

The line to Salamanca was completed and opened for traffic May 16, 1878. When originally commenced the intention was to build to the bituminous coal fields of Western Pennsylvania. The city of Rochester put \$600,000, and the towns along the line \$500,000, into the enterprise. In 1879 the Vanderbilts acquired the control of the road, intending to make it a connecting link between the old Atlantic and Great Western Railroad (now Chicago and Erie Railroad) and the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad. The authorities of the city of Rochester concluding that the Vanderbilts were responsible for the company, and that the original intention of building to the coal fields had been abandoned, brought action against the company and the Vanderbilts for upwards of one million dollars, and at the same time the contractor commenced legal proceedings for a large amount. These actions were tried and dismissed by the court.

Finding that it was impossible to obtain an undisputed title to the property without long and tedious litigation, the Vanderbilts abandoned the road, and default being made on the bonds, a foreclosure was commenced, and Mr. Sylvanus J. Macy appointed receiver February 23, 1880. In January, 1881, the property was sold under foreclosure proceedings, and reorganized as the Rochester and Pittsburgh Railroad Company.

With this change disappeared all connection of local men with the road. In 1884 the road again passed into the hands of a receiver by reason of a default on its second mortgage bonds. Sale under foreclosure proceedings took place in October, 1885, when the property was purchased by Adrian Iselin of New York, and associates, and reorganized under the name of the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh Railway Company, its present title. The road now operates four hundred and eighty-nine miles of track.

Practically the entire business portion of the village of Bergen was destroyed by fire on the night of Sunday, February 29, 1880. The buildings burned comprised thirty-one business houses, seven residences and five barns. The principal sufferers and the amount of the loss on the part of each was as follows:

S. K. Green, dry goods and groceries, \$18,000; Samuel C. Tulley, hardware, \$17,000; George H. Church, hardware, \$6,000; Mrs. Harford, Brennan hotel building, \$4,000; John Walker, dwelling house, barn and two tenement houses, \$6,000; H. S. Andrews, grocery, \$1,400; L. A. Pratt, store, \$1,000; H. A. King, grain warehouse, \$5,000; Harvey

Mullen, boot and shoe store, \$1,500; Southworth & Tone, grain warehouse and barn, \$10,000; V. C. Calkins, drug store, \$3,000; William P. Munger, King warehouse, \$2,650; F. M. Merrill, printing office, \$4,000; G. F. Buell, grocer, \$2,000; E. E. Spencer, grocer, \$1,800; A. T. Southworth, house and barn, \$2,800; Miss Chalker, millinery, block and stock, \$1,000; Morey and Son, empty block, \$2,300; S. Carpenter & Son, clothing store and Fisher drug store building, \$6,800; Parish block, \$1,000; A. S. Fisher, drug store, \$4,500; Mrs. B. M. Hall, dwelling and contents, \$2,000; Morton Bros., clothiers, \$2,500.

Soon after the fire Benedict Harford erected a hotel on the site of the Brennan hotel, now known as the Harford house. The new hotel was at first conducted by Patrick Brennan, then by John Brennan, then Mr. Eckler, and finally by Benedict Harford, who has been proprietor since 1885. The Walker house on the opposite corner was also erected in 1880 by William C. Walker, who has been its proprietor since that year.

The New York, West Shore and Buffalo Railroad was opened through for traffic in January, 1884. Its line passes through the northern tier of towns in Genesee county. December 5, 1885, the property was transferred to the newly organized West Shore Railroad Company, and on the same date the line was leased to the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company for four hundred and seventy-five years.

The village of Bergen having been a great sufferer by fire in preceding years, the agitation in favor of adopting a system affording better protection against the ravages of the destructive element resulted in the organization of the Bergen Fire Department on November 17, 1886. The first officers elected were: George O. Emerson, president; Michael F. Bergin, vice-president; Daniel S. Thompson, secretary; Homer L. Gage, treasurer; William A. Bowen, chief engineer. Fifty one original members signed the department roll. Of these, Charles T. Goodwin, W. T. Bergin, S. J. Getman, Richard Haley, Eugene Snyder, Grant W. Buell, Harvey Boyce and E. L. Fisher were selected as members of the hose company. The remaining sixty-three members of the department were assigned to the engine company. Grant W. Buell was chosen foreman and Charles T. Goodwin assistant foreman of the hose company, and N. A. Eckler was chosen foreman and Myron H. Parmelee assistant foreman of the engine company. The apparatus of the department has always consisted of a hand engine and a hose cart.

Three reservoirs, located at convenient points throughout the village, furnish the supply of water for use at fires.

The chief engineers of the department have been as follows: William A. Bowen, elected in December, 1886, died in office April 17, 1888; James R. McKenzie, elected December, 1888; Myron H. Parmelee, 1889; John W. Day, 1893; John S. Gleason, 1894; George M. Gillette, 1898. The first secretary, D. S. Thompson, was succeeded by Mr. Emerson, who in turn was succeeded in 1895 by Daniel J. McPherson, the present secretary.

A terrific thunderstorm occurred in Genesee county on the afternoon of Tuesday, July 2, 1889. In Batavia it is recorded as having been the worst in the history of the county seat. Streets were flooded, cellars were filled with water, and the sewers, inadequate to the extraordinary demands made upon them, overflowed. In several business places in town stock in cellars was ruined or badly damaged by the flood, and considerable damage was done by lightning. The electric fluid also shocked many individuals, but none was injured seriously. The year 1889 was also marked by the incorporation of the Buffalo and Geneva Railroad.

A catastrophe accompanied by the loss of three lives occurred December 31, 1890. Workmen were employed on the Lehigh Valley Railroad extension on the farm of John Simmonds near Morganville, in the town of Stafford. During the discharge of a heavy blast large quantities of earth and stone were thrown among the body of laborers, three of whom—Andrew Hunt, John Nosky and Andrew Hoodock—were either instantly killed or died soon after the occurrence, by reason of the injuries received. The Buffalo extension of this road was completed the following year and opened for traffic September 1, 1892.

