

eral Scott, Major Jesup and the other wounded officers were taken to Buffalo, Colonel Ripley being left with orders to hold his strong position at Chippewa until he could be reinforced. Hardly had the wounded officers left the scene when Ripley destroyed the military works and stores, demolished the bridge and fled with his army to the Canadian end of the Black Rock ferry. But for the strenuous opposition offered by McRee, Wood, Towson, Porter and other officers he would have crossed with the army to the American shore. He actually rode to General Brown and asked for orders to do so, but that valiant commander treated the proposition with justifiable scorn, and ordered Ripley to move his army to a good position on the lake shore just above Fort Erie, strengthen the fort and erect new defenses in expectation of a siege.<sup>1</sup>

Within two or three days Drummond, having received eleven hundred reinforcements, prepared to move up the river. August 2 the enemy drove in the American outposts surrounding the fort and camped two miles from the fort. In the meantime the works around the fort had been strengthened and three armed schooners were anchored near at hand. Within a few days a detachment of the enemy met two hundred and forty riflemen under Major Lodowick Morgan, near the Scajaquada creek; but the British were driven back across the river. While this fight was transpiring Drummond opened a cannonade on Fort Erie. This was of short duration, and at its close both sides worked hard for several days in strengthening their respective positions.

August 4, General Gaines arrived at Fort Erie and assumed the chief command, Ripley again taking command of his brigade. On the 7th the British began the siege by a heavy cannonade, which continued for a week. On the evening of the 14th a British shell exploded with terrific force in an empty magazine in the fort, and the enemy, believing that this would result in the demoralization of the American force, prepared for a direct assault upon the fort. At two o'clock on the morning of the 15th a picket of one hundred men was attacked, and a few moments later fifteen hundred of the enemy assailed Towson's battery and an abattis between that work and the shore of the lake. After a brief but desperate struggle they retired. In the meantime the Douglass battery, a stone work with two guns on the extreme American

<sup>1</sup> Had General Drummond known of the weakness of the American force at this juncture he might have successfully assailed their position.

right, was attacked by five hundred infantry and artillery of the enemy. This force was soon repulsed, when a body under Drummond endeavored to force an entrance over the walls with the aid of scaling-ladders. After being repulsed twice at this point, the gallant British commander went around the ditch and, in the face of a hot fire and after several attempts, he reached the parapet with one hundred of the Royal Artillery.

The success of this endeavor fairly crazed Drummond. Ordering no quarter for the Americans, he posted a band of Indians where they could rush into the works at the first opportunity and aid in the annihilation of the garrison. The British now made a fierce bayonet charge, mortally wounding several American officers who were standing the brunt of the attack. Lieutenant McDonough was killed by Drummond himself after asking for quarter. The latter fell a minute later with a bullet through his heart. Three attempts were then made to drive the enemy from the fort. Just as a fourth charge was to be made the magazine was blown up, whether by accident or design has never been learned. Many of the enemy were killed in the explosion, and the remnant, being instantly attacked by artillery and infantry, broke and fled from the fort in the greatest confusion. The explosion of the magazine doubtless saved the American force from the utter annihilation which otherwise might have been their fate. In this terrible fight the British lost two hundred and twenty-one killed, one hundred and seventy-four wounded and one hundred and sixty-eight prisoners. The American loss was seventeen killed, fifty-six wounded and eleven missing.

From this time until about the middle of September the Americans spent their time in strengthening their position and increasing their force. The British did likewise. Until the first of the month the enemy threw shells, hot shot and rockets into the fort. During this bombardment, August 28, General Gaines was so injured by an exploding shell that he was compelled to retire to Buffalo for the treatment of his wounds. Upon learning of this General Brown proceeded from Batavia and placed Ripley in command of the forces occupying the fort; but learning of the unpopularity of this officer he almost immediately assumed personal command, though still suffering from the wounds he had received in the previous action.

September 17 General Brown ordered a sortie, during which two of the British batteries were captured after thirty minutes' hot fighting, General Porter's forces accomplishing this victory. Immediately after-

wards a block-house in the rear of another battery was taken, the garrison made prisoners, the cannon destroyed and the magazine blown up. But this brilliant victory was dearly purchased, for Brigadier General Daniel Davis,<sup>1</sup> Colonel Gibson and Lieutenant Colonel Wood all fell mortally wounded. In the meantime General Miller had taken two of the enemy's batteries and seized the block-houses in the rear. Toward the close of the action Ripley's reserve was ordered up and he was severely wounded. Within forty minutes after the beginning of the attack the Americans were in possession of the entire British works, and Fort Erie was saved. Not only this, but in all probability this magnificent victory saved the entire Niagara frontier and Western New York. This sortie is recorded in history as more skillfully planned and gallantly executed than any other, and as one of the very rare instances in which a single sortie resulted in the raising of a siege. The Americans lost seventy-nine killed and two hundred and fourteen wounded. The British lost five hundred killed, wounded and missing and four hundred prisoners. So complete was the demoralization of the enemy that on September 21 Drummond broke up his camp and retired to the intrenchments behind Chippewa creek.

This splendid victory at Fort Erie was the most important closing event of the war on the Niagara frontier. Soon after, General Izard proceeded from Sackett's Harbor to Lewiston, reaching the latter place October 5. Six days later his forces encamped about two miles north of Fort Erie, where he assumed chief command, General Brown returning to his former post at Sackett's Harbor. Izard's command soon numbered eight thousand troops, with which he made preparations to march against the army under command of Drummond. Leaving Fort Erie well garrisoned, he proceeded toward Chippewa and endeavored to draw the enemy into an engagement—but in vain. The British commander had seen enough of the undisciplined Yankee farmers, and fell back to Fort George with as much haste as he could make without giving evidence of undue fear. Izard then returned to Black Rock

<sup>1</sup> Brigadier General Daniel Davis resided in Le Roy and was the commander of the local volunteer soldiers. He was a man greatly beloved by those who served under him, though a strict disciplinarian. In the first military organization in Le Roy, in 1801, he was chosen lieutenant. He had a strong passion for military life. He was among the first to enlist in the war of 1812, and was rapidly promoted for his coolness and bravery until he attained the rank of brigadier general. These characteristics were especially conspicuous during the sortie from Fort Erie. With sword in his hand he led in advance of his division, and ascended the parapet, though warned not to do so. Reaching this point he instantly was shot through the neck, falling into the arms of his aide-de-camp, who had bravely accompanied him. He was buried at Le Roy.

ferry, whence the entire American army crossed over to the American side, abandoning Canada. This practically ended the war, as far as the participation of the inhabitants of Genesee county and Western New York therein was concerned. If some of the inhabitants of Genesee county had exhibited those traits in the early part of the war which brought upon their heads deserved censure, those who participated in the events of the last year of the war won undying fame by reason of their high patriotism, their coolness and bravery, their splendid obedience to the commands of their officers and their general behavior during the most critical periods of the contests in which they took part.

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## CHAPTER XI.

Changes Along the Various Lines of Endeavor in Genesee County from the Close of the War of 1812 to the Erection of the Present County of Genesee in 1841—Some of the Settlers of Those Days—Early Hotels—The Establishment of Important Manufacturing Industries—Schools—Many New Churches Founded—Effort to Remove the County Seat to Attica—The Farnsworth Trial—The Morgan Episode—A New Jail—The Land Office War—Discontent Among the Land Holders—Formation of the County Agricultural Society—Erection of the New Court House—Division of the Old and Creation of a New Genesee County.

At the close of the war of 1812 the county of Genesee was in a lamentable condition. Money was scarce, commerce and industry in its various branches either paralyzed or seriously crippled, and the settlement of the new districts almost at a standstill. Strangely enough, during the war many brave immigrants had taken up lands within the confines of the county, while, as soon as the war was ended, such settlement almost ceased. Batavia and Le Roy suffered less from the effects of the war than most other communities, yet even these centres of population were in a deplorable condition. A few persons from the East, possibly not realizing the situation, or not fearful of the probable hardships which they might be called upon to endure, had the hardihood to come west and locate in the county. In Batavia the following are recorded as settling during the few years succeeding the war:

1814, R. O. Holden, John Hickox, Silas Hollister, Alpheus Reynolds, T. B. Campbell, Joseph Wheaton; 1815, Guillian Bartholf, T. Beck-

with, Samuel Thomas, Richard Williams, M. Wurts, Alva Smith, E. M. Cook; 1816-1817, Libbeus Allen, Dr. John Cotes, Andrew Dibble, Richard Dibble, Oren Follett, Thomas Green, George W. Lay, Thomas McCulley, Lemon Miller, Tracy Pardee, Moses Taggart, James Walton, William Sullings, Richard Smith, William Seaver, William Watkins; 1818, Ira Boutwell, James A. Billings, Clement Carpenter, Daniel Upton, Moses Wilcox, Aaron Wilcox; 1819, J. I. Bartholf, Thomas Bliss, Andrew Adams; 1820, Wheaton Mason, Seth Wakeman.

These settlements were recorded in the town of Le Roy during the same period:

1814, Levi Beardsley, William Le Roy Bishop, Manley Colton, Paul E. Day, John Gilbert, P. McVane, Abel Noyes, John Richards, Elisha Severance, A. Williams; 1815, Jeremiah Buell, James Ballard, James Campbell, John Deming, Daniel Foster, Timothy Fitch, W. G. Gustin, Harry Holmes, Timothy Hatch, Joseph Keeney, Marshfield Parsons, Joseph Tompkins; 1816, Versal Bannister, Isaac Crocker, Elijah Crocker, Jacob Gallup, Daniel Harris, Timothy Judd, Harry Lathrop, Solomon Root, Deacon Clark Selden, Elliott L. Stanley, Joel White, Parker Weld; 1817, C. Butler, Nathaniel Farnham, E. Hart, Uni Hurlburt, A. Perry; 1818, Samuel Bishop, Silas Jones, Miles P. Lampson, Thomas C. Ladd, Charles Morgan, S. Tiffany, Levi Ward, jr.; 1819, Dr. S. O. Almy, Albert Hill; 1820, S. M. Gates, Daniel Le Barron.

In Alabama:

1814, John Richardson, James Richardson, jr., Hannah Carr, Samuel Sheldon; 1815, William Daniels; 1817, Jonas Kinne, Benjamin Gumaer, Henry Howard; 1819, E. F. Norton; 1821, Robert Harper, James Peter, Joseph Holmes; 1822, James Gardner; 1824, Samuel Whitcomb; 1825, Samuel Basom; 1826, Selah Vosburgh; 1827, Thomas R. Wolcott; 1828, Jesse Lund, Gideon M. Taylor, David Webster, Leonard Webster, Nahum Loring; 1829, Sterling Hotchkiss; 1830, Daniel Thayer, Ryal Ingalsbe, Elijah B. Ingalsbe; 1832, Gideon Howland, Parley V. Ingalsbe; 1834, Elijah and Ebenezer Ingalsbe, Samuel Burr, James Burr, Isaac Duell, N. Baker, jr.; 1835, Jacob Martin, David Martin; 1836, Anson Norton; 1837, James Filkins, George Wight, Abbott Wight.

Numerous settlements were made in Alexander during these years. Among those who located in that town, despite the calamity which had befallen Western New York, were the following, most of whom came in 1815:

General Josiah Newton, Captain Marcellus Fellows, Asahel Warner, Stephen Day, Josiah Goodrich, Wolcott Marsh, Emory Blodgett, Solomon Blodgett, Frederick Balch, Luther Chaddock, Thomas Chaddock, Dennis B. Chaddock, Newcombe Demary, Nathaniel Loomis, Joshua Rix, all of whom came during or just previous to 1815; Noah North, James A. North, and Eben North, sons of Noah North (a pioneer of 1808), Daney Churchill, Cherrick Van De Bogart, Timothy Haskins, James R. Jackman, G. Kelsey, James Lewis, Lyman Brown, Ira Newton, N. Manson, J. G. Tiffany, who came in 1816; Silas Southwell, Jonas Stimars, James Stimars, Ezra W. Osborn, S. C. Spring, David Halsted, 1817; Ebenezer Scoville, Guy Shaw, Philip Cook, 1819; Daniel F. Bowen, S. B. Brainard, Sanford Riddle, C. J. Hawkins, S. B. Smith, 1820; Eliphallet Peck, Horace B. Houghton, Benjamin Simonds, John Simonds, Moses Dickinson, Philo Porter, O. T. Fargo, 1824; Charles Austin, 1825.

Among those who located within the limits of the present town of Bergen during the few years succeeding the war were William P. Munger, William Gorton, Lathrop Farnham, Linus Beecher and Alva Stevens, who established homes there between 1814 and 1816. The temperance society established in town in 1826 had these members: Rev. Josiah Pierson, Rev. Heman Halsey, Deacon Pitman Wilcox, Deacon John Spencer, H. H. Evarts and Henry D. Gifford. Others who resided in town during this period, some of whom may have come before the war, included Rev. R. Darwin, John T. Bliss, David Fancher, Milton Bird, Thomas Templeton, Daniel Robinson, Levi Ward, Levi Ward, jr., Benjamin Wright, Alexander White, John Gifford, Simon Pierson, Selah Wright, Rev. Allen Hollister, Russell Pierson, Luther C. Pierson, Rev. Elisha Mason.

Most of the settlements in Bethany were made before the war of 1812. Among those who located there after that event or during the last year of the war were the following:

1813, Abner Ashley, S. Bowers, Josiah Churchill, Captain Lodowick Champlin, W. R. Dixon, John Eastland, I. Everest, John Metcalf, Harvey Prindle, John Page, Nathan Rumsey; 1814, Thomas Adgate, Charles Dixon, T. Fay, Alanson D. Lord, Rufus Munger, W. F. Norton; 1815, James Bennett, jr., Charles Brisbee, Richard B. French, John Green, John Lincoln, A. Parsons, J. Saunders, James Stewart, Benjamin Smith; 1816, G. Cottrell, J. Rolfe, Asahel Shepard, James Shepard; 1817, Daniel Hyde, B. Barlow; 1818, David Merritt, Jared S. Lord; 1819, S. Debow, — Gardner; 1824, James Baker; 1825,

Orange Allen, R. R. Brown; 1828, Aaron Bailey; 1829, E. C. Dibble; 1832, Nathaniel Huggins; prior to 1825, Richard Powers, Ira Waite, Matilda Wedge, Samuel Jolles, C. J. Lincoln.

Some of those who settled in Byron were:

1813, Abner Thompson, Andrew Hunter Green, William Shepherd; 1814, John Searls, Ira Newburg, Asa Williams; 1815, Seth C. Langdon, Jason Adams, James Tillotson, Asa Merrill; 1816, Chester Mann, A. Norton, Abner Chase, William Warn, Lyman Warn, Milo Warn; 1817, Joseph Barker, Marcus Barker, Andrew Adams, Jonathan Wright, William Peckham, David Mann, Charles Beswick; 1818, Moses Gillett, Levi Fish, Calvin Wells; 1819, Harmon Norton, Erastus Norton, W. S. Miller; 1828, Miles G. White; 1818, Rev. Herman Halsey; 1823, Jacob Bushman; 1822, Milton Allen; 1826, Pierpont E. Bull.

In Darien these settlements are recorded:

1813, Harvey Butler, Anson Ackley, Jonathan Hastings, Hiram Hedges, John A. Lathrop, Josiah Lee, William Vickery, Thomas Vickery, John McCollister, Thorp Wildman; 1814, Daniel Marsh, Horace Sloan, William B. Garfield, John Webb, Jonathan Vickery; 1815, Baxter Gilbert, Ezra Clark, A. Hutchinson, Shadrach Harmon, Quartus Lee, D. J. Lee, Obadiah Jenks, Elijah Lamb, Joshua Peters, jr., David Salisbury, Ephraim Sumner; 1816, David Anderson, Colonel Jesse Safford, Benajah Griswold, William Cole, Daniel C. Stoddard, John L. Hoyle, Julius Wildman, John Seaver; 1817, C. Dodge, John W. Brown, Elisha H. Lathrop, Davis Huntley, Hugh Wallis, Noah Winslow; 1818, Elijah Lee, Philo Farnham, Lemuel Stickney, Adna Tiffany, Silas Tiffany; 1819, James Booth, Justus Fales, L. H. Colby, Samuel Harroun, Oliver Harper, Zebulon Jones, Stephen King, Anson Lathrop, Caroline Lathrop, William Shumway, John W. Willett, Benjamin Sloan.

In Elba the following located during this period: Chester Scott about 1817; Nathaniel Ford and Thomas Griffin, 1820; prior to 1822, Washington Gardner, James Fuller, John Wilson, Elisha Buck, Robert Irwin, Abraham Sleeper, James Harris, Richard Shotwell, Isaac Shotwell, Smith Lane, Wanton Aldrich, Israel Hoag, Miles Britton; about 1819, Samuel Laing; and the following, the years of whose coming are unknown, though all were residing in the town in 1820; Lemuel Foster, Mason Turner, George Mills, Charles Woodworth, John Underhill, Erastus Wolcott, Isaac Benedict, Jeremiah Wilford, Mark Turner, Dudley Sawyer, Isaac Higley, Eleazur D. Davis, Ichabod Hinckley

Samuel White, Nehemiah Ingersoll, Martin Wilson, Joseph Jones, Abraham Gifford, Joseph Walter.

Few settlements were made in Oakfield during these years. Aaron Brown came from Chili in 1815, John Underhill and his son, Alfred Underhill, came at the same time. Isaac Stringham and Reuben Norton came about 1818. David C. Reed came in 1825.

Among those who removed to Pavilion were the following:

1813, Aaron Tufts, Ezra Coe, Harry Coe, Isaac Crocker, Francis Ruby; 1814, J. E. Holcomb, Leonard Anson, Elijah Cheney, John Hendee, Elijah Olmsted, W. C. Smead, Marshall Smead, Jesse Snow; 1815, T. Butler, Naomi Davis, Rufus Glass, William Glass, Seth Miles, Darius Howe, James Nobles, John Reed, Elijah Rogers, Seth Smith, James Tompkins, Daniel Ward, Washington Weld, Samuel Webb; 1816, Chester Hannum, Horace Hannum, Eli Carr, Joel Crofoot, Francis Royce, Amos Halbert, Bial Lathrop, Daniel Knowlton; 1817, Horace Bates, Erastus Bailey; 1818, Chauncey Tillotson, John Ward; 1819, Oswald Bond, Carlton Cooley, Albert Hill, Charles Hill; 1820, William Gilmore, George Tubbs; 1822, Jason Duguid, Asa Higgins; 1823, Dr. Warren Fay; 1824, John Doty; 1825, Horace S. Coe, George Murray, Simeon Dutton, Alexander Boyd; 1826, Edward Lauderdale; 1827, Ira Townsend.

The number of settlements in Pembroke during this period was limited. Calvin Cummings came in 1816, Reuben Millett in 1827, Rev. Hugh Wallace in 1816. Other early settlers, the dates of whose arrivals are not known, included Benjamin Wells, Daniel McCracken, George Porter, Henry Porter, Selah Kidder, George Dennison, Burnham Barber.

The records show the names of the following settlers in the town of Stafford:

1813, Merritt King; 1814, Peter Stage; 1815, Eden Foster, Noble Daniels; 1816, Adget Lathrop, David McCracken; 1817, Abel Cross; 1818, Chester Scott; 1819, Joel Philleo, B. Clark, J. J. Reynolds, John S. Blair; 1821, B. Bristol. Beside these the following located on the Craigie tract:

1815, J. Bushnell, D. Biddlecome; 1817, C. Sweetland; 1820, E. Northrup; 1821, D. Laid; 1823, E. Wright; 1824, S. Plant; 1827, E. W. Cobb. Other early inhabitants included families named Lent, Bannister, Coon, Snow, Tomlinson, Tanner, Pratt, Lewis, Beckley, Reynolds, Terry, Drury, Hubbard, Bangs, Kelsey, Ellis, Danolds, Kendall, Judd, Blish, Stutterd, Hinsdale, Kellogg, Smith and Randall.



The newcomers were for the most part men in rugged health, vigorous intellects, indomitable courage and possessed of the true spirit of enterprise. No prospects of hardships daunted them. Whatever problem confronted them, they uniformly rose superior to the occasion. By reason of their efforts the country was rapidly developed. New mills, new shops, foundries, stores and other forms of industry dotted the country here and there, replacing the half dead community with signs of life and activity on all sides. They built school houses and founded churches. Obstacles, sometimes seemingly insurmountable, were finally overcome by the sturdy and determined inhabitants, and Genesee county took on a new lease of life.

The industrial development during the period between the close of the war of 1812 and the beginning of the war of the Rebellion—four years less than half a century—was gradual, but steady and, best of all, of the most substantial and beneficent character. Batavia experienced greater results than any other section of the country.<sup>1</sup> Second to Batavia came Le Roy.

The development of the village of Le Roy fortunately had not ceased during the war, though of necessity the inhabitants suffered greatly. Even while the war was in progress, in 1812, J. & A. Nobles built a carding factory in the village. Another was in operation during and after the war by a man named Stewart. Brick yards were conducted by Martin O. Coe and Uni Hurlburt. There were several distilleries—for, while corn would not pay for its transportation, the whiskey which could be made from it would. Thomas Tufts was the first to open a distillery. Elisha Stanley soon after built one on Fort Hill. Others were conducted by William Morgan, J. & M. Colton, J. H. Lent, Dickey, Lampson, Merry and Foot. In 1822 Joseph Annin built the largest distilling plant in Western New York at that time, manufacturing proof spirits for the eastern trade.

In 1817 Elijah Warner began the manufacture of potash, which he continued until 1823. Thaddeus Joy and Mr. Sherman also engaged in the same business soon after Mr. Warner opened his ashery. In 1815 or 1816 an oil mill was started by Martin O. Coe. This afterwards became successively the property of L. C. Morgan, Foreman, Starr & Co., J. M. Foreman, and Mr. Rogers. In 1820 James Ballard began the manufacture of hats, which he continued for about a dozen years.

<sup>1</sup> An account of the industrial, commercial, educational, religious and social development of this town appears in the chapter devoted to the history of Batavia.

About the same time A. E. Hutchins and D. Seavey operated a small chair factory.

In 1831 John Tomlinson built a large grist and flour mill two miles southwest of Le Roy village, on the Oatka. Several years after a mill was operated at the same point by Thomas Tufts. In 1822 Jacob Le Roy built a flouring mill about a mile north of the village. In 1869 this property was sold to W. F. Jones, who made wrapping paper there until 1887, when it was destroyed by fire. An early tannery, located on the flats below Tomlinson's mill, was conducted by D. & W. Graves. Samuel Clifford began the operation of a carding mill in 1833. Thomas Ladd opened a wagon shop in 1818, working there at his trade for about forty years. In 1854 his son, M. A. Ladd, constructed a two-story stone building, in which he continued the business established by his father.

Le Roy was well supplied with taverns in these early days. In 1819 Major James Ganson, eldest son of Captain John Ganson, sr., built the Eagle hotel on Main street, on the site of the original Eagle tavern, which had been previously conducted by "Auntie" Wemple. He also built a tavern on the corner of Main and North streets, which he afterward sold to Mr. Hosmer of Avon. The Globe and Eagle tavern, built in 1816, was first conducted by Rufus Robertson. Mr. Walbridge succeeded to the management in 1827, and after him Elisha Stanley, J. H. Stanley, Lyman Ballard, A. G. Collins and others were proprietors. John Lent also had a tavern on the hill.

The malting industry was inaugurated at Le Roy at an early day, but there is in existence no authentic record regarding it. The flouring mill built by Jacob Le Roy, which has been referred to, was sold by him, upon his removal to New York, to Joshua Lathrop. After various changes the property came into possession of C. F. Prentice and J. D. Cameron in 1866.

So great had been the development of Le Roy, and so progressive was the spirit of its inhabitants, that in 1834 it was decided to ask the Legislature to grant it a charter. This was done on May 5, 1834. By this act incorporating the village, the corporation limits were defined as follows:

All that part of the town of Le Roy, in the county of Genesee, bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at a point in the centre of the Niagara road, where a road running north by Israel Rathbun's west line intersects the Niagara road; thence along said north road so far that a line running west drawn parallel with the Niagara road

shall intersect the triangular road at George W. Blodgett's north line; thence west on said line to a line running south, drawn parallel to the west side of John Lent's farm; thence south on said line so far as to intersect a line running east parallel to the Niagara road, by the south side of the widow Munn's land; thence east on said line so far as to intersect a line running north, to the place of beginning; thence north to the place of beginning.

The charter further provided as follows:

The first annual meeting . . . shall be holden on the first Monday in June next, at two o'clock in the afternoon, at the house now kept by Theodore Dwight.

At this election Joshua Lathrop, John Lent, Rufus Robertson, Theodore Dwight and Dennis Blakely were chosen trustees. S. M. Gates was elected clerk and Heman J. Redfield treasurer.

With the rapid increase in the business of various kinds transacted in Le Roy came the necessity of better banking facilities, and the merchants and manufacturers of the town decided, in 1838, to establish a bank in that village. This institution was organized as the Genesee County Bank December 8, 1838, with these directors: Israel Rathbun, Miles P. Lampson, John Lent, Elisha Stanley, jr., Samuel Skinner, Isaac N. Stage, Alfred Wilcox, Marshall Smead, Lucius Parks, Noah Starr, James C. Ferris, Warren Fay and John B. Skinner. The first officers of the bank were: Israel Rathbun, president; John Lent, vice-president; Miles P. Lampson, cashier; Samuel Skinner, attorney. From the date of its incorporation to the present time there has been no break in the operation of the bank, though it has been reorganized and renamed on several occasions. In 1865 it was succeeded by the First National Bank of Le Roy, with these directors: Miles P. Lampson, William Lampson, Miles P. Lampson, jr., Benjamin F. Ballard, Randolph Ballard and Miles F. Bixby, who were also its first shareholders. The capital stock of one hundred thousand dollars was increased June 5, 1865, to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Miles P. Lampson was the first president, William Lampson the first vice-president, and Benjamin F. Ballard the first cashier. Miles P. Lampson died March 27, 1869, having served continuously as an officer of the bank from the date of its organization.

January 3, 1885, the National Bank of Le Roy was authorized to begin business with a capital stock of one hundred thousand dollars, succeeding to the business of the First National Bank. Of this bank the first directors were William Lampson, Miles P. Lampson, jr., Randolph Ballard, John Maloney and Butler Ward, who were also the only

shareholders. The National Bank of Le Roy went out of existence July 1, 1889, and upon the same day its successor, the Bank of Le Roy, a State institution, which still transacts business under that name, began its career. Amid all these changes the original bank and its successors have always occupied the old building on the northeast corner of Main and Bank streets. Miles P. Lampson, jr., died December 14, 1896; William Lampson died February 14, 1897, and Butler Ward, the present chief officer of the bank, assumed the duties of his position February 23, 1897.

In the existing records of the bank there is a hiatus, from August, 1855, to the date of the organization of the First National Bank in 1865. The records show the following officers of the Genesee County Bank from 1838 to 1855:

Presidents.—1838-40, Israel Rathbun; 1841-44, John Lent; 1845-47, Marshall Smead; 1848-49, John Lent; 1850- —, Miles P. Lampson. (It is known, however, that Mr. Lampson remained president as long as the bank existed).

Vice-presidents.—1838-40, John Lent; 1841-42, Marshall Smead; 1843, Rufus H. Smith; 1844-47, James C. Ferris; 1848-50, Elisha Stanley; 1851- —, John Lent.

Cashiers.—1838-49, Miles P. Lampson; 1850-51, H. U. Howard; 1852- —, S. T. Howard. (Mr. Howard served as cashier as late as 1860, and perhaps later).

The officers of the First National Bank of Le Roy were as follows:

Presidents.—1865-68, Miles P. Lampson; 1869-85, William Lampson.

Vice-presidents.—1865-68, William Lampson; 1869-71, Charles Morgan; 1872-77, Elisha Stanley; 1878-82, Randolph Ballard; 1883-85, Miles P. Lampson, jr.

Cashiers.—1865-72, Benjamin F. Ballard; June, 1872, to 1885, Butler Ward.

Assistant Cashiers.—1868, Miles P. Lampson, jr.; 1884-85, Robert L. Taft.

During its brief career the National Bank of Le Roy had these officers, without change:

President, William Lampson; vice-president, Miles P. Lampson, jr.; cashier, Butler Ward; assistant cashier, William C. Donnan.

The Bank of Le Roy has had the following officers:

Presidents.—1889-97, William Lampson; February 23, 1897, to the present time, Butler Ward.

Vice-presidents.—1889-96, Miles P. Lampson; 1897-98, John Maloney.

Cashiers.—1889-97, Butler Ward; 1897-98, William C. Donnan.

Assistant Cashiers.—1889-96, William C. Donnan; 1897-98, Harold B. Ward.

Le Roy's citizens at an early date adopted measures for protection against the ravages of fire. For many years the custom of keeping fire buckets distributed conveniently about the village was in vogue, and many an incipient blaze was thereby quenched before it could make any considerable headway. In 1834 the village authorities purchased a hand engine operated by two hand cranks. A few years later a small brake engine was purchased for the use of the fire company. February 8, 1851, a regular fire department was organized. In the same year the Le Roy Firemen's Benevolent Association was chartered, its membership being limited to active members of the fire department.

Among the enterprises founded in Stafford during these years of commercial and manufacturing development were the Roanoke roller mills, which were built in 1835 by the firm of Lay, Ganson & Co. They were located on the Oatka. In 1887 they became the property of H. C. Duguid & Son.

In 1836 Holland Earl built a flour and grist mill on Tonawanda creek at North Pembroke, which he operated for many years. In later years the mills became known as the Excelsior flouring mills.

In 1817 or 1818 Erastus Bailey and Bial Lathrop built a grist mill on the site which afterward became generally known as Bailey's Mills. A new dam was built in 1828. In 1835 the property was sold to Mr. Bosley, in 1840 to D. W. Olmsted, and in 1843 to Erastus Bailey, the original part owner, who built a stone mill five years later.

In 1840 S. Pierce began the operation of a woolen factory at Stafford which had been built several years before by a man named Northrup. In 1845 it became the property of Knowlton, Rich & Co., and in 1853 was owned by Shaffer & Hardy. It was destroyed by fire in the latter year.

While devoting the main part of their energies to the development of the resources of the county, the establishment of various commercial institutions and manufacturing industries, etc., the inhabitants of Genesee county were not unmindful of the education of the youth<sup>1</sup> in their charge or the fostering and healthful development of the spirit of piety.

<sup>1</sup> See Chapter on Education in Genesee County.

The first church to be organized during the period covered by this chapter was St. James Protestant Episcopal church of Batavia.<sup>1</sup> This society was formally organized at a meeting held in the court house on June 6, 1815.

In the same year a stone house of worship was built by the Baptist congregation in Stafford, nearly half a mile west of the East Transit Line on the road to Batavia. The earliest services of this denomination in Stafford were conducted in 1810 by the Rev. William Green, who preached at the house of Colonel Rumsey. The first regular pastor of this church was the Rev. William Lampson. In 1816 a Christian church was organized by the Rev. Joseph Badger, and was at once consolidated with the Universalist society there. The Rev. H. Thompson was the first pastor, and the house of worship was built in 1833. In 1870 the church became purely Christian. Another society of the same denomination built a church in the eastern part of the town in 1836; but in 1867 the property was sold and the society ceased to exist. In 1821 a Congregational church was organized, under the charge of the Presbytery. For the first four years of its career the Rev. Mr. Huxley acted as pastor. Subsequently a Congregational and Presbyterian union church was formed, but dissatisfaction arose over the occupancy of the building and disorganization resulted.

In 1816 Elder Leonard Anson established the first Baptist church in Pavilion, with fourteen members. For several years meetings were held at various places in the neighborhood, and it was not until 1834 that the society erected a house of worship for its use. The cemetery adjoining this church is one of the oldest in the county, the first interment therein, that of Peter Crosman, having been made in 1812.

Four new churches were formed in the county in 1817. Of these the First Presbyterian church of Pembroke was organized under the direction of the Rev. Hugh Wallis, who acted for several years as general missionary for the Presbyterian church on the Holland Purchase. This church, small in numbers at first, experienced a steady and substantial growth. The Rev. F. B. Reed served as stated supply in 1825. The Rev. L. B. Sullivan became pastor in 1828, and three years later the first house of worship, a frame building with a seating capacity of one hundred, was erected.

St. Mark's Protestant Episcopal church of Le Roy was also organized

<sup>1</sup> A more complete history of the various religious organizations in Batavia will be found in the chapter devoted to "The Village of Batavia."

in 1817, under the direction of Rev. Samuel Johnson. As early as 1803 or 1804 Episcopal services had been held in Le Roy by the Rev. Davenport Phelps, a missionary for Western New York. The number of adherents of this denomination continued to increase until it was finally deemed advisable to establish a parish. The first officers, chosen in 1817, were: Wardens, Timothy Hatch, Hugh Murphy; vestrymen, Abel Noyes, Solomon Root, George A. Tiffany, Ezra Platt, Thaddeus Stanley, Elisha Stanley, Manly Colton and Graham Newell. In 1826, during the rectorship of the Rev. Seth W. Beardsley, a stone church was erected on the site of the present edifice on Church street, on land donated for the purpose by Jacob Le Roy, who also gave one thousand dollars toward defraying the expense of constructing the building. The church was consecrated August 7, 1827, by Bishop Hobart. This house of worship served the parish until 1869, when it was torn down to make way for a new church, the corner stone of which was laid April 24, 1869, under the pastorate of the Rev. J. H. Waterbury. The edifice was formally opened for worship December 22, 1870, but was not consecrated until November 23, 1876, when the Rt. Rev. Arthur Cleveland Coxe, bishop of Western New York, performed that ceremony. The Rev. Dr. T. M. Bishop was serving as rector at the time of the consecration. The rectors of the parish who succeeded the Rev. Mr. Beardsley have been: 1830, J. M. Rogers; 1831, Dr. H. F. Cummings; 1833, Dr. Kendrick Metcalf; 1841, George D. Gillespie; 1846, T. D. Chipman; 1850, George H. McKnight; 1856, R. J. Parvin; 1862, A. M. Wylie; 1864, A. H. Gesner; 1868, J. H. Waterbury; since which time the parish has been served successively by Revs. T. M. Bishop, D. D., L. D. Ferguson, J. H. Weibel, Arthur W. Sloan and Pierre Cushing, the present rector.

The Stafford Christian church, located at Morganville, was organized October 20, 1817, by the Rev. Joseph Badger and Levi Hathaway, with eleven members. The house of worship was built some time prior to 1835. The first pastor was the Rev. Hubbard Thompson. Succeeding him the following have served the society: 1820, Jeremiah Gates; 1829, Daniel Call; 1831, Joseph Badger; 1832, Allen Crocker; 1833, Thomas Fiske; 1835, David Millard; 1836, Ebenezer Adams; 1842-45, R. A. Burgess and A. C. Parker; 1845, Joseph Weeks; 1861, J. Burlingame; 1864, I. C. Tryon; 1868, William G. Wade; 1871, J. Worden; 1873, I. C. Tryon; 1876, P. R. Sellon; 1881, William Case; 1887, I. C. Tryon; 1888, J. B. Clark; 1890, J. H. Carr; 1893, A. J. Wayman; 1895, Alden Allen, the present pastor.

The Congregational church of Bethany, located at East Bethany, was founded June 17, 1817, by John Bliss, a missionary from Connecticut. Its original membership numbered eleven. For several years this church was without a regular pastor. The first to serve in that capacity was the Rev. Reuben Hard, who located there in 1823. The following year a brick house of worship, costing three thousand dollars, was erected; and in the same year the society abandoned the Congregational form of government and united with the Presbytery of Genesee, since which it has remained a member of the Presbyterian denomination.

Two churches were organized in 1818—the First Baptist church of Le Roy, and the First Congregational church of Byron.

The first Baptist service held in Le Roy was when Elder Peck, a missionary of that church, visited the settlement in 1806 and preached in the school house there. A few months later Elder Bennett, another Baptist preacher, delivered a sermon in the same place. In 1810 Hinds Chamberlain's barn was opened as a temporary house of worship, and Elder Witherell preached a sermon therein. After that several sermons were delivered by the Rev. Donald Mann, the pastor at Caledonia, and Elder Leonard Anson. The number of adherents of this faith continued to increase, and on June 25, 1818, the First Baptist church was formally organized at the school house near Oliver Langworthy's, Rev. E. Vining acting as moderator and Henry Slayton as clerk. Twenty-six persons received the right hand of fellowship. Elder Ames Lampson was selected for the first pastor, and Hinds Chamberlain as deacon. In 1823 the society began the erection of the present church edifice on the eastern part of Main street, which was completed in 1829. Six years later it was removed to Church street, on land purchased of Joshua Lathrop. The church was incorporated as "The First Baptist Society of Le Roy" in May, 1841, with Austin Phelps as president of the board of trustees and P. M. Smith as clerk. In 1858 a parsonage costing nearly two thousand dollars was built on Wolcott street; but this was afterward exchanged for a residence on Church street, which was rebuilt in 1881. Those who have acted as pastors of this church, in the order of their service, are Amos Lampson, E. M. Spencer, David Morris, John Minor, Barach Beckwith, Ely Stone, A. Willey, John Miller, W. I. Cram, Ichabod Clark, William Hutchinson, H. Daniels, A. C. Barrrell, D. Moore, O. A. F. Spinning, I. Clark, W. F. Basten, E. P. Brigham, D. D. Reed, A. L. Wilkinson, C. M. Rupe, O. C. Kirkham, and D. L. Martin, who became pastor September 1, ~~1881~~. In 1895 the so-



ciety purchased the F. C. Lathrop property on East Main street, which will be held as a site for a future new house of worship.

The First Congregational church of Byron was organized November 20, 1818, at the house of John Thompson of Batavia, by the Rev. Herman Halsey, a minister sent out by the New York Evangelical Society of Young Men. The original members numbered eleven. In 1819 the place of worship was moved to a brick school house about one and one-half miles south of Byron Centre. In 1823 it was fixed at Byron. In 1827 the First Congregational Society of Byron was chartered according to law. The society met in various places in Byron Centre until 1830 when a church edifice was erected and dedicated. In 1824 the society united with the Genesee Conassociation of the Congregational Church, and transferred its relation to the care of the Genesee Presbytery in 1831. In 1845 it was changed to the Presbyterian form of government, under the pastorate of Rev. John B. Preston. In 1866 the church edifice was extensively repaired at an expense of about \$3,300. In 1893 a beautiful new parsonage was erected, a gift of the Boynton estate. In 1896 the floor of the auditorium was raised and a suite of rooms added below. The following ministers have served the church, now known as the Byron Presbyterian church: Revs. Herman Halsey, 1818; William P. Kendrick, 1826; Lot B. Sullivan, 1828; Lewis Cheeseman, 1830; Herbert A. Reed, 1831; B. B. Gray, 1833; A. Sedgwick, 1837; Eber Childs, 1839; Francis Danforth, 1843; John B. Preston, 1844; J. Partington, 1850; A. O. Wightman, 1855; R. H. Dexter, 1856; N. M. Clute, 1857; John M. Ballou, 1863; T. M. Hodgman, 1866; Edwin Allen, 1873; J. F. McLaury, 1885; J. W. Stitt, 1890.

St. John's Methodist Episcopal church of Batavia<sup>1</sup> was organized in 1819, and became connected with the "New Amsterdam Circuit and Genesee District," but no house of worship was erected until 1823-24.

The three churches organized in the year 1820 were the First Baptist of Bethany, the Freewill Baptist of Byron and the Friends' Society of Elba, now defunct. The first of these, the First Baptist church of Bethany, was founded May 7 of that year with a membership of twenty-six. In 1840 it reported a membership of one hundred and forty, but owing to great changes in the population of the town it has since decreased in members. The original house of worship, built in 1826, is still standing. Those who have served as pastors are: 1820-21, John Blain; 1822-25, John Mudge; 1826-28, Bartemus Brayman; 1829-

<sup>1</sup> A full history of this society will be found in the chapter relating to the village of Batavia.

31, William Gildersleve; 1832-33, Daniel Peck; 1835-36, William Smith; 1836-40, H. R. Stimpson; 1841-42, Henry Shute; 1842-43, R. C. Palmer; 1844-45, Bela Palmer; 1846-47, Hobart Leavenworth; 1847-49, L. W. Olney; 1850-53, A. M. Starkweather; 1853-55, James Mallory; 1856-58, William Buxton; 1860-64, Smith Hulse; 1864-68, Jesse Elliot; 1869-71, F. B. Mace; 1872-74, T. A. Edwards; 1874-76, C. Townsen; 1876-98, J. M. Scarff.

The Freewill Baptist church of Byron, located at North Byron, was organized in 1820 by the Revs. Nathaniel Brown and Harmon Jenkins. The first house of worship was erected in 1833. A Baptist church was established in Byron as early as 1810, but it ceased to exist many years ago. The First M. E. church of that town, founded about 1822, has also been extinct many years.

The Friends' Society organized in Elba in 1820 originally consisted of forty-eight heads of families in that town, besides several others from adjoining towns. Among the leading members at the foundation were Jonathan Ramsdale, Elijah Pond, Abraham Gifford, Ira Lapham, William Cromwell and Joseph Jones. The first house of worship, a log structure erected in 1820, was replaced in 1838 by a stone church. The society has always been in a prosperous condition. Rev. James D. Wood is the present pastor.

The First Presbyterian church of Elba was organized as a Congregational society with sixteen members October 8, 1822. It remained Congregational in form, although for a part of that time under the care of the Presbytery, until November 3, 1866, when it became a duly organized Presbyterian church. The Rev. Solomon Hibbard was the first pastor of the church. The first church, erected in 1822, of wood, was supplanted in 1875 by a commodious structure costing seven thousand dollars. Revs. E. H. Stratton, R. Whiting and G. S. Corwin were early pastors. The present pastor is the Rev. Farley Porter.

The Second Baptist church of Elba was formed September 13, 1822, with sixteen members. Two years later a house of worship was erected. The Rev. John Miner acted as the first pastor of the society. The first church was destroyed by fire in 1837, and not rebuilt until 1849-1850.

St. Philip's Protestant Episcopal church of Stafford dates from the year 1823. As early as February 16 of that year Lucius Smith, Richard Smith and E. Mix<sup>1</sup> of Batavia organized a church under that name.<sup>2</sup> In February, 1833, a parish was regularly organized at the

<sup>1</sup> Probably Ebenezer Mix.

<sup>2</sup> No records of this early church are in existence.

village of Stafford and given the name of Trinity parish. The Rev. John P. Robinson was the first rector in charge. The records of the church in the year following show that there were forty communicants. For a few years services were held in the old union stone church. In 1841 the society began the erection of an edifice for its own use, and this was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Delancey in 1842 under the name of St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal church. The Rev. George D. Gillespie, afterwards bishop of Western Michigan, was the first rector, and John Warren, sr., and Richard Warren were the first wardens. Those who have served as pastors are: Stephen C. Millet, John P. Calhoun, Milton Ward, Philemon E. Coe, Richard Radley, Rev. Mr. Edson, E. R. Armstrong.

The Presbyterian church of North Bergen was organized November 18, 1823, in the house of Jonah Guthrie, by the Rev. A. Darwin, Josiah Pierson, John T. Bliss and David Fancher. It was first known as the Congregational church of Bergen, Byron and Clarendon, and had twenty-one members when organized. April 11, 1827, it united with the Rochester Presbytery, and D. Fancher, Milton Bird, Thomas Templeton and Daniel Robinson were chosen elders. Milton Bird was the first to be ordained deacon. The Rev. N. Clapp, the first pastor, was ordained and installed February 25, 1827. April 2, 1829, the society was named after the post-office of that time—Lyme—but in 1840, when the name of the post-office was changed to North Bergen, the name of the church was likewise changed. In 1833 a commodious frame edifice was constructed. This has been remodeled several times. In 1892 a parsonage was built. The following have served as pastors of the society, in the order given: Rev. Mr. Clapp, ordained and installed February 5, 1829; Revs. Colton Meade, Isaac Bliss, John Walker, Lemuel Clark, L. Cheeseman, Bela Fancher, Hiram Gregg, N. M. Clute, Albert Bigelow, L. W. Billington, O. H. Barnard, L. W. Billington, E. W. Brown, C. W. Remington, John H. Perkins, Shubal Carver, L. C. Butler, Mr. Boon, A. R. Vosburg, and Rev. J. C. Long, the present pastor.

The Freewill Baptist church of Alabama was organized in 1824 through the instrumentality of Elder Samuel Whitcomb, who was not only its first pastor, serving for many years, but also for a long period the only preacher in the town of Alabama.

A Baptist mission church was organized on the Tonawanda Indian Reservation in 1825 and placed in charge of the Rev. Mr. Bingham.

Several years later the society built a brick church, which is still in use. The membership has never been very large.

In 1826 Zion Protestant Episcopal church of Bethany was founded. The corner-stone of the house of worship was laid July 4 of that year under the direction of the Masonic fraternity, on which occasion an oration was delivered by William Mitchell, afterwards first judge of the Court of Common Pleas. The early records of this church are not in existence.

The First Congregational church of Darien, which ceased to exist in 1860, was organized May 9, 1823, at Darien Centre, with the Rev. Hugh Wallace as pastor and twelve members. A wooden church was built in 1839. Among those who served as pastors were the Revs. T. Baldwin and L. A. Skinner.

The Free Baptist church of Wheatfield, in the town of Alabama, was organized in 1826 and reorganized in 1837. Joseph Holmes and Holland Fuller were the first deacons. The present church building was built in 1850. The pastors of the church, in the order of their service, have been: Revs. H. Gilman, H. Blackmer, Horace Perry, E. P. Talman, R. Martin, — Smith, L. Johnson, W. Peck, C. H. Hoag, S. R. Evans. Mr. Evans, the last resident pastor, left his charge in 1890.

A society known as the Batavia and Pembroke Baptist church was established at East Pembroke February 18, 1826, by Daniel McCracken, Benjamin Wells, Chauncey Wolcott, William Upton, Mary A. McCracken, Lydia Wolcott and Sally Harrington. The Rev. Amos Lampson was chosen as the first pastor. The first church, a frame building built in 1840, was superseded in 1867 by a fine brick edifice costing seven thousand dollars.

The Alexander M. E. church was organized in 1827. The earlier records are not in existence. The church now standing is the first one built by the society. The various pastors since 1851, as far as shown by the records, have been: 1851, M. Scott; 1853, E. R. Keyes; 1855-57, M. W. Riply; 1861, D. B. Worthington; 1862-63, J. N. Simpkins; 1864, R. D. Miller; 1865, P. Woodworth; 1866, E. W. Hill; 1867, G. De La Matyr; 1868, M. W. Riply, 1870-71, T. E. Bell; 1872, F. W. Conable; 1873-74, T. W. Chandler; 1875, R. L. Waite; 1876, H. J. Owens, R. L. Waite, J. McEwen; 1878, T. H. Perkins and R. L. Waite; 1879-80, T. H. Perkins; 1882-84, C. S. Daly; 1885, J. McEwen; 1887-88, W. L. Moore; 1889, F. E. King; 1890-94, H. A. Slingerland; 1895, A. B. Taylor; 1896, William Magovern; 1897-98, A. H. Mason.

The Methodist Episcopal church of Le Roy was not organized until September, 1828, though preaching service had been held there for several years and a class had been organized as early as 1823, composed of Alfred Morehouse and his wife, Orange Scott and his wife, Asenath Judd, John Hay, Julia Herrick, I. Herrick and his wife, Alanson Stanley, Mrs. Stanley and Henry Goodenow. The Rev. Micah Seager was the first regular pastor of the society. For a year services were held every two weeks in the school house east of the village. In 1829 a small brick church was built at a cost of \$950 and dedicated by Bishop Roberts. In 1884 this church was ruined by fire, and plans for a new building were at once made. The corner-stone of the handsome new edifice on Trigon Park, East Main street, was laid May 20, 1885, by the Rev. J. E. Bills, D. D., presiding elder of the Genesee district of the Genesee conference, and the structure was dedicated September 17, 1886. It is of grey sandstone and cost \$26,000. Those who have served as pastors of this church, and the years of their appointment, are: 1823, Micah Seager; 1824, J. Hustes; 1825, C. V. Adgate; 1827, W. Hoag; 1829, S. Madison; 1830, R. Parker; 1831, Micah Seager; 1832, S. Madison; 1833, R. L. Waite; 1834, L. B. Castle; 1835, I. Chamberlyne; 1836, G. Osband; 1837-38, J. Latimer; 1839-40, P. E. Brown; 1841, D. D. Buck; 1842, M. Seager; 1843, P. Woodworth; 1844-45, A. Steele; 1846-47, C. C. Houghton; 1848-49, R. L. Waite; 1850, H. R. Smith; 1851-52, J. M. Fuller; 1853-54, A. P. Ripley; 1855, S. C. Clark; 1856-57, J. McEwen; 1858, G. De La Matyr; 1859-60, P. R. Stover; 1861-62, E. A. Rice; 1863, C. Shelling; 1864-66, K. D. Nettleton; 1867-69, P. R. Stover; 1870-71, W. S. Tuttle; 1872, J. Hartwell; 1873, J. Morrow; 1874-75, J. B. Wentworth; 1876, R. F. Kay; 1877-78, R. C. Brownlee; 1879, K. P. Jervis; 1880-82, M. C. Dean; 1883-85, G. H. Dryer; 1886-89, W. C. Wilbor; 1889-90, I. M. Dalby; 1891-92, J. A. Smith; 1893-98, G. M. Harris; from October 1898, Frederick S. Parkhurst, Ph. D.

The Second Congregational church of Le Roy and Bergen, now known as the "Presbyterian Society of Stone Church," is the offshoot of the First Congregational church of Bergen, and was founded March 18, 1828, with S. Dibble and J. Ward as deacons and Russell Pierson, David Byam and Luther C. Pierson as assistants. The original "Stone church" was begun September 24, 1828. In 1864 a frame edifice was built upon the site of the first church and was dedicated the following year. October 28, 1828, the Rev. Elisha Mason became the first pas-

tor of the society. The society changed from the Congregational to the Presbyterian form of government in 1882.

The Methodist society was organized in Bethany in 1820 by Dr. Jonathan K. Barlow, the pioneer physician in that town, but its existence was brief. A Bethany Union church was formed in 1828 and a second M. E. society in 1832, but all are now extinct.

The second Presbyterian church in Bethany was organized October 20, 1829, by Messrs. Whiting, Bliss, Watts and a few other persons. The first pastor was the Rev. W. Whiting. In 1839 the society erected a house of worship, which since that time has been repaired several times.

The Universalist church of Le Roy was organized in 1831, though services had been held there by preachers of that denomination as early as 1812. Among the early ministers after the formation of the society were Tomlinson, Knapp, Kelsey, Peck, Brayton, and others. The society held its meetings in the old "Round House." In 1858 the Rev. Charles Cravens was chosen pastor, and the society was reorganized. The "Round House" was purchased in 1859 and razed to the ground. In its place was erected the present church edifice, costing at that time about \$8,000. After a severe and protracted struggle the society paid for the building, and it remains to this day unincumbered. Mr. Cravens, after a long and successful pastorate, retired, and was followed by Rev. F. M. Hicks. He was succeeded by the Revs. Charles Datton, G. W. Powell, E. W. Fuller, M. L. Hewitt, H. B. Howell, M. D. Shumway, William Knott, C. L. Haskell, J. A. Copeland and E. L. Conklin, in the order named.

The First Methodist Episcopal church of Bergen was organized April 5, 1831. The records of the society show that Rev. Reeder Smith founded a society prior to this date, which was called the "First Society of the Methodist Episcopal church of Bergen." In 1838 an edifice costing \$1,000 was erected. In 1853 the society removed to the present site, purchased the former edifice, and beautified and enlarged it at a cost of over \$2,000. In 1873 the society was a part of the Churchville circuit, but under the labors of Rev. T. E. Bell, the membership in that year swelled to one hundred and eighteen, and sixteen probationers, and a separate existence was created. In 1876 a parsonage was erected at a cost of \$1,200, and August 3, 1882, the present elegant brick edifice, built in Gothic style, was dedicated, with Rev. J. B. Countryman, pastor. In 1898 a chapel was built at a cost of \$1,200.

The records show the following to have served as pastors. The list is not complete, but no further data is in existence. 1831, Reeder Smith; 1832-33, Benajah Williams and Preston R. Parker; 1836, G. Taylor and Salem Judd; 1839, Gideon Laning and David Nutten; 1840, N. Fellows, G. Taylor and E. O. Hall; 1841-44, Daniel Anderson; 1845, H. Ryan Smith; —, Amos Smith; 1852-53, Micah Seager, John Fuller; 1854, John B. Lanckton; 1855-56, Sheldon H. Baker; 1857, Richard Cooley; 1858, James M. Fuller; 1859, John McEwen; 1860-61, Sumner C. Smith; 1862-63, Benjamin F. McNeal; 1864, John Kennard; 1865, Chauncey S. Baker; 1866-67, Henry W. Annis; 1868, J. N. Simpkins; 1869-70, N. Jones; 1871, E. S. Furman; 1872, W. L. Warner; 1873, Thomas E. Bell; 1874, J. L. Forster; 1875-78, H. C. Woods; October, 1878, to October, 1879, T. C. Hitchcock; 1879-82, J. B. Countryman; 1882-85, Thomas Cardus; 1885-88, T. T. Rowe; 1888-91, J. A. Smith; 1891-94, C. G. Stevens; 1894 to the present time, John R. Adams.

The First Universalist society of Pavilion was organized October 10, 1831, by James Sprague and Elijah Olmsted, with thirty-eight members. The year following a house of worship was erected. The first pastor was the Rev. L. L. Sadler. Others who have acted as pastors named in the order of their service have been the Revs. Alfred Peck, A. Kelsey, J. Davy, J. S. Brown, N. M. Fisk, Orville Brayton, Charles Cravens, Charles Dutton and M. D. Shumway.

The Oakfield and Alabama Baptist church at Great Valley was also one of the four churches organized in Genesee county in 1831. November 25, 1829, a meeting was called at the house of Mrs. Betsey Barker at Oakfield Five Corners. Brother Shears and wife, Brother Calkins, and Sisters Dickinson and Barker were constituted a branch of the Baptist Church at Elba. December 27, 1831, a council was convened at Shears school-house one mile east of South Alabama, and this branch became the church of Oakfield with twenty-five members. During the first ten years the society had eight pastors—Rev. Messrs. Gould, Brown, Hall, Griswold, Fuller, Blood, Fairchild and Southworth. January 24, 1839, the society voted to unite with the Alabama church and build a house of worship. This was completed in 1840, and has been repaired three times—in 1855, 1870 and 1883. The pastors since 1840 have been as follows, named in the order of their service: Revs. A. Warren, James Mallory, — Reed, R. Baker, R. D. Pierce, R. C. Palmer, Eli Stone, W. D. Corbin, L. Atwater, L. L. Gage, B.

F. Mace, Charles Berry, J. M. Derby, William Garnet, J. M. Coley, B. F. Mace, Marion Forbes, M. W. Hart, P. W. Cranell, W. H. Holt, J. C. Newman, G. F. Love, A. A. Shaw, D. E. Burt.

Asbury M. E. church of Pavilion was built at Union Corners in 1832, chiefly through the efforts of the Rev. Hiram May, who was then preaching on that circuit. The society disbanded in 1876. The old church was occupied for a time by the Free Methodists, but was finally abandoned. The Union church was built at Pavilion Centre at an early day, and was used by all denominations. It subsequently was converted into a public hall.

The Alabama Baptist church was organized in 1832 by Elijah Ingalsbe, Mr. Bennant and wife, Charles P. Brown and wife, Adna Ingalsbe and wife and others. Elder Hall was the first pastor, Mr. Bennant and Adna Ingalsbe the first deacons and Charles P. Brower the first clerk. The church united with the Niagara Association in 1833. The next year one of the greatest revivals in the history of the county occurred. Seventy persons were baptized in one day, three ministers being in the water together and baptizing at the same time. Soon after this Hiram K. Stinson became pastor and baptized eighty-one more, making the total of one hundred and fifty-one baptisms for that associational year. Mr. Stinson was ordained to the ministry in this town. In 1880 the house of worship was thoroughly repaired, making it practically a new building. Four years later a parsonage was built. Since Mr. Stinson's pastorate the following have served the society: 1836, Augustus Warren; 1840, J. Packer; 1842, Alexander Mede; 1845, E. J. Corey; 1846, I. A. Whitney; 1848, J. Packer; 1850, C. Clutz; 1854, Augustus Warren; 1876, — Mace; 1877, L. S. Stowell; 1879, — Fowler; 1882, D. J. Ellison (supply); 1885, H. H. Thomas; 1886, J. B. Lemon; 1888, I. Child; 1890, O. N. Fletcher (supply); 1892, F. Redfern; 1894, G. R. Schlanch; 1896, J. S. Nasmith.

The year 1833 witnessed the establishment of no less than five church organizations in Genesee county. These were the Universalist church in Alexander, an M. E. church in Darien, a Methodist Protestant church in Elba, a Presbyterian church in Oakfield, and an Episcopal church in Stafford.

The First Universalist church of Alexander built and dedicated a frame house of worship in June, 1833, the year of the organization of the society. The first trustees of the society were Colonel Nelson,



Capt. Royal Moulton and Joseph Rix. The pastors of the church and the years of the beginning of their pastorates follow:

1833, J. S. Flagler; 1839, Samuel Goff; 1842, B. B. Bunker; 1845, W. B. Cook; 1848, E. W. Locke; 1850, William McNeal; 1852, C. F. Dodge; 1858, T. J. Whitcome; 1862, C. C. Cravens; 1871, G. W. Powell; 1874, B. Hunt; 1876, George Adams; 1878, C. C. Richardson; 1881, M. D. Shumway; 1884, H. W. Hand; 1889, H. W. Carr; 1891, T. E. Potterton; 1893, C. R. East; 1893, Miss Frankie Cook.

The first Methodist Episcopal church of Darien was organized March 18, 1833. The society had but a brief existence, and the records cannot be found. The present M. E. church in that town was organized in 1841 by Rev. J. W. Vaughn with fifty-three members. The present church building was erected in 1848. Services at Darien Centre were held until 1874 in the Congregational church, when through the efforts of the pastor, Rev. E. S. Furman, aided by Jacob Nichols of Darien Centre, the present church building was erected.

The names of the pastors in the order of their service are: Revs. J. W. Vaughn, 1841; H. M. Ripley, 1842-43; A. Herrick, 1844-45; P. Woodworth, 1846; P. Roberts, 1847; K. D. Nettleton, 1848; J. W. Vaughn, 1849-51; J. Hagar, 1852; J. Torrey, 1853; J. N. Simpkins, 1854; H. Butlin, 1855-56; J. R. Wooley, 1857-58; A. P. Ripley, 1859-60; J. McClelland, 1861-62; D. D. Cook, 1863-64; C. Eddy, 1865-66; A. Plumley, 1867-68; C. S. Baker, 1869-71; E. S. Furman, 1872-74; W. B. Cliff, 1875-77; R. F. Kay, 1878-79; J. B. Peck, 1880-81; L. E. Rockwell, 1882-83; W. S. Tuttle, 1884; W. Magovern, 1885; J. Criswell, 1886; H. A. Slingerland, 1887-88; G. A. Bond, 1889; I. Harris, 1890-92; E. W. Pasko, 1893-95; E. W. Shrigley, 1896; L. J. Muchmore, 1897-98.

The first Methodist Protestant church of Elba was organized with twenty-five members in 1833 by the Rev. Isaac Fister. The following year a church edifice was constructed. This was remodeled and enlarged in 1878. This property was originally deeded by Asa Babcock and wife to a board of trustees consisting of Eden Foster, James Fuller, Loring Barr, Martin Scofield and Jeremiah Wilcox. Among those who have served as pastors are Isaac Fister, E. A. Wheat, D. S. Skillman, O. P. Wildey and B. Poste, who was appointed to the charge in 1898.

The Rev. C. Fitch established the Oakfield Presbyterian church December 10, 1833, with seven members. The first church edifice, a frame building, still in use, was not erected until 1843. The dedicatory sermon was preached by the Rev. William C. Wisner, D. D. The

*Martin  
Scofield.*

Rev. Ebenezer H. Stratton, the first pastor, assumed his relations with the society in 1834.

The Episcopal church of Stafford, organized in 1833, is the successor of the first Episcopal church in that town—St. Philip's—established in 1823. Its history is found in preceding pages.

The First Baptist church of Batavia dates from July 8, 1834, though organization was not perfected until November 9, 1837.<sup>1</sup>

The First Methodist Episcopal church of Pavilion was established in connection with one at Moscow, N. Y., and one at Covington, and moved from Covington to Pavilion in 1840. The house of worship was erected in the latter year.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Roanoke was founded as a Union church in 1840, with about fifty members and the Rev. Daniel Burke as pastor. In 1843 a house of worship costing fifteen hundred dollars was built.

In the interval covered by this chapter numerous changes took place throughout the county at large, in addition to those noted in the various towns.

In 1818 and 1819 a strong effort was made by the inhabitants of the southern part of the county to secure the removal of the county seat to Attica. During the same time a movement to divide the county was also inaugurated. It being apparent to all at this period that the old court house, erected in 1802 and 1803, was inadequate and inconvenient for the purposes for which it was intended, Mr. Ellicott, determined to save the county seat to Batavia, addressed a letter to the judges of the county courts and the board of supervisors of the county recommending the erection of a new court house. He also offered, as the representative of the Holland Land Company, to convey to the supervisors, for the comparatively small sum of three thousand dollars, the triangular piece of land bounded by Ellicott, Main and Court streets; also a strip of land one hundred feet wide, located about midway between Main and Ellicott streets and extending from a point on what is now Clark place, back of the store occupied by M. H. Bierce; also a strip about thirty-five feet in width extending from Main street to the other strip mentioned, the last-named piece of land being known on the map of the village as lot No. 81. The offer of Mr. Ellicott was accepted, and a few years afterward a new jail was completed.<sup>2</sup> About the same

<sup>1</sup> For a history of this church see the chapter devoted to the Village of Batavia.

<sup>2</sup> This is the building now used as the headquarters of the hook and ladder company.

time a county clerk's office was erected in the northeast corner of the triangle. Both were built of brick.<sup>1</sup>

The Genesee County Bible Society was organized July 14, 1818. Rev. Calvin Colton, then pastor of the church of Le Roy, and afterwards distinguished as the author of "Life and Times of Henry Clay," and other works, was corresponding secretary, which office he continued to fill for several years. Colonel Martin O. Coe of Le Roy was chosen the first president, Deacon Hinds Chamberlain and Samuel Granis, vice-presidents; Seth M. Gates, recording secretary, and Colonel S. M. Gates, treasurer. The society was organized two years after the American Bible Society was founded. As the records of the society from 1818 to 1833 have been lost, but few items of its early history can be furnished. Theodore F. Talbot of Batavia was president in 1824, Isaac Wilson of Middlebury in 1826, William Seaver of Batavia in 1828 and 1829, and Gaius B. Rich of Attica in 1830. In 1833 the society was reorganized and a constitution adopted. Colonel Martin O. Coe of Le Roy was chosen president and was re-elected to that office for several successive years. The records furnish no data of any meeting from 1834 to 1839. In 1839 Colonel Coe was again elected president, continuing in that office for several years. In 1841 the county of Genesee was divided, and the society has operated since that year within the present bounds of Genesee county. Since 1840 these persons have served as president of the society:

1840, P. L. Tracy; 1851, J. E. Tompkins; 1853, P. L. Tracy; 1864, John Fisher; 1867, A. J. Bartow; 1872, John Fisher; 1873, A. D. Lord; 1875, R. L. Selden; 1876, A. D. Wilbur; 1881, William Swan; 1883, John W. Sanborn; 1884, William W. Totherob; 1888, A. D. Draper; 1891, W. L. Lloyd; 1892, J. H. Durkee; 1895, Thomas Cardus.

One of the most remarkable trials ever occurring in any court in Genesee county, and in many respects one of the most peculiar on record in any court, took place in the court house at Batavia in July, 1822. A man named Farnsworth was arrested and committed to jail on the charge of having forged "United States land warrants," and a special session of the United States District Court was ordered to be held for the trial of the case against him. The court was convened (by what authority is unknown) in July. Hon. Roger Skinner presided as United States district judge, and Jacob Sutherland, afterward one of

<sup>1</sup> The clerk's office was used as such until the present court house was built, in 1843, when the clerk's office was removed to the basement of the same. The office remained there until the construction of the present county clerk's and surrogate's office in 1873.

the judges of the Supreme Court of New York State, acted as United States district attorney.

The grand jury which had investigated the charges against Farnsworth was composed of men of intelligence, some of whom were quite prominent in the community. After due deliberation they presented a true bill, and the accused was immediately arraigned for trial. Public interest in the case was intense, and the sentiment of the populace was almost unanimously against the accused. People came from remote sections to hear the proceedings, which were of an unparalleled character.

On both sides able counsel was employed. District Attorney Sutherland was considered learned in the law and a man of great sagacity. General Ethan B. Allen, who conducted the defense, was a lawyer of considerable prominence and enjoyed a wide reputation as an orator. Nevertheless subsequent events proved that the presiding judge and the prosecuting attorney knew a little more law than that laid down on the statute books. The trial was a long one. The judge charged the jury adversely to the interests of the prisoner, and the intelligent jurors soon returned with a verdict of guilty. The only penalty known to the court for such an atrocious offense as that of which the accused had been convicted was death, and Farnsworth accordingly was sentenced to be hanged on the gallows on September 20 following.

Farnsworth's attorney, satisfied that the verdict was an unjust one, at once sent to President Monroe a petition for a pardon or commutation of the death sentence, but the grounds on which he based his request are not known. Few persons believed that the president would overturn the decision of the august and learned court, and the inhabitants prepared to convert September 20 into a gala day. Little sympathy was expressed for the culprit who had violated one of the most sacred of the federal laws, and thousands of persons from far and near flocked to the village to witness the execution of the death penalty.

Much to the surprise and chagrin of the assembled witnesses a message from the chief magistrate of the nation was received just as the final preparations for the hanging were being conducted, and the local authorities were compelled to announce to the disappointed throng that the execution had been suspended for six months, during which time the merits of the case were to be investigated. To take the edge off the keen disappointment of those who had assembled to witness the hanging, it is said that the turnkey, without the knowledge and consent

of the sheriff, took Farnsworth from his cell, seated him on a platform at the north end of the old court house, which at that time was hidden from public view by a high board fence, and admitted a large number of visitors into the jail yard to behold the monster who, temporarily at least, had escaped from the gallows. Each visitor, however, was required to pay a shilling as an admission fee.

The farcial character of the whole proceedings is illustrated in the subsequent events. President Monroe and his legal advisers made a thorough examination of the case, with the result that it was ascertained that Farnsworth had violated no law of the United States, and that his arrest, trial and conviction were without legal authority! The accused was, therefore, pardoned and discharged from custody.

A most extraordinary event, and one which temporarily disrupted the order of Free and Accepted Masons in the United States, prompted the organization of a political party which had for its aim the annihilation of that great and powerful secret order and threatened to involve the country in civil war, transpired partly within the limits of Genesee county in 1826. The details of the transaction are too generally known to need more than a brief description here. The event is known in history as the "Morgan affair."

William Morgan, then residing in the village of Batavia, was arrested and conveyed to Canandaigua on a criminal warrant issued by a magistrate of the latter place, the charge against him being the larceny of certain articles of small value. He was found innocent of that charge and acquitted, but was immediately rearrested for a debt of about two dollars and again thrown into jail. That evening he was discharged from jail, but was abducted and taken in a closed carriage from Canandaigua by way of Rochester and Lewiston to Fort Niagara. From this point no absolute evidence as to what disposition was made of him was ever obtained, though it was the popular belief that he was killed for the purpose of preventing him from divulging the secrets of Free Masonry.

Prior to his arrest members of the Masonic fraternity learned that Morgan, in connection with David C. Miller, was planning to issue a publication disclosing the unwritten secrets of Masonry. Consequently his sudden and mysterious disappearance and reported violent death at the hands of members of that powerful order created a tremendous sensation, not only in Western New York, but throughout the entire country; and this feeling resulted, first, in a lengthy and vigorous in-

vestigation which resulted in satisfying the majority of the public that Morgan had met his death at the hands of conspirators among certain members of the fraternity whose secrets he was about to expose, and second, in the formation of a strong Anti-Masonic political party whose slogan was "Death to Masonry!" The most commonly accepted belief as to the fate of the missing man was that he had been drowned either in Lake Ontario or the Niagara river near its mouth. A prolonged search for his remains was made, but no body that could be positively identified as that of the missing man was found.

In October of the following year, about eleven months after Morgan's disappearance, a dead body was found on the Lake Ontario beach near the mouth of Oak Orchard creek. An inquest was held but no one recognized the body. A verdict of accidental drowning was rendered and the body was buried, but the clothes found upon it were preserved. Soon afterward the sensational story that this body was that of Morgan spread, creating intense excitement. Committees from Batavia and Rochester were sent to disinter and examine the body, and they reported, after a most critical investigation, that the remains were not those of Morgan.

This report did not satisfy a certain class who had been making political capital out of the lamentable tragedy, and the body was again disinterred and brought to Batavia, where a spectacular parade was held and the body declared to be that of the missing man. Mr. Morgan's widow (taking it for granted that the man was dead at this time) was the chief mourner in the funeral procession. The body was buried in the village cemetery.

Several weeks before these gruesome scenes were enacted, a man named Timothy Monroe was drowned at the mouth of the Niagara river, and from the description of the body found at the mouth of Oak Orchard creek it was believed that it might be that of Monroe. His widow, then residing near Toronto, was notified of the finding of the body, and her description of the clothing he wore when last seen alive corresponded so exactly with that of the clothing taken from the mooted body that unprejudiced people everywhere believed that the body interred at Batavia as that of Morgan in reality was that of Timothy Monroe. The result of this disclosure was the holding of another inquest at Batavia, when, after an exhaustive investigation, the coroner's jury determined that the body in question was that of Monroe.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The statements contained above are substantially those made by William Seaver of Batavia, an eye witness to some of the deplorable events described, in his history of Batavia.

Another account of the "Morgan affair" contains statements of interest that do not appear in the story as told in the foregoing. The following account appears in "Historical Collections of the State of New York," written by John W. Barber and Henry Howe and published in 1841, and is a synopsis of the official report of Mr. Whittlesey and others at the United States Anti-Masonic convention held in Philadelphia, September 11, 1830:

Morgan, it appears, was born in 1774 in Culpepper county, Va. His occupation was originally that of a bricklayer and stone mason. He removed from Virginia in 1821, and went to York, U. C.; from thence he removed to Rochester. From various misfortunes, he became quite reduced in circumstances, and in the summer of 1826 he resided in the village of Batavia. While here, he became connected with D. C. Miller, a printer, for the purpose of publishing a work disclosing masonic obligations, secret signs, &c. Morgan, it appears, was a royal arch mason; and when the fact became known that he was preparing a work to reveal the secrets of masonry, many of the masonic fraternity became much excited, and appeared determined to put an end to his disclosures. For this purpose, his character was assailed in the public prints. In July, 1826, Morgan was arrested on a civil suit at Batavia, and gave bail; he was afterward arrested and hurried to jail, without time being given him to procure bail, and search was made at his lodgings for his papers on some pretended process, the sheriff in the meantime absenting himself. An attempt was afterward made to burn down Miller's printing office, where "Morgan's Book" was printing.

On Sunday, Sept. 10th, application was made to J. Chipman, Esq., a magistrate of Canandaigua, for a warrant to apprehend Morgan for stealing a shirt and cravat, which it appeared afterward he had only borrowed. The warrant being issued, the constable at Canandaigua, attended by five other persons from that place, immediately set out for Batavia, where they arrived in the evening. Early the next morning (Monday), Morgan was arrested and taken to the public house where the party had slept; an extra stage-coach was procured, and the party left Batavia for Canandaigua, with Morgan in their custody. Miller attempted to procure the release of Morgan just as the carriage was starting, but he was pushed aside, and the driver was urged to drive fast till he should get out of the county. Having arrived in Canandaigua, Morgan in the evening was taken before the magistrate who had issued the warrant, and was by him examined and discharged. One of the party immediately applied to the same magistrate for a warrant against Morgan for a debt of about \$2, which he said had been assigned to him by a tavern keeper. Judgment was entered against Morgan for \$2.69, debt and costs, and an execution immediately issued. Morgan took off his coat and offered it to the constable to levy upon for the debt. The constable declined receiving it, and Morgan was committed to the Canandaigua jail the same evening, where he remained until the evening of the next day.

On the 12th of Sept., about 9 o'clock in the evening, the wife of the jailer, at the request of the plaintiff in the execution, consented to let Morgan out of the prison. As he was leaving the jail steps, he was violently seized by two persons; he struggled and cried "murder," a number of times. Two other persons now came up, one

of whom stopped Morgan's outcry by thrusting a handkerchief, or something similar, into his mouth. At a signal given by one of the party, a two-horse carriage now drove up; two of the party thrust Morgan into the carriage, and then got in themselves. This carriage arrived in Rochester about day-dawn the next morning. Another carriage was procured, and relays of horses were obtained. When the party arrived at New Fane, about 3 miles from Lockport, they sent to the sheriff of Niagara county, to assist them in getting Morgan into Canada. The sheriff accordingly left Lockport, attended the party, and assisted them in procuring horses, &c. They arrived at Lewiston about midnight; here another carriage was procured, and the party was driven to the burying ground near Fort Niagara. Here they left the carriage and proceeded with Morgan in their custody to the ferry, and crossed over to the Canada side. After conferring with a number of persons in Niagara village, Morgan was brought back, as arrangements had not been completed for his reception. This event it appears had been anticipated. Morgan was taken to the magazine of Fort Niagara, and locked in before day-dawn, on the morning of the 14th of September.

On the day that Morgan was put into the magazine, a royal arch chapter was installed at Lewiston, which event called together a considerable assemblage of Masons from the vicinity. In the evening, 20 or 30 persons came to the fort from Lewiston. About midnight, 7 persons, stated to be royal arch masons, held a consultation on the plain near the graveyard, as to the manner in which Morgan should be disposed of. The prevailing opinion among them appeared to be, that Morgan had forfeited his life for a breach of his masonic obligations, and that they ought to see the penalty executed by drowning him in the river; some of the company discovering a reluctance to go to such lengths, the project was abandoned at that time. On the night of the 16th, a similar consultation was held between four persons, but nothing was decided on. As to the disposition of Morgan, after the evening of the 14th of September, nothing has yet been known judicially, but circumstances are strong, to induce the belief that he was put to death on the night of the 19th of Sept. 1826, by being cast into the depths of Niagara river.

Recent investigation into the case seems to prove that Morgan was never made a Mason. By some means he obtained enough knowledge of the craft to induce a Mr. Warren of Batavia, a Mason in good standing, to believe that he had joined the order in Canada. Mr. Warren vouched for him, and he gained admission to the lodge in Batavia. In 1826 a charter was secured for a chapter in Batavia. On account of his dissolute habits Morgan was refused membership, and this caused him to become furious in his opposition to Masonry. The only lawful degree that he ever received was in the Royal Arch, at Le Roy, May 31, 1825, after the deceit practiced upon Mr. Warren, who was his employer. But that did not make him a member of the craft.

As soon as the chapter rejected his application for admission he began his crusade against the order. His colleagues were David C. Mil-



ler, editor of the Batavia Advocate, and his three partners. Miller had received the degree of Entered Apprentice; but further advancement was denied him, and he, too, was bitter against the order.

An interesting, and now believed by many to be a trustworthy account of Morgan's disappearance, is thus given by Robert Morris, a Masonic writer of high repute:

In September, 1826, Morgan was on the jail limits on judgments for debts. The limits were a mile square, with the jail for the centre. John Whitney and Morgan met in Donald's tavern and set down to supper together. In answer to Whitney's inquiries Morgan said he was in a bad fix; that he had not a friend but his wife, and she ought not to be on account of his treatment of her. She had a baby only three weeks old and cried continually, fearing that they were going to starve. He was out of work; the Masons made him no more donations and threatened to kill him; he said he had sold himself to Miller, who had promised him half a million dollars; he never had more than a shilling at a time, and that with abuse.

"I am authorized," said Whitney, "to give you relief. I will give you fifty dollars in cash with which to buy yourself suitable clothes and help your family in its present need if you will go to Canada and settle there. When you are located in Canada you shall have five hundred dollars, and your family shall be sent to you. I pledge you that they shall be provided for until they rejoin you."

Morgan quickly accepted the offer and consented to submit to a legal process for his removal for trial to Canandaigua on the charge of having stolen a shirt and necktie from the landlord there. This charge was not pressed and Morgan, following out a preconcerted plan, went to Canada, escorted to Fort Niagara by six men whose names are well known. He was rowed across the river and received on the Canada side by two Masons who were in the arrangement. Morgan was paid his five hundred dollars and went away quite happy. Among those who were with the party that saw Morgan over the border was Colonel King. He was very conscientious about the matter and insisted upon knowing the full circumstances. In answer to the queries which his persistency brought out, Morgan made the following statement: "That he had contracted with Miller and others to write an *expose* of Masonry; that he had never been a Mason in any lodge, but had received the Royal Arch degree in a regular manner and felt bound by that obligation, and never intended to reveal the secrets of that degree; that he had been treated kindly by the gentlemen who formed his escort; that he was willing and anxious to be separated from Miller and from all ideas of a Masonic expose; wished to live in habits of industry and respectability; to go to the interior of Canada and settle down as a British citizen and have his family sent to him; was sorry for the uproar his proceedings had made and for the disgrace he had caused his family." . . .

The Anti-Masons succeeded in carrying the State that fall upon the strength of of their opposition to Masonry and the display they made in prosecuting the persons who were engaged in Morgan's deportation. Colonel King became alarmed, and he sent a confidential messenger into Canada to look for Morgan and bring him back. Morgan had changed his name, changed his clothes, bought a horse and left the village within forty-eight hours of the departure of those who took him there. The

colonel sent a second messenger, who employed an old Indian scout, thoroughly posted in the calling, to follow Morgan up. It was learned that he had gone east at the rate of fifty miles a day to a point down the river not far from Port Hope. He had sold his horse and disappeared. Doubtless he boarded a vessel there and sailed out of the country. At any rate that was the last trace of him ever obtained.

The Anti-Masonic movement which originated in 1826 was, to a certain extent, complicated with an increasing opposition to the Holland Land Company. Many farms were still burdened with debt to the company, and though the latter had treated the debtors liberally by accepting farm produce in lieu of cash, though losing money by the operation, many of the farmers found it next to impossible to meet their maturing obligations. The situation was made still more distressing by persistent reports that the company was preparing to advance the prices of all lands on which the original time of payment had elapsed. About this time Mr. Otto was succeeded by Mr. Evans in the conduct of the local affairs of the company, and under the administration of the latter contracts were somewhat modified in favor of the purchasers of land. But the general dissatisfaction continued to increase, manifesting itself in questioning the validity of the company's titles, in recommending heavier taxation of the property of the company, and in various other ways. The rising sentiment of opposition to this company was bound, in later years, to bring about serious trouble. It led, in fact, directly to what is known in local history as "The Land Office War."

The act of the State Legislature passed March 19, 1831, authorizing the erection of a new jail in Genesee county contained the following provisions:

The supervisors of the county of Genesee shall cause to be assessed . . . for the purpose of erecting a new jail in said county, the sum of three thousand dollars. . . . The said jail shall be built on the public ground now belonging to said county, in the village of Batavia, and David Scott of Attica, Ziba S. Beardsley of Alexander, Daniel H. Chandler, Hinman Holden and Benjamin Porter junior, of the town of Batavia, are hereby appointed commissioners to superintend the building of the said jail, and they, or any three of them, are hereby authorized to fix or lay out the site, and devise a plan for the same. . . . The said commissioners shall be allowed the sum of one dollar and twenty-five cents per day for their services in the actual performance of their duty. . . .

The jail was built under the direction of the commissioners named, and still stands on the south side of West Main street, in Batavia.

By act of the Legislature April 26, 1831, Nathan Rumsey, Henry C.

Jones and James Sprague, second, were appointed commissioners to lay out a public highway from Angelica, Allegany county, to Batavia. By the opening of this road traffic between the two points named was greatly expedited, and the rural community particularly were benefited by the improvement.

One of the most noteworthy events in the history of Genesee county in these days was the disturbance which since has been generally known as "the land office war." Though some of the principal scenes in this uprising transpired in the village of Batavia, the trouble was not confined to that community, but was widespread throughout Genesee county and over a large portion of the Holland Purchase. Batavia was seriously involved in the trouble as the principal land office of the company was located in that village. Several accounts of this little "war" have been written. One of the most trustworthy appears in William Seaver's "Historical Sketch of the Village of Batavia," which is here reproduced:

The origin of the difficulty, as we understand it, was briefly this: Early, in 1836 certain companies purchased of the Holland company all its unsold lands, mortgages, contracts, &c., indeed, all its remaining interest in these western counties, and immediately instituted a new order of things in reference to the settlers. Previous to this, however, a restive spirit, (engendered as it was said, by certain lawyers, anxious for a fee) had for some time been manifested against the company in reference to its original Title to the lands, so that when the new landlords came in, the settlers were by no means in the most amiable mood towards either the old or the new proprietors.

This state of things did not deter the new owners (or some of them at least) from going forward in the exercise of their legal rights and adopting some new and more stringent measures than had before existed for the collection of land debts, and by way of stimulus to prompt payment, a little addition to the price of the land was also proposed in case the old contracts were not fulfilled. All this had the effect to exasperate many who were directly interested, and their indignation at length broke forth in open acts of violence, intended not only to affect the interests of the new proprietors, but also the old company in consequence of whose transfer the new order of things had been introduced.

In Chatauque and the south part of Erie and Genesee counties the excitement prevailed with more intensity than in any other sections. Large and enthusiastic public meetings were there held, for the purpose, either by argument or intimidation, of inducing the proprietors to rescind some of their measures and adopt a more lenient system, but as these movements failed of producing the designed effect, open war was declared, and the belligerent forces were marshalled for the conflict.

The first object was to destroy the Land Office at Mayville, and for that purpose a large mob assembled on the night of Feb. 6th, 1836, commenced the grand assault, and without meeting the slightest resistance demolished the whole superstructure,

laying it even with the ground. They tore open the vault whose impregnable walls withstood their efforts for three hours, and having collected all the books and papers in one pile on the green, the torch was applied, and they were offered up as a burnt sacrifice to the demon of mobocracy.

Exulting in the complete success of this brilliant achievement, the belligerents, taking courage from victory, began to pant for wider fields of glory, and having proved the temper of their "maiden swords" on the Fortress of Mayville they resolved upon the higher and more chivalrous feat of undertaking to storm and demolish the very citadel of Land Office power at Batavia. Accordingly emissarys were sent in every direction to rouse up all the disaffected forces, and congregate them on a certain night prepared for the grand assault.

Meantime David E. Evans Esq., who then held the Land Office keys, and who had been informed of the transactions at Mayville, was also apprised of the threatened attack at Batavia, but not knowing when the demonstration might be made, he took the precaution to send all the books and valuable papers to Rochester beyond the reach of danger in any untoward emergency. Thus several weeks passed on, and as no hostile movement appeared, the books &c. were brought back and hopes were entertained that the storm would quietly subside. These hopes, however, were of short duration, for the fires of discontent had only been smouldering preparatory to breaking forth with renewed violence.

To give some idea of the feeling which prevailed in the south part of Erie county we quote the language of an agent sent into that quarter, who reported that "all labor is suspended, the whole adult male population meeting at taverns and stores, vowing vengeance against the 'land sharks,' threatening to burn their houses, and intimating that assassination will be the consequence of attempts to enforce the terms proposed by the new purchasers."

Without dwelling upon further preliminaries it will be sufficient to say that the ferment continued to increase until about the 12th of May, when intelligence was received that a very large mob from the south part of this and Erie counties were gathering, with the avowed intention of marching to this place and tearing down the land office, and the jail (in which two of their friends were imprisoned), and of committing other depredations on some of our citizens who had become obnoxious to them.

To know that such an attempt would be made was sufficient for our people at once to resolve upon the most firm and united resistance, and accordingly our public authorities both civil and military, aided by the citizens, made immediate preparations to repel the foe. The Land Office was converted into a sort of fortification, well stored with arms and ammunition, and thus matters rested in suspense, not knowing when the attack would be made, until about midnight on the 13th of May, when messengers arrived post haste from Attica and Alexander giving information that the mob was concentrating at the latter place in great force, supposed to be from 700 to 1,000, and that it would soon be upon us.

No sooner had this intelligence been received than all the bells in the village rang the alarm and a general muster of our "fighting" men immediately followed. Videtts were sent out by the sheriff on the different roads, to reconnoiter the enemy, and men were sent to the arsenal for a sufficient supply of muskets to arm all our citizens. Two boxes of ball cartridges of 1,000 each were also brought up, one of

which was left at the Land Office, and the other taken to the Court House where the sheriff (Nathan Townsend), who was the commanding officer on the occasion, held his headquarters, surrounded by the "chivalry" of the village ready for the conflict. What then followed we cannot better describe than in the language of a letter, from D. E. Evans, to J. J. Vanderkemp, written soon after the event and from which we are permitted to make the following extracts:

"Our force in the Land Office consisting of fifty men, remained patiently awaiting the arrival of the enemy till about sun rise, and none appearing we concluded they had abandoned the enterprise, and we appointed a committee to go to Alexander to ascertain what number had been there and who their leaders were. Col. Seaver, Col. Davis, and myself (the committee) immediately started, and meeting Mr. Cary near the bridge took him with us. We had proceeded but two miles when we met two of our expresses returning at full gallop, who told us they had just left the mob at Fargo's Tavern, two miles distant, forming in order to march to Batavia. They estimated the whole number at 700, about 400 of which were armed with fire-arms, and the residue with bludgeons, crow-bars and sledge hammers.

Previous to leaving the office I requested Mr. Chandler to remain at it with thirty men, till we either returned or sent him positive information that the mob had dispersed. On receiving information that the mob had really advanced to Fargo's, the committee lost no time in returning, and taking such requisite steps to reassemble the citizens, most of whom had gone to their respective homes. The mob soon after appeared in sight and halted on the road east of Judge Stevens's House, where they were met by Gen. Verplanck, and asked what they wanted? They answered "to right themselves." He asked in what manner? and was answered, "that it was none of his business." He then said it was his duty to inform them that if they committed any outrages in an organized body, upon either public or private property, they would be fired upon. Some of them then said they wished to have a conference with me, and he promised to inform me of it, and came to the office and did so. I desired him to return and say, that I positively declined having any communication whatever with an armed mob. Their number he estimated at about five hundred men.

Soon after he returned they put themselves in motion, crossed the bridge, marched to the office, and I supposed we should soon come to blows. After having halted in front of the office, and become sensible that an attack upon it would be attended with danger, it was evident to all spectators that they felt the awkwardness of their situation. After remaining still for a few minutes, four men came under the window in which I was sitting, and requested a conference with me, which I declined, refusing in a peremptory manner to have anything to do with them, and bid them defiance in no measured terms.

About this time I saw a sudden movement among them which I could not account for, but which I soon learned was occasioned by the (to them) unexpected appearance of Sheriff Townsend, with 120 men, armed with bright muskets, with bayonets fixed, in full march for the Office. He halted his men in front of my house, and advanced himself with three or four attendants, towards the mob, and was met by several of them. He told them his object in meeting them was to say, that if they attempted to destroy any building in the village, he should, without any further notice, fire a full volley among them. One of them was proceeding to argue the legality of

his doing it, but he cut the matter short by assuring them that he should do it whether legal or not, and advised them to be off very quickly.

They soon after went down the street half a mile, and had a boisterous consultation, some professing to wish to return and attack the Office, but by far the greatest part thought it best to go home. Some forty or fifty continued on westward, and the residue returned as they came, passing the Office without apparently looking at it. The most of them re crossed the Bridge and went off, but a few lurked about the Village, some of whom were apprehended and committed to prison, and among the number their reputed leader, a man by the name of Hill, a Constable in Holland, Erie County.

As you may readily imagine, our Village remained for several days, in a high state of excitement. The Military were called out, and two Cannons, assigned to Artillery Companys at Le Roy and Bethany, were sent for, and brought to the Village, and strong guards, composed of the Villagers only, were kept at night, as great apprehensions were entertained that the Village would be set on fire by incendiaries, which was threatened by the mob on their retreat, and those threats were reiterated from sections of the Country where we had reason to expect better things. Almost all business was at a stand in the Village, the Country people afraid to come to it, and the consequence was, the Mercantile men, Tavern-keepers, Grocers, and Mechanics, became apprehensive that the business of the place would go elsewhere.

It therefore became obvious, that either the office must be removed from this place, or some means devised to defend it with a few men, and I determined on erecting two strong block houses, one on the northeast, and the other on the southwest corners. They are made of solid timber from 10 to 12 inches thick, and each armed with thirty muskets, and amply supplied with ammunition, and twelve men in each, would drive a mob of 1,000 men from the vicinity of the office in a very short time. I have employed four men as a night guard, with directions to keep three of their number in the Block-houses, and one on the look-out on the outside. I now consider the office secure.

After the mob had taken their departure, and the citizens their breakfast, notice was given that a meeting would be held at the Court House to take measures for the security of the village. At this meeting, Messrs. Wm. Seaver, D. H. Chandler, and myself, were appointed a committee of safety, the duties of which I found vastly more arduous and unpleasant than I imagined. Having received positive information that a considerable number of persons, residents of Chautauque, Erie, and Genesee counties, were passing from town to town, endeavoring to raise another and larger, and in every respect more efficient force than the last, we concluded to lay the case before the Governor, and ask him to issue a proclamation, not that we supposed it would tend to allay the irritation against the new land company, but to satisfy the malcontents, that the state Government was not friendly to their proceedings, which they had been made to believe. Accordingly we despatched Dr. Van Tuyl to Albany, deeming it advisable to send a person who could give a clear and distinct account of the actual state of the country.

When the Doctor arrived in Albany the Governor was at Saratoga Springs, but returned next day, and very promptly issued the proclamation. He also authorized us to retain the two six-pounders we had, as long as we might want them, sent us two more with a supply of powder and round and canister shot, and several thousand

musket cartridges, and authorized us to take two twelve pounders from the arsenal at Canandaigua.

The captain of an artillery company at Bennington, by the name of Norris, having stated that he and his company and gun, a brass three pounder, were ready at any moment's notice, to turn out and attack Batavia, we represented the case to the Governor, who immediately directed the commissary general to order Capt. Norris to deliver the gun to the keeper of the arsenal at this place, forthwith. The Capt. was very unwilling to obey the order, pleading as an excuse that the people in the neighborhood would not permit the gun to be taken away but on being threatened to have his delinquency reported to the commissary general, and told that the consequence would be very serious to himself, he concluded to bring it."

Having been apprised of our formidable preparations for a determined resistance to mobocracy, the malcontents were not slow in coming to the wise conclusion that "prudence was the better part of valor," and all further attempts to attain their object by violent means, was at once abandoned as utterly hopeless.

Thus terminated the "Land Office War," and so far as the people of this place were concerned, it is but justice to say that they acquitted themselves in a manner worthy of all praise. No matter what may have been their individual opinions in regard to the origin of the difficulty, no sooner did they know that lawless violence was about to be committed, and that an infuriated mob, perhaps with the midnight torch, was preparing to invade us, than the fire of '76 kindled in every bosom, and they were prepared to resist, even at the price of their blood, the threatened aggression. As the 'Times' well said, "never before had we witnessed the interesting spectacle of a whole village of peaceful and quiet citizens transformed at the moment, and by a common impulse, from the varied and ordinary pursuits of business into efficient citizen soldiers—all, from highest to lowest, actuated by a common impulse—that of self defense at any and every hazard." The affair satisfied us by ocular demonstration that there is nothing so potent to quell a mob as ball and bayonet, and sure we are that had it not been for a fear of those articles in the hands of resolute citizens, and a perfect assurance that they would be used "to kill" in case the slightest aggression had been committed, the mob would have destroyed at least the Land Office and the Jail.

An event which occurred in Erie and Niagara counties in 1836 was of interest to many of the inhabitants of Genesee county. Benjamin Rathbun, a daring speculator residing in Buffalo, who seemed not to have profited by the financial disasters and ominous conditions of 1836, made plans for carrying on his speculations on a gigantic plan. He bought land and laid out a magnificent city at Niagara Falls, advertising an auction sale of lots for August 2. Just before this David E. Evans of Batavia, agent for the Holland Land Company, had made the discovery while on a visit to Philadelphia that Rathbun had forged his name on notes for large amounts. Returning to Buffalo after Rathbun had conducted his great sale at Niagara Falls, Mr. Evans confronted the swindling speculator, who confessed his crime and admitted that the paper

bearing Mr. Evans's name was but a small item in a large list of similar forgeries. The forgeries had reached nearly a million dollars. Rathbun's arrest followed at once. His trial began in Batavia March 29, 1837, and he was found guilty and sentenced to State prison for five years.

The general discontent and feeling of discouragement produced by the stringency of the money market augmented and intensified the opposition to the Holland Land Company. The holders of many farms owed not only the principal but the interest for many years on the debts on their lands, and the scarcity of money rendered payment more difficult than ever. Meetings were held in various places, not only in Genesee but in other counties whose territory was included in the Holland Purchase, where this dissatisfaction and opposition was publicly expressed. At these meetings the company was denounced, a modification of its terms of payment demanded, legislative interference requested, and the attorney-general called upon to contest the title of the company.

In February, 1837, a meeting termed an "agrarian convention" was held at Aurora, the counties of Genesee, Erie, Niagara and Chautauqua being represented. Dyre Tillinghast of Buffalo acted as president, Charles Richardson of Java and Hawxhurst Addington of Aurora as vice-presidents, and H. N. A. Holmes of Wales and A. M. Clapp of Aurora as secretaries. Resolutions were adopted expressive of the sentiment of those present as indicated in the foregoing, and those who favored the company were termed "Judases" and strongly censured. In some sections actual resistance to the agents of the company was offered. If an agent made an attempt to take possession of a farm, the holder of which was in arrears, threatening notices were placed before his eyes, and armed men so terrified him that he was glad to escape without having accomplished his mission. The Legislature refused to accede to the request of the farmers, knowing full well that there was no ground for contesting the title. In many of the towns the majority of the settlers succeeded in discharging their indebtedness. In a few localities the resistance was so stubborn and long continued that the company deferred the final resort to force until the holders acquired title to their farms by adverse possession, in which they were sustained by the courts. This condition of affairs in the rural communities undoubtedly tended to cripple the energies of the settlers, prevent progress and seriously delay improvements which would have been made under



more favorable circumstances. And all this time the conditions in favor of an ultimate open armed revolt were ripening.

Though the existing Genesee County Agricultural Society was not organized until 1839, an association with a similar aim and scope had been founded in Genesee county just a score of years previous to that date. On June 22, 1819, a number of representative men of Batavia and vicinity met at the home of Hinman Holden in that village and made arrangements for holding annual fairs. An agricultural society was organized at that meeting, with Joseph Ellicott for president, Hon. Samuel M. Hopkins president pro tem., and Parmenio Adams treasurer pro tem. It was decided to hold a meeting and exhibit in the month of October following, and those present agreed to raise five hundred dollars to defray the expenses of the event. Of this amount three hundred and fifty dollars was appropriated for premiums. Colonel Green and Colonel Towner were appointed marshals of the day. Little is known of this early agricultural society, but it must have been prosperous to a certain degree, as it was in existence for nearly, if not quite, twenty years.

The present society was organized in 1839. For twenty years the annual fairs were held in various places, sometimes on the Mix property, opposite the jail; some on Walnut street across the creek; others on the Clark property, at the head of Jackson street. But by the end of that time the society had reached such proportions, and its facilities were so limited that it was decided to purchase a permanent site for the annual fair and erect thereon buildings adequate to the needs of the growing organization. A half-mile track for horse racing and stock exhibits was constructed, on the old grounds on Ellicott street, costing \$3,047, and the expositions held annually under the auspices of the society became more successful with every succeeding year. The society was incorporated with the secretary of state, May 24, 1856, with these officers: President, Eden Foster; vice-president, John F. Plato; secretary, Horatio N. Wright; treasurer, Chauncey Kirkham, jr. In 1890 the society sold its old grounds to the Buffalo and Geneva Railroad Company and voted to purchase what was known as the Redfield grounds, the price agreed upon being six thousand dollars. This is the old "driving park property" of nearly twenty-four acres, and eight and one-half acres additional on the east side of the track, which includes an oak grove of two and one-half acres. A short time afterward the society purchased two additional acres of Mr. Redfield, making its total possessions about thirty-five acres.

Unfortunately the records of the society prior to 1870 are missing. Since that year, however, the principal officers have been as follows:

1870.—President, I. A. Todd; secretary, Lucien R. Bailey; treasurer, Augustus N. Cowdin.

1871.—President, George Burt; secretary, L. R. Bailey.

1872.—President, E. G. Townsend; secretary, G. H. Robertson; treasurer, A. R. Warner.

1873.—President, M. N. Moulthrop; secretary, F. M. Jameson; treasurer, A. R. Warner.

1874.—President, S. B. Lusk; secretary, J. H. McCulley; treasurer, A. R. Warner.

1875.—President, Warren J. Tyler; secretary, J. H. McCulley; treasurer, A. R. Warner.

1876.—President, Cortland Crosman; secretary, E. R. Hay; treasurer, A. R. Warner.

1877.—President, I. S. Durfee; secretary, E. R. Hay; treasurer, A. R. Warner.

1878.—President, Albert Parker; secretary, J. H. Robson; treasurer, E. L. Kenyon.

1879.—President, C. W. Van De Bogart; secretary, Nelson Bogue; treasurer, Robert A. Maxwell.

1880.—President, C. W. Van De Bogart; secretary, Nelson Bogue; treasurer, Robert A. Maxwell.

1881.—President, John H. McCulley; secretary, George W. Pratt; treasurer, Robert A. Maxwell.

1882.—President, Eli Taylor; secretary, J. B. Neasmith; treasurer, J. Holley Bradish.

1883.—President, D. L. Hodgson; secretary, Nelson Bogue; treasurer, O. Town, jr.

1884.—President, Nelson Duguid; secretary, J. M. McKenzie; treasurer, B. George Kemp.

1885.—President, Nelson Duguid; secretary, J. M. McKenzie; treasurer, B. George Kemp.

1886.—President, B. F. Peck; secretary, J. M. McKenzie; treasurer, B. George Kemp.

1887.—President, Nelson Bogue; secretary, J. M. McKenzie; treasurer, B. George Kemp.

1888.—President, E. J. Ingalsbe; secretary, Frank B. Redfield; treasurer, William Torrence.

1889.—President, R. R. Losee; secretary, L. F. Rolfe; treasurer, Frederick B. Parker.

1890.—President, James Z. Terry; secretary, L. F. Rolfe; treasurer, Frederick B. Parker.

1891.—President, Dwight Dimock; secretary, Greenville R. Safford; treasurer, Frederick B. Parker.

1892.—President, J. M. McKenzie; secretary, Albert E. Brown; treasurer, Frederick B. Parker.

1893–1894.—President, Wolcott Vandebogart; secretary, Albert E. Brown; treasurer, Frederick B. Parker.

1895.—President, W. E. Sumner; secretary, Albert E. Brown; treasurer, Frederick B. Parker.

1896.—President, Cyrus P. Bell; secretary, Albert E. Brown; treasurer, Charles D. Harris.

1897.—President, J. N. Parker; secretary, Albert E. Brown; treasurer, Charles D. Harris.

1898.—President, F. T. Miller; secretary, Albert E. Brown; treasurer, Charles D. Harris.

In May, 1840, the State Legislature passed an act providing for the erection of a new court house in Genesee county, appointing Walter Hubbell, Joshua A. Spencer and Amos P. Granger commissioners to locate the site and authorizing a loan of \$10,000 from the State to the county to defray the expense of building. Batavia having always been the county seat of the old Genesee county, the inhabitants of that village naturally expected that the proposed new court house would be erected there; but after the erection of Orleans county, Batavia was considered north of the geographical centre of the county, and the inhabitants of the southern towns made an effort to secure the location of the court house at a more central point. The discussion that followed was sharp and for a time bitter, but the advocates of a more southerly location finally withdrew their objections to Batavia's claim, with the understanding that residents of the northern part of the county would not oppose its division and the erection of a new county, a subject which began to be agitated at the time the court house project was instituted. The commissioners thereupon selected Batavia as a site for the new county building, soon after which the board of supervisors appointed Paul Richards of Orangeville and John Tomlinson of Le Roy as building commissioners. They contracted with Elias Pelton to do the mason work and Ira E. Phillips and Jonathan Hutchinson to con-

struct the wood work. Knowlton Rich and Consider Warner of Le Roy furnished the cut stone and Samuel R. Clifford of Le Roy furnished and put in position the pillars, caps, etc., of Lockport stone.

May 19, 1841, soon after the work of construction was begun, the county was divided, Wyoming county being erected from the southern portion of what was then Genesee county. The law dividing the county contained these provisions, among others:

All that part of the county of Genesee lying and being on the south side of a line beginning at the northwest corner of the town of Bennington, in the county aforesaid, and running thence east on the north line of the towns of Bennington, Attica and Middlebury, to the west line of the town of Covington; thence south on the east line of Middlebury to the southwest corner of the Craigie tract; thence east on the south line of said Craigie tract, and on the south bounds of the forty thousand acre tract to the east line of the said town of Covington, shall be a separate and distinct county of the State of New York, and be known by the name of Wyoming, and entitled to and possessed of all the benefits, rights, privileges and immunities, and subject to the same duties as the other counties of this State, and the freeholders and inhabitants thereof shall possess and enjoy all the rights and immunities which the freeholders and inhabitants of the several counties of this State are by law entitled to possess and enjoy. All the remaining part of the present county of Genesee shall be and remain a separate and distinct county by the name of Genesee,

All that part of the town of Covington which lies north of the aforesaid line, shall be and remain, from and after the passage of this act, a separate and distinct town of the said county of Genesee, by the name of Pavilion. . . .

There shall be a meeting of the board of supervisors of the present county of Genesee, on the second Tuesday of June next, at the court house in the village of Batavia, to transact such business as may be necessary in consequence of the passage of this act. . . .

The said supervisors when so convened as aforesaid, shall have power to form themselves into two separate and distinct boards, those residing in the county of Genesee to be considered as the board of supervisors in and for the said county of Genesee, and those residing in the county of Wyoming to be considered as the board of supervisors in and for the county of Wyoming. . . .

It shall be the duty of the treasurer of the county of Genesee and of the treasurer of the county of Wyoming, so to be appointed as aforesaid, to meet with the said supervisors at their said special meetings; and the said supervisors and treasurers when so assembled in joint board, shall apportion and divide all debts owing by the said county of Genesee, or to said county, and shall make such arrangements in relation to the poor-house property and the support of the county poor, as shall be just and equitable.

The said county of Genesee shall be entitled to elect two members of assembly, and the said county of Wyoming shall be entitled to elect two members of assembly, in the same manner as other counties of this State are by law entitled to elect members of assembly; and the said counties of Genesee and Wyoming shall compose the twenty-ninth congressional district.

Paul Richards, one of the building commissioners for the new court house, being a resident of the newly formed county of Wyoming, resigned that office and Pardon C. Sherman was named as commissioner in his place. The building, excepting the basement, was completed in 1843, and the first court therein was held in February of that year. Horace U. Soper and Moses Taggart were afterward appointed commissioners to complete the county clerk's office in the basement. The cost of the completed edifice was about \$17,000.

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## CHAPTER XII.

From the Erection of the Present County of Genesee to the Beginning of the War of the Rebellion—Two Decades of Steady Industrial and Commercial Development—New Churches Organized During That Period—Creation of the Town of Oakfield—Railroads Built in Genesee County—The Long Era of Peace Rudely Ended.

The period beginning with the erection of the new county of Genesee in 1841, and terminating with the inauguration of that terrific internecine struggle known in history as the war of the Rebellion, was characterized by few stirring or unusual incidents in Genesee county. In all communities, however, there were constant evidences of a steady, healthful development. Here and there new industries were founded and old ones strengthened, increasing the wealth of the community and enhancing values everywhere. In no case was there anything resembling a forced development. The inhabitants were then, as they are now, too conservative and thoughtful for that. The development was slow, steady, sure, permanent. Great pride was also shown by the inhabitants of the county in their educational institutions. The religious spirit, too, continued to thrive, and now and then the Christian people in the various communities organized themselves into church societies, and erected substantial, and in several cases handsome, houses of worship. The commercial world also became broader; and the establishment of banking institutions indicated the increasing prosperity along all lines. The opening of a railroad as far west as Batavia as early as 1837 gave a tremendous impetus to trade, which was still further increased in 1843 by the extension of the line to Buffalo. This was but the beginning, for within a few years the county was intersected

again and again by new steel thoroughfares, until it was furnished with transportation facilities excelled by those of no other county in the Empire State.

The first official act under the law dividing the county was performed June 8, 1841, when the board of supervisors of the new civil division met in Batavia and, in accordance with the provisions of the law enacted on May 19, organized the new county of Genesee with twelve towns, as follows: Alabama, Alexander, Batavia, Bergen, Bethany, Byron, Darien, Elba, Le Roy, Pavilion, Pembroke and Stafford. The town of Pavilion was increased in size March 23, 1842, by the annexation thereto of parts of the towns of Le Roy and Stafford. The town of Oakfield<sup>1</sup> was erected from a portion of Elba April 11, 1842. That portion of the legislative act creating the new town provided as follows:

From and after the first Monday of March next, all that part of the town of Elba, in the county of Genesee, lying west of a north and south line, beginning at the southwest corner of lot three, section five, township thirteen, range two of the Holland Land Company's land, running north upon said line of lots to the north bounds of said town, shall be a separate town by the name of "Oakfield," and the first town meeting therein shall be held at the house of Isaiah Olcott, on the first Tuesday in March, eighteen hundred and forty-three, at which Perez Howland, John C. Gardner and Clitus Wolcott shall preside.

The remaining part of the town of Elba shall be and remain a separate town by the name of Elba.

In May, 1842, a treaty between the Six Nations and commissioners on the part of the United States, the States of New York and Massachusetts and the Ogden Company, was held at Buffalo. By this convention it was agreed that the Ogden Company should have immediate possession of the unimproved lands on the Buffalo and Tonawanda Reservations, and that within two years from that date the Indians should leave the improved lands also on those reservations and go to those of Allegany and Cattaraugus counties, which they were to retain during their pleasure. The lands thus thrown into possession of the company were promptly surveyed, divided among the members and placed on the market.

The first religious society of which any record is left as having

<sup>1</sup> So named by reason of the large area of oak timber land comprised within its limits in the early days.

been organized during this period of nearly a score of years was the Second Methodist Episcopal church of Byron, which was established at South Byron September 26, 1842. John Cook was one of the leaders in the movement which resulted in the organization. The first pastor was the Rev. Alva Wright. In 1853 a church edifice was erected at a cost of about \$2,500. The First Methodist Episcopal church established at Byron Centre at an early day has been extinct many years.

A public meeting held at the house of Adna Tenny in Darien January 7, 1843, adopted a set of resolutions unique in their character. This action on the part of the inhabitants of that town was simply an incident of the hard times of that period. The resolutions adopted were as follows:

Resolved, That we as citizens of the State of New York, do hold, that a true and strict equality ought to be instituted between man and man in this free and enlightened Republic; and that all privileged orders ought to be unknown in a land of Freemen, where every man has a right to claim the equality we advocate.

Resolved, That we will use our united efforts as true and loyal citizens to establish, through our public servants that equality we now claim.

Resolved, That in order to effect this equality we will recommend to the Legislature of this State to instruct our Senators and recommend to our Representatives in Congress the necessity and propriety of reducing the wages of the members of Congress, at least one-half, or to an equality with the compensation received by the Farmer and Mechanic for their labor.

Resolved, That we will recommend to the Legislature of this State the necessity of reducing the fees of the Surrogate in said county of Genesee, and that all other officers in the several counties and in the State, or in other words to the county and State officers to an equality with that standard of compensation by which the laboring part of the community are governed and to which they are made to submit.

Resolved, That we recommend and petition the Legislature of this State, to abrogate that part of our Common School law requiring the board of Supervisors in each of the counties in this State, to appoint a Deputy Superintendent in their county. It creates an office of which we do not approve, and which we believe is not called for by a majority of the people of this State, and which is considered a drain to our common school fund which carries more out than it is able to return back again, by its best exertions, into that fountain from which it is taken, and we do further petition the legislature of this State to amend that part of our common school law relating to inspectors of common schools in the town of Darien so as to limit the meeting of such inspectors to two days in each year, one day in the fall, for the inspection of teachers.

One of the most important occurrences in the history of Genesee county was the construction of the early railroad lines extending into and through the territory embraced within the county. The first railroad communication eastward from any part of Genesee

county came with the opening of that portion of the Buffalo and Rochester railroad extending from Rochester as far west as Bergen, in 1836. During the following year the road was completed and put in operation as far as Batavia. The Attica and Buffalo railroad, chartered in 1836, was opened late in 1842. The Tonawanda railroad, chartered in 1832, was also first put in operation in 1842. By 1843 the first road named was also in operation between Buffalo and Rochester, thus forming a continuous chain of transportation by way of steam railroads from Buffalo to Albany and thence to New York. The first through train from Rochester to Buffalo was run, via the Attica and Buffalo line, January 8, 1843. The Buffalo and Rochester road was formed December 7, 1850, by a consolidation of the Attica and Buffalo and the Tonawanda railroads. In 1852 this company opened a direct road from Buffalo to Batavia, maintaining that part of the Attica and Buffalo line between Attica and Buffalo as a branch. Though the Attica and Buffalo line was organized prior to 1836, its operations were postponed by the financial panic of that time. Auburn and Syracuse had been connected by rail since 1838, and Utica with Syracuse since 1839, while in August, 1841, a road was opened from Auburn to Rochester. These were the early-forged links in the great New York Central consolidation of 1853, and greatly facilitated passenger and freight transportation to and from the East.

The Niagara Bridge and Canandaigua railroad, originally the Canandaigua and Niagara Falls railroad, filed articles of incorporation March 1, 1851, was opened for traffic April 1, 1854, and leased to the New York Central Railroad Company September 1, 1858. The road has since been merged in the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad.

In 1852 the Buffalo and New York City Railroad Company<sup>1</sup> opened a line of road from Buffalo to Batavia, thence eastward to Avon, and thence southeastward to Corning. In a short time, however, the track between Batavia and Buffalo was taken up, while the line beyond Batavia became the property of the Erie Railroad Company.

In May, 1853, the various companies and roads between Buffalo and Albany were consolidated under the name of the New York Central Railroad. The importance of this road was still further increased in 1869 by the absorption of the Hudson River road.

<sup>1</sup>In 1857 the name was changed to Buffalo, New York and Erie. Its road was subsequently leased to the Erie Railroad Company.



An idea of the passenger transportation facilities of these days may be gleaned from a report of a convention of delegates representing all the railroad companies between the Hudson river and Buffalo, namely, the Attica and Buffalo, the Tonawanda, the Auburn and Rochester, the Auburn and Syracuse, the Syracuse and Utica, the Utica and Schenectady, the Mohawk and Hudson, and the Troy and Schenectady railroads, held at the American hotel in Albany, January 31, 1843. On this occasion resolutions as follows were adopted:

Resolved, That it is expedient to run two daily lines between Buffalo and the Hudson river, connecting with the morning and night boats out of Albany and Troy, and that each line be run in 25 hours, including stops, and that the same be apportioned as follows:

Buffalo to Rochester, 6 hours; Rochester to Auburn, 6 hours; Auburn to Syracuse, 2 hours; Syracuse to Utica, 4 hours; Utica to Albany and Troy, 7 hours—25 hours.

\* \* \*

Resolved, That during the winter months the train shall leave Buffalo at 7 in the morning, reach and remain over night at Syracuse; and leave Albany at 9 o'clock in the morning, and stay over night at Auburn, so that a passenger may make the passage between Albany and Buffalo in two days.

In 1845 the Rev. A. C. Paine, M. D., gathered together fifteen adherents of the Methodist faith in the town of Pembroke, at Corfu, and organized the "First Methodist Protestant church of Pembroke." After worshipping in various places for eight years, the society, in 1853, erected a brick house of worship at a cost of three thousand dollars. The society had a prosperous career.

Three churches were founded in Genesee county in 1849. The First Christian church of Pembroke, located at North Pembroke, was organized June 30 of that year, with fifteen members, by the Rev. Joseph Weeks. A year later they built an edifice, which was enlarged and remodeled in 1888.

April 8, 1849, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic church of Batavia<sup>1</sup> began its existence as an independent church and parish, under the pastoral charge of the Rev. Father Edward Dillon, who was appointed to the charge by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Timon. The first services were held in the historic brick school house on the corner of Main and Eagle streets. The present edifice, located on the corner of East Main and Summit streets, which cost forty-five thousand dollars, was not erected until 1864.

It was through the efforts of Father Dillon of Batavia that St. Peter's

<sup>1</sup> See History of the Village of Batavia.

Roman Catholic church of Le Roy was organized, in 1849, a short time after his appointment to the newly organized parish in Batavia. Within a few weeks after coming to Batavia Father Dillon visited Le Roy and said mass in the famous old Round House, on the site of the present Universalist church. Monthly services were held thereafter for some time, and during July Bishop Timon made his first visit to the congregation. In September following Father Dillon purchased a lot on Pleasant street and erected thereon a frame church, in which the first mass was celebrated on Christmas night following. From October, 1850, to October, 1852, various pastors conducted services. On the latter date the Rev. Francis O'Farrell assumed charge, remaining four years. In the meantime he also served the churches at Batavia and Attica. Father Brown and Father McGlew succeeded him in turn. Owing to the growth in the membership of the church he bought a lot on Myrtle street. The Rev. Thomas Cunningham, who came in 1860, bought eight acres of land on Exchange street, laid out St. Francis's cemetery, increased the church accommodations and established a fund for a new church. A parish was organized in December, 1868, and the Rev. Daniel De Lacy Moore became the first resident priest. He purchased a lot on Lake street and made plans for a new church. Under his ministrations the work of construction was begun. But he died in January, 1871, and the Rev. L. Vanderpool, the present pastor, who had assumed charge in December, 1870, completed the task. The church was dedicated in December, 1873, by Bishop Ryan of Buffalo. A parochial school house was opened September 2, 1889.

The Presbyterian church of Pembroke and Batavia was organized December 24, 1854, through the offices of the Rev. William Lusk of Batavia. The original members numbered twenty-two, and the Rev. Daniel C. Houghton was the first pastor. The first church edifice, built in 1855, a frame building, cost five thousand dollars.

St. Michael's Episcopal church of Oakfield dates from 1858. It has had an unusually interesting career. In 1856 the Rev. G. V. C. Eastman became head master of Cary Collegiate Seminary. Finding in town several people who had been attached to the Church of England, he began to hold services in the chapel of the seminary. The movement soon acquired sufficient strength to warrant the organization of a parish. The records show that June 14, 1858, a meeting was held for that purpose. The Rev. Mr. Eastman presided; two wardens, A. C. Dodge, Cyrus Pond, and eight vestrymen were elected. In 1861 the