselaerwick, from which Rensselaer county was erected. This important instrument provided that any person who wished to become a patroon would be obliged to give notice of his intention to the company, and that he would not be entitled to the absolute property right of such lands on which he intended to settle colonists, if, during the four years following the giving of this notice, 50 souls, upwards of 15 years of age, were not living thereon; one-fourth of the above number during the first year and the remainder the succeeding three years. The patroons were allowed for these colonies a tract of land—on one side of a navigable river, four Dutch or twelve English miles in extent, or two Dutch or six English miles on each side of a river, and which tracts were to extend so far into the country as the situation of the colonies permitted. The West India company also agreed

to transport emigrants and their effects from Holland at a stipulated price; and the animals and instruments necessary in farming, free of freight.

The company also granted to all patroons who should desire the same the right to hold the tracts of lands settled by them as an eternal heritage, which they could transmit to their heirs by testament. The charter further provided that the patroons and colonists should in particular and in the speediest manner endeavor to find out ways and means whereby they might support a minister and schoolmaster, that the service of God and zeal for religion might not grow cold and be neglected among them.

All the colonies were required, at least once in every 12 months, to make an exact report of their colony to the West India company.

The company also stipulated, on certain conditions, that it would use its best efforts to supply the colonists with as many blacks as it conveniently could after the land had been occupied by a colony.

As a means to protect the manufacturers of Holland, the colonists were not permitted to make any woollen, linen or cotton cloth, nor weave any other stuffs, on pain of banishment.

## **THE MANOR OF RENSSELAERWYCK.**

It was under the liberal provisions of this charter that Killian Van Rensselaer, a dealer in pearls and diamonds in Amsterdam, and one of the wealthy directors of the Dutch West India company, became a patroon and acquired by right of settlement a property right to the extensive territory known as the manor of Rensselaerwick, lying on the east and west banks of the upper Hudson.

The charter of liberties also provided that any one who should settle any colony out of the limits of Manhattan island would be obliged to satisfy the Indians for the land upon which he should place colonists, and that a patroon might extend or enlarge the limits of his colonies if he settled a proportionate number of them thereon.

Killian Van Rensselaer, in order to perfect a claim to a large extent of land in New Netherland, made purchases of the Indians of several tracts of land, which in time embraced a territory 24 miles long and 48 broad, containing as estimated more than 700,000 acres of land, over which the present counties of Albany, Rensselaer and a portion of Columbia now extend. The persons who acted as agents of Killian Van Rensselaer were Sebastian Jansen Krol, who made the first purchase, April 8, 1630; Gillis Hassett, the second, July 27, 1630, and Brandt Van Slochtenhorst, the third, March 13, 1632.

The English confirmation of a patent to Killian Van Rensselaer given by Gov. Thomas Dongan, dated November 4, 1635, describes the boundaries of the several purchases made by the agents of Van Rensselaer as follows:

Beginning at the south end of or part of Berrent 1<sup>st</sup> and on Hudson's river and extending northwards up along both sides of the said Hudson's river unto a place theretofore called the Kolk, or the great falls of the said river backwards into the woods 24 English miles, as also a certain tract of land situate lying and being on the east side of Hudson's river, beginning at the creek by Major Abram

Staat's and so along the said river southwards to the south end of Vastrik island by a creek called Wachankasch, stretching from thence with an easterly line into the woods 24 English miles to a place called Wawangusick, and from thence northward to the head of said creek by Major Abraham Staat's as aforesaid.

This patent excepted Fort Albany and the town of Albany, from the southwest end of the pasture lying over against the north end of

Martin Garritson's island to the post on the north side of the said town, where it was formerly marked by Gov. Stuyvesant, and so backward into the woods northwest 16 English miles.

## **THE CONDITION OF THE PROVINCE IN 1673.**

It should be remembered that the English dispossessed the Dutch, in 1664, of New Netherland, as their possessions in America were called. However, the Dutch, in turn, wrested the province from the English in 1673, but who, by the treaty of Westminster, restored it again to the English in 1674.

Major Edmund Andros, having received the appointment of governor of the province, he, in 1673, made a report respecting the condition and growth of the province of New York, which, although it shows that little attention was paid to orthography and punctuation, is so full of important information as makes it quite interesting. The governor says:

Albany is a small long stockaded forte with four bastions in 4, 12 guns, sufficient against Indians.

The militia is about 3,000, of which about 140 horse in three troops, the foots formed into companies, most under 100 men each, all indifferently armed with fire-arms of all sizes.

Our principal place of Trade are New York and Southton, except Albany for the Indians, our buildings most wood, some lately stone and brick, good country houses and strong of their several kinds.

We have about 34 towns, villages or parishes in six Precincts, Divisions, Rydings, or Courts of Sessions.

Our Merchts are not many, but with inhabitants and planters about 3,000 able to bore arms, old inhabitants of the place or of England except in and neere New York of Dutch extraction and some few of all nations, but few servts, much wanted, and but very few slaves.

Ministers have been soe scarce and Religions many that noe sect can be given of children's Births or christenings.

Scarcity of Ministers and Lawadmitting marriages by Justices, noe sect can be given of the number married.

Noe sect can be given of burials, forms of burials not being generally observed and few ministers till very lately.

A merchant worth 1,000 lb. or 500 lb. is accounted a good merchant and a planter worthe halfe that in movables accompted with all the estates may be valued at about £100.

There may lately have traded to ye Colony in a year from ten to fifteen ships or vessels of about together 100 tuns each, English, New England and our owne built, of wch 5 small ships and a Ketch now belonging to New Yorke foure of them built there.

There are Religions of all sorts, one Church of England, Several Presbyterians and Independents, Quakers and Anabaptists of Several sects, some Jews but presbyterians and Independents most numerous and Substantiall.

The Duke maintains a chapline wch is all the certaine allowance of Church of England, but people's free gifts to ye Ministry, and all places obliged to build Churches as a provide for a minister, in wch most very wanting, but presbyterians and Independents desirous to have and maintain them it to be had. There are abt 30 Churches or Meeting places of wch above halfe vacant their allowance like to be from 400 to 700 a year, and a house and garden. Noe Beggars but all poore cared for. If good Ministers could be had to go whether might doe well and gain much upon these people.

It has been estimated that in proportion to the number of militia that the population of the province in 1673 must have been about 25,000. A few years afterward the shipping numbered 10 three-masted vessels, 20 sloops, and several ketches.

## **THE PROVINCE OF NEW YORK DIVIDED INTO COUNTIES.**

The first assembly convened in the province of New York, then a dependency of Charles II. of England, held its first session at Hamptonstead on the 17th of October, 1693.

"The act to divide this province and dependencies into shires and counties" was passed by this assembly. The preamble to the bill reads:

Having taken into consideration the necessity of dividing the province into respective counties for the better governing and settling courts in the same.

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives, and by the authority of the same, That the said province be divided into twelve counties, as followeth:

The counties mentioned in the act were: "The city and county of New York;" "the county of Westchester;" "the county of Ulster;" "the county of Albany;" "the Dutchess county;" "the county of Orange;" "the county of Richmond;" "King's county;" "Queens county;" "the county of Suffolk;" "Duke's county;" and "the county of Cornwall."

The county of Albany, erected by this act, embraced the following portion of the territory of the province:

The county of Albany to containe the towns of Albany, the colony of Rensselaerwyck, Schoharie, and all the villages, neighbourhoods and Christian plantations, on the east side of the Hudson river, from Rensselaer's Creek, (six miles below Hudson city) and on the west side of Sawyer's Creek to the Saratoga, (Saratoga.)

## **THE FREEHOLDERS OF RENSSELAERWYCK.**

As the county of Rensselaer is part of the territory embraced in the manor of Rensselaerwyck, it is interesting to know what methods were first adopted to give the manor a representation in the general assembly, and to provide for its inhabitants the necessary officers for the management of its local affairs. "An act for defraying the common and necessary charge, in the manor of Rensselaerwyck, in the county of Albany, passed August 4, 1705, permitted the freeholders of the manor to elect and choose yearly, and every year, one supervisor, one treasurer, one assessor and one collector for the said manor."

The second section of the same bill recites "that the wages and charge of their representative, or deputy in general assembly," should be "ten shillings per diem," and that the inhabitants should "be able to defray the wages and charge of their own representative or deputy."

In 1714 there were in the manor of Rensselaerwyck 427 white persons and 181 slaves; making a population of 608 persons.

In a return made on the 11th of June, 1720, by Gerrit Van Schaick, sheriff of the city and county of Albany, is preserved the names of all the freeholders in the colony of Rensselaerwyck. As many of the present residents of Rensselaer county are descendants of the persons named in this early census report, it may be well to mention them in this connection:

Wouter Barbey, Andries Huyck,  
Johannis Valkenburgh, Maes Van Buren.



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JNO. BARNETT,  
Isaac Van Alstine,  
Jacob Schormerborn,  
Jacob Schormerborn, Jr.,  
John Oudekirk,  
Claes Gardiner,  
Rud. Valkenburgh,  
Jacob Valkenburgh,  
Tho. Witbeck,  
Laykus Witbeck,  
Solomon Van Vechten,  
Cap. Hendrick Van Rensselaer,  
Philip Forest,  
Martin Van Alstine,  
Albert Boollisse,  
Marie Van Alstine, Junr.,  
Jno. Funda,  
Derrick Vanderhyden,  
Gerrit Vanderburgh,  
Albert Brat,  
Cornelis Van Alstine,  
Johns. Wendell,  
Jan Van Alstine,  
Acker Outhout,  
Peter Coyeman,  
Barent Staats,  
Andries Coyeman,  
Samuel Coyeman,  
Jno. Witbeck,  
Gerrit Booghteeeling,  
seem Backer,  
Jno. Backer,  
Hendrick Van Wyen,  
Van Van Alen,  
JACK. Valkenburgh,  
Claes Boyke.

Cornis van Vechten,  
Jonat. Witbeck,  
Martin Van Buren,  
Barent Gerritse,  
Jan Witbeck,  
Jons Dow,  
Polcoort Dow,  
Jno. Van Vechten,  
Melger Vandouse,  
Daniel Winn,  
Gerrit Van Wile,  
Jan Van Wile,  
Gerrit Vanderburgh,  
Hendr. Dow,  
Albert Slingerhart,  
Evert Backer,  
Wouter Vandorse,  
Kilian Vandorse,  
Johannis Appel,  
Peter Hayside,  
Derric Hagodorn,  
Andries Brat,  
Storm Brat,  
Imo. Leverage,  
Johns. Leverage,  
Johannis Simouse,  
Nico. Grewsbeck,  
Jno. Outhout,  
Mindert Marsella,  
Jacob Lansen,  
Abram Oudekirk,  
Peter Schuyler, Esq.,  
Abram Wendell,  
William Kethryne,  
Francis Pryn,  
Philip Wendell,  
Claes Boyke.

#### SLAVES AND SLAVE LAWS.

Slaves were first brought into the New Netherlands by the Dutch, under the granting power of the charter of liberties of 1629. When the English became possessed of the territory, they, by importations from Africa, further perpetuated slavery and protected it by different laws. "Forasmuch," reads an act passed by the general assembly, October 29, 1730, "as the number of slaves in the cities of New York and Albany, as also within the several counties, towns and manors within this colony doth daily increase, and that they have oftentimes been guilty of confederating together in running away, and of other ill and dangerous practices," it was unlawful "for above three slaves to meet together at any time," or "at any other place than when it shall happen they meet in some servile employment for their masters' or mistresses' profit, and by their masters' or mistresses' consent, upon penalty of being whipt upon the naked back, at the discretion of any one justice of the peace, not exceeding forty lashes."

The act further provided that each town and manor might appoint a common whipper for their slaves, who was to be paid a sum of money "not to exceed three shillings per head." Five pounds was the penalty for harboring a slave for every 24 hours. Free negroes for entertaining slaves had to pay a penalty of £10. This was in the fourth year of the reign of George III.

In the act for granting to his majesty the several duties and importations on goods, wares and merchandises imported into the colony, passed December 12, 1732, it was provided there should be paid "for every negro, mulatto or other slave, of four years old and upwards, imported directly from Africa, five ounces of Sevil Pillar or Mexico plate, or forty shillings in bills of credit made current in this colony."

To avoid and clear up disputes that might

happen concerning this duty on slaves, it was further provided "that all slaves imported from Africa, in the same vessel which took them on board on any part of that coast," should pay no duty other than 40 shillings, "the" such vessel had stopp'd at, or entered in any other port or ports, before she arrived at New York," provided the master or mate, and some other officer which came in such vessel from Africa, "made oath before the treasurer of the colony that the slave or slaves imported had been actually taken on board of their vessel on the coast of Africa."

#### FAIRS AND COURTS OF PYPOWDER.

The holding of fairs and markets in each city and county throughout the province of New York was as early as the year 1692, commanded by law. An act passed by the general assembly March 8, 1773, directed that there should be held in the city and county of Albany, two fairs yearly; the first fair to be kept at Albany, commencing on the third Tuesday of July and ending on the Friday following; the second to be held at Cawler in Rensselaerwyck, commencing on the third Tuesday in October and ending on the Friday following. These fairs or public markets brought together the country people, and were made not only occasions of pleasurable reunions and of relaxation from toil, but also opportunities for the sale of produce, cattle, clothing and other articles. The fair was kept open from 10 o'clock in the morning until sunset.

The governor of the province issued a commission to a proper person who acted as ruler of the fair and who was also designated to hold courts of pypowder, as was the custom at fairs in England.

As explained by Blackstone the lowest and at the same time the most expeditious court of justice known to the law of England was "the court of pypowder, curia pedis pulverisati; so called from the dusty feet of the suitors; or according to Sir Edward Coke, because justice is there done as speedily as dust can fall from the foot; upon the same principle that justice among the Jews was administered in the gate of the city, that the proceedings might be more speedy as well as public. But the etymology given us by a learned modern writer is much more ingenious and satisfactory: it being derived, according to him, from *ped pederatus* (a peddler, in old French), and therefore signifying the court of such petty chapmen as resort to fairs or markets. It is a court of record, incident to every fair and market; of which the steward of him who owns or has the toll of the market is the judge, and his jurisdiction extends to administer justice for all commercial injuries done in that very fair or market, and not in any proceeding one.

#### THE DIVISION OF ALBANY COUNTY.

When the province of New York in 1683 was divided into counties, Albany county embraced more territory than all the remaining portion of the province. By an act of general assembly, passed March 12, 1773, Albany county was divided into three counties: Albany, Tryon and

Charlotte. On the 24th of the same month it was divided into districts, among which were the district of Rensselaerwyck, Schactekoke district and the Hoedsie district.

By an act, dated March 7, 1788, entitled "An act for dividing the state into counties," 10 counties were included within the boundaries of New York, namely: New York, Albany, Suffolk, Queens, Kings, Richmond, Westchester, Orange, Ulster, Dutchess, Columbia, Washington, Clinton, Montgomery, Cumberland and Gloucester.

The state convention which assembled at Poughkeepsie on the 17th of June, 1788, took into consideration the ratification of the present constitution of the United States. On the 20th of July the question was voted upon and was carried by a majority of three. The politics of this body of delegates was distinguished by certain principles known as federal and anti-federal.

#### THE ERECTION OF RENSSELAER COUNTY.

Rensselaer county was erected under "An act for apportioning the representation in the legislature according to the rules prescribed by the constitution, and for dividing the county of Albany," passed February 7, 1791.

The act provides "that the towns of Cambridge and Easton, in the county of Albany, shall be and hereby are annexed to and shall hereafter be considered as part of the county of Washington, and that all that part of the residue of the said county of Albany which is on the east side of a line drawn through the middle of the main stream of Hudson's river, with such variations as to include the islands lying nearest to the east bank thereof, shall be one separate and distinct county, and be called and known by the name of Rensselaer."

A court of common pleas and a court of general sessions of the peace were to be held at such places as should be designated by the judges of the court of common pleas and such justices of the peace as should be appointed. The first term of the courts of common pleas and general sessions of the peace were to begin on the first Tuesday in May and might "continue to be held until the Saturday following inclusive," and the second term, on the second Tuesday of November and "might continue to the following Saturday inclusive."

The act also made it lawful for all courts and officers in the said counties, in all cases, civil and criminal, to confine their prisoners in the goal of the county of Albany until goals should be provided in the said counties.

The act divided the state into four great districts, namely, southern, middle, western and eastern districts. The eastern district comprehended the counties of Columbia, Rensselaer, Washington and Clinton.

The senatorial representation of the districts was southern 8, middle 6, western 5 and eastern 5.

The number of members of assembly to be elected in each county was: The city and county of New York 7, Suffolk 4, Queens 8, Kings 1, Richmond 1, Westchester 5, Dutchess 7,

Ulster 5, Orange 3, Columbia 6, Rensselaer 5, Washington 4, city and county of Albany 7, Saratoga 4, Montgomery 7 and Ontario 1.

#### THE FIRST COUNTY OFFICERS.

The first officers of Rensselaer county assembled at Lansingburgh, at the inn of Ananias Platt, on Tuesday, April 15, 1791, and there took the necessary oaths of office, and appointed Tuesday, the third day of May, for the sitting of the first court.

The following persons were the first county officers in 1791:

**First Judge**—Anthony Ten Eyck.  
**Judges**—John Van Rensselaer, Israel Thompson, Robert Woodworth and Jonathan Brown.  
**Assistant Judges**—John Knickerbocker, Jr., John W. Schormerborn, Jonathan Niles, Benjamin Hicks, Nicholas Staats, Robert Montgomery, Moss Kent and John E. Van Alen.  
**Justices of the Peace**—Anthony Ten Eyck, John Van Rensselaer, Israel Thompson, Robert Woodworth, Jonathan Brown, John Knickerbocker, Jr., John W. Schormerborn, Jonathan Niles, Benjamin Hicks, Nicholas Staats, Robert Montgomery, Moss Kent, John E. Van Alen, Levisius Lansing, Jonah Martin, Hosea Moffit, Daniel E. Bradt, Joseph Spencer, David Brown, Moses Vail, James McKown, Abner Newton, Stephen Gorham, Jacob Van Alstine, Ephraim Morgan, Josiah Masters, Gerrit Winne, Jacob A. Lansing, Rowland Hall, Ezekiah Hull, William Douglas, Daniel Gray, Jonas Odell, Benjamin Randall, Benjamin Hanks, Harman Van Vechten, Benjamin Mills, Ebenezer Darling, Jacob Van der Heyden, Jr., John C. Schormerborn and Nathaniel Jacobs.  
**Surrogate**—Moss Kent.  
**Sheriff**—Albert Pawling.  
**Treasurer**—Aaron Lath.  
**County clerk**—Nicholas Schuyler.  
**Coroners**—Silas Weeks, Abraham Ten Eyck, John De Wandelaer, James Smith and Aaron Ostrander.

#### THE SITTING OF THE FIRST COURT.

There being no county buildings and no particular site determined upon for their erection, the county clerk's office was first located in Lansingburgh in a house previously occupied by N. Jacobs, near that of Col. John Van Rensselaer.

The brief record of the minutes of the first session of the court of common pleas is the following:

**May Term, 1791**—At a court of common pleas held for the county of Rensselaer at Lansingburgh, on the first Tuesday in May, 1791, at the house of Ananias Platt. Present: Honorable Anthony Ten Eyck, Esq., first judge; John Van Rensselaer, Israel Thompson, Robert Woodworth, John Brown, Esqrs., judges; Benjamin Hicks, Robert Montgomery, Moss Kent, Esqrs., assistant justices.

On an application of Mr. John Woodworth to be examined as to his learning and ability to practice as an attorney and counselor of this court—

**Ordered**, That the said John Woodworth be examined accordingly by Guert Van Schoonhoven, John D. Dickinson and Corn' Van Derburgh in the presence of the judges of this court.

On motion of Mr. Ten Eyck and others for leave to be admitted to practice as a counselor and attorney in this court on producing their commissions from the supreme court, which commissions being produced, ordered that the following persons be admitted and they were sworn accordingly: Dirk Ten Brook, Moss Kent, John V. Henry, Peter D. Van Dyck, Ab'm Ham, John Waters Yates, Nick's Pande, Guert Wendall, John D. Dickinson, Guert V'n Schoonhoven, Corn' V'n Derburgh, John Lovett, Peter E. Elmendorf.

On motion of Mr. Dickinson, in favor of John Woodworth that this court approve his examination and he be admitted to practice as a counselor and attorney therein. Ordered that he be admitted and sworn.

**William Fenshaw vs. Joseph Killas**: A plaintiff to the sheriff in this cause with a return of replevin was made and tried.

On motion of Mr. Dickinson, attorney for plaintiff ordered that this cause be entered and the defendant appear and answer, etc., or that an attachment issue against him. Defendant appeared.



by Moss Kent, his attorney.  
Thirty-three rules and orders, at this point, were adopted by the court, to be "observed by all the officers thereof." The second cause before the court was that of

Nathaniel Mann vs. Aaron B. Hinman and Livina Tansing, administrators of Gideon Hinman. Mr. Woodworth, attorney for the plaintiff. The defendants appeared by John D. Dickinson, their attorney.

The first actions were:  
John Harbeck vs. William Moulton. Moss Kent for the plaintiff and John D. Dickinson for the defendant.

Frederick Butler vs. Jehiel Galpin. John D. Dickinson for the plaintiff and Guert Van Schoonhoven for the defendant.

It was directed by the court "that a seal be made for the county of Rensselaer and be affixed by the clerk of the court to all process and records thereof to authenticate the same, and that the device be a plough, with the words 'Rensselaer county seal' engraved round the edge thereof."

Court adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.  
The court the next morning, the 4th of May, met according to adjournment, all the judges and justices being present.

On motion of Mr. Dickinson, for leave that Sanders Lansing and Francis Silvester be admitted to practice as counsellors and attorneys in this court, on producing their licenses in the supreme court, leave was granted accordingly and they were admitted and sworn.

The court then adjourned till 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The court having assembled it adjourned till 10 o'clock in the next morning.

The only business recorded on Friday was:  
Ordered, That this court stands adjourned to the second Tuesday in November next, then to meet at the house of Stephen Ashley in the town of Troy.

THE FIRST CENSUSES OF RENSSELAER COUNTY.

On March 3, 1785, the legislature ordered a census to be taken of the freeholders in the state having property valued at \$20 and upwards, also of persons renting tenements at a yearly rent of 40 shillings. The census taken that year under the act was the first enumeration of the people in the county of Rensselaer. It was as follows:

A general account of the number of electors in the county of Rensselaer made from the returns delivered into the secretary's office of the state of New York pursuant to an act entitled "An act for taking a census in this state," passed the 3d of March, 1785:

TOWNS.	Electors possessed of freeholds of the value of \$100.....	Electors possessed of freeholds of the value of \$20 and upwards.....	Electors not possessing freeholds, but who rent tenements at the yearly value of 40s.....
Troy.....	256	60	102
Greenbush.....	108	25	11
Schoharie.....	206	15	15
Stephentown.....	329	166	119
Petersburgh.....	273	38	39
Hoosick.....	184	26	220
Pittstown.....	241	32	32
Schaghticoke.....	155	8	113
	1,900	413	1,217

In 1801 a second census was taken, which exhibits the number of freeholders as follows:

A general account of the number of electors in the county of Rensselaer made from the returns delivered into the secretary's office of the state of New York pursuant to an act entitled "An act for taking a census in this state," passed 7th April,

TOWNS.	Electors possessed of freeholds of the value of \$100.....	Electors possessed of freeholds of the value of \$20 and upwards.....	Electors not possessing freeholds, but who rent tenements at the yearly value of 40s.....
Schaghticoke.....	183	16	71
Schoharie.....	345	44	117
Hoosick.....	338	51	153
Stephentown.....	450	21	158
Troy.....	472	27	203
Pittstown.....	294	19	138
Greenbush.....	257	39	58
Petersburgh.....	257	16	219
	2,790	248	1,240

The third census of 1807 gives the following enumeration:

TOWNS.	Electors possessed of freeholds of the value of \$100.....	Electors possessed of freeholds of the value of \$20 and upwards.....	Electors not possessing freeholds, but who rent tenements at the yearly value of 40s.....
Schoharie.....	297	1	155
Stephentown.....	241	23	145
Petersburgh.....	182	11	80
Greenbush.....	414	11	130
Troy.....	393	11	203
Schaghticoke.....	313	11	54
Pittstown.....	313	4	105
Hoosick.....	354	14	78
Lewistown.....	124	11	138
Brunswick.....	204	7	113
Grafton.....	134	17	118
Berlin.....	243	10	59
Philipsburgh.....	231	10	59
	3,103	123	1,523

The town of Nassau, formed March 31, 1806, was first known by the name of Philipsburgh, until April 6, 1808, when the former name was adopted.

The fourth census of 1814 exhibits the following enumeration:

RETURN OF ELECTORS (AND OTHER INHABITANTS) IN THE COUNTY OF RENSSELAER.											
TOWNS.	Free white males of 18 years and upwards.....	Free white males of 15 years and upwards.....	Free white females of 15 years and upwards.....	Free white females of 15 years and upwards.....	Free white males of 15 years and upwards.....	Free white females of 15 years and upwards.....	Free white males of 15 years and upwards.....	Free white females of 15 years and upwards.....	Free white males of 15 years and upwards.....	Free white females of 15 years and upwards.....	Free white females of 15 years and upwards.....
Troy.....	1,000	413	1,217	1,217	1,000	413	1,217	1,217	1,000	413	1,217
Greenbush.....	108	25	11	11	108	25	11	11	108	25	11
Schoharie.....	206	15	15	15	206	15	15	15	206	15	15
Stephentown.....	329	166	119	119	329	166	119	119	329	166	119
Petersburgh.....	273	38	39	39	273	38	39	39	273	38	39
Hoosick.....	184	26	220	220	184	26	220	220	184	26	220
Pittstown.....	241	32	32	32	241	32	32	32	241	32	32
Schaghticoke.....	155	8	113	113	155	8	113	113	155	8	113
	1,900	413	1,217	1,217	1,900	413	1,217	1,217	1,900	413	1,217

FREE WHITE FEMALES OF THE AGE OF 15 YEARS AND UNDER 45 YEARS.....	FREE WHITE FEMALES OF THE AGE OF 45 YEARS AND UPWARDS.....	ALL OTHER FREE PERSONS.....	SLAVES.....	TOTAL.....
1,217	1,217	1,217	1,217	1,217

**Troy Daily Times.**  
FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 2, 1880.

**THE TOWN OF TROY.**

**THE GREAT MEADOW GROUND OF THE INDIANS.**

**ITS FIRST DUTCH SETTLERS MASSACRED.**

**PETER VAN WOGGELUM'S TRANSPORT.**

**ARMY OF THE NORTH ON VAN SCHAIK'S ISLAND.**

The Netherlands of the Upper Hudson - The Little Hamlet of Ferry Hook - A Remarkable Prophecy - Concerning Troy - A Thousand Pounds for the County Seat - The Erection of the First Court House - A Public Whipping Post and Stocks.

The art of writing has become a great blessing to man. What innumerable controversies would arise to disturb his peace and to dispossess him of his property had he not some written instrument providing him with the proper proof of his ownership and giving him the sole privilege of the use of the thing held by him. He is conscious that the details of a business transaction when written out and properly attested are of a more satisfying character than when they are intrusted to the remembrance of witnesses. It is this peculiarity of man that has left to our examination in the offices of county clerks and the departments of state a multitude of well preserved papers relating to the acquirement and the disposal of landed property from a very early period of our history to the present time. For our further enlightenment respecting the situation, limits and designations of such estate these valuable papers are frequently accompanied with maps, some of which topographic-

fully exhibit the special features of the territory referred to.

**PATRICK'S DAIRY.**

Washington Irving in his humorous description of the early settlers of New Netherland misleads his readers into a belief that the Dutch were a very dull and ridiculous class of people. The radiant glory of the grand achievements of the Dutch nation which threw its effulgence over Europe in the seventeenth century is the contradiction to any error of opinion founded on the burlesque of this highly honored American writer. The practical shrewdness of the Hollanders is most notable in the enormous profits of their great commercial companies - the East India and the West India companies.

Kiliaen Van Rensselaer and his associated partners, Samuel Goodyn, Samuel Bloembaert and John De Laet, the proprietors of the territory of the manor of Rensselaerwyck, were an enterprising in their efforts to settle colonists in America as any of the men in our day who have amassed wealth by speculations in landed property. And it is quite interesting to know how they accomplished their purpose and by what means they induced the people of Holland to emigrate to this newly discovered country and begin the cultivation of the wild land lying within the limits of the manor, which they named Rensselaerwyck. If we study the oldest and the rarest map of this particular tract, or rather tracts of land, made by Gillis Van Schendel in 1630, we will perceive that they gave certain divisions of the territory possessed by them very flattering designations, and which no doubt captivated the minds of those persons who sailed from Holland to seek and settle upon the land whose fertility was so highly praised.

*Patricks' dairy*, the paradise of a lazy man, is the attractive title they bestowed upon the territory now occupied by the city of Troy. The land on the west side of the *Noord river* they denominated *Welsh dairy*, a valley of luxuriance.

There was, however, more of fact than of fancy in these names. The virgin soil was surprisingly fertile, game of all kinds abounded in the greatest plenty, fish of finest flavor were to be caught in the streams, and the woods were dark with the thick foliage of stately and useful trees.

On the north side of an unnamed water course, that no doubt was intended to croak the creek which we now call the Poesten kill, is the marked site of an Indian stronghold, designated *Unimata Castle*, probably one belonging to the last of the Mohicans, a tribe of Indians once inhabiting the east bank of the Hudson river. On what appears to be Haver's island, is another Indian fortification, named *Monomies Castle*. This stronghold may have been in the possession of the Mohawks, dwelling along the Mohawk river, or rather the Maquas river, as it was then called.

The three islands opposite the site of the Bessemer steel works, are named *Bloembaert's Eylands*, Bloembaert's islands. Where now is the city of Albany, a mark is given, which is



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called *Fort Orange*. On the opposite and west side of the river, the site of Greenbush, is *De Laet's Eyland* and just below is a stream, which was *De Laet's Maunden kill ende waterfall*. *De Laet's* mill creek and waterfall.

The second branch of the Mohawk river is called *Rensselaer's kill ende waterfall*, *Rensselaer's* creek and waterfall. The third and fourth sprouts of the Mohawk are each denominated *water vall*, waterfall.

#### THE SITE OF TROY PURCHASED FROM THE INDIANS.

The Indians who claimed the territory,—the site of the city of Troy,—by right of possession, it seems, could not resist the temptations which the acquisitive Hollanders placed before them in order to obtain the property right of their land, which they desired for agricultural purposes. In the office of the secretary of the state is preserved the record of the purchase from the Indians of the land now occupied by the city of Troy, and as it is a very brief instrument, and has never been published, as we believe, it may be a pleasure to the readers of the *Troy Daily Times* to peruse it:

*A Confirmation Granted unto Sweer Theunissen of a Pedigree Land lying near Albany:*  
Richard Schellie Esq &c Whereas there is a Certain Piece of Land lying near Albany on the other side of the Creek or Kill beginning from the Mill on the Creek and to go on over the Sd Creek unto the Great Meadow Ground whereabout sixty-six acres the Trees are marked which Sd Piece of Land was in the Year 1669 Purchased of the Indian Proprietors by Jan Barentsen Wemp with the Leave and Consent of Jan Baptist Van Rensselaer and Arent Van Corlaer Now the Title and Interest with Sd Land being devolved upon Sweer Theunissen who hath Married the Widow and Relict of the forenamed Jan Barentsen Wemp Now for a Confirmation &c The Patent is Dated the 18th of Apr 1687:

I do hereby Certify the foregoing to be a true Copy of the Original Record Compared therewith By Me Lewis A. Scott, Secretary.

Brodhead, in his history of the state of New York, referring to the last purchase of land made by the agent of Killian Van Rensselaer, March 13, 1632, says:

He (Brodhead Van Slootenhorst) had just purchased for his patron two large additional tracts on the east side of the river; one called "*Panpaack*," including the site of the present city of Troy, and another further north, called "*Panpaack*."

Comparing this statement with the record in the office of the secretary of state, it is seen that the two contradict one another. The first asserts that Jan Barentsen Wemp purchased the ground from the Indian proprietors with the leave and consent of Jan Baptist Van Rensselaer and Arent Van Corlaer, and that the purchase was made in the year 1659.

Several writers, upon what authority it is not known, have accepted the word "*Panpaack*" as being an Indian designation. Further, in using it, they assert that its meaning is, "the field of standing corn." From personal inquiry, the writer of the present article, has found the persons employing the term unable to give any other reference than that which has already been carefully quoted from the history of the state of New York, by Brodhead. This writer makes no declaration that it is an Indian term, nor does he give it any interpretation.

Instead of being an Indian designation it has every evidence that it is a Dutch compound of

the two words *Pont*, a ferry, and *Pacht* or *Pigh*, a farm, a ferry-farm. The pronunciation of *Panpaack* and of *Pont-pacht* is phonetically similar. The fact that from a very early date the farm of the Van der Heyden family, and, perhaps, when the same was previously owned by Peter Van Woguelum, had a ferry belonging to it, seemingly corroborates the correctness of a conclusion that the names used by Brodhead are of Dutch derivation. Apparently in the same way the word *Panpaack* had its derivation: *Pont*, a ferry, and *Woestijne* or *Woestijn*, a wilderness, a ferry in a wilderness, or where the country is uncultivated.

#### THE EARLY SETTLERS ALONG THE POESTEN KILL.

In the clerk's office of Albany county are seven volumes of early records written in what is called "black Dutch." These unique volumes embrace in their contents a variety of papers relating to the transfer of real and personal property, contracts, proposals and other transactions made by the early inhabitants of Beaverwyck and of the manor of Rensselaerswyck. Certain papers belonging to other records disclose the manner in which the land acquired by Sweer Theunissen by marriage was subdivided and sold. It appears that a Hollander named Pieter Adriaens, either by inheritance or purchase, became owner of a piece of ground in Lubbede's land, as the territory whereon Troy now stands was called, which he on the 11th of February, 1669, conveyed to his son Pieter Pieterse. It is designated as "a certain lot, with a part of a garden, and the fruit trees, standing and lying on Lubbede's land in the colony of Rensselaerswyck, according to the proofs of his title existing, stretching along and adjoining the lot of Barent Pieterse, the same in length and breadth, as it lies in fence."

According to another record "Sweer Theunissen, husbandman, dwelling in the Colonie Rensselaerswyck," acknowledges that he is "indebted to Geertruyt Barents, wife of Jacob Heven, in the number of fourteen whole and merchantable beaver skins, for money disbursed and merchandise received." For the payment of this debt and interest thereon on the 27th of May, 1669, he pledges "his two lots lying at Lubbede's land, in the occupation of Jacob Heven."

Besides his former grant of land, Sweer Theunissen, on the 18th of June, 1669, received another portion from Madame Johanna Ebbink, the heiress of John De Laet, one of the four co-partners of Killian Van Rensselaer, which land is designated as the grantor's certain lot, to the west river, lying between Hendrick Reur and said Sweer Theunissen at Lubbede's land in the colony Rensselaerswyck, according to the description thereof made in the contract with his predecessor Jan Barentse Wemp, deceased."

A certain Dirk Hesselgesser makes an acknowledgment that he has transferred to Jacob Heven "two certain lots of land lying in the colony of Rensselaerswyck, the one before this belonging to Dirk Van Schelluyne, which devolved upon him by commission of the honorable court, by virtue of an execution of date the 17th of June, 1679, and the other before this belonging to

Hendrick Reur, deceased, and by the late director Mons. Jeremias Van Rensselaer, sold at public sale, of which the grantor remained the highest bidder and buyer, according to the vendue book in the custody of the vendue master, Mons. Provost, of date the 9th of July, 1670."

#### HOW THE WYMAN'S KILL GOT ITS NAME.

Another conveyance shows that the creek south of the Poesten kill received its name from the purchaser of a saw mill erected on its banks. The paper bears date of October 18, 1674, and recites that "Geertruyt Pieterse, late widow of Abraham Pieterse Vosburgh, deceased," grants to "Wynant Gerritse Van der Poel, her half of the saw mill, lying in the colony Rensselaerswyck, on the east bank, opposite the bouvery of Mr. Philip Schuyler, standing on the kill, which lies on the north side of the bouvery of Mr. Jeronimus Ebbink, with all the tools thereto belonging."

A record of a later date establishes the fact that on the Poesten kill, Sweer Theunissen had built a saw mill, which he on the 25th of June, 1675, sells to Jan Cornelisse Yselaer, and Lucas Pieterse. In addition to the "saw mill, together with the kill whereon" it stood, he further conveys to the same persons "two morgens of arable land lying in the colony Rensselaerswyck, up the river, on the east bank over against Stony point (steene hoeck, now the site of the "Rock house" in West Troy), before this called Poesten mill, together with free egress and a road along the hill, by Pieter Pieterse Van Woguelum's, to the shore, as has been used before this; which land is a part of the patent granted to him the grantor, by Governor Richard Nicols, of date the 13th of April, A. D., 1667."

On the 5th of July, 1676, "Jeronimus Ebbink, husband and guardian of Madame Johanna de Laet," conveys to Jurian Teunisse Tappen "a certain bouvery, lying in the colony Rensselaerswyck, where Jurian aforesaid at present dwells, with dwelling house, barn and two ricks." \* \* \* "moreover all the land, as well arable as pasture land, as the same lies in fence between two kills, all by virtue of the contract and conveyance thereof, passed between Mr. Jeremias Van Rensselaer, deceased, late director of the colony before named, and Madame Johanna De Laet for her tenth part, being the just tenth part of the colony, the same being of date of the 21st of June, 1674." The aforesaid bouvery, "together with horses, cattle, house and barn, grain sowed, and all that is thereon fast by earth and milled" Capt. Philip Pieterse Schuyler purchased of Jurian Teunisse Tappen on the 5th of November, 1677, for "six hundred merchantable beaver skins."

A piece of woodland, called Passquassick, which lay south of the Piscawen kill, Peter Van Woguelum, on the 19th of September, 1681, purchased of Robert Saunders, who held the patent of Stone Arabia, the site of Lansingburgh. Previous to this last acquisition of land Peter Van Woguelum, on the 6th of May, 1679, had become the sole owner of all the original Wemp property. It may be here remarked that Sweer Theunissen

is frequently called Sweer Theunissen Van Velsen in some of the old documents.

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When Sieur Le Moyne de Sainte Helene with a party of French and Indians surprised the little community of Schenectady in February, 1690, and massacred the inhabitants, Sweer Theunissen, who had removed thither about the year 1669, was shot and burnt, as also was his wife. Among the names of those killed is that of Myndert Wemp, and of those taken prisoners, that of John Wemp, children likely of Jan Barentsen Wemp. This barbarous and unexpected attack upon a village so distant from Canada, in midwinter, created the greatest consternation among the settlers living along the upper Hudson.

#### THE VAN DER HEYDEN PURCHASE.

By virtue of a transport from Peter Van Woguelum bearing date the 21 day of June, 1707, which was confirmed by a release of Madam Maria Van Rensselaer and Hendrick Van Rensselaer, two of the executors of the last will and testament of Killian Van Rensselaer, lord of the manor of Rensselaerswyck, bearing date of the 15th of December, 1700, Dirck Van der Heyden became possessed of "all that certain tract of land" \* \* \* "in the county of Albany on the east side of Hudson's river, about five miles above the city of Albany, beginning on the north side of a certain creek called Poesten creek, where there formerly was a saw-mill (which said mill stood on a straight line 88 chains from the said river)" thence along the creek to the river, thence along the river "to a small creek called the Meadow creek," thence eastwardly into the woods, thence southwardly "along the west side of the land of Albert Bratt to the place of beginning," containing 497 acres and one rood." Dirck Van der Heyden at the same time also purchased of Peter Van Woguelum "another parcel of land and a meadow therunto adjoining, bounded on the north side by a certain kill or creek known and called by the name of Piscawen kill, and on the north by the aforesaid parcel of land, on the west the river and on the east the hill."

The lease from Maria Van Rensselaer and Hendrick Van Rensselaer was subject to an annual ground rent, in lieu of all other dues, of three and three-fourth bushels of wheat, and two fat hens or capons.

In November, 1704, Dirck Van der Heyden conveyed the above land to his three sons, Jacob, David and Mattys.

#### THE INVASION OF BURGOYNE.

In the month of August, 1777, the people of the manor of Rensselaerswyck became greatly excited in consequence of the news that Gen. John Burgoyne was rapidly advancing by the way of Fort Edward with a large body of British soldiers, Hessian mercenaries and a force of hostile Indians. It was Burgoyne's intention to form a junction with that part of the British army commanded by Sir William Howe, who was to ascend the Hudson and meet him at Albany. Seemingly assured of accomplishing this purpose, he wrote to Gen. Howe that he was likely to be in possession of Albany before



the 23d or 24d of the month. Not having a sufficient force to withstand the advance of the British invader, Gen. Philip Schuyler, in command of the northern department of the American army, retreated down the river road, and on the 14th day of the month encamped his small body of continental troops upon Haver and Van Schaick islands.

The apparent inability of the American troops to cope with the British force of Burgoyne spread a great alarm among the inhabitants of the frontier towns and among the farmers residing along the line of Burgoyne's march. The ferry of the Van der Heyden family became the converging point of the frightened people, who with their families and flocks were hastening southward to escape massacre and the pillage of their movable property. The entire country in and around the confluence of the Mohawk and Hudson rivers was filled with stories of burned homes, of desolated and destroyed households, of inhuman cruelties, of plunder and of brutal outrages. Having taken the old Van Schaick household for his headquarters, General Schuyler ordered the construction of a formidable line of earthworks along the northeastern and northwestern sides of Haver island, in order to defend the approaches to the fords at Half Moon Point, as the site of Waterford was then called. The chief engineer of the army of the north was the brave Pole, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, and under his superintendence and direction these defensive works were constructed. These remarkably well-preserved works attest to this day the care and labor bestowed upon them by the soldiers of General Schuyler's little army.

GEN. SCHUYLER RELIEVED BY GEN. GATES.  
It was at Van Schaick's island that General Horatio Gates relieved General Philip Schuyler of the command of the army of the northern department. The apparent want of success of General Schuyler induced Congress to make this change. General Gates two days after assuming the command of the department wrote the following letter to General Washington, then with the army, in Bucks county, in Pennsylvania:

HEADQUARTERS, VAN SCHAICK'S ISLAND, August 22, 1777.—Sir: Upon my arrival in this department I found the main body of the army encamped upon Van Schaick's island, which is made by the sprouts of the Mohawk river, joining with the Hudson river, nine miles north of Albany. A brigade under Gen. Poor encamped at London's ferry, on the south bank of the Mohawk river, five miles from hence; a brigade under Gen. Lincoln had joined Gen. Stark at Bennington, and a brigade under Gen. Arnold marched the 15th inst. to join the militia of Tryon county, to raise the siege of Fort Stanwix. Upon leaving Philadelphia the prospect thus appeared very gloomy; but this severe check the enemy have met with at Bennington and in Tryon county have given a more pleasing view to public affairs. Particular accounts of the signal victory gained by Gen. Stark, and the severe blow Gen. Brinkner gave Sir John Johnson and the scalpers under his command, have been transmitted to your excellency by Gen. Schuyler. I uniformly expect the arrival of an express from Gen. Arnold with an account of the total defeat of the enemy in that quarter. By my calculation he reached Fort Stanwix the day before yesterday. Colo. Livingston's and Courland's regiments arrived yesterday and immediately joined Gen. Poor's division. I shall also order Gen. Arnold upon his return, to march to that post. I cannot sufficiently thank your excellency for sending Colo. Mowbray's troops, as this success will be of the

greatest service to it, for until the late successes this way I am told the army were quite panic-struck by the Indians and their Tory and Canadian assassins in Indian dresses. Horrible, indeed, have been the cruelties they have wantonly committed upon many of the miserable inhabitants, inasmuch that it is not fair for Gen. Burgoyne, even if the bloody hatchet he has so barbarously used should find its way into his own hand. Gov. Clinton will be here to-day. Upon his arrival I shall consult with him and Gen. Lincoln upon the best plan to distress, and I hope finally defeat the enemy. I am sorry to be necessitated to acquaint your excellency how neglectfully your orders have been executed at Springfield—few of the militia demanded are yet arrived, but I hear of great numbers upon the march. Your excellency's advice in regard to Morgan's corps, etc., etc., shall be carefully observed. My scouts and spies inform me that the enemy's headquarters and main body are at Saratoga, and that they have lately been repairing the bridges between that place and Stillwater. As soon as time and circumstances will admit I shall send your excellency a general return of this army. I am, sir, your excellency's most obedient humble servant.

HORATIO GATES.

His Excellency, Gen. WASHINGTON.

#### THE MEN OF BATTLE OF 1777.

In these dark and perilous days the men in the villages and upon the farms along the upper Hudson took up arms in defense of their homes, and were found doing duty in the different militia regiments of the county. The following return of a brigade of militia of the county of Albany, of which Abraham Ten Broeck was brigadier general, dated Fort Edward, July 18, 1777, designates the different commanders and the number of men belonging to their regiments, at the time Gen. Schuyler had command of the department of the north:

	Rank and file.
Col. Jacob Lansing's regiment	132
Col. Abraham Wimple's regiment	122
Col. Francis Nicoll's regiment	99
Col. Killian Van Rensselaer's regiment	93
Col. Gerrit Vandenberg's regiment	151
Col. Stephen J. Schuyler's regiment	151
Col. Robert Van Rensselaer's regiment	150
Col. Abraham Van Alstyne's regiment	150
Col. Peter Van Ness's regiment	123
Col. Peter R. Livingston's regiment	100
Col. Anthony Van Borge's regiment	118
Col. Jacobus Van Schoonhoven's regiment	110
Col. John Mearns's regiment	97
Col. Johannes Knickerbocker's regiment	57
Col. Peter Vrooman's regiment	57
Col. William B. Whiting's regiment	57
Total	1,735

The Lansingburgh company, of which Cornelius Noble was captain, belonged to Stephen J. Schuyler's regiment.

The army of the North, commanded by Gen. Horatio Gates, having secured the necessary munitions, broke camp on September 8 and marched toward Stillwater, where it arrived the next day. The force under Gen. Gates at this time numbered about 6,000 men.

#### DUTCH NAMES.

The Dutch language, *Nederduitsch*, was at the time of the war of the revolution the common vernacular of the people residing along the upper Hudson, or the North river, *de Noord rivier*. Opposite Onts island, *Haver Eyalet*, was in 1778 *de nieuwe Stadt*, the new city of Lansingburgh, which name was used to distinguish it from *de oude Stadt*, the old city of Albany, incorporated in 1680. Opposite the ferry farm, *pointpact*, of the Van der Heyden family was Stony Point, *Steen Hoek*, a conspicuous ridge of shale rock projecting into the river, where now is the terminus of Buffalo street, West Troy, a part of which forms the foundation of the house standing on the southeast corner of Buffalo street and Broadway. The Mohawk river, *de Maconas*

*river*, then emptied its water by four branches, *vier spruyten*, into the Hudson. On the island, between the first and second *spruyten*, was a green wood of pines, *een groen bosch*, from which Green island took its name. On the site of Troy were the farm houses, *paght-huizen*, of Jacob Van der Heyden, Dirk Van der Heyden, Mattys Van der Heyden, and below the Poesten-kill that of Jan Van Beuren. Still southward, in the river, were three islands, respectively called Buckers, *Flachte* and Schuyler's *eylands*. Here and there along the river, within inclosed spaces of land of one or two *morgens* in extent (a *morgen* being equal to two English acres) was a farm house built of brick, *gebakken steen*, barked stone. From their doors, *deuren*, one could view the silted land, *bowe landt*, or the pasture-ground, *weid-landt*, and the adjacent creek, *kill*, that belonged to these farms.

After the surrender of Burgoyne, a sense of security came upon those scattered homes. No longer did the frightful deeds of Indian massacre disturb their peace, nor a threatened desolation add a burden of fear to their quietude. The *goeden morgen*, or *goeden avond* or *hoe vaert gij?* good morning, or good evening, or how d'ye do? of the farmers were now more hearty and cordial. No longer did they with eager questioning ask each other, *is 'er eenige nieuws?* is there any news?

Although in their barns, *schuurten*, there was not as much hay, *hooi*, nor as much wheat, *tarwe*, nor as much barley, *gerst*, nor in their corn-lofts as much corn, *koorn*, as had been in them in the winter before the invasion of Burgoyne, they were none the less thankful that there still remained shelter and food sufficient for their horses, *paerden*, and cattle, *vee*, which they in the summer had driven to hiding places at the approach of the English invader. Many of these hardy farmers with their sons, had joined the army as *Krijgsvolk*, war people, or militia men, and had there ennobled their humble service with such conspicuous displays of unconscious heroism and bravery as to call forth the personal praise of their commanders and comrades. Some less martial had by substitution sent *de negers*, the negroes, their *slaven*, slaves, who were to be seen in battle fighting as bravely as their white companions in arms.

#### FERRY HOOK.

In 1739 the present site of Troy, known by the name of Ferry Hook, was occupied by the three farms of Jacob J., Jacob D. and Matthias Ver der Heyden. The first and eldest, whose farm extended from where is now Grand Division street northward to the Pisacawen kill, resided in a small, one-story brick dwelling, a short remove from the junction of the Hoosick and River roads, where now is the building known as No. 545 River street, between Hoosick and Vanderheyden streets.

Jacob D. Van der Heyden, known to the early inhabitants of the village of Troy as the "Patron," lived in a frame building on the east side of the River road, now the southeast

corner of Ferry and River streets.

Matthias, the youngest of the three farmers, dwelt in the old brick building still standing on the southeast corner of Division and River streets, whose farm extended southward of the line of Division street to the Poesten kill. At this time Lansingburgh, known as New City, had already grown into a village of some importance. The Van der Heydens, observing the growing wealth of Abraham J. Lansing, who had in 1771 divided a part of his farm into building lots, streets and alleys, and had attracted thither a number of New England emigrants, at length consented to part with portions of their farms to a few of the more persistent and far-seeing Rhode Island and Connecticut men who persuaded them to lease, here and there, along the river bank, a lot sufficient for the erection and accommodation of a dwelling and a store.

Among the first to secure such a place was Benjamin Thurber from Providence, Rhode Island. The following advertisement which appeared in the *Northern Centinel and Lansingburgh Advertiser*, June 4, 1787, manifests the business which engaged his attention at this early period in the history of Troy:

Benjamin Thurber hereby acquaints the Public that he continues to sort his New Cash Store, at the sign of the Bunch of Grapes at the Fork of Hoosack Road, near Mr. Jacob Vanderheyden's, with East, West-Indian and European goods of all kinds. For which he will receive in lieu of cash, black salts, Shipping Pans, Wheat, Corn, Rye, Butter, Cheese, Flax and Flax Seed, Tallow, Hogs' lard, Gammons, Pork, Bee-Wax and old Pewter. He also continues to receive ashes, as usual, to supply his new erected Pot and Pearl Ash factory, and will permit black salts in the best manner on Equitable Terms; and also will give the highest price for black salts.

N. B.—A number of New French Muskets for sale at the above store.

Following him, came Benjamin Covell from Providence and secured a lot on the west side of River street, between Ferry and Division streets. On his arrival he wrote as follows to his brother Silas:

FERRY HOOK, Nov. 16, 1788.—I arrived here this day. This country is the best for business I ever saw. I will go into my store the 18th of November; I hired it for six months for \$12 lawful money. Done more business in one day than in one week in Providence. The night of the 18th, after sundown, took in twenty dollars. Got my goods first from Albany, but in the spring will go to New York. I am one mile from Benjamin Thurber's down the river. They are all well. I board to Stephen Ashley's, the same man that I hired of. He appears to be a clever man, and keeps a large tavern, which is a great advantage to me. Best, Covell.

Capt. Stephen Ashley, to whom Benjamin Covell refers in his letter, was keeping a tavern in the old brick building of Matthias Van der Heyden, standing on the southeast corner of Division and River streets, at that time being the east side of the river road.

Dr. Samuel Gale of Killingworth, Conn., was the next person to come to Ferry Hook, who built a residence on the second lot south of the southwest corner of Ferry and River streets. These early settlers in time attracted other New Englanders to Ferry Hook, or Ashley's ferry, as it was sometimes called, in consequence of Capt. Stephen Ashley having leased the ferry from Matthias Van der Heyden, and which he held until the summer of 1788.

Elkanah Watson, returning from a journey



in the West in the fall of 1788, thus wrote in his journal concerning the little hamlet:

From Schenectady, I passed the road to Ashley's Ferry, six miles above Albany. On the east side of the river, at this point, a new town has been recently laid out, named Vanderheyden. This place is situated precisely at the head of navigation on the Hudson. Several bold and enterprising adventurers have already settled here: a number of spacious warehouses and several dwellings are already erected. It is favorably situated in reference to the important and growing trade of Vermont and Massachusetts, and I believe it not only bids fair to be a serious thorn in the side of New City, but in the issue a fatal rival. I think Vanderheyden must, in its more eligible position, attain ultimate ascendancy.

In consequence of the unanticipated rapid growth of the little hamlet, which had for several years been known under different names, the enterprising settlers assembled together on Monday evening, January 3, 1789, and resolved that the place should thereafter be known as Troy. They published this notice in the papers of Albany and Lansingburgh:

To the Public: This evening the freeholders of the place lately known by the name of Vanderheyden's or Ashley's Ferry, situated on the east bank of the Hudson river, about seven miles above Albany, met for the purpose of establishing a name for said place, when by a majority of voices it was determined that in the future it should be known by the name of Troy. From its present improved state, and the yet more pleasing prospect of its popularity arising from the natural advantages in the mercantile line, it may not be too sanguine to expect, at no very distant period, to see Troy as famous for her trade and navigation, as many of our first towns.

Troy, January 5, 1789.

To this new center of trade and commerce the tide of emigration from the older Atlantic coast states turned, contributing men whose active minds and industrious hands soon gave to Troy a prestige for the rapid development of its advantages of situation at the height of navigation, and for the indomitable zeal constantly manifested to enhance their interests among the farmers from whom they obtained grain and produce which formed the chief staples of traffic. In 1788 Ephraim Morgan, Jonathan Hunt, and John Boardman were numbered among its merchants. In 1789 Ebenezer and Samuel Willson from Mason, N. H.; Mahlon Taylor, Albert Pawling, Abraham Ten Eyck, Richard Grimell, James Caldwell, Josiah Kellogg, Israel Knapp, Robert McClellan, Isaac Rogers and Henry Oudthout are found among those engaged in business in the growing village.

#### OLD WAYS OF TRAVELING.

The early merchants of Troy were not slow in competing with Lansingburgh and Albany for the trade of the surrounding country. As soon as the Dutch farmers began bringing their wheat and other productions to Troy, means were at once adopted to establish the necessary transportation of them to New York. This is quite evident from the following advertisement in the *Northern Centinel*:

The subscribers respectfully inform the public that the schooner Flora of 60 tons burthen, late York and Mr. Vanderheyden's ferry, two miles below Lansingburgh, from which place she will transport freight for New York, or elsewhere, on the same good accommodations for passengers. The vessel has been who have any commands must apply to Abraham Van Arman, near Benjamin Thresher's store, who makes it his business to wait on such as may please to travel with him.

CARVER FRANK, SEPTEMBER 10, 1791.

Anyone taking passage in a sloop or schooner sailing to New York, or from that city to Troy, at this early day, generally expected, if the wind was favorable, to make the voyage in two days at the furthest, but should the wind be variable and continue to blow in the opposite direction to that in which he was going, the journey was often lengthened to several weeks. When there was a head-wind and the tide against the vessel, the sloop would be compelled to lay to. If there was a period of calm weather, she went with the tide six hours and then anchored six hours. Sailing with "a white-ash breeze" was a burlesque phrase to express that the men employed on the vessel were rowing with long white-ash oars, or "sweeps," as they were called. These sweeps were about 20 feet in length, and when used in connection with the drift of the tide, about 14 miles a day could be made by a sloop in calm weather. Oftentimes the large anchor of the sloop was let go, and a boat sent ahead to a bar, with a line and a small anchor called a kedgie. The kedgie being dropped on the bar, the large anchor was taken up and the sloop by means of the line attached was towed forward. The operation of moving a vessel in this way was called kedging. It was a very tiresome and slow process, slower, in fact, than the movement of a canal boat. A sloop generally had accommodations for conveying from 10 to 15 passengers, having as high as 14 or 16 berths in a cabin.

#### THE STAGES TO NEW YORK.

In winter persons going to New York either went on horseback or took passage in the stages that at this time ran between Albany and New York once a week. In 1789 the state legislature granted Ananias Platt, an innkeeper in Lansingburgh, a right to run a daily stage between that place and Albany, which going and returning passed through Troy, stopping for five minutes at Capt. Ashley's tavern. Passengers were charged four shillings for a round trip, 20 pounds of baggage being allowed to each person paying full fare. The exclusive right of running a line of stages, on the east side of the Hudson river, between the cities of New York and Albany, for a term of 10 years, was granted by the legislature, April 4, 1788, to Isaac Van Wyck, Talmage Hall and John Kinney. They were to furnish at least two good and sufficient covered stages, such to be drawn by four able horses, the price per passenger not to exceed four pence per mile, with liberty

of carrying 14 pounds of baggage. The stages were to proceed at least once each week on the journey from the respective cities unless they were prevented by the badness of the roads or some uncommon accident. In the summer of 1794 the fare by stage from Albany to New York was \$7.25; in the following winter, \$8. In the winter of 1799 the fare was \$10, but in the spring of 1817, it was reduced to \$5.

#### THE TOWN OF TROY FOUNDED.

On the 7th of February, 1791, Rensselaer county was erected by an act of the legislature. On the 18th of March following the town of

Troy was formed by a legislative enactment. The act relating to it reads:

That from and after the first Monday in April next, all that part of the town of Rensselaerwyck in the county of Rensselaer which lies north of a line to be drawn from a point on the east bank of the Hudson river sixteen miles distant from the southwest corner of the town of Rensselaerwyck, the town of Peterburgh, shall be, and is hereby named, into a distinct and separate town by the name of Troy, and that the first town meeting of the said town of Troy shall be held at the dwelling house now occupied by Stephen Ashley, in the said town.

On Monday the 4th of April a town meeting was held at Ashley's tavern, and the first town officers elected. They were:

Supervisor—Cornelius Lansing.  
Assessors—Derick Lane, Ephraim Morgan, David De Freest, Henry H. Gardiner and Nicholas Wager.

Consuls—David Henry, William Mickok, Lawrence Dorset and Samuel Colamore.  
Collector of Taxes—David Henry.

Overseers of the Poor—David Henry and Henry H. Gardiner.  
Commissioners of Highways—Cornelius Lansing, Mahlon Taylor and Jacob Wager.

Town Clerk—Cornelius Lansing.  
From the territory first embraced in the town of Troy the section known as the town of Brunswick, and parts of Grafton and Lansingburgh, were taken off March 30, 1807, and a portion of Greenwich in 1808. In 1814 a part of Brunswick was annexed.

#### TROY IN 1791.

The farm of Jacob D. Van der Heyden, extending from the present centre line of Grand Division street on the north to the middle of Division street on the south, was surveyed and laid out into lots, streets and alleys in 1787 by Flores Banker.

We are told that "it was, with a foresight not always observed, laid out with a view of its ultimately being a place of considerable magnitude; and Philadelphia, with its regular squares and rectangular streets, was selected as its model, by the advice of a gentleman who had made a then rare visit to that celebrated city."

The farm of Matthias Van der Heyden, bounded north by Division street and south by the Poosten kill, was laid out into building lots by John E. Van Alen in 1793.

The property of Jacob I. Van der Heyden, extending from Grand Division street to the Piscawen kill, was surveyed and divided into lots and streets by John E. Van Alen, also in 1793.

An inquisitive sight-seer could only have counted about 65 buildings along the newly laid out streets of the village of Troy in 1791. These had been erected principally on River street, between Division and Albany (now Broadway) streets. The brick building still standing on the southeast corner of Division and River streets, stood the farthest south. From that point northward on the east side of the street to the corner of First and River streets there were 16 houses and stores. On the west side of River street, from the site of the Fulton market to Division street, were distributed 11 buildings. On both sides of First street from Division to River streets there were only 13 houses. On Second street there were two; one on Third and one on Fourth. On both sides of River street from Federal street to the Piscawen kill

only 10 buildings could be counted.

The following persons embraced the heads of families, the merchants and manufacturers of the place in 1791:

Elijah Adams,	Robert McClellan,
Asa Anthony,	Daniel Merritt,
Zephariah Anthony,	Ephraim Morgan,
Capt. Stephen Ashley,	Henry Oudthout,
Jose Benham,	Col. Albert Pawling,
James Betts,	John Pease,
Jacob Bishop,	Walt Rathbun,
John Daniel Carpenter,	William Sheldon,
Benjamin Corvill,	Capt. Squires,
Jonathan Davis,	Abraham Ten Eyck,
John Dickena,	Jacob D. Van der Heyden,
Lawrence Dorset,	den,
Capt. Fellows,	Jacob I. Van der Heyden,
Casper Frats,	den,
Abraham Frear,	Matthias Van der Heyden,
Dr. Samuel Gale,	den,
Benjamin Gorton,	Nanning Van der Heyden,
Philip Heert,	den,
Capt. John Hudson,	James Macwell,
Christopher Hutton,	Capt. John Warren,
Timothy Hutton,	Solomon Willson,
Adam Keeling,	Capt. Joseph Willson,
Robert Kincaide,	Samuel Willson,
Israel Knapp,	George Young,
	Henry Young,

#### THE INDOMITABLE ZEAL OF THE TROJANS.

The local advantages that would accrue to the village in which the county court-house and jail should be built, were plainly apparent to the people of Troy and Lansingburgh. The Trojans were too zealous and enterprising to permit the county seat being placed at Lansingburgh without a struggle on their part to secure its location at Troy. They had carefully considered their means to obtain the county buildings and at once began to demand the privilege of competing for their erection in Troy. Lansingburgh as the older village set forth its claims of age and growth, and Troy argued that its position was central and convenient of approach. As the decision in regard to the selection of the site for the court-house and jail lay with the legislature, the people of the village with practical shrewdness nominated as candidates for senator and assemblymen individuals of unquestioned ability and unequalled popularity. These were Robert Woodworth for senator; Christopher Hutton, Josiah Masters, Nicholas Staats, Jonathan Niles and Benjamin Hicks for assemblymen. This ticket was elected, although a mixed one, partly Federalist and anti-Federalist.

To avoid any appearance of partiality, these members of the legislature announced that the village which would subscribe the more liberally for the erection of county buildings would have the preference in the decision. "Let no man despise thy youth," St. Paul enjoined upon Timothy. The advice of the apostle to the Gentiles was the quickening thought of the early Trojans. Lansingburgh was satisfied that the people of the little village of Troy were too few in number, young adventurers, with no capital, and were already burdened with personal debts. But time provided another factor of success which the people of Lansingburgh had overlooked in their estimate of the ability of the people of Troy to dare and to do. Quietly and persistently a subscription paper was circulated and signed, some men writing their names for more than they were actually worth, while others gave generously of their more abundant means.



78 THE COUNTY BUILDINGS AWARDED TO TROY. The "act for building a court-house and goal in the county of Rensselaer" was passed January 11, 1793.

The first section reads: "The supervisors of the several towns in the county of Rensselaer, for the time being or the major part of them, shall be and they are hereby authorized and required to direct to be raised and levied on the freeholders and inhabitants of the said county the sum of six hundred pounds, for the purpose of building a court-house and goal in said county, with the additional sum of one shilling in the pound for collecting the same, which sums shall be raised, levied and collected in the same manner as the other necessary and contingent charges of the said county are levied and collected.

Section three provides "that the said sum of six hundred pounds shall be paid into the treasury of the said county on or before the first of October next."

Section four provides "that Cornelius Lansing, Jacob C. Schermerhorn, Abraham Ten Eyck, Mahlon Taylor and Jacob D. Van der Heyden shall be the commissioners to superintend the building of said court house and goal; and that the said commissioners, or the major part of them, shall and may contract with workmen and purchase materials for the erecting the same, and shall from time to time draw upon the treasurer of the said county for the money for the aforesaid purpose."

Section five of the act provides "that it shall and may be lawful for the treasurer to retain in his hands the sum of three pence in the pound for his trouble in receiving and paying out the money to be raised."

Section six. "That the court house and goal to be built, shall be erected and built within sixty rods of the dwelling house of Stephen Ashley in the village of Troy, in the town of Troy."

Section seven. "That the aforesaid commissioners or the major part of them are hereby authorized and required to determine and fix upon some suitable place for erecting and building the aforesaid court house and goal, within sixty rods of the dwelling house of Stephen Ashley aforesaid. And whereas it appears to the legislature that Jacob D. Van der Heyden and others, inhabitants of the village of Troy, in the town aforesaid, have promised and agreed to pay the sum of one thousand pounds for erecting and building a court house and goal, in the said county of Rensselaer to such commissioners as should be by law appointed to build and erect the same; therefore it was provided in section eight that the said sum of one thousand pounds should be paid to the treasurer of the county for the aforesaid purposes.

#### TROY'S PLEDGE.

Three days after the passage of the above act, the following subscription paper was circulated among the inhabitants of Troy and its neighborhood:

To all to whom these presents shall come or may concern: Whereas, by an act of the legislature of the state of New York at their present session, it was enacted that a Court House and Goal should be

erected and built in the county of Rensselaer within sixty rods of the dwelling house of Stephen Ashley, in the village of Troy, in the town of Troy, and that the sum of one thousand pounds should be made payable to the treasurer of said county by the time being of the said village in the town of Troy. Now therefore know ye that we whose names are hereunto subscribed do respectively promise to pay unto Albert Pawling and Christopher Hutton, or to one of them, to their or one of their executors, administrators or assigns, the sum of money, annexed to our respective names on demand, which money is to be appropriated to the building of a Court House and Goal as aforesaid, dated this fourteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord, one thousand and seven hundred and ninety-three:

Jacob D. Vanderheyden, two hundred pounds.....	£200 0 0
Abraham Ten Eyck & Co., fifty pounds.....	50 0 0
Christ & Tully Hutton, thirty-five pounds.....	35 0 0
Ben't Gorton, twenty pounds.....	20 0 0
John & Alsop Hunt, thirty-five pounds.....	35 0 0
Benjamin Covell, fifty pounds.....	50 0 0
John D. Vanderheyden, thirty pounds.....	30 0 0
Mathie Vanderheyden, one hundred dollars.....	100 0 0
Rush S. McClellan.....	18 0 0
Adam Keeling, eight pounds.....	8 0 0
John Morgan, thirty-five pounds.....	35 0 0
James Bates.....	15 0 0
Jonathan Platt.....	10 0 0
Caleb Russell.....	10 0 0
Asa Anthony, five pounds.....	5 0 0
Josiah Sheldon, three pounds.....	3 0 0
Robert Power, five pounds.....	5 0 0
John & Peter Frear, five pounds.....	5 0 0
Daniel Harris, two pounds, 40s.....	2 0 0
Ferdinand Vreese, five pounds.....	5 0 0
Luther Walker, four pounds.....	4 0 0
Humphrey Clark, sixty shillings.....	6 0 0
John Warren, eight pounds.....	8 0 0
John Wilson, four pounds.....	4 0 0
James Wardwell, four pounds in plain.....	4 0 0
Stephen Andrus, two pounds.....	2 0 0
Samuel Wilson, four pounds.....	4 0 0
Lawrence Dorel.....	4 0 0
John Fowler, eight pounds.....	8 0 0
Solomon Wilbore, forty shillings.....	4 0 0
George Greenwood, fifteen shillings.....	1 5 0
Hendrick Coonradt, M. twenty dollars.....	20 0 0
John Anthony, thirty shillings.....	3 0 0
Samuel Johnson, 20s.....	2 0 0
Toussie Sloubt, forty shillings.....	4 0 0
Robert McClellan, ten pounds.....	10 0 0
William Sheldon, ten pounds.....	10 0 0
Platt Wickes, five pounds.....	5 0 0
Hodges, Wickes & Co., fifteen pounds.....	15 0 0
Casper Frank, ten pounds.....	10 0 0
Abel House, four pounds.....	4 0 0
John Warren, eight pounds.....	8 0 0
John De Camp, six pounds.....	6 0 0
Henry De Camp.....	30 0 0
John Woodworth, twenty pounds.....	20 0 0
Jacob D. Vanderheyden, one hundred pounds more.....	100 0 0
James Spencer, ten pounds.....	10 0 0
Mahlon Taylor.....	10 0 0
John Kitchin.....	8 0 0
Josiah Over, eight pounds.....	8 0 0
Jonathan Larrabee, eight pounds.....	8 0 0
Samuel Miller, five pounds.....	5 0 0
Wait Hattabun, ten pounds.....	10 0 0
Josiah Kellogg, four pounds.....	4 0 0
Philip Leavitt, four pounds.....	4 0 0
William Willard, four pounds.....	4 0 0
Robert Willson, three pounds.....	3 0 0
Jonathan Wright, twelve pounds.....	12 0 0
Ben't & S. Gale.....	15 0 0
Anthony Goodspeed, ten pounds.....	10 0 0
George Dickens, ten pounds.....	10 0 0
Daniel & M. Merritt, thirty pounds.....	30 0 0
James Van Buren, three pounds.....	3 0 0
Moses Biers, eight pounds.....	8 0 0

As a gift, Jacob D. Van der Heyden conveyed to the supervisors of the county lots 145, 146 and 147, on the southeast corner of Congress and Second streets, on March 22, 1793, whereon the building of the court house began that year.

#### THE ERECTION OF THE GOAL.

The legislature on March 25, 1794, passed a second act to raise a further sum of eight hundred pounds for completing the court house and goal, under which act Cornelius Lansing, Jacob E. Schermerhorn, Abram Ten Eyck, Mahlon Taylor and Jacob D. Van der Heyden, together with John Van Rensselaer, James Dole, Ephraim Morgan and Benjamin Gorton were appointed to act as commissioners to superintend the erection of the county buildings.

By a third act passed April 3, 1797, the super-

visors of the county were authorized to raise a further sum of \$5,500, together with an addition of five cents on the dollar for collecting the same, and one cent on each dollar for treasurer's fees.

By a further act, passed April 4, 1798, a sum of \$500 was authorized to be raised for making certain necessary accommodations for the goal and certain repairs for the court house.

On November 11, 1794, Benjamin Gorton, clerk of the supervisors, advertised for proposals for the building of the county jail. The new court house, in which the court of common pleas was the first to convene on the second Tuesday in June, 1794, was a two-story brick building, with a cupola for a bell, occupying the site of the present court house. In 1795 the goal was completed, being built of brick, two stories high, with iron barred windows. It was erected on the southwest corner of the alley, at the rear of the court house.

In the court house yard were erected a whipping post and stocks. Here, at intervals, a class of criminals were publicly whipped, receiving from the sheriff or his deputy so many lashes, less than 30, as a punishment for their misdeeds. The unfortunates who were placed in the stocks were made the objects of the ridicule of passers-by, and were often pelted by the village children with the most disagreeable missiles that they could find for the purpose.

## Troy Daily Times.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 9, 1880.

## THE TOWN OF TROY.

### THE FIRST MEETING-HOUSE ERECTED IN IT.

### Secrets Concerning the Location of the Farmers' Bank.

### THE EARLY PHYSICIANS OF THE COUNTY.

Inaugural Procession of the Agricultural Society—New County Buildings Erected—The Competitive Spirit of the Troy People—Their Manufacturing Enterprises—The Conflagration Fires of 1820, 1854 and 1862—An Honorable War Record—Statistical Summary.

One is no little surprised to find such a quickening spirit of enterprise in so small a village as Troy was in 1794. Eight years before this date on its site were only three houses—the homes of three Dutch farmers; one built in 1753, now standing on the southeast corner of Division and River streets; one erected in 1759, now forming a part of the brick building known as No. 548 River street, between Hoosick and Vanderheyden streets; the third, a two-story

79 frame house, built, perhaps, about the middle of the eighteenth century, opposite the ferry, belonging to the old homestead. In 1830, this last house, formerly occupied by Jacob D. Van der Heyden, on the southeast corner of Ferry and River streets, was rented by John Barney and kept as a boarding-house. South of Division street was the farm of Matthias Van der Heyden, which was still under cultivation, while northward the farm of Jacob D. Van der Heyden, extending to Grand Division street, adjoining the river, was a barren plain covered with small pines and scrub oaks. Where is now Sixth street or the railroad track, there was a small stream that ran southwardly to the Pooten kill.

#### THE FIRST MEETING-HOUSE.

While the active-minded, diligent and sanguine men of this small community were doing with their might the things they deemed the most important for the development of the local advantages of the place, they were also respecters of the

"Divinity that shapes our ends,  
Rough-hew them how we will."

Without any clergyman to direct or to lead them, they with common accord met together on Sundays at the sound of the conch shell used at the ferry, in the ball-chamber of Capt. Stephen Ashley's tavern, near the northwest corner of Ferry and River streets, where Dr. Samuel Gale or Col. Albert Pawling would read to them selected sermons. When the number of the inhabitants had increased, desiring a more united organization, the citizens assembled at Ashley's tavern on the 31st of December, 1794, and organized the Presbyterian congregation of the town of Troy, and selected for its first trustees Jacob D. Van der Heyden, Dr. Samuel Gale, Ephraim Morgan, John McChesney, sr., Benjamin Covell and Benjamin Gorton. A frame building for a meeting house having been erected a short distance south of the southeast corner of Congress and First streets, and the trustees desiring to complete it, the following memorial was drawn up on the 28th of November, 1792, and presented to the people of Troy:

Whereas, The inhabitants of the town have begun and partly completed a church building, but by reason of the almost infant settlement, and a variety of other public expenses, which must necessarily attend a newly settled town, they find it burdensome for them to carry their wishes into effect without calling in the aid of their friends and fellow-citizens; we therefore, the trustees of said congregation, have and do hereby appoint Jacob D. Van der Heyden to present this our memorial to all whom he shall think proper, requesting their aid and assistance in the completion of the above undertaking.

Sufficient money having been subscribed, a contract for doing the wood-work was let to Abel House, Robert Powers, Henry and John De Camp and Benjamin Smith for "forty-six pounds, thirteen shillings, York money, in cash; and ninety-three pounds, seven shillings, in European and West Indian goods at the retail prices in Troy." When the Rev. Jonas Coe was ordained in the new meeting-house on the 24th of June, 1793, blocks of wood were brought into the unfinished building, and boards were placed on them for the seating of the people in



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The first village officers were created by an act of the legislature, entitled "An act to appoint trustees to take and hold certain lands therein mentioned, and for other purposes," passed March 25, 1794. The first part of the act relates to the village of Lansingburgh. Section six relates to Troy:

[illegible]

This same act empowered the freemen the inhabitants of the village to ordain and establish prudential rules and orders relative to cleansing and keeping in order and repair common streets and highways of Troy; "to compel the householders in Troy" to fit themselves with a sufficient number of buckets, and with necessary tools and implements for extinguishing of fires, and to incur such penalties on offenders as the majority of the freemen and inhabitants should think time to deem proper, not exceeding shillings for any one offense.

The trustees also, "with all convenient speed," were to elect a sufficient number of men willing to accept, not exceeding 15 in number, to have the care, management, work and use of the fire engine belonging to the society.

## EVIDENCES OF GROWTH.

Before Troy became a post-village let its inhabitants were directed to "Albany were brought to the village by a postman Lansingburgh, in 1792, obtained a post letters for the people of Troy were thither. Early in 1796 Nathan Willis that time a law student in the office

the *Farmers' Oracle*, was published by Luther Pratt & Co. The first issue of the paper was announced in the *American Spy*, of Lansingburgh:

Luther Pratt & Co. inform their old customers that they have removed their printing materials from Lansingburgh to Troy, and commenced publishing a newspaper at their printing office in Water street, opposite the ferry, entitled *Farmers' Oracle*, printed every Tuesday, at 12 shillings per annum.

THE FIRST PARTICULAR BAPTIST CHURCH.

Among the early inhabitants of the growth village were a number of families which had previously been connected with Baptist societies in the places where they formerly resided. Of these persons were Silas Corvill and wife, Providence, R. I., Adam Keeling, Ebenezer Wilson and John Howard. Social worship was held at first at the dwellings of the Baptist people. At length a room was rented in a building near the corner of Albany and Richmond streets, which was used as a place of assembly. On the 15th of October, 1795, a church organization was effected under the name of "The First Particular Baptist church in the village of Troy." Through the liberality of J. D. Van der Heyden, the society became possessed of lot number 231, south of the old Troy street burying ground. On January 4, 1801, Adam Keeling, Edward Tylee, Silas Corvill, Ebenezer Wilson, Ebenezer Jones and Noah Johnson were elected trustees, who with other members of the congregation made arrangements for the erection in 1805 of a small meeting house. The society in a few years had so increased in numbers that a large room for conference meetings was needed and built in 1846 the old church edifice was removed and the present building erected.

Referring to the taking of the census in the editor of the Troy weekly paper says of village:

To exhibit, however, some idea of the rate of our growth, it will be sufficient for us to observe that 15 years ago there were in this (now comprising some 100 dwelling houses, and probably more than 15 inhabitants; and that, present time it contains about 300 dwelling-independent of stores, etc.) and 1,923 inhabitants. A population so rapid has, we believe, but seldom been witnessed in the United States. Situated as we are at the head of a deep navigation extending to the river, and surrounded on every side by a fertile country, whose population has also experienced a rapid increase, our commerce increased in at least an equal ratio with our inhabitants.

At this time the land, from the mouth of Poosten kill southward to within 20 rods of Van Buren house, belonged to the farm of Philip I. Schuyler. From the latter pole the Mathies kill Mrs. Van Buren's farm extended. From the last named kill, southward about 20 rods, was the mill property of Thomas Beck, leased from David DePriest. The Thomas L. Witbeck occupied the present site of the Bessemer steel works.

When the state legislature, on the March, 1901, passed the act to incorporate

Farmers' bank, with a capital stock of \$300,000, it provided that the bank should be located at such place in the town of Troy as Hosea Moffit, Jonathan Brown, John E. Van Allen and James McKown, or any three of them, should designate and point out, which location, when so made, should be unalterable, and the said place should be near the road leading from Troy to Lathaburg, and not further north than to Mill creek, nor further south than the house of Joshua Raymond; and that the bank should be created and so far completed as to admit the transaction of the business of the bank by the first day of December, 1801.

The first directors of the Farmers' bank were:

*Troy*—John Woodworth, Daniel Merritt, Benjamin Tibbitts, Christopher Hutton, Townsend McCoun and Ephraim Morgan.  
*Lansingburgh*—Elijah James, Charles Selden, John D. Dickinson, James Hickok and William Bradley.  
*Waterford*—Guert Van Schoonhoven and Samuel Stewart.

When the time came to determine upon the location of the bank building it seems that the majority of the directors favored the selection of a site convenient to the village of Troy. To accomplish this wish tactics of a most unbusinesslike character were adopted. As a full and brief record of the proceedings of the directors respecting the selection of a site has never been heretofore published, it may be interesting to the readers of the *Troy Daily Times* to know what was the course pursued to obtain the location of the bank as near to the village as the law allowed. At a meeting of the directors, held at Jacob's hotel in Lansingburgh, June 29, 1801, the following action was taken: On motion of Mr. Woodworth, Resolved, That

temporary place of establishment until the lot for  
fall to the village of Troy, as the house of the bank  
at the commissioners the house of Joshua  
aymond, in the village of Troy, as the house of the  
templated in the act, and that in case it should  
the village of Lansingburgh, we will imme-  
the middle ground or near the place contem-  
the commissioners for transacting the  
in petition of the directors.

acted, unanimously, That we will unite in a petition to the legislature at the next session for obtaining the alterations in the act of incorporation enable the directors to carry into effect the matters contemplated in the resolutions of the board respecting the permanent and temporary place for the buildings, and that we will, unitedly and severally, use our best exertions in the premises.

Resolved, That we will severally keep secret the rent  
the lot for the temporary place of establishing  
bank, and our resolutions this day passed re-  
ferring the same, until the farther order of the  
ed on the same.

in motion of Mr. Woodward, seconded by Mr. Wiley:

*Resolved*, That this board do pledge themselves individually that they will adhere to and perform several matters contained in the preceding resolutions, and that the president put the same to several members of the board.

his was done by the president, John D.  
Kinson.

motion of Mr. Woodward, seconded by Mr. [unclear]

passed, unanimously. That this board will immediately proceed to determine by a yet agreeable resolutions of the 6th day of June as amending the temporary place for the establishment of bank, and that Mr. Bradley do prepare and up for the purpose five ballots with the word "Lindsayburgh" written thereon, and five ballots the word "Troy" written thereon; that the

same be placed and shook together in a hat by Mr. Hutton and drawn by Mr. Morrill blindfold in the presence of the board, and that the said temporary place shall be at the village, the name of which shall be written on two of the three first ballots to be drawn.

The ballots having been prepared by Mr. Hutton and Mr. Bradley, Mr. Merritt drew one after another three ballots out of the hat so prepared, on opening which it appeared that the word "Lansingburgh" was written on the two first and the word "Troy" on the third. Mr. Merritt then proceeded to draw the residue of the ballots which, having been all opened, were found to be prepared agreeable to the preceding resolution.

At a subsequent meeting it was determined that a banking house should be built 30 by 40 feet and a kitchen 18 by 21 feet, and that Messrs. Hutton, Hickok and Merritt should be the building committee. Jacob D. Van der Heyden having presented the bank with two lots on the northwest corner of Middleburgh and River streets, two other adjoining lots were purchased from him, and the foundations of the banking house built directly over the boundary line of Troy and Lansingburgh.

On the 1st of December, 1801, the Farmers bank, Hugh Peebles cashier, commenced business in its newly-erected building. The bank vault, built of brick, is still to be seen in the cellar, as it was left November 15, 1808, when the bank was removed to a new building erected on the second lot south of the south west corner of First and State streets.

## A TURNPIKE TOWARD THE WEST

Aware that much of the trade of the country west of the Hudson was drawn to Albany, the enterprising merchants of Troy determined to attract by means of a good and direct road the Dutch farmers living toward Schenectady to bring their grain and produce to Troy. For this purpose they petitioned the legislature to grant them the right of making a *turnpike* to Schenectady. "An act for establishing a turnpike road from opposite the village of Troy to the city of Schenectady" was passed April 2, 1802. By it Ephraim Morgan, George Tibbits, Abraham Oothoudt and their associates were constituted a body corporate and politic by the name of "the president, directors and company of the Troy and Schenectady turnpike." The capital stock consisted of 350 shares of \$50 each. The first officers of the company were:

President, Ephraim Morgan; directors, George Tibbits, Abraham Oothoudt (of Schenectady), Derick Lane, Abraham Ten Eyck, Albert Pawling, John Bird, Silas Covell and Daniel Merritt.

The expense of first opening the road west was a quite an onerous one, and drew heavily upon the sparse resources. The whole expenditure for the first three miles out was raised and paid for by the subscriptions of those interested in trade at the village, but this important amply repaid them for the outlay and returned its cost a few years, while great subsequent remuneration came with the increased trade directed from Albany to his point.

ST. PAUL'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The first Protestant Episcopal church in Troy was organized at the court house, January 16, 1804, at which Eliakim Warren and Jeremiah Pierce were elected church wardens, and Nicholas Schuyler, David Bucl, Lemuel Hawley, Thomas Davis, Thomas Hillhouse, John Bird,



William S. Parker and Hugh Peobles rostrymen. Two lots on the northwest corner of Congress and Third streets—the site of Rand's hall—were purchased, on which the building

committee was instructed "to contract with proper workmen to put up the building of the church, the frame to be well put up and filled in with brick, one thick."

On the 2d of July, 1804, the corner stone of the building was laid, the Rev. Jonas Coe, pastor of the Presbyterian church, assisting the Rev. David Butler. Early in the summer of 1805 the church was completed. On the 15th of July, the Rev. David Butler was granted his letter of institution as rector of St. Paul's parish by the Right Rev. Bishop Benjamin Moore.

The present church building on the northeast corner of State and Third streets was erected in 1827, and consecrated August 16, 1828.

#### THE RENSSELAER MEDICAL SOCIETY.

For the purpose of protecting the people of the state against impostors and quacks in the medical profession, the legislature, April 4, 1806, passed a law by which candidates desiring to enter upon the practice of physic and surgery were to be examined by censors of the medical societies throughout the state, and licensed by the judges of the county courts.

It was in accordance with the provisions of this law that the physicians and surgeons of the village of Troy and the towns of the county assembled in the court house, at Troy, on Tuesday, July 1, 1806, and there organized the Rensselaer medical society.

The minutes of this first meeting are as follows:

In conformity to an act of the legislature of the state of New York, entitled an act to incorporate medical societies for the purpose of regulating the practice of physic and surgery in this state, passed April 4, 1806, the physicians and surgeons of the county of Rensselaer to the number of twenty, viz: Benjamin Woodward, Aaron D. Patchin, Benjamin Rowe, Abner Thurber, Moses Willard, Asher Armstrong, Ely Burritt, I. M. Wells, Ezekiah Eldridge, Samuel Gale, David Gleason, Edward Davis, Alexander Rousseau, U. M. Gregory, John London, Sanford Smith, Edward Ostrander, David Doolittle, Moses Hale, James H. Ball, convened in the court house in Troy and proceeded by ballot to elect their officers, when the following gentlemen were declared duly elected:

President, Dr. Benjamin Woodward; vice president, Dr. John London; treasurer, Dr. Samuel Gale; secretary, Dr. I. M. Wells; censors, Dr. Ely Burritt, Dr. Moses Willard, Dr. Ezekiah Eldridge, Dr. David Doolittle, Dr. Benjamin Rowe; delegate to the medical society of the state of New York, Dr. Moses Willard.

**BENJAMIN WOODWARD,**  
Troy, July 1, 1806.  
Secretary, *pro tem.*  
Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to draft a code of by laws for the use of the Rensselaer medical society, and that Dr. Ely Burritt, Dr. Ezekiah Eldridge, Dr. Moses Willard, Dr. Moses Hale and Dr. Aaron D. Patchin be the committee.

**Resolved,** That the annual meeting of the Rensselaer medical society be the first Tuesday of July, and that it be held at the court house in Troy.  
**Resolved,** That a tax of twenty-five cents be levied upon every member for the use of the society, &c., &c.

The licenses of the early physicians, according to the law of the state, were in the following form:

STATE OF NEW YORK, RENSSELAER COUNTY—*Whereas*, Samuel Gale of Troy, in the said county, physician and surgeon, hath made application to me, Thos. Sickles, one of the judges of the court of common pleas for the said county, to obtain a certificate in conformity to a law of this state, entitled "An act to regulate the practice of

physic and surgery, passed the twenty-third of March, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven, and having produced to me satisfactory evidence, that he, the said Samuel Gale, hath been regularly in the practice of physic and surgery for more than two years last past, I do in conformity to the said act, certify the same. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this thirtieth day of October, 1797.  
THOS. SICKLES.

The licenses of some of the other early physicians of Troy and in the towns of the county, bear the following dates:

Dr. Barnabas Scott, September 9, 1797.  
Dr. Thomas Hartwell, September 21, 1797.  
Dr. Felix Greene, September 22, 1797.  
Dr. David Miller, September 27, 1797.  
Dr. Lewis Beebe, October 1, 1797.  
Dr. Benjamin Lyon, October 1, 1797.  
Dr. James H. Ball, October 2, 1797.  
Dr. Francis Smith, October 8, 1797.  
Dr. Ezekiel Baker, October 12, 1797.  
Dr. David Doolittle, October 13, 1797.  
Dr. Nicholas Schuyler, October 13, 1797.  
Dr. John London, October 17, 1797.  
Dr. Alexander Rousseau, October 14, 1797.  
Dr. Jacob Campbell, October 16, 1797.  
Dr. Jason Baunister, October 17, 1797.  
Dr. Jonathan P. Still, October 18, 1797.  
Dr. Jacob Bolt, October 21, 1797.  
Dr. Christopher Dillen, November 9, 1797.  
Dr. Eliza Baker, November 20, 1797.  
Dr. James Mott, November 23, 1797.  
Dr. William Brown, November 23, 1797.  
Dr. Nehemiah King, December 4, 1797.  
Dr. Nicholas Harris, January 4, 1798.  
Dr. Edward Ostrander, January 13, 1798.  
Dr. William Baker, February 23, 1798.  
Dr. Job Trip, February 23, 1798.  
Dr. Charles Beckwith, March 15, 1798.  
Dr. Samuel Gale, Jr., December 11, 1798.  
Dr. Jedediah Pendergast, May 6, 1800.  
Dr. Hubert Smith, May 10, 1800.  
Dr. Abner Armstrong, May 27, 1800.  
Dr. David Gleason, July 15, 1800.  
Dr. John Robinson, August 4, 1800.  
Dr. William C. Front, August 14, 1800.  
Dr. Samuel Porter, March 30, 1801.  
Dr. Silas Goodrich, May 5, 1801.  
Dr. Martin Smith, July 15, 1801.  
Dr. Ely Burritt, March 20, 1802.  
Dr. George W. Paige, April 22, 1802.  
Dr. Uriah M. Gregory, September 15, 1802.  
Dr. Benjamin Woodward, December 11, 1802.  
Dr. Nicholas B. Harris, February 20, 1803.  
Dr. Thaddeus Sweet, March 15, 1803.  
Dr. Simon Newcomb, Jr., May 30, 1803.  
Dr. Ira Gregory, June 5, 1803.  
Dr. Thaddeus Waugh, June 8, 1803.  
Dr. David Bliss, July 25, 1803.  
Dr. Paul Mason, November 23, 1803.  
Dr. Abner Thurber, December 17, 1803.  
Dr. Jared Hitecock, February 18, 1804.  
Dr. John Ward, May 25, 1804.  
Dr. Abel Hovey, June 21, 1804.  
Dr. Moses Hale, July 12, 1804.  
Dr. Ezekiah Eldridge, February 8, 1805.  
Dr. Jeffrey W. Thomas, March 21, 1805.  
Dr. Joshua Griggs, April 4, 1805.  
Dr. Aaron J. Miller, April 4, 1805.  
Dr. John Milton Stewart, April 15, 1805.  
Dr. Augustus Burgoyne, April 25, 1805.  
Dr. Daniel Bemis, June 5, 1805.  
Dr. Ebenezer Stratton, November 2, 1805.  
Dr. Rufus A. Burritt, April 21, 1806.  
Dr. Jacob Kingsley, April 21, 1806.  
Dr. Israel P. Baldwin, April 25, 1806.  
Dr. Theodore May, July 4, 1806.  
Dr. Jacob Burgess, Aug. 15, 1806.  
Dr. Stephen Ingham, August 29, 1806.

#### THE FIRST METHODISTS OF TROY.

Followers of Wesley were at a very early date numbered among the inhabitants of the village of Troy. Stephen Andres, Caleb Curtis, Samuel Goodrich, Benjamin Betts, Archibald Gray and a number of other New England people were among the first congregations that gathered to hear the different itinerant preachers who visited Troy. About the year 1803, by removal, death and other causes, the first Methodist society was broken up. In 1805 the Rev. Elijah Chichester revived the society, and enrolled seven persons in a class. At a meeting at the house

of Samuel Seoby in November, 1808, David Canfield and Morris De Camp were chosen to preside over a meeting held on the 1st of December. At this meeting David Canfield, Eliphalet King and Samuel Seoby were elected "trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church of the village of Troy." On the 25th of December two lots on State street, Nos. 740 and 744, were rented of Jacob D. Van der Hayden, on which in 1809 a frame building two stories in height was erected as a place of worship. This church had a few years thereafter a large membership.

#### RENSSELAER COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY.

Pursuant to a notice given throughout the county, persons from the different towns assembled in the court house on the 11th day of July, 1815, for the purpose of organizing a county Bible society. After the meeting was organized an election was held for the first officers of the Rensselaer county Bible society, which resulted in the selection of the following persons:

**President,** the Rev. Jonas Coe; **first vice president,** the Rev. Ralph Westervelt; **second vice president,** the Rev. Samuel Blatchford; **corresponding secretary,** David Biel, Jr.; **recording secretary,** the Rev. Francis Wayland; **treasurer,** Dorrick Lane; **board of managers,** the Rev. John Adams, the Rev. Tobias Spiker, the Rev. John Younglove, Jr., the Rev. Justus Hull, Dr. Ely Burritt, the Hon. Josiah Masters, Jacob A. Fort, the Hon. Hosea Mott and James L. Hodgeboom.

#### THE VILLAGE GROWS INTO A CITY.

By an act of the legislature, passed February 16, 1798, the freeholders and inhabitants were incorporated under the name of "the trustees of the village of Troy."

On the 2d of April, 1801, the provisions of the former act were somewhat altered. Another act of March 3, 1803, particularly described the west bounds of the village, carrying the southern limits "one west to the east bounds of Albany county, thence northwardly along the boundary line between the county of Albany and the county of Rensselaer to the southern bounds of the village of Lansingburgh."

By an act of the legislature passed April 4, 1806, the village was divided into four wards and four trustees were authorized to be elected to represent each of these wards. Under this act a president of the board was annually appointed by the governor of the state and the council of appointment. This act authorized the trustees to annually raise by tax the sum of \$1,500 to defray the expenses of the city, and also to support a night watch and to light the streets at night. Among the acts of the trustees of the village in 1806 was the making of appropriation of \$35 to have the names of the streets painted on small boards and placed on buildings, at the intersection of the streets.

The population of Troy in 1805 had increased to 2,355; in 1810 to 3,395, and in 1815 to 4,254.

On the 12th of April, 1816, a city charter was granted by the legislature incorporating "the mayor, recorder, aldermen and commonalty of the city of Troy." An election for charter officers of the city was held on Tuesday, May 14. At this election the following persons were elect-

#### ed aldermen:

Wards.	Aldermen.	Assessors.
First.....	George Allen.	Amos Salisbury.
Second.....	Hugh Peobles.	John London.
Third.....	Torrence McCoun.	George Corning.
Fourth.....	Stephen Ross.	Henry Mallory.
Fifth.....	Samuel Harvey.	
Sixth.....	Philip Hart, Jr.	

#### The governor and council of appointment

designated Albert Pawling mayor and William L. Marcy recorder.

#### RENSSELAER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

As early as the year 1818 the subject of organizing a county agricultural society engaged the attention of the farmers and other persons interested in the products of the soil. Early in the summer of 1819 a notice was inserted in the village newspapers that a meeting would be held on June 3, in the court house, to take into consideration the organization of such a society. On the day fixed, a respectable number of the leading men of the county interested in farming assembled and adopted a constitution and elected officers of the Rensselaer county agricultural society. The following persons were elected:

**President,** George Tibbitts; **first vice president,** H. Knickerbocker; **second vice president,** Simon Newcomb, Jr.; **third vice president,** Edmund C. Genet; **treasurer,** Philip Hart; **corresponding secretary,** George B. Davis; **recording secretary,** Henry Hogle.

At a second meeting, July 14, 1819, the following board of managers were elected:

**Troy**—John P. Cushman, Hugh Peobles, Thomas Clowes, Thomas Turner, Stephen V. H. Schuyler, Stephen Ross.  
**Lansburgh**—Jacob C. Lansing, Wooster Brookins, Smith German.  
**Bronck**—Asa Gardner, Samuel I. McCaskey, Martin Springer.  
**Schaghticoke**—Bethel Mather.  
**Pittsford**—Michael S. Van der Cook.  
**Hosack**—Moses Warren, John Carpenter, Jr., Petersburgh—Joseph Case.  
**Groutton**—Ziba Hewitt.  
**Berlin**—Barton Hammond.  
**Stephentown**—Henry Platt.  
**Sauquoit**—William Carmichael.  
**Greenbush**—John Broese.  
**Schenectady**—Cornelius I. Schermerhorn.  
**Nassau**—Fennor Falmor.

The first fair was held on the common south of Hosack street and east of River street, on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 12th and 13th, 1819. Each day was ushered in by the ringing of bells and the discharge of cannon. A procession was formed at the court house on the first day of the fair, at 9 o'clock, which marched to the grounds. As described by a Troy newspaper the fair was a great success. It says:

In the interior a very large collection of rival farmers had arrived on the ground and brought with them the best cattle of the county—exhibiting the interesting spectacle of the finest oxen, cowhills, calves, sheep, swine, horses, colts with their dams, &c., engaging the curiosity and employing the observation of both practical men and amateurs. \* \* \* At 4 o'clock P. M. the ploughing match took place, and for novelty and effect proved itself most interesting. The crowd, large as it was in the morning, had now increased to 3 or 4,000, occupying the adjacent eminences, and pressing in upon the ground designated for the interesting strife. \* \* \* In 30 minutes the quick moving team of Mr. Platin completed its quarter-acre of unusually tough sward, and the shouts of the spectators. A minute more brought in the cattle of Mr. Harrington, who received the premium, having turned up the sward either deeper and better than his swifter competitor. \* \* \*

On the second day the society again formed at the same place, accompanied by the clerics of the city and neighboring towns, under the direction



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of the Marshal Col. Knickerbocker, Assistant Marshal Gen. Carr, and escorted by the fine company from the United States arsenal, commanded by Lieuts. Morton and Walker, proceeded by the excellent band. The procession moved down River and First streets to the Presbyterian meeting house, where had assembled a large audience of females from the city and country. The services at the church were commenced by an appropriate solo sung by the large choir under the direction of Mr. Hastings, in a style of unrivalled excellence. \* \* \* The throng of grave was then addressed by the Rev. Dr. Coe in his peculiarly impressive and appropriate manner. A second solo was followed by a very able, instructive and interesting address from the president. \* \* \*

The premiums which had been awarded by the committee were then announced, after some pertinent prefatory remarks by Ekanah-Watson, Esq.

After the distribution of premiums an appropriate prayer by the Rev. Mr. Somers concluded the services at the church. The society then again formed and proceeded to Barney's hotel, where they partook of an excellent farmers' dinner.

The Rensselaer county agricultural society, after many years of usefulness, holding its annual fairs at different places in the immediate vicinity of Troy, at length became embarrassed, which culminated in the sale of its grounds and buildings under foreclosure of mortgage, in October, 1874.

#### THE GREAT FIRE OF 1820.

The most calamitous event that befell the small city of Troy was a devastating fire, which occurred June 20, 1820. It originated in a barn in the rear of Col. Thomas Davis's house, No. 35, west side of First street. The wind was blowing from the south, and the fire spread rapidly northward. Fire engines from Lansingburgh, Waterford, the United States arsenal and from Albany came to aid in the suppression of the devouring flames. All the buildings on the west side of River street, north of Dr. Samuel Gale's store, in which was the post-office, now the site of the drug and medical warehouse of J. L. Thompson, Sons & Co., were burned down as far north as the store of Corning & Co., now Fisk, Cowee & Co.'s, on the east side of River street; all the buildings from H. & G. Vail's store, opposite the post-office, northward as far as the corner of River and First streets, where now is the Hall building, then southward along the west side of First street to the middle of the block between State and Congress streets. The total number of buildings burned was 69 stores and houses, about 12 stables, and outhouses, in all 93. The loss was estimated to be from \$700,000 to \$1,000,000.

From all parts of the state and neighboring states money and other contributions were with immediate liberality forwarded to the distressed people.

The 12th of July was observed in Troy by all the churches as a day of humiliation and prayer.

#### THE ERECTION OF NEW COUNTY BUILDINGS.

In 1821 action was taken by the common council of the city of Troy towards raising by tax money to pay the city's proportion of the expense of purchasing the necessary land and of erecting thereon buildings for the accommodation of the indigent, infirm and insane of the county. The board of supervisors January 10, 1822, made a report to the common council that

the entire cost of the property purchased and the new buildings erected was \$9,064.84—Troy's proportion being \$4,647.94. The land purchased for this purpose embraced about 146 acres. The several buildings on it are known as the house of industry.

At a meeting of the common council, held May 17, 1825, a committee consisting of Ephraim Morgan, Thomas Clowes and Jeremiah Dauchy, was appointed to confer with the board of supervisors in regard to the erection and selection of a site for a new jail. By agreement it was decided to erect the needed building on lot No. 435, on the northeast corner of Ferry and Fifth streets. When the building was completed, the old jail in the alley back of the court house was torn down and the prisoners removed to the new structure. By a resolution passed by the common council August 3, 1832, the old bell on the court house was ordered to be transferred to the cupola of the jail, to be used as a fire-alarm bell.

The old court house building not being sufficiently commodious for the purposes of the people of the county the board of supervisors, at a meeting held at William Pierce's inn, November 15, 1826, resolved to petition the state legislature for an act empowering it to raise sufficient moneys by tax for the erection and furnishing of a new building. The board also made an agreement with the common council of the city of Troy to provide certain rooms in the new court house for the use of the city of Troy. The new building was first occupied in 1831, the entire cost of the structure being about \$40,000. The city of Troy had what was designated as "the mayor's court room" and the "common council room" on the second floor of the building, and three rooms in the basement, assigned it by the board of supervisors. The style of the architecture of the court house building, it is said, is that of the temple of Theseus.

#### NEW WAYS OF TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION.

The project of connecting the waters of the western lakes with the Hudson by a canal was at a very early date looked upon with much favor by the enterprising people of Troy. Early in 1816 this card appeared in one of the weekly papers of the village:

CANAL.—The inhabitants of the village of Troy are requested to meet at the Court House on Saturday evening (February 24), at 6 o'clock, to take into consideration the propriety of memorializing the Legislature on the subject of the contemplated Western Canal.

At this meeting, which was largely attended by the enthusiastic citizens and which was presided over by the Hon. George Tibbits, a committee of four persons was appointed from each of the four wards to obtain signatures to a petition to the legislature setting forth the importance of the canal:

First ward—Albert Pawling, J. Sampson, L. M. Wells and Ephraim Morgan.

Second ward—Samuel Gale, J. Mallory, John P. Cushman and Hugh Peckles.

Third ward—Stephen Warren, Townsend McCoun, Francis Adams and Gordon Corning.

Fourth ward—A. Arnold, J. Hamill, Stephen Ross and J. Reed.

When the "Great Canal Bill" was passed,

George Tibbits, John D. Dickinson and Albert Pawling were appointed agents of the commissioners to secure donations, land and money to aid in the construction of the two public works—the Erie and the Champlain canals.

The steamboat Fire-fly, one of Robert Fulton's, commenced plying twice a day between Troy and Albany, in the fall of 1812. Immediately the steamboat monopoly on the Hudson was broken down by a decision of the supreme court in 1824, a number of the citizens applied to the legislature for an act incorporating "the Troy steamboat company." This company was chartered March 31, 1825. The persons first interested in its organization were John D. Dickinson, George Vail, Nathan Warren, Alsop Weed, Samuel Gale, Nathan Dauchy, Philip Hart, Jr., Gordon Grant, George Tibbits, John Paine, Townsend McCoun, James Van Brockle and Richard P. Hart.

On Saturday, March 12, 1825, Troy's first steamboat, the Chief Justice Marshall, made her first appearance at the steamboat landing.

The Citizens' steamboat company was organized in January, 1829. The articles of association were signed February 19, 1872. The City of Troy was built in 1876 and the Saratoga in 1877.

Previous to the construction of a railroad to Troy, stages were the means of public conveyance. In 1829 the Troy and Schenectady line of stages left Troy twice a day at 8 o'clock a. m. and 2 o'clock p. m., and at the same hours Schenectady. The Troy and Boston stages every morning at 8 o'clock, Sundays excepted. The Troy and Albany line twice a day, 8 o'clock a. m. and 2 o'clock p. m. The Phoenix line, Troy and Boston, via Williamstown and Greenfield, at 2 o'clock a. m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The first railroad project which interested the people of Troy was the building of a road from Troy to Ballston. The act to incorporate the Rensselaer and Saratoga railroad company was passed April 14, 1832. The capital stock was fixed at 300,000 shares of \$100 each. The first officers were:

President, Richard P. Hart; directors, Elihu Tibbits, George Griswold, John Cramer, John Knickerbocker, Richard P. Hart, Townsend McCoun, Nathan Warren, Stephen Warren, George Vail, Lettman Cannon, Moses Williams, John P. Cushman and John Paine.

The railroad was completed October 6, 1835, and trains crossed the new bridge from Green Island to Troy for the first time that day. On the arrival of the cars at the west side of the river, horses were substituted for the engine, and the cars were drawn over by them and down River street to the Troy house, the terminus of the road.

#### TOY'S SPIRIT OF COMPETITION.

A correspondent of a leading New York paper wrote as follows in 1838 regarding the competitive spirit of the Troy people:

There is something remarkable in the character of the people. No matter where they come from, or what have been their previous habits, the moment they become residents of this place, they are Trojans. They not only look well to their own individual interests, but imbibe the same spirit of enterprise which they find prevailing, and unite as one man in sustaining the interests and advancing the prosperity of Troy.

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No sooner, for instance, had the steamboat monopoly been broken up by the supreme court, and Albany placed a line of steamboats on the river of her own, than Troy did the same. When a railroad brought the valley of the Mohawk within an hour's distance from Albany, Troy united herself with Vermont by the process of macadam. \* \* \* At last, though not least, a railroad having in effect brought Ballston and Saratoga lands springs within two hours of Albany, another railroad brings the same mountains within an hour and a half of Troy. \* \* \*

It was originally intended that the Troy road should run along the eastern margin of the Hudson, through Lansingburgh, crossing the river upon the old bridge at Waterford. Objections, however, of various kinds were thrown in the way of the company, and prices demanded for the use of the bridge under the impression that the railroad must be carried across it and to where else, which induced the directors to change the route.

Trains on the Schenectady and Troy railroad began running between the two places in November, 1842.

The first through train from New York reached Troy December 19, 1851.

The formal opening of the Rutland and Washington railroad, and the Troy and Boston railroad from its junction at Eagle Bridge, was celebrated June 28, 1852.

#### THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOY'S MANUFACTURING INTERESTS.

The immense manufacturing establishments of H. Burden & Sons, in which more than 1,400 men are employed, and who receive over \$500,000 annually in wages, had their beginning in 1809, at which time John Converse and several associates erected a rolling and slitting mill at the upper fall of the Wyannt's kill. The mill of mills, which now annually send out \$2,000,000 of horseshoes, is a notable triumph to the enterprise and inventive genius of Henry Burden, whose fame as an inventor and manufacturer is world-wide.

The extensive works of the Albany and Rensselaer iron and steel company, where steel rails of the finest quality, merchant steel, horse shoes, etc., are manufactured in such large quantities as to astonish those who first hear of the thousands of tons produced annually, and at which over 2,000 men obtained work and are annually paid wages amounting to \$1,000,000, had their origin in a rolling mill erected in 1807 by John Brinkerhoff, on the north bank of the Wyannt's kill, at its second fall.

The manufacture of collars, cuffs and shirts, which affords employment to more than 12,000 persons, who receive annually almost \$3,000,000 in wages, began in a very humble way in 1820. The sales of the productions of this one branch of manufacture exceed \$5,000,000 annually.

Stoves were first made in Troy about the year 1821 by the firm of Starbuck & Gurley. The fame which Troy stoves have secured throughout the United States is well known, and which has made the value of their annual production reach nearly to \$3,000,000. Besides these leading branches of manufacture the casting of church bells, car wheels, the making of rice-brick, paper, vulvies, car coaches, hosiery, machinery, surveying instruments, flour and other mentionable and useful articles, add to the welfare and wealth of the industrious people of



## Troy.

### THE TROY YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION.

After several preliminary meetings which were largely attended by the people of Troy, the young men's association was organized December 19, 1834, by the election of John T. McCoun president. The first rooms occupied by the association, February, 1835, were on the second floor of the building No. 197 River street. On the completion of the Athenaeum building, on First street, the library was transferred to it. By an act of legislature, passed May 8, 1830, amending the act incorporating the association April 20, 1833, the control and management of the property of the association were placed in the hands of 23 trustees. The number of volumes in the library is about 23,325. Since December, 1870, De Witt Clinton has been the efficient librarian of the young men's association.

### THE LARGE FIRE OF 1834.

The second large fire, which rendered three hundred families homeless, occurred on the afternoon of August 26, 1834. About 1 o'clock that day a brick planing mill on the southwest corner of Front and Division streets was discovered on fire, and although the fire companies of the city arrived early, the flames spread rapidly southward among the lumber piles in the adjoining yards. A strong northwest wind was blowing, and the conflagration in a short time assumed such alarming proportions that fire engines from the neighboring places were solicited to aid in its suppression. Fire companies Nos. 1, 8 and 11 of Albany, with their apparatus, promptly responded, as did companies from West Troy, Cohoes, Waterford and Lansingburgh. The area of the fire included the blocks south of Division street and west of River street, as far as Liberty street. The fire then extended on the south side of Liberty street to First street, where it crossed to the east side about the middle of the block between Liberty and Washington streets, and thence southward, having its eastern margin along the east side of the alley, between First and Second streets, to Jefferson street. All the buildings westward to the river were consumed by the fire, which was not under control of the firemen until 6 o'clock in the evening. The day was extremely warm and the firemen labored under many disadvantages. About 30 acres of ground were burned over by this fire. The total loss was estimated at \$1,000,000.

The frame work of the steeple of St. John's Episcopal church, on the southeast corner of First and Liberty streets, during the progress of the conflagration was set on fire by a flying brand, but James Stantial, seeing the great danger the newly erected church was in, daringly climbed to the dizzy height, and with uncovered hands seized the flaming brand and threw it to the ground and then extinguished the fire spreading along the frame work. The sufferers by this fire were generously aided by the people of this and neighboring places in the time of their need and distress.

### THE GREAT FIRE OF 1862.

A third fiery scourge visited the city on Saturday, May 10, 1862. The fearful and rapid ravages of this devastating conflagration appalled the stoutest hearts, desolating in the short space of six hours seventy-five acres of property and reducing to ashes five hundred and seven buildings. To aid in extinguishing this conflagration the firemen of Albany, West Troy, Cohoes, Waterford and Lansingburgh came with their engines and toiled with great efficiency in saving property exposed to the spreading flames and flying brands.

The fire had its beginning in the Rensselaer and Saratoga railroad bridge. This structure, it was supposed, was set on fire by a locomotive. The wind was from the northwest, and blowing a stiff gale, which carried burning cinders southeastwardly to the buildings adjacent to the bridge. The irresistible fury of the flames and the dense smoke made it a most difficult task to suppress this extensive conflagration. During the progress of the fire several persons lost their lives in the flames. Thomas O'Donnell, an aged blind man, living on Green street, above Grand Division, was burned to death. Ransom S. Haight, while trying to escape from the path of the fire along Seventh street, was suffocated by the smoke and perished in the flames issuing from the neighboring dwellings. Mary Dunlop and child also lost their lives in a burning building. Dr. Zenas Cary died the following day from burns received while endeavoring to escape from the flames enveloping his residence.

Among the principal buildings consumed were the Second Presbyterian church, on the southeast corner of Sixth and Grand Division streets; the Scotch Presbyterian church, on the east side of Seventh street, between Broadway and State street; the North Baptist church, on the southeast corner of Fulton and Fifth streets; the Rensselaer polytechnic institute, on the north side of State street, between Sixth and Seventh streets; the Troy City bank, on the southeast corner of Grand Division and Fourth streets; the orphan asylum, on the south side of Federal street, opposite Harrison place; the church asylum, west of the orphan asylum, and the Union railroad depot. The total loss by this fire was estimated at \$3,000,000, with an insurance of \$1,000,000.

In a very short time the undaunted spirit of enterprise of the Troy people asserted its former power, and new buildings rapidly rose up over the desolated space of the great conflagration. In the month of July following the fire, 151 buildings were in course of erection. From all parts of the country came kind benefactions of sympathizing people, which were gratefully received by those suffering in basket and store from the impoverishing effects of this calamitous fire.

### TROY'S PATRIOTISM IN THE WAR OF SECESSION.

In 1861 Troy reared its altars of loyalty on which brightly burned the fires of its patriot-

ism until the surrender of Lee at Appomattox in 1865. On the evening of April 16, 1861, the first great war meeting was held in Harmony hall. The Hon. John A. Griswold was chosen chairman of the meeting. A committee was appointed, consisting of William B. Kisselburgh, Isaac McConihe, Jr., and Robert A. Lottridge, which reported a series of patriotic resolutions, in which it was declared that Troy was ready to contribute a part of the means necessary to defend the government and to maintain the permanency of its institutions; that a regiment of volunteers would at once be formed whose services would be offered to the executive of the state, to be transferred to the support of the federal government.

In consequence of the immense concourse of people assembled in and outside of the building, the meeting was adjourned to the Union depot, where addresses were made by Isaac McConihe, Jr., Martin I. Townsend, George W. Demmes, Clarence Buel, Gen. John E. Wool and others.

A second large meeting was held on April 18th, at Harmony hall, at which a committee of five was appointed to wait upon the common council and solicit the subscription of \$10,000 for the support of the families of volunteers. The common council at once complied with this request. The spirit of loyalty to the country's flag was everywhere apparent among the people. Union cockades and diminutive banners were buttoned and pinned to the hats and clothing of men, women and children; and in the churches, on Sundays, the services of the day were appropriately patriotic and filled with loyal aspirations for the preservation of liberty and law.

The first corps of volunteers which left Troy for the seat of war in 1861 was the second New York regiment, which departed from the city on the 18th of May. This fine body of soldiers was under the command of Col. Joseph B. Carr.

The need of more men to suppress the rebellion called into the field from Troy, on the 30th of August, 1862, the one hundred and twenty-fifth regiment, George L. Willard was the colonel of this noted regiment.

The one hundred and sixty-ninth regiment, the third contribution of Troy's patriotism, received its marching orders September 23, 1862. The command of this regiment was first held by Clarence Buel. It won a splendid record during the war.

### TROY'S CHURCHES.

The date of the organization of the different religious societies of Troy and of the erection of the houses of worship is shown in the following table:

Name and date of organization.	First ch. built.	Present ch. built.
First Pres., Dec. 31, 1791.....	1792-3	1834-5
Second Pres., Sept. 28, 1807.....	1807	1844-5
Third Pres., Jan. 16, 1821.....	1821	1854
Fourth Pres., Feb. 23, 1834.....	1834	1854
United Pres., Feb. 6, 1854.....	1854	1872
Liberty street Pres., Jan. 17, 1861.....	1861	1864
Park Pres., Aug. 24, 1864.....	1864	1871
Woodside Pres., June 16, 1867.....	1867	1869
Oakwood avenue Pres., July 1, 1868.....	1868	1868
Ninth Pres., Sept. 30, 1869.....	1869	1869
Westminster Pres., Nov. 2, 1870.....	1870	1870
Memorial Pres., Oct. 10, 1872.....	1872	1878
First Baptist, Dec. 15, 1869.....	1869	1848

Second Baptist, Feb. 4, 1860.....	1860	1860
North Baptist, June 6, 1861.....	1861	1861
South Baptist, March, 1861.....	1861	1861
Vail avenue Baptist, April, 1873.....	1873	1873
St. Paul's P. E., Jan. 16, 1864.....	1864	1867
St. John's P. E., Dec. 3, 1866.....	1866	1866
Christ Church, P. E., Dec. 3, 1866.....	1866	1866
Church of Holy Cross, P. E., 1844.....	1844	1848
St. Luke's P. E., 1860.....	1860	1860
First ch. of Ascen., P. E., Feb. 14, 1864.....	1864	1864
St. Paul's Free Chapel, P. E., Nov. 1864.....	1864	1864
State street M. E., Dec. 4, 1868.....	1868	1868-71
North Second street M. E., May, 1865.....	1865	1870
Loring's Chapel, M. E., 1838.....	1838	1839
Zion M. E., 1841.....	1841	1841
Third street M. E., 1848.....	1848	1848
Chalmers street M. E., 1847.....	1847	1848
Vail avenue M. E., 1847.....	1847	1848
German M. E., July 28, 1857.....	1857	1859
St. Peter's Roman Catholic, 1824.....	1824	1841
St. Mary's Roman Catholic, 1844.....	1844	1844
St. Joseph's Roman Catholic, 1847.....	1847	1844
St. John Baptist Roman Catholic, 1847.....	1847	1844
St. Francis Roman Catholic, 1850.....	1850	1849
St. Lawrence Roman Catholic, 1852.....	1852	1852
St. Michael Roman Catholic, 1857.....	1857	1857
St. Patrick's Roman Catholic, Jan. 1, 1870.....	1870	1872
Quaker society, Nov. 1860.....	1860	1860
Universalist church.....	1823	1822
Bethel church, 1821.....	1821	1822
First Congregational church.....	1823	1823
First Unitarian church, 1848.....	1848	1848
Church of Christ, 1840.....	1840	1840
Trinity, Lutheran, 1870.....	1870	1870
Bethel South, Jewish, 1864.....	1864	1870

### TROY'S BANKS.

The following table shows the date of the incorporation of the different banking institutions of Troy:

Name.	Act of incorp.	Began business.
Farmers' bank.....	March 31, 1861.	Dec. 1, 1861.
Bank of Troy.....	March 22, 1811.	1811
Troy Savings bank.....	April 26, 1863.	Aug. 30, 1863.
Manufacturers' and Merchants' bank.....	April 30, 1869.	1869
Troy bank.....	April 19, 1835.	July 11, 1835.
Troy Exchange bank.....	Dec. 7, 1838.	
Commercial bank of Troy.....	Aug. 1, 1836.	1836.
Howard, Ryan and Banking Co., of Troy.....	Feb. 1, 1830.	1830.
Union bank of Troy.....	Jan., 1851.	April, 1851.
State bank of Troy.....	1850.	Sept. 4, 1852.
Central bank of Troy.....	Nov. 24, 1852.	Jan. 15, 1853.
First National bank of Troy.....	Dec., 1862.	Dec. 29, 1862.
Bank of Troy.....	1802.	May, 1802.
Market bank.....	Jan. 1863.	Sept. 1863.
Troy Savings Co., of Troy.....	June 26, 1851.	1851.
First National bank of Troy.....	Oct. 24, 1862.	Jan. 1, 1864.
United National bank.....	March, 1865.	April 10, 1865.
National Exchange bank.....	1865.	From Market bank.

\* Changed to national banks in 1863, except the Manufacturers' which became a national bank in 1864.

\* Formed from Farmers' bank and bank of Troy.

### THE POPULATION OF TROY.

1790.....	450	1840.....	19,334
1820.....	1,800	1850.....	21,719
1830.....	2,031	1860.....	28,750
1840.....	2,295	1870.....	33,309
1850.....	3,334	1880.....	30,859
1860.....	5,894	1890.....	34,253
1870.....	6,860	1890.....	44,553
1880.....	11,554	1870.....	43,501
1890.....	15,000	1880.....	50,731



# Troy Daily Times.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 19, 1879.

## TROY'S TRIUMPHS.

The Immense Iron Mills of H. Burden & Sons.

A MILE OF MANUFACTURING BUILDINGS.

THE WORLD'S GREAT WATER-WHEEL.

Horseshoes for more than Twelve Millions of Horses.

ACRES OF WONDERFUL MACHINERY.

STARTLING STATISTICS.

The ancient Greeks and Romans were accustomed to ascribe their successes to the agency of the gods. Their knowledge of working in metals was imparted them, it is said, by Vulcan, the deified instructor of men in metallurgical arts. Marvelous stories are related of his giving Alcibiades, king of the Phaeacians, gold and silver dogs which guarded the royal palace, of his making the golden maidens who served him, and whom he endowed with reason and speech, and of his presenting to Minos, king of Crete, the brazen man, Talus, who each day three compassed the island to protect it from the invasion of strangers. Fire, the great agent employed in the reduction and working of metals, they said, was withheld, at first, from man through the kindness of the gods, but that Prometheus, another fabled benefactor of man, stole it from heaven, in a hollow staff, and brought it to earth.

Beliefs such as these, for centuries, were grafted on the minds of men. Then came a disturbing period of transition, in which men began patiently to investigate the secret laws of nature and to solve and intelligently explain the manifold complexities of the elementary substances. Having learned, in part, the peculiar chemical combinations of minerals, an advanced step was then made in applying this derived knowledge by certain novel processes to uses beneficial to man. Startling facts were discovered in this new field of applied chemistry and mechanics more astounding than the fabled contrivances of Vulcan; passive elements were transformed into active agents whose energetic forces were made obedient servants of the directive will of man; and splendid pyrotechnic spectacles were looked upon with inquisitive eyes and their tell-tale flames interrogated to solve the intricate problems of their

chemical colorings.

In those vast museums of science and art, for such are the various buildings of the iron and steel manufacturing companies in the southern part of this city, are to be seen unsuspected wonders of elemental combination and operative machinery. As one wanders through these extensive structures covering many acres of ground, and views the flaming furnaces and fiery crucibles, the immense rolls and ponderous hammers, the great boilers and powerful engines, the tolling groups of brawny men and the ubiquitous and observant superintendents, he is almost persuaded to believe that he is looking on a scene of magical enchantment rather than upon a real spectacle of organized labor and curious mechanisms. A thousand questions arise in his mind in regard to the peculiar circumstances which gave rise to this grand engineering,—who were the men that contrived these ingeniously constructed machines with their wonderful effective action,—and what must be the quality and the quantity of the products of these great manufactories annually.

### THE OLD MILLS ON THE WYNAUTSKILL.

To comprehend clearly the growth of the several branches of this local industry, it would be well, just here, to advert to the early history of the manufacture of iron in this city. It should be known that the waters of the Wynautskill have, for more than 200 years, been utilized as motive power by persons living along its declivities banks. Its blimp current was first made to turn the rude water-wheel of a saw-mill erected by the early Dutch settlers. In 1674 this mill was purchased by Wynant Gerritse van der Pool, from whom the creek received its name. More than a century afterwards, in 1789, David Defreest, or De Forest as he was then called, built a fulling mill, where now is the water-mill of the Albany and Rensselaer iron and steel company, a short distance east of the bridge, near the terminus of the horse railroad. A flour-mill was erected in 1796 by Thomas L. Witbeck, on the site of the Bessemer steel-works. By an agreement with David Defreest, he was permitted a water privilege by building from the Wynautskill to his mill a "trunk made of joice boards and plank," and to "raise the fulling-mill dam and flume belonging to the said David Defreest." In 1807, John Brinkerhoff removed the fulling mill and erected in its place a nail-factory. John Converse and several copartners, in 1809, obtained two water-power leases eastwardly of the property occupied by John Brinkerhoff, and erected a rolling and slitting mill at the upper fall. This establishment was in 1813 further enlarged, and became the property of the Troy iron and nail-factory company, which was represented in the persons of Rutgers, Whiting, John Converse, Nathaniel Adams, E. F. Backus and Henry W. Delevan. As stated in the act of incorporation, it was the purpose of this company to manufacture bar iron, steel, nail-roads, hoop-iron, iron-mongery

and sheet-copper, and forming and making all kinds of machinery, tools and implements. The company had a capital of \$26,000, the stock being divided into 16 shares of \$1,000. Besides manufacturing an excellent quality of cut nails, this company also made iron shovels and spades in large quantities. This mill, which was under the superintendence of John Converse, had only a pair of rolls in operation for rolling out and slitting the imported iron into nail and spike-roads, and a few machines for cutting nails. The revolution of the rolls must have been necessarily slow for the motion given them was by a pair of water-wheels, one at each end, connected to them as if upon a single shaft. The ground still eastward of this and now covered by H. Burden & Sons' reservoir dam, was in 1812 leased by Smith Cogswell, for the erection of a gun factory.

### THE VALUABLE INVENTIONS OF HENRY BURDEN.

The coming of Henry Burden from Scotland, where he had been educated in engineering and drawing, to the United States, in 1819,—at the suggestion of our minister at London, who gave him letters of introduction to the Hon. Thos. H. Benton, the Hon. John C. Calhoun and the Hon. Stephen Van Rensselaer,—was an event of no little importance to the manufacturing interests of this country. To this distinguished inventor one of Troy's leading industries owes its successful development and distributed benefits. It was in this city that his persistent thoughts framed the peculiar imagery of those wonderful contrivances which have rendered his name famous and their productions notable throughout the United States and in England. It was here that his directive energies and executive ability mastered the numberless difficulties which beset this particular industry in the early years of its incipency, and gave it a prominent position among the iron manufactories on this continent. It was not a desire of making money by the sale

of patent rights or of royalties that Henry Burden's mind brooded for years over plans and methods for producing by machinery those triumphs of his skillful devising, but to furnish his mills with economical and useful contrivances by which he could increase the facilities of production and lessen the expense of manufacturing the articles made here, for many years, by hand. When in 1822 he came from Albany, where he had been engaged, at the suggestion of Stephen Van Rensselaer, in making agricultural implements, to Troy, and took the superintendence of the Troy iron and nail-factory, not only was the machinery in the little wooden mill of the company, imperfect in its action, but the water-power of the Wynautskill was insufficient to supply constantly the wants of the manufactory. He at once applied his technical skill in discovering better mechanical methods of making nails and the means of increasing the supply of water in the Wynautskill.

### THE SPIKE MACHINES.

In 1820, before coming to Troy, he invented

fish and American ship-builders in the construction of *low vessels* for ocean navigation has never been historically noted, and yet such a statement, at this time, is as true as it is remarkable. The principles which his inventive thoughts suggested almost half a century ago have not only been successfully applied in the building of ocean steamships, but they have been sufficiently tested to satisfy the most doubtful that they are the only correct ones which will enhance the speed, capacity and safety of sea-going vessels.

As early as 1825 he laid before the Troy steamboat association certain original plans whereby the construction of steamboats for inland navigation could be greatly improved, and which some years later were adopted in the building of the steamboat Hendrick Hudson. Besides increasing the length of the boats, he wisely suggested for the convenience and accommodation of passengers, the erection of sleeping berth-rooms, on the upper decks, being a decided change from the holds of vessels where they had been previously placed.

In 1846 he was so firmly convinced of the correctness of the principles which he advocated in regard to the building of ocean steamers, that he proposed the formation of a transatlantic company, to be known as "Burden's Atlantic steam-ferry company," in the prospectus of which were fully set forth his suggestions in respect to these desired improvements. His proposed plans, it will be perceived, are clearly advanced in the subjoined paper, issued at Glasgow, Scotland, in 1846:

### PROSPECTUS OF BURDEN'S ATLANTIC STEAM-FERRY COMPANY.

Managing director—H. Burden.  
Engineers—L. Gordon and L. Hill, jr.  
Considering the vast and increasing population on both sides of the Atlantic, the extent of the maritime transactions with each other, and the enormous sums which are annually spent on both continents in perfecting the *slow communication*, it becomes a most important object to improve the present comparatively defective means of passing the Atlantic ocean.

The benefits that would accrue not only to this country, the United States and the Canada, but to the whole continents of Europe and America, if the voyage, still so tedious, uncomfortable and expensive, was rendered at once safe, expeditious, comfortable and cheap, are too apparent to require illustration.

That those who could guarantee these results would reap a splendid return there can be little doubt, and of this, the rapid and profitable increase of railway business is a forcible illustration.

The present Atlantic steamers, magnificent though they be, are as inferior in their results to what they may become, as a well-appointed stage coach is to a railway train.  
Now this desired improvement is to be accomplished may at first appear no easy matter, but in reality it is a problem already solved. The wonder is that so rich a field should have lain so long neglected, when the means of insuring so splendid a harvest are so much within our reach. All experience in steam navigation shows that increase of size and power has been invariably attended with increase of speed, economy and comfort. Witness the successive and gradual advance from the first boat on the Clyde to the last-built ships of the transatlantic company; compare the performances of Henry Bell's little 20 feet boat with the present Liverpool steamers, which now make the trip from Glasgow to Liverpool in little more than double the time the Comet made her voyage to Greenock; or compare the laborious efforts of the earlier Hudson river steamers when the time required was 50 to 60 hours from New York to Albany—compare these with last summer's performances of the steamer Hendrick Hudson, which daily carried 300 or 400 passengers between these places, a distance of 120 miles, in 7½ hours, and that with all the comforts of a first-class hotel, for six shillings.  
The present company propose to carry on the aug-



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the first cultivator used in the United States. The first problem which taxed his inventive mind, after his connection with the Troy iron and nail-factory, was the construction of a machine for making spikes. This idea was suggested to him by his daily inspection of workmen, in the mill, sliding spike-rods, which were made into bundles weighing 56 pounds and afterward forged into the required size by hand. In a very short time his studious mind devised a machine for manufacturing wrought nails or spikes, for which he secured a patent May 26, 1825. Like all inventors, he encountered considerable opposition at first in introducing his machine-made spikes into popular favor. There was a prejudice among ship-builders against them that was not easily changed, for it was their belief that they were almost worthless when compared with those made by hand. For a new and useful improvement in the machinery for manufacturing wrought nails or spikes, he obtained a second patent, dated December 3, 1834. This last modification was a change in the first machine for making countersunk railroad spikes for flat rails, in use for tracks on the first built railroads in the United States. In the winter of 1833-36, Henry Burden visited England, and while there learned that the much used flat rails would likely be superseded by the "T" and "H" rails then coming into favor, and that also a different kind of railroad spikes would necessarily be used. On his return home he reconstructed his machines, and began the manufacture of the new hook-headed spikes. In 1836 he filled his first contract for this kind of railroad spikes, with the Long Island railroad, making 10 tons of them for this company. In 1840 he was granted a patent for his hook-headed spike machine.

#### THE STEAMBOAT HELEN.

Believing that he could construct a steamboat which would have a less draft of water than the boats at that time plying on the Hudson, and which would move more rapidly on the water, he, in 1833, built one, the lower deck of which rested upon two long cigar-shaped hulls, three hundred feet long, placed parallel, about twelve feet apart, with a paddle-wheel amidships, thirty feet in diameter. The first trial trip of the new boat, which was named Helen in honor of his wife, was made on Wednesday, December 4, 1833. Her speed was tested in July, 1834, and was rated at eighteen miles an hour. Shortly after this, on an excursion down the river, by a misunderstood order from the pilot, the engineer ran the boat against the Castleton dam, which accident rendered the Helen worthless. A second boat with additional improvements was launched in 1837, and was highly commended for its special merits by different newspapers. These various improvements were all patented by their ingenious author.

HIS REMARKABLE PLANS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF INLAND AND SEA-GOING STEAMSHIPS.

The fact that Henry Burden was the first advocate of the plans at present adopted by Eng-

land, of our countryman, Henry Burden of Troy, U. S., to whose skill and foresight the present speed of the Hudson river navigation is mainly owing, (he having laid before the Troy steamboat association, so early as 1826, and then strongly urged the adoption of the identical proportions which have now been successfully carried out in the steamer Frederick Hudson)—and to establish boats of power, dimensions and strength sufficient to make the passage from Liverpool to New York in 8 days certain,—so adapted for their purpose, in fact, as, *suppose* they, to defy the wind and the waves. The first vessel will be about 500 feet long. The strength requisite for such a length can be fully obtained without detracting much from the vessel's tonnage; and as it is now known that the height and force of the waves are limited, it is obvious that the strength of a vessel may be so increased as to render the largest waves perfectly harmless.

This is proposed only as the beginning of a system which must ultimately be carried much further. The Great Britain steamship is 322 feet long, and those who have seen her are only amazed at the lightness of her framing. Those who have sailed in her, testify that the "pitching," even with her length, is very much reduced. That her speed is not proportioned to her size, is owing to some imperfection of her form, and defective system of propulsion.

That the passage will be made in the time proposed, or probably in less, there can be little doubt, when it is stated that the proportion of horse power to tonnage will be nearly double that of the usual allowance; and such an engine, with boilers of the requisite capacity, can be erected without encroaching on more of the ship's tonnage than is the present proportion. The cost of equipment, etc., of such a vessel will be about \$150,000; but it is proposed to make the capital \$250,000.

That such expenditure would be amply remunerative there can be little doubt. Experience proves that traffic increases in proportion to the population of the districts accommodated, and inversely as the time and price of transit.

There are millions on each side of the proposed ferry (for ferry it will ere long become), and in this point of view the traffic will be illimitable. From New York to Liverpool is clearly the line of communication, and a glance at the maps show the innumerable feeders to the one grand trunk. Boats of the dimensions proposed would carry from 100 to 500 passengers with infinitely greater comfort than the vessels hitherto established, and as their regularity may be guaranteed, the returns shown in the following statement may be confidently relied on.

One boat, two trips per month:  
400 passengers at \$15..... \$6,000 0 0  
1,500 tons light goods at 25..... \$3,750 0 0  
\$9,750 0 0

Expenses per trip, including outlay at ten per cent. on capital:  
1,500 tons of coal, shore and other expenses..... \$ 500 0 0  
Aside for surplus fund..... 1,000 0 0  
\$ 1,500 0 0  
\$ 8,250 0 0

Twenty-four trips per year is \$192,000, or upwards of 120 per cent. on the proposed capital, without taking into account letters, parcels or stevedore passengers, one or two hundred of whom can be also accommodated.

No. 141 BUCHANAN STREET, GLASGOW, 9th Jan. 1840.

In 1851, when the Arabia of the Cunard line was built, having a length of 285 feet, being the extreme yet reached in any steamer built of wood, either on the ocean or on inland waters, a professor of mathematics in one of the English universities, it is said, made it absolutely certain by scientific proof and a large array of figures, that, first of all, the Arabia could not possibly obey the helm; and secondly, that she would break to pieces in the mid-Atlantic, as the wooden hull would not be able to bear the strain put upon it for more than half the length of the voyage.

It will also be seen, by reference to the length proposed for sea-going vessels, by Henry Burden, that the steamship Gallia lately put on the Cunard line, the length of which is 436 feet, embodies one of the chief principles laid down

by him for the construction of ocean steamships, viz: that their length should be about 500 feet.

At the time of the building of the Great Eastern, in 1857, Henry Burden wrote to the designer of the vessel's hull that to increase its speed its proposed proportions should be somewhat changed, or else she would prove a failure in that respect. His suggestions were not heeded, and the vessel did not accomplish what she was designed to do, as far as her sailing qualities were concerned.

In plates for iron-clad sea-going vessels Henry Burden was also among the first to suggest their use, and he went so far as to manufacture at his works in this city a number of specimen plates to be sent to Glasgow, Scotland, for examination.

#### THE GREAT WATER-WHEEL OF THE WORLD.

So great became the demand for Burden's machine-made spikes that it was found necessary to increase the water-power by which to operate the newly introduced machinery of the Troy iron and nail-factory. The five separate water-wheels, at this time in use in the mill, it was evident to Henry Burden, were less effective and required more water than a single larger wheel, and which, by properly placed buckets, would more than double the power given by the smaller wheels. Having carefully considered the wants of the manufactory, he in 1838-39 constructed the immense water wheel which Louis Gaylord Clark has figuratively called "the Niagara of water-wheels." In 1851 the old wheel was replaced by the present one, which is hereafter described. Standing upon one of the galleries winding about its huge frame, the visitor beholds this mighty wheel majestically doing the work of twelve hundred horses. It is an overshot-wheel, 60 feet in diameter, and with a width of 22 feet. Around its broad periphery are 36 buckets, six feet three inches deep. Six hollow cast-iron tubes form the axis of this great wheel, which are keyed into flanges, seven feet in diameter, and from each flange diverge iron-rods two inches thick, 364 in number, which terminate at the circumference of the wheel. The water which sets in motion this remarkable wheel flows from a reservoir-dam, about 1,300 feet distant, through a canal to the distributing reservoir, having a head of 18 feet above the wheel.

Going to the inner side of this wonderful wheel the visitor sees a man seated on an elevated platform, in front of it, having his hand on a lever, by which he increases or diminishes the volume of water, so that the revolution of the wheel may be governed to a second of time and its power regulated to whatever amount of force is required by the various machines in operation. Looking upon the trains of rolls, the rotary squeezers, the furnace blowers, the horse shoe, rivet and punching machines, and the other appliances in motion for manufacturing iron, one sees more appreciatively the immense power furnished by this huge wheel constructed by the master-mind of Henry Burden. Although the celebrated

wheel on the Isle of Man has a circumference of 72 feet, its buckets are only 6 feet long and its estimated power is only 200 horse. Through the persistent efforts of Henry Burden the supply of water in the Wyanatkill was largely increased by the building of large storage reservoirs in the vicinity of Sandlake, where by connected channels with the different lakes, a great body of surplus water is kept to feed the Wyanatkill in seasons of drought. A short distance east of the water-mill is a reservoir covering 14 acres of land, made by him in 1846, from which water flows to move the great water-power wheel of the world.

#### THE ROTARY CONCENTRIC SQUEEZER.

One of the most remarkable and valuable inventions known as the "Burden rotary concentric squeezer," for which he received a patent in 1840. In 1832-33, when the great water-wheel was approaching completion, the millwright discovered that no provision had been made for the forging hammer which had been previously used in preparing the puddled balls for the rolls. Reminding the great inventor of this supposed oversight, he was informed that he had no use for it, as he had conceived a different principle and a more rapid method for the treatment of iron at this stage of its preparation. Going to the pattern shop he returned with a model of the machine he intended to use in the place of the formerly employed hammer. The action of this simple contrivance may be illustrated by taking two pieces of pine board, about twelve inches long and three wide. On the two lengthwise edges of the one, let two flange-like strips be nailed, the projecting rims of which gradually diminish in height from one end of the board to the other, so that when the other board is placed over it the opening at one end is somewhat smaller than the aperture at the opposite end of the boards. Insert in the larger opening a ball of putty, and move the upper board along the tapering flanges in the direction of the smaller opening. It will be found that when the upper board clears the lower one, the ball of putty has been moved along the entire length of the lower board and has been changed from its globular form into a cylindrical one, and that in making this transformation it has been compressed and uniformly acted upon by the upper board. Although this may convey to the reader's mind the principle of the action of the squeezer, it must be remembered that the compression of puddled balls into blooms is done by revolving cylinders with concentric surfaces, and not longitudinally as illustrated. This machine was declared by the examination of patents to be the first truly original and the most important invention in the manufacture of iron known up to that time, which had been sent to the patent-office. As soon as its invention was known, it was introduced into all the iron manufactories of this country and Europe. When the renewal of this patent was considered, it was testified by certain iron

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manufacturers from Pittsburg that during the short time it had been used in that city, a saving of \$530,000 had resulted therefrom. Go where you will, in this country, Great Britain or on the continent, in all the leading iron manufacturing, you will find "Burden's rotary concentrator" in constant use and meritoriously commended.

#### THE FAMOUS HORSESHOE MACHINE.

The most notable machine constructed by Henry Burden, was one for making horseshoes, for which he obtained a patent in 1835. Five years previously he had invented a machine for making horseshoe nails. From the peculiar character of the horseshoe machine and the rapidity with which it fashioned a heated bar into a perfectly shaped horseshoe, this remarkable machine has attracted general attention to the excellent quality of the shoes made by it and to the important political benefits it has conferred upon the country. When first put into operation large numbers of visitors flocked to the Burden mill to witness its effective action and to marvel over the prodigious number of shoes it was daily making. The ingenious inventor was not, however, satisfied with this first machine. It was his desire to construct a machine which could take a bar of iron from the roll-train and finish a shoe without reheating. In 1843, he added other improvements to it, which reduced its operations to two movements, and again in 1857, so that after receiving the heated bar, it cut, bent and forged it into a perfectly shaped shoe in one movement. In 1862 he made other improvements to this wonderful machine, all of which were patented. The excellence of these machine-made shoes, in a short time, created a great demand for them throughout the United States.

The mention of the political importance of manufacturing horseshoes by machinery may, at first, seem to many persons a bit of local gasconade, yet had not Henry Burden discovered this mechanical method by which hundreds of thousands of these articles could be made, it is very likely that some of the most important cavalry movements during the late civil war would not have occurred with their advantageous

results to the federal armies. Among the many surprises which foreign officers encountered while personally inspecting our armies in the field, at that time, was the abundance of the supply of horseshoes for the million of horses and mules employed in the service. There is no brighter lustre to the honors of this leading industry than the glorious fact that Trojan skill and machinery were prominent factors in the organization of our large armies and in keeping them constantly supplied with this particular and useful munition of war. The government having some time previous to the rebellion adopted the Burden horseshoe, at the outbreak of the civil strife, at once increased its orders, and when our military operations had assumed their later gigantic proportions, its demands for these horseshoes were astonishingly im-

mense. The confederate government having in the first years of the war, obtained by frequent successful battles and forays large quantities of these machine-made shoes, did not for some time labor under any disadvantages for want of them. However, later, the supply of these shoes began to be exhausted, and necessity compelled that government to take steps at once to supply its pressing need of this important munition. It was deemed advisable on the part of the confederate government to make preparations for their manufacture, should it be possible to obtain patterns of Henry Burden's horseshoe machines. It was proposed that a man named Moses, then residing in Toronto, Canada, but formerly of Atlanta, Ga., should visit Troy and secretly secure plans of these machines, for the purpose of establishing manufacturing works at Atlanta. This surreptitious enterprise, however, was frustrated by Gen. Sherman's famous march to the sea.

Besides the United States government, England, France, Austria, Prussia, Russia and other European governments availed themselves of the benefit of this useful patent. An amusing incident is told in connection with the purchase of one of these horseshoe machines by the Austrian government. A machine was to be set up and put in operation in Styria, the government supplying the necessary workmen. While this work was in progress large crowds of idle people gathered about the place, indulging their curiosity in watching the erection of the machinery. To prevent their interference with the workmen, ropes and guards were placed around the attractive object. When at last the machine was set to work and began greedily devouring the iron bars given it, and to cast at their feet more horseshoes than they could count, these superstitious spectators, regarding the machine as a supernatural monster, fled the premises in wildest confusion, and could not be persuaded to return to witness its further operations while the Americans had charge of it.

It is no little fame for Troy to have it known that at these works, now in possession of the sons of Henry Burden, were manufactured the first ship spikes, the first "hook-headed" spikes and the first horseshoes ever made by machinery in the world.

#### A MILE OF BUILDINGS.

As one reviews the intervening years from the time that Henry Burden in 1822, as superintendent, took charge of the Troy iron and nail factory, to the time of his death, January 19, 1871, when he was the full owner of the immense establishment, known generally as the Burden iron works, he is more generally impressed than ever with the remarkable genius with which this man was endowed by nature. With more than ordinary foresight he caught glimpses of that future in which there were immediate and immense demands for the various articles produced by his machines, and he failed not, with excellent judgment, to make, in time, the necessary preparations for this enlarged business. Personally, for himself, he purchased from time to time shares of

the stock of the Troy iron and nail company, until, in 1833, he owned about one-half of the stock of the corporation. For his assignment to the company of the patents of his spike and horseshoe machines, he was allowed 30 per cent. of the net earnings of the entire works. In 1848 he became possessed of the company's entire interest in the works, from which time the establishment has been wholly controlled by him or by the firm of H. Burden & Sons, now consisting of his two sons, James A. and I. Townsend Burden. The little wooden mill which he entered as a superintendent, long ago disappeared to give place to his larger works, which to-day were they to stand in one alignment, would occupy a tract of land a mile in length. This immense establishment comprises two works—the "upper works," or water mills, on the Wynantskill, a short distance east of the Hudson river; and the new works, called the "lower works" or steam mills, located on the "farm company" property and the "Hoyle farm," embracing about 45 acres of land between the Hudson river railroad and the river, extending from the Wynantskill to the Clinton foundry.

The "upper works" embrace the following buildings:

- A rolling mill and puddling forge, 38x136 feet.
- A horseshoe factory, two buildings, one 133x34 feet, and one 120x50 feet.
- A rivet factory, 120x80 feet.
- A horseshoe warehouse, semi-circular, 163x130 feet, containing 16 large bins, in which can be stored 7,000 tons of horseshoes.
- A scrap house and shop, 175x50 feet.
- Here are also the general business office, a supply store, a rivet warehouse, the stables, etc.
- The "lower works," or the new works, embrace the following structures:
- Two blast furnaces, each 65 feet high and 16 feet at their bases, with two casting houses, each 123x47 feet.
- Two stock houses, each 114x35 feet.
- An engine room 83x70 feet.
- A puddling forge, 62x35 feet.
- A swinging shop, 37x15 feet.
- A punching shop, 32x45 feet.
- A horseshoe warehouse, 218x30 feet.
- A square building containing offices, blow room, etc., 85x50 feet.
- A machine shop, 140x37 feet.
- A blacksmith shop, 130x25 feet.
- A foundry, 320x37 feet.
- A pattern shop, 30x30 feet.
- A tin and plumbing shop, 51x33 feet.
- A building containing a supply store, draughting room, laboratory, etc., 105x35 feet.
- An iron warehouse, 107x35 feet.

The erection of these works began in 1832, and the property has since been recently completed. This property has a river frontage of nearly a mile in extent, and an average elevation of 11 feet, being one foot higher than the track of the Hudson river railroad, east of it. The ground, before the erection of these great buildings, was low, and on account of periodical freshets made dangerous to persons residing thereon. At great expense, these low grounds have been filled up and made valuable to the owners. The depth of water in the river adjacent to the works was shallow and full of bars, but by dredging an average depth of about 14 feet has been obtained and made H. Burden & Sons' docks accessible to the largest vessels plying on the upper Hudson.

#### ACRES OF MACHINERY.

For the manufacturing purposes of these extensive mills a great amount of machinery is required. Could all the machines which are now in constant operation in these buildings be placed together in an open space of ground, it is more than likely that they would occupy more than a half score of acres of ground. Not to refer to their respective dimensions, the various classes of machinery found in the upper and lower works combined are the following:

- Sixty puddling furnaces.
- Twenty heating furnaces.
- Pondron lines of rolls.
- Three rotary concentrator squozers.

Nine horseshoe machines.  
Twelve rivet machines.  
Ten large and fifteen small steam engines.  
Seventy boilers.

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One large water-wheel, already described.  
In and about the building of the lower works is a net-work of railroad tracks, upon which daily are to be seen moving trains of cars conveying iron-ore, kaolin, sand, stone, etc., to the different departments, or being loaded with horseshoes and merchant iron for distant purchasers. For shifting these cars from place to place, H. Burden & Sons own a locomotive, which is in constant requisition.

The steam derricks used for unloading coal from boats in the river, which attract so much of the attention of passengers on the passing steamboats, when going by the docks of the lower works, the invention of the late William F. Burden, are very ingenious contrivances, peculiar to these mills. Each one of these labor-saving appliances consists of two lofty wooden frames, placed one at the dock and the other at the rear of the coal-heap, some 300 feet distant. A strong wire cable is stretched over these frames, on which an iron carriage travels to and fro, carrying a self-dumping iron bucket, which has a capacity for holding about a ton of coal. The power is furnished by a steam engine near the rear frame which hoists the bucket filled with coal from the boat to the cable and conveys it back to the point where is fastened the tilting apparatus that overturns its contents upon the pile.

Alongside of these mammoth heaps of coal are seen vast deposits of iron ore. These are chiefly brown hematite and the dark magnetic ore of Lake Champlain. Here, too, are piles of a fine quality of limestone, brought from Hudson, N. Y., which is used as "flux" to aid in the fusion of the ores.

#### THE ROMANCE OF MAKING HORSESHOES.

The processes by which the mined iron-ore is melted and moulded, the cast metal puddled and cut into small bars, these reheated and fashioned into long, narrow rods to be passed to the horseshoe machines, are of peculiar interest to a spectator, and seem to him, like a dreamy romance, full of strange incidents and unthought-of dispositions. Step by step let him follow these different metallurgical operations, if he wishes to discover what are the secrets which are behind the smoky curtain that Nature here places about these great furnaces and dusky forges. Entering the engine room he inspects the admirable action of the two splendid engines, each of 250 horse-power, projecting a stream of air for the blast of the furnace; and here also are two Worthington pumps for supplying with water the boilers and other machinery of the mills. Here he sees the carefully kept hydrometrical, thermometrical and barometrical statistics, the number of the total "charges" of ore as regards their character and weight, the amount of coal and of limestone, the quality and the

quantity of the pig-iron made, the pressure and the temperature of the blast, and other important data. The blast furnace that to him had a close resemblance to the high walls, strong towers and lofty battlements of an ancient castle, as he first viewed it from the windows of the cars on the Hudson river railroad, he now sees a massive brick and stone structure, 60 feet in height. Alongside of the extensive heaps of iron ore and limestone are groups of men filling hand-barrows, which with their contents will soon be hoisted to the top of the furnace. Before doing this the ore in the barrows is weighed. Stepping upon the platform of the "elevator," upon which have been run several of these barrows of ore and limestone, he soon is carried upward until the fuming breath of the heated furnace fills his nostrils and warms him of the internal fires raging within its capacious depths. Here he



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The chemical elements of pig iron are such as to render it unfit for any serviceable use in these mills, and it therefore undergoes another process of melting in the puddling furnaces, where it is subjected to currents of air and flame while agitated by tools in the hands of the puddler. This manipulation brings it in contact with oxygen, which drives out the carbon in the pig iron, leaving the metal afterwards in a decarbonized condition.

SIXTY HORSESHOES MADE IN A MINUTE.

shoe,—the side that is next to a horse's hoof. Another shaft, in like manner revolves a die which gives form to the lower part of the shoe. These several dies are curved in form and "mash" into each other, at each revolution of the shafts. The shaft which carries the shaping apparatus has also two shafts for working side levers which close in the ends of the shoe. The creasing shaft bears an iron block to which are attached the "creasers."

Boys are at work here, taking with tongs the heated shoes from the furnace and putting them singly on the revolving dies of the swaging machine—the invention of James A. Burden. After the heated shoe is seated upon one

HORSES.  
The stupendous manufacturing resources of

warehouses, one at the upper and the other at the lower works, have storage capacity for more than 150,000 kegs. Each of the two machines in use, which he has witnessed at these machine operations, can make 60 shoes in a minute. And to himself this armament of twelve millions of horses a day, as he actually saw, with the shoes made useful character of the machine designed by Henry Burden. Wherever the United States and the world have visited warehouse a visitor, a day or two in the lower have seen hundreds of these kegs filled with shoes. The marked destinations being San Francisco, Cal., and Oregon. These shoes have a world-wide reputation, and this single manufacture, in which Troy points with pride, and all the other works in the world put together, all the popularity of the newsworld horsehoes which Burden has made during the past few years by his demand for them that the proprietors last year found it necessary to further enlarge their lower works, since their sales have been proportionally augmented.

no less interesting than the horseshoe machines are the boiler rivet machines to a visitor. One end of the rivet-factory is a line of furnaces, and between each two of the furnaces is stalled a riveter. The red-hot rod which the spectator sees the riveter take from one of these furnaces is pushed through a guide up to what is known as "the header," where gripping dies seize it, cutters sever it, an iron crown puts a head on it, and the dies then open, it falls down into the receptacle below, the operation occupying a little less than a minute, in which time it is made into a perfectly formed rivet. The firm has of these machines 12 in all, each of which can make 80 rivets in a minute.

In the spacious rolling mill, 431 feet long by 25 feet wide, are to be seen ranged on one side of the building a series of rollers, each of which is surmounted as in the forge-room, by large rollers for generating the steam for driving the many engines employed in these works. The first of the building is a line of rollers, the roll-train; first, a ponderous roller, driving the larger sizes of merchant-iron, driven by a splendid Corliss engine, then another train of several pairs of any size of merchant iron; then several pairs of rollers for rolling iron into pipe pieces, then other smaller roll-trains for making small sizes of iron; and, at the end of the building, a steam saw-mill, for cutting the iron into both ends of a bar to its required length. Looking upon the fire-lighted forms of the hundreds of half-naked men that are to be seen in the building, moving about as about the roll-train, around the building, serpents seem to coil and writhe, the observer is almost impressed with the belief that he has

"Where peace  
And rest can never dwell ; hope never comes

FOURTEEN HUNDRED WORKMEN EMPLOYED.

The vast amount of manual labor that is now, the parts, the horseshoes, merchant-iron, lower works demands, at present, not less than in the past, is performed by a body of men, the industrial army. As a class, these men are not only citizens. Between the mill and the home, for themselves there have always existed the most amiable relations, and it has never been known, in any of their strikes, that the burden mill, in scene of manhood so far as to oppress and friendly dispositions. Besides the Roman Catholic, the Protestant churches, and a religious care over most of the workers of these workmen, the Protestant churches in increased membership, are also acquiring the additional improvements that are changing the aspect of the open grounds in the mill. The mill, the mill, are gradually forming their surroundings into a pleasant and pleasant places of abode. However, as elsewhere, coal dust and the dispersed smoke from the mill, and will ever be sources from which this part of the mill receive grimy driftings and undesirable dust.

The business also requires a large number of horses and wagons to move ore, coal, sand, clay and manufactured articles from the different mills. The firm is the owner of extensive iron mines containing a superior quality of ore. It also possesses a number of limestone quarries to meet the demands of its furnaces.

exhibited in the following startling array of figures:

MEMORABLE TRIAL.  
The litigation which continued almost 30 years to protect the patent obtained by Henry Burden for the spike machine, invented by him September 2, 1840, was a memorable case in the history of American jurisprudence. Many emi-



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nent lawyers in the country were employed by the various litigating parties, among whom were William H. Seward, Nicholas Hill, Chancellor Walworth, David L. Seymour, Samuel Stevens, Samuel Blatchford, and other distinguished attorneys.

## Troy Daily Times.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 12, 1881.

### SIXTY-FIVE YEARS A CITY.

**The Incorporation of the City of Troy—  
The Famous Career of the Village—  
What Travelers Said of its Enterprise—  
The First Charter Election—Protective Laws.**

To-day is the sixty-fifth anniversary of the incorporation of this city. On the 12th of April, 1816, it assumed the importance of a municipality under the name "the mayor, recorder, aldermen and commonalty of the city of Troy." Putting aside as it did then the "small clothes" of its village growth it entered upon its majority with no misgivings that it could not take care of itself in the battle of life and increase the respect which its enterprise and augmented business had already obtained for it.

#### PROPHECIES CONCERNING IT.

As a village that could point back no farther into the past than the year 1786, when only a single country store at the intersection of the old Hoosick and River roads marked the beginning of its remarkable career, it had from time to time been spoken of by observant travelers as a place that had become the envy of its neighbors. Lansingburgh had adopted the name of New City as early as 1771, and felt satisfied that the people of the little hamlet of Ferry Hook or Vanderheyden, as Troy was first called, three miles south, would not subtract much from its growing business because they lived lower down and were more advantageously situated in navigation facilities. But in this they were mistaken. For in 1788 Ekanah Watson, an observant traveler, wrote:

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