The Le Roy Business Men's Association was formed August 22, 1890. The first officers, chosen on that date, were as follows: President, Edward Rogerson; vice-presidents, Thomas B. Tuttle, Charles F. Prentice, J. B. Gillett; secretary, William E. Humelbaugh; treasurer, George H. Wells; directors, C. N. Keeney, Dennis Scanlon, John Wiss, D. Jackson Bissell, S. Loucks.

The Lehigh Valley Railway Company was organized June 23, 1890. This road was formed by the consolidation of sundry roads outside of Genesee county, and of the Buffalo and Geneva Railroad, projected to run from Buffalo to Geneva, N. Y., and to traverse the county, and or-

ganized about May 1, 1889. The Lehigh Valley Railway was completed and opened for business about September 1, 1892. The road runs from the Pennsylvania State line north of Sayre, Pa., to Buffalo, N. Y., and through the towns of Le Roy, Stafford, Batavia, Pembroke and Darien. The Lehigh Valley Railway was leased to the Lehigh Valley Railroad Co.—a Pennsylvania corporation—January 1, 1891, and has since been operated by the latter company.

July 26, 1891, a disastrous fire occurred in the village of Oakfield, causing a loss of about seventeen thousand dollars. The flames originated in the basement of J. C. Doolittle & Co.'s bakery in the north end of Seymour Reed's brick block. The other business places burned were C. H. Griffin's store, in the Reed block; J. C. Black & Co.'s meat market, A. C. Dodge's harness store, and Warner H. Smith's blacksmith shop, in the building owned by Charles H. Chamberlain. August 31 of the same year the plant of the Le Roy Salt Company at Le Roy was damaged by fire to the extent of thirty thousand dollars, but the establishment was soon rebuilt. In the following October the East Elba M. E. church, a structure which had been built sixty-one years before, was destroyed by fire. It was at once rebuilt, the dedication taking place May 5, 1892. January 19, 1894, the plant of the Matthews Malting Company at Le Roy was damaged by fire to the extent of thirty thousand dollars.

An accident attended by the loss of the lives of five persons, which occurred near the village of Le Roy on Sunday, August 20, 1893, brought sorrow to the hearts of the inhabitants of Genesee county. Lorenzo J. Bovee of Le Roy, accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Adelia Bovee; his daughter, Miss Ola Bovee; and Miss Emma Bowden of New York and Miss Lena Wicks of Le Roy, was driving from his home near the village to services in the Le Roy Presbyterian church. On the Lake road crossing of the Lehigh Valley Railroad the vehicle was struck by an express train and all five persons were instantly killed. Mr. Bovee was fifty-eight years of age and one of the best known residents of eastern Genesee county. He had for several years carried on an extensive lumber business at Tonawanda, and was the owner of large tracts of timber land in Michigan.

The village of Oakfield, was again visited by a most disastrous fire on May 11, 1895. The flames originated in the rear of Harris & Chapin's hardware store in the Chamberlin block, owned by Charles H. Chamberlain. In this block were located, beside Harris & Chapin's

store, Dr. Pugsley's drug store, Eugene T. Chamberlin's dry goods store, and the offices of Dr. A. G. Zurhorst and B. F. Hawes, justice of the peace, all of which were destroyed. Beside these the following were burned: L. A. Weaver's furniture store, R. B. McVea's store, both located in a building owned by the former; H. C. Martin & Son's store, with the office of I. J. Stedman, justice of the peace, located in the same building; Callan & Gilmore's meat market, John B. Arnold's hotel and barns, and two private dwelling houses. August 28 of this year the Le Roy Power and Milling Company of Le Roy was incorporated with a capital stock of sixty-five thousand dollars, and these directors: Charles F. Prentice, Dr. C. H. Prentice, Calvin E. Keeney, John P. Sampson, William F. Huyck. The Le Roy Hydraulic Electric Company was incorporated on the same day.

May 15, 1896, a number of the leading business men of Bergen organized the Bergen Board of Trade, having these officers: President, D. J. McPherson; vice-president, C. N. Carpenter; secretary, A. A. Roberts; treasurer, J. S. Gleason.

In 1897 an event of considerable note occurred in Le Roy in the death of William Lampson, the wealthiest resident of that town and for many years the president of the Bank of Le Roy, on February 14. When his will was opened it was found that the bulk of his estate, valued at about six hundred and fifty thousand dollars, was bequeathed to Yale University, of which he was a graduate. Mr. Lampson was a son of Miles P. Lampson, founder of the Bank of Le Roy, and for many years was one of the most prominent men in Genesee county.

In November, 1896, a number of the fruit growers of Genesee county met at Batavia and organized the Genesee County Fruit Growers' Union, with these officers: President, Nelson Bogue; vice-president, J. G. Fargo; secretary and treasurer, D. L. Dodgson; executive committee, N. H. Green, George Douglass, W. H. Chaddock.

The Citizens' Bank of Le Roy was incorporated as a State institution in November, 1896, and was opened for the transaction of business January 1, 1897. The charter directors were Wilbur F. Smallwood, Frederick R. Green, Thomas B. Tuttle, Mathias Muller, William F. Huyck, John P. Sampson and Edward H. Butler, and the capital stock is fifty thousand dollars. The present officers of the bank have held office since its organization. They are: President, Wilbur F. Smallwood; vice-president, Thomas B. Tuttle; cashier, Frank E. Chaddock.

Two events of importance to the village of Le Roy occurred in 1897.

March 30 the taxpayers of the corporation of Le Roy voted in favor of corporation ownership of the electric light plant in that village. The village therefore purchased for \$27,750, of General C. Fitch Bissell, owner of the gas and electric light plants of Le Roy, that industry. The Supreme Court subsequently decided that the action of the taxpayers of the village was illegal and ordered the corporation to turn the property over to the original owner. General Bissell refused to accept the title to the concern, and the case was carried to the Court of Appeals, where it now lies. The charter of the village of Le Roy was amended by the Legislature in 1897, one of the principal features of the act being a provision for the election of the village president directly by the people. Prior to that time the presiding officer had been chosen by the trustees from among their number. The first person to serve as village president under the amended charter was L. T. Williams, who was chosen at the corporation election in 1897.

September 8, 1897, while workmen were making excavations in a swamp on the farm of General C. Fitch Bissell of Le Roy, located on the Alexander road a short distance south of the village of Batavia, portions of the remains of a prehistoric animal, probably a mastodon, were unearthed. The day following additional relics were found. These included large tusks of ivory, portions of ribs, a jaw bone holding two enormous teeth, vertebrae, etc. Prof. H. L. Ward of Rochester, a naturalist, expressed the opinion, after investigating the remarkable discovery, that the bones had been under the earth from three to six thousand years, and that the weight of the animal, when alive exceeded five tons. Twelve or fifteen years before this discovery, the antlers of a prehistoric animal were unearthed on Dr. Horn's farm on the State road. The remains of the mastodon found in 1897 are now on exhibition in the Holland Land Office in Batavia.

A new era in the agricultural development of Genesee county began in 1897, when about one hundred and fifty of the farmers of the county began the culture of sugar beets. Expert authorities expressed the belief that the soil of this county is unusually adapted to the culture of this product. Though the industry is still in its infancy, the outlook is that the culture of sugar beets eventually will become a most important factor in the agricultural interests of the county.

The Genesee County Volunteer Firemen's Association was organized in Batavia January 12, 1898, at which time these officers were chosen: President, Stanley M. Smith of Le Roy; first vice-president, James A.

Le Seur of Batavia; second vice-president, D. J. McPherson of Bergen; secretary, Edward A. Short of Batavia; treasurer, L. W. Stuber of Le Roy; executive committee, Anthony Harsch of Batavia, J. S. Gleason of Bergen, Wilder E. Sumner of Corfu, John S. Brown of Le Roy, Warner Smith of Oakfield, and Dr. W. O. Burbank of Pavilion.

When President McKinley issued his first call for volunteers to serve in the war with Spain in the summer of 1898, Genesee county responded promptly to the summons. Patriotism was instantly apparent on all sides, but unfortunately the volunteers from this county were destined to get no nearer the scene of conflict than Virginia or Tennessee before the peace protocol was signed and the order for the return home of most of the troops was issued.

The total number of residents of Genesee county who were connected with the armed forces of the nation during this brief war was thirty-nine. Of these thirty-six served in the army and three in the navy. The largest delegation went with the Two Hundred and Second Regiment, N. Y. Volunteer Infantry, which eventually was in service in Cuba. In the Two Hundred and Second Regiment were the following from Genesee county:

Batavia.—William Cope, Burnett F. Crowell, Frederick W. Griffis, Joseph A. Michaels and Mortimer E. Stringham of Company K; David L. Parsons, Otto Ackerman and Peter Crowley of Company H; Harry W. Dodge and Willis J. Rumsey of Company I.

Alexander.—Corporal Lucien B. Greene, George Harrison and Charles C. Baldwin of Company L; Howard Carroll of Company H.

Elba.—William H. Baube and Harvey Merrills of Company F; John F. Duggan of Company K.

Oakfield.—Charles L. Pinder, Zonoah Reed and Alfred Watts of Company I.

Pembroke.—Robert D. Owen, F. A. Redman and Peter Wolf of Company I.

Alabama.—Stanton E. Barrett of Company K.

Le Roy.—Charles H. Valentine of Company K.

Residents of Batavia who entered the Sixty-fifth Regiment, N. Y. Volunteers were: Frank S. Holden, quartermaster's clerk; Robert D. Wallace, John B. Roy, James A. Boyd, J. F. Haller, George W. Fotch, privates, Company D; Roger Donoghue, cook, Company K; William H. Coon, flute player, regimental band. Elba was represented by George Swartz, company clerk, and Frank Eckert, private. Albert

Murray Steel of Batavia was a corporal in Company H of the Third New York. Arthur Beals of Alabama and Morton S. Rundel of Oakfield were also members of the Third Regiment. Stephen Moll of Batavia, John D. Toll of Bethany and Richmond L. Rathbone of Oakfield served in the navy, the latter as an assistant engineer, with the rank of ensign. Miss Minnie E. Bates of Batavia went out as nurse, and for some time was located at Fort McPherson, Ga.

Former Genesee county men who served in the Sixty-fifth Regiment were: J. Wesley Jewell, William Bentley, Harry W. Diepold, William A. Town, formerly of Batavia; Captain George H. Norton, formerly of Pembroke; James McPartlin, formerly of Bergen; Lieutenant Nelson T. Barrett, formerly of Alabama. Other former Genesee county men who served in the army were: Roscoe D. Ives, formerly of Batavia, Seventy-first Regiment N. Y. Vols.; Peter Reagan, formerly of Batavia, First Battalion of Engineers, Cleveland, O., Grays; Charles L. Brockway, formerly of South Byron, captain of Company F., First Regiment, South Dakota Vols.; Frank N. Robinson, formerly of Batavia, second lieutenant, First Separate Battalion, District of Columbia Vols.; Charles Anthony, formerly of North Oakfield, Thirteenth N. Y. Vol. Infantry. Arthur Carlisle of Le Roy accompanied one of the expeditions to the Philippine Islands as a soldier in the infantry. Joseph F. Hall of Batavia accompanied the Sixty-fifth Regiment as a newspaper correspondent. Color Sergeant Richard Silvey of the Marine Corps, who had the distinction of being the first to plant the American flag on Cuban soil at Guantanamo bay, was born in Oakfield.

There was great disappointment over the sudden termination of the war on the part of many of the zealous patriots who evinced such anxiety to see actual service. Not only was the disappointment experienced by those whose connection with the army has been noted, but also by hundreds of other inhabitants who stood ready to respond quickly to their country's call. April 7, 1898, Captain Lina Beecher of Batavia received instructions from the War Department to receive the names of men who desired to enlist in the Volunteer Cavalry Regiment to be organized in Genesee, Orleans and Monroe counties. April 11 he opened a recruiting station at No. 3 Jackson street in Batavia. A few days later the counties of Niagara, Wyoming and Allegany were embraced in the order. So enthusiastic were the young men of Genesee over the project that by April 20 three hundred and seventy-five names had been enrolled. April 20 a second recruiting station was opened in

Pembroke by First Lieutenant George W. Thayer. The whole number enrolled exceeded two thousand, who were offered either as cavalry or infantry. As early as April 6 the services of this organization had been tendered the adjutant-general of New York State by letter. April 26 Senator Humphrey of Warsaw, Wyoming county, went to Albany to urge the adjutant-general to accept the services of the command, but as the supply of men greatly exceeded the demand, the tender could not be accepted. The field officers in command of the regiment at this time were: Colonel, Lina Beecher of Batavia; lieutenant-colonel, W. B. Tallman of Perry; majors, M. J. Woodworth of Warsaw, J. A. Smith of Attica; surgeon, Dr. H. A. Morse of Batavia; assistant surgeon, Dr. B. F. Showerman of Batavia.

An accident resulting in the loss of eight human lives occurred on the New York Central Railroad at Winspeare bridge, near Corfu, on the morning of Tuesday, December 13, 1898. A body of men shoveling snow from the tracks stepped from one track to avoid a freight train, and an east bound passenger train dashed among them, instantly killing eight men and injuring four others. Those killed were John Warner and Henry Gunnison of Buffalo, and six men supposed to be Poles. All resided in Buffalo.

Churches.—During the entire period of the Civil war but three religious societies were organized. These were an Evangelical church in Batavia, one of the same denomination in Pembroke, and an Advent church in Darien.

A society of the Evangelical Association was organized in the village of Batavia, by the Rev. M. Pfitzinger, February 20, 1862. The first church building was erected on the corner of Ellicott and South Liberty streets, and was dedicated March 15, 1863, under the pastorate of the Rev. J. Siegrist. In the year 1871 this edifice was sold and the present brick structure erected on the corner of Center and School streets and dedicated September 28, 1872, the Rev. Theodore Schneider having charge at the time. During the pastorate of the Rev. C. A. Wiessemann 1879-81, a parsonage was built on Center street next to the church. Both the church and parsonage have undergone extensive repairs. The following ministers have had charge of the church: M. Pfitzinger, F. Klein, Theodore Schneider, C. F. Boller, Philip Bahn, J. Siegrist, J. Greneback, Philip Miller, C. A. Wiessemann, G. Gelsner, L. Hermann, William Mentz, F. E. Her, G. F. Buesch, S. B. Kraft, H. A. Schneider.

The Advent Church of God was organized at North Darien, January

16, 1864, by Elder C. W. Low. The original membership was forty. The Rev. A. C. Newell served the congregation as its first pastor. In 1867 the society built its first house of worship, which has since served for the purposes for which it was intended.

A church of the Evangelical Association was established at Indian Falls, in the town of Pembroke, in 1865, chiefly through the efforts of the Rev. John Siegrist, a member of the association. It began with sixteen members, and at the end of its first year built a church edifice at an expense of \$1,100. The society has enjoyed a steady growth since its formation. The Church of the Disciples of Christ was organized at Richville, in Pembroke, in 1867, by J. C. Goodrich. It started with seventy-five members and the Rev. W. H. Rogers as the first pastor. A house of worship was erected in 1868.

St. Mary's Roman Catholic church at East Pembroke was organized in 1868. Its first house of worship was erected in 1890. The corner stone was laid September 28, 1890, by the Rev. Father Barrett.

The Free Baptist church at Indian Falls, Pembroke, was founded June 13, 1869, with nine members. W. B. Hopkins was elected the first deacon, and still serves in that office. The house of worship was completed and dedicated in 1878. Some of the records have been lost, but as nearly as can be learned these pastors have served the society: Revs. J. F. Smith, L. Johnson, M. H. Blackman, W. H. Peck, O. B. Buffum, D. M. L. Rollin, H. N. Plumb, G. Donnocker, F. O. Dickey, F. L. Foster, S. W. Schoonover, W. W. Holt, E. L. Graves, A. J. Osborn and E. Jones, the present pastor.

In 1870 the Presbyterians of Alabama organized a mission, under Asher Wright. They subsequently erected an edifice costing two thousand dollars. In the same town a mission of the M. E. church was organized in 1888 by the Rev. S. S. Ballou.

The Episcopal church in Bergen was organized as a mission in June, 1872, by the Rev. E. L. Wilson. In 1874 Mrs. Cynthia L. Richmond gave to the trustees of the parochial fund of the diocese a deed of a lot as a memorial to her late husband, Dean Richmond, upon which the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the new church was held June 6, 1874, Bishop Coxe presiding. The structure was dedicated January 6, 1875, and consecrated June 15, 1880. The church is known as St. John's.

A number of the German inhabitants of Batavia met and organized the society known as St. Paul's German United Evangelical church

April 20, 1873. The first pastor chosen to preside over the congregation was the Rev. George Field, and the first officers of the society were: President, John Friedly; treasurer, Martin Wolfley; secretary, Louis Uebele. In the following year a Methodist Episcopal church was erected by the society at Darien Centre.

In May, 1876, the first Episcopal services were held by the Rev. Jay Cooke at Corfu. The denomination continued to grow in that town, and June 14, 1880, the corner stone of a church costing three thousand dollars was laid. The society is the outgrowth of a mission started at Corfu by the members of St. James's Episcopal church of Batavia. All Souls' Union church at Corfu was organized in July, 1881, by the Rev. C. C. Richardson, with about twenty-five members. Mr. Richardson became the first pastor, and through his efforts a house of worship costing four thousand dollars was erected during the first year of the society's history.

In January, 1885, the First Freewill Baptist church of Batavia was organized. Four years later a church structure was built at a cost of about ten thousand dollars. The society had its inception in a meeting held in Odd Fellows' hall September 28, 1884, at which the Rev. J. H. Durkee presided.

November 1, 1886, the Rev. Carl Stocker, Lewis Shultz, Carl Bloom, John Harloff, Gottlieb Wayback and Fred Harloff organized the German M. E. church of Oakfield, which started with thirty members and the Rev. Carl Stocker as pastor. A frame house of worship was erected in 1886 at a cost of about two thousand dollars.

The Evangelical Lutheran Concordia Congregational church of Byron Centre was founded May 5, 1887, by Rev. Voegele of Le Roy, as the Evangelical Lutheran Trinitatis Congregation. August 25, 1889, the Rev. L. Gross became the first pastor. The church was incorporated under its present name October 24, 1889, and the house of worship was dedicated December 18 of the same year. The pastors have been: Rev. L. Gross, 1889-1891; P. F. Becker, 1892-1893; August Stein and ——— Euchler 1894; Otto Poesche, 1895; E. F. Holls, 1895-1898; August Klein, 1898.

The Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's church of East Oakfield was founded in 1891 by the Rev. G. Bartling of Medina, N. Y., and incorporated in the same year. November 22, 1891, the church was dedicated. The trustees at that time were C. Voss, C. Pasel and Fr. Beck. The Rev. G. Mühlhäuser of Roseville, Mich., the first pastor, was called

January 30, 1892. He was succeeded August 13, 1893, by the Rev. E. F. Hollis of Bayonne, N. Y. The present pastor, the Rev. A. B. Klein, succeeded Mr. Hollis in August, 1898. This society, and that at Byron Centre became connected with the Synod of Missouri in 1894.

The Roman Catholic church at South Byron was erected through the efforts of the Rev. Father Kean of Bergen, and dedicated July 26, 1892, by Bishop Ryan of Buffalo.

The German Evangelical Lutheran Salem church at Le Roy was founded March 23, 1895. The house of worship was consecrated July 21 of that year, the principal address on that occasion being delivered by the Rev. G. Helmkamp of Rochester. August Dringeman is president of the society, and the Rev. Karl Edward Wenzel is pastor.

The Catholic church at Corfu was built in 1898 through the efforts of the Rev. Father F. L. Burns of East Pembroke.

CHAPTER XV.

DEDICATION OF THE HOLLAND LAND COMPANY'S OFFICE AS A HISTORICAL MUSEUM.

An event which marked an epoch in the history of Genesee county occurred October 13, 1894, when the ancient office of the Holland Land Company, located on West Main street in the village of Batavia, was dedicated as a historical museum. The occurrence was a most noteworthy one, and called to the county seat many distinguished personages from all parts of the country.

The first sign of interest shown by the public in the project for the saving and restoration of the old building was a special meeting of Upton Post, G. A. R., held in Batavia on the evening of Friday, July 28, 1893, for the purpose of taking action toward this end. At this meeting the members of that body resolved that an attempt should be made to obtain possession of the structure and place it in possession of a historical society.

On the evening of Tuesday, August 1, 1893, a number of Batavia's representative citizens assembled at the rooms of the board of education to take further action in the matter. Daniel W. Tomlinson, president

of the Bank of Batavia, explained the object of the meeting and called for suggestions. After a general discussion of the matter, on motion of Dr. J. W. Le Seur a committee consisting of William C. Watson, Daniel W. Tomlinson, John H. Ward, Prof. John Kennedy and Carlos A. Hull was appointed to formulate a plan of action and devise means to secure the building. The matter drifted on for over a month, but on the afternoon of September 18 the committee decided to raise by popular subscription a sum sufficient to purchase the building—two thousand dollars—making the minimum subscriptions one dollar and the maximum ten dollars. Soon after an option was secured on the property for one thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars, the option to expire October 20, 1893. The plan of the citizens' committee was to raise eight hundred and fifty dollars, paying that amount in cash and giving a mortgage for the balance. The members having charge of the subscription papers pushed matters vigorously, but up to within a week before the expiration of the option but five hundred dollars had been secured. The balance, however, was soon pledged, and on the morning of November 13, 1893, a deed was filed in the county clerk's office conveying to Daniel W. Tomlinson the Land Office property, the consideration being one thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars. From that time subscriptions continued to pour in, each one making the donor a charter member of the Holland Purchase Historical Society.

A meeting was held on Friday, January 12, 1894, to discuss the details preparatory to drawing up articles of association, constitution and by-laws. February 6 incorporation papers were prepared to be sent to Albany. It was decided that the society should be known as the Holland Purchase Historical Society, and officers were elected as follows:

President, Mrs. Mary E. Richmond; vice president, William C. Watson; recording secretary, Herbert P. Woodward; corresponding secretary and librarian, Arthur E. Clark; treasurer, Levant C. McIntyre; managers, Gad B. Worthington, George Bowen, Frank B. Redfield, John Kennedy, Mrs. Adelaide R. Kenny, John H. Ward, Daniel W. Tomlinson, Julian J. Washburn and George D. Weaver.

July 17 Vice-President Watson named a general committee to prepare a programme for the dedication. This committee consisted of the following:

Dr. J. W. Le Seur, chairman; Hon. Safford E. North, Frank S. Wood, Daniel W. Tomlinson, Hinman Holden, Dr. H. J. Burkhardt, Louis B. Lane, J. J. Patterson, E. A.

Washburn, A. W. Caney, John H. Yates, John H. Ward, Frank B. Redfield, F. A. Lewis, John McKenzie, A. W. Skelley, Fredd H. Dunham, C. A. Snell, D. D. Lent, C. R. Winslow, A. E. Clark, R. S. Lewis, W. E. Webster, Dr. Ward B. Whitcomb, G. S. Griswold, J. A. Le Seur, John M. Hamilton, A. J. McWain, William C. Watson, J., H. Bradish, J. F. Hall, B. R. Wood, J. C. Barnes, Nelson Bogue, W. D. Sanford, H. T. Miller, C. W. Hough, D. Armstrong, Dr. C. L. Baker, F. E. Richardson, A. D. Scatcherd, M. H. Peck, jr., C. Pratt, E. A. Dodgson, Delos Dodgson, C. H. Dolbeer, Rev. J. H. Durkee, S. Masse, Rev. Thomas P. Brougham, Arthur Ferris, Rev. C. A. Johnson, Carlos A. Hull, John Dellinger, S. A. Sherwin, W. T. Eager, H. O. Bostwick, John Glade and J. W. Holmes.

Hon. Robert A. Maxwell of Batavia, then fourth assistant postmaster-general, from the outset had manifested great interest in the project. Soon after the organization of the historical society he began to interest his friends in President Cleveland's cabinet in the forthcoming dedication, with the idea of securing their attendance. Therefore, when Judge Safford E. North, representing the society, visited Washington on August 23, 1894, to see Secretary Carlisle, who had virtually promised to deliver the dedicatory address, and have a date fixed for the ceremony, he found the way made easy for him. Judge North, in company with Mr. Maxwell, visited other cabinet officers, several of whom promised to accompany Secretary Carlisle. Arrangements for the dedication were then perfected as speedily as possible.

Those who first proposed the preservation and enlisted in the movement resulting in the dedication had in mind an unostentatious transfer of the Land Office property to a society organized to hold and maintain it. The old structure was considered to have a historic value as the office where the sales of lands to the early settlers were consummated. It was the office whence deeds of the pioneers' lands were issued, and where the original purchasers from the Holland speculators paid their money for their possessions; and these facts attached to it an interest that seemed sufficient to warrant it being held in veneration. Prof. John Kennedy, superintendent of schools in Batavia, became engrossed in the subject, however, and in a number of admirably written articles, the first appearing in the News of July 20, 1893, connected Robert Morris of Revolutionary fame with the old office, through his sale to the Hollanders of the greater part of the territory west of the Genesee river. These articles attracted considerable attention, and when the Land Office finally was secured by the Historical society Prof. Kennedy's suggestion that it be dedicated to the memory of Robert Morris and made a National affair, by reason of its consecration to his memory, being a tribute to the first financial officer of the Federal Government, was in its main parts favorably acted upon.¹

On the day set for the dedication, thousands of visitors thronged the streets of Batavia. The parade held in the morning was the largest

¹ Batavia Daily News, October 13, 1894.

and most imposing ever seen in Genesee county. Practically all interests—industrial, religious, educational and civic—were represented. Upon passing the historical Land Office the column was reviewed by officers of the day and distinguished guests, including the orator of the day. Here the tablet erected to the memory of Robert Morris was unveiled by Hon. Walter Q. Gresham, secretary of state, and a dedicatory prayer delivered by the Rt. Rev. Stephen Vincent Ryan, bishop of the Catholic diocese of Buffalo. The order of the parade was as follows:

Advanced guard of mounted men under command of W. L. Colville; aids, George Douglass, L. A. Terry and M. S. Dunlap.

Marshal, James A. Le Seur; chief of staff, I. D. Southworth; adjutant, L. L. Crosby; orderlies, J. F. Read and Burt Williams; marshal's staff, C. S. Pugsley, A. D. Lawrence, Collis Samis, Asher Davis, Harry Ames, Frank Harris, William Torrance, Roy Barringer, George Parish, Frank Lusk and William Lusk.

First Division.

G. W. Stanley, assistant marshal; W. W. Plato, Dwight Dimock and Walter Chad-dock, aids.

Sixty-fifth Regiment Band and Drum Corps.

National Guard.

G. A. R. Posts.

Sons of Veterans.

Continental Drum Corps.

High School Cadets.

Clerks from Erie County Clerk's Office.

Indian Band.

Indians.

Second Division.

Captain Timothy Lynch, assistant marshal; James McMannis, John Leonard, William Burnes and P. Buckley, aids.

Select Knights' Band.

C. M. B. A.

C. B. L.

A. O. H.

Le Roy Total Abstinence Society.

St. Aloysius Society.

Third Division.

F. Lewis, assistant marshal; Ira Howe, William H. Walker and I. W. White, aids.

Citizens' Band.

Johnston Harvester Company.

Wiard Plow Works.

Ott & Fox.

Batavia Wheel Works.
 Wood Working Company.
 Cope Brothers.
 L. Uebele.

Fourth Division.

C. H. Reynolds, assistant marshal; Wolcott Van De Bogart, C. B. Avery, Edward Moulthrop, aids.

Le Roy Band.
 Le Roy Chemical Engine Company.
 Bergen Fire Department.
 I. O. O. F.
 A O. U. W.
 Turners.
 School Children.

Fifth Division.

G. A. Wheeler, assistant marshal, R. I. Page, Lewis Johnston, George Constable, aids.

Bergen Band.
 Pioneers in Carriages.
 Officers in Carriages.

The exercises at the State Institution for the Blind in the afternoon were impressive and interesting. The programme carried out was as follows:

Selections by the Sixty-fifth Regiment band; music, "To Thee, O Country," chorus; prayer, by Rt. Rev. Arthur Cleveland Coxe, bishop of Western New York; music, "Zion, Awake," chorus; dedication poem by John H. Yates, read by the author; music, "O Columbia, Columbia Beloved," from Lucretia Borgia, chorus; address, Hon. John G. Carlisle, secretary of the treasury; music, "America," chorus; closing prayer and benediction by Rev. Philos G. Cook, the oldest clergyman on the Holland Purchase.

Perhaps no better idea of the life and services of Robert Morris can be gained than from the address delivered by the Hon. John G. Carlisle. Such extracts of that memorable address as are deemed appropriate in in this connection follow:

Robert Morris, or, as he was sometimes called, Robert Morris, jr., was for many years one of the conspicuous figures in the galaxy of great men whose statesmanship and courage achieved the independence of the American colonies, and to him more than to any other man in a civil station, the people were indebted for the successful termination of the Revolutionary war. . . .

It is alike creditable to the patriotism and the liberality of the citizens of Western

New York that they have organized the first public association and inaugurated the first practical movement for the purpose of paying a long deferred tribute to the memory of a man who, notwithstanding all the malignant accusations made against him while in the public service, has left a record in which the critical researches of a hundred years have failed to discover a trace of dishonor, or any lack of unselfish devotion to the true interests of his countrymen. . . .

Robert Morris was born at Liverpool, England, on the 31st day of January, new style, and, according to a statement in his father's will, came to America in the year 1748. . . .

By a contract, or treaty, entered into at Hartford on the 16th day of December, 1786, between commissioners of the State of New York and the State of Massachusetts, the conflicting claims of the two States to certain territory west of a line drawn northwesterly from the eighty-second milestone on the boundary of Pennsylvania to Lake Ontario, except a strip one mile wide the length of the Niagara river on its east side, were adjusted, Massachusetts ceding to New York full sovereignty and jurisdiction over the land, and New York yielding to Massachusetts the pre-emption or proprietary right. The tract thus described was supposed to contain about six million acres. In 1788 the State of Massachusetts sold all the land to Phelps and Gorham, but they failed to pay the whole purchase money and in March, 1791, re-conveyed about 3,750,000 acres to the State. On the 12th of March, 1791, the State sold to Samuel Ogden, who was acting for Robert Morris, all the land, excepting one million acres, or thereabouts, which Phelps and Gorham had paid for and retained. This purchase embraced all Western New York west of a line which corresponds, substantially, with the Genesee river, or, in other words, nearly all that part of the State west of Rochester. In 1792 and 1793 Morris sold 3,400,000 acres of this land to the Holland Land Company, but the conveyances were at first made to other parties, probably on account of the alienage of the Hollanders. Afterwards, however, conveyances were made direct to the individuals composing the company, of which Wilhelm Willink, through whom one of the public loans in Holland had been negotiated while Morris was Superintendent of the Finances, appears to have been the president. After this purchase a colony of Germans, consisting of seventy families, was formed at Hamburg and sent over to settle on the land. They were furnished with tools and put to work to construct a road from Northumberland to Genesee, but, having come mainly from cities, they were unaccustomed to such labor and the settlement finally broke up in a riot. After this, an office was opened by the company and the land was sold and conveyed in parcels to suit purchasers until 1839, when its affairs were closed. In 1802 its office was removed to Batavia, and in 1804 the building which you are here to day to dedicate to the memory of Robert Morris, was erected, and for more than a third of a century the titles to the homes of the people who now inhabit the counties of Erie, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Niagara, except the Indian reservations, and nearly all the counties of Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming and Allegany were prepared and executed within its walls. Thus it is that nearly every home in the western part of the beautiful valley which suggested the Indian name of the river which flows through it, is connected with the name of Robert Morris, and, though all others may neglect his memory, and even forget the name of the great financier of the Revolution, his fame will live on in this historic region as long as the people love the land on which their children were born and in which their fathers sleep.

Morris's pecuniary affairs grew worse from day to day, and finally his creditors became so importunate that he was compelled to remain constantly in his home to avoid them. They watched his house, even at night, and lighted fires on his premises in order that he might be intercepted if he attempted to escape. One of them, a Frenchman, went so far as to threaten to shoot him if he made his appearance at the window. In January or February, 1798, he was committed to a debtor's prison, where he remained for more than three years and a half. It was his habit, while confined, to walk around the prison yard fifty times each day and drop a pebble at the completion of each circuit in order to keep the count. During the hardest of his misfortunes he never became despondent or uttered a complaint, except to express his profound regret that he was unable to discharge his honest obligations. He never referred to the great service he had rendered his country, or appealed to the sympathy or charity of the public, but silently submitted to unjust accusations, to prolonged imprisonment and to the indifference and ingratitude of his countrymen with the heroic fortitude of a great and noble mind.

No period of his long and honorable career better illustrates the stalwart and independent character of the man than those closing years of his life. He had stood on the very pinnacle of fame and listened to the enthusiastic plaudits of his emancipated countrymen and had received even the forced homage of their defeated antagonists. He had been the confidential adviser and trusted agent of the government, when a serious mistake would have been fatal to its existence, and had proved his statesmanship and patriotism by the wisdom of his counsels and the cheerful sacrifice of his personal interests. He had been the bosom friend of Washington and nearly all of the great Americans whose names have come down to us from the last half of the eighteenth century and had been the peer of the greatest among them. He had lived in luxury and had at his command all that wealth and political influence and official station could procure; but now he was broken in fortune, imprisoned for debt, denounced as a reckless speculator, separated from his old personal friends and ungenerously neglected by the government and the people he had served so long and so well. But he endured it all without a murmur, and after his release from prison went uncomplainingly to his dismantled home, and by the practice of close economy managed to live in a tolerably comfortable condition, for which he was mainly indebted to the Holland Land Company, which paid to Mrs. Morris as long as she lived an annuity of \$1,500.

Morris died on the 8th day of May, 1806, in the seventy-third year of his age, and was buried in a little churchyard on Second street in Philadelphia, where his remains now rest, with no monument over them except an ordinary stone slab. The great country which he helped to rescue from the domination of its oppressors has grown rich and powerful under the constitution he helped to frame; the three million people whose liberties he helped to establish, have multiplied until they largely outnumber the population of the mother land; the thirteen feeble States on the shores of the Atlantic, which he helped to unite under a compact of perpetual peace and mutual protection, have become the progenitors of a mighty sisterhood of prosperous commonwealths, whose confines are limited only by their western seas; and still, no obelisk rises to tell the story of his great services, his unselfish patriotism, his honorable life, and its melancholy close.

Following is the dedication poem written for the occasion by John H. Yates of Batavia and read by him:

When to the banks of Jordan's rolling tide
 The hosts of God from far off Egypt came—
 With cloudy pillar their long march to guide,
 Past Sinai's awful mount of smoke and flame,
 They found no passage the dark waters o'er,
 No way to cross the overflowing stream,
 And Israel's warriors stood upon the shore
 But could not reach the Canaan of their dream.

Then Joshua, their leader, strong and true,
 Lifted his voice and soul to God in prayer,
 While angel hands the billows backward threw,
 And made a passage for God's people there.

The ark of God moved on at his command,
 And forward moved the host o'er Jordan's bed;
 Their feet as dry as when, through burning sand,
 Their weary way the cloudy pillar led.

Then reared they high a monument of stone,
 To tell to generations yet unborn
 How he, the King of Kings, on throne of thrones,
 Held back the waters on that glorious morn.

In after years, when sunny youth inquired
 "What mean these stones?" the gray-haired fathers told
 The story that again their bosoms fired,
 The story of deliverances of old.

Before us stands this monument of ours,
 That hath these many years the storms withstood;
 Reared 'mid the perfumes of the forest flowers,
 In shadows cast by monarchs of the wood.

Reared on the banks of Ton-a-wan-da's stream,
 Which, fed by living springs and rippling rills,
 Winds down the vale as gentle as a dream,
 From the blue domes of the Wyoming hills.

Reared at the junction of two Indian trails,
 Where chieftains met to seal some white man's doom;
 Where war cries mingled with the night-wind's wails
 And council fires lit up the forest's gloom.

To-day, when sunny youth of us inquires
 "What mean these stones?" we stop with pride to tell
 Of wonders wrought by high Ambition's fires,
 And honest toil, o'er every hill and dell.

As sea shells sing forever of the sea,
Though borne inland a thousand miles away,
So do these walls give forth to you and me
The sounds and songs of our forefathers' day.

I hear the echo of the woodman's stroke
Resounding through the aisles of forest gray;
The crash of giant elm and sturdy oak,
As they for towns and fertile fields make way.

I hear the stage horn's blast at close of day,
The wheels that rumble o'er the rugged road,
While feeding deer affrighted speed away,
To tangled thickets of their wild abode.

I hear the postman as he hastens here
From forest op'nings, where the blue smoke curled,
O'er winding pathways, desolate and drear,
Where now are beaten highways of the world.

The breaking twigs in thicket dense I hear,
Where stealthy panther creeps upon his prey;
The victim's struggle and his cries of fear,
Which fainter grow, and die, at last, away.

I hear the whirring of the spinning wheel,
The crackling of the logs on fireplace bright,
The scythe stone grinding on the blade of steel,
The owl complaining through the lonely night.

I hear the merriments of olden times,
The apple-parings and the husking bees;
The laughter ringing out like merry chimes
From rustic haunts beneath the forest trees.

"What mean these stones?" They tell of honest men,
Who lived in years now flown away,
Who toiled for us with hammer, plow and pen,
From rosy morn until the evening gray.

Their grandest castles, builded in the air,
When they at noon sought rest in shady dell,
Were not, though fancy painted, half so fair
As these in which their children's children dwell.

We now enjoy the fruitage of their toil,
From where the Genesee's bright waters flow,
To where Niag'ra's billows in turmoil
Plunge o'er the precipice to depths below.

All honor to those noble men who laid
The firm foundation of our wealth and pride!
They rest to-day beneath the maple's shade,
All undisturbed by traffic's surging tide.

OUR COUNTY AND ITS PEOPLE.

O, could they wake from slumber of the tomb,
 What changes would they note beneath these skies
 A wilderness transformed to Eden bloom,
 With wonders everywhere to greet their eyes.

What though their forms have crumbled into dust,
 Their deeds shall shine resplendent as the sun ;
 What though their plowshares are consumed by rust,
 The work they wrought will never be undone.

All honor to that man who forward came
 In "times that tried men's souls," long years ago,
 And gave his wealth and pledged his spotless name,
 To drive forever from our shores the foe.

The memory of Morris long shall stand,
 With honor crowned beneath these sunny skies ;
 The sons and daughters of our favored land
 Will not forget his love and sacrifice.

'Twas he who wakened from their wild repose
 These hills and valleys, stretching far away,
 That now unfold their beauty like the rose
 That gives its dew drops to the kiss of Day.

When armies faltered for the lack of bread,
 When bugles ceased to call and drums to beat,
 He came with patriot heart and hasty tread,
 And laid his millions at his country's feet.

Freedom's immortal Declaration bears
 The name of Morris on its sacred page ;
 With changing years his record brighter wears,
 While granite crumbles at the touch of Age.

Then dedicate this structure to his name,
 While music sweet floats out upon the air.
 The walls shall to the earth speak forth his fame,
 And this fair valley shall be still more fair.

As sea shells sing forever of the sea,
 Bear them away from ocean where thou wilt,
 So shall ye sing, O walls, through years to be,
 Of great success on firm foundation built.

The storms and tempests of the rolling years
 Have beat thy granite walls by night and day,
 Yet thou hast stood, amid man's hopes and fears,
 To see the hands that made thee mould away.

Thou shalt remain to bid this land rejoice,
 Till these fair youths who gaze upon thee now

Shall speak thy praises with a trembling voice,
 When hoary hairs adorn each wrinkled brow.
 The waves of progress which have swept away
 Thy brother landmarks, built of wood or stone,
 Broke at thy feet and vanished into spray,
 And left thee, gray old monarch, here—alone.
 "A thing of beauty" thou hast always stood,
 "A thing of beauty" thou shalt ever stand,
 At first the glory of the lonely wood,
 But now the glory of the teeming land.
 Sing on, O walls, though years their changes bring,
 Sing on while all the bells of progress chime,
 Sing of the past, of future glory sing,
 While thy quaint form defies the march of time!

The chorus which participated in the exercises of the day consisted of about a hundred voices under the direction of Prof. E. F. Crane, as follows:

Sopranos—Mrs. E. Kirby Calkins, Mrs. I. E. Mecorney, Mrs. W. R. Durfee, Mrs. Frederick H. Fargo, Mrs. P. Welch, Mrs. Charles Scott, Mrs. Sarah Peck, Mrs. C. B. Peck, Mrs. Bessie Carpenter, Mrs. Kate Crosby, Mrs. Lounsbury, Mrs. B. H. Bean, Mrs. Preston Case, Mrs. George Crofoot, Mrs. Lord, and Misses Ella Hirsch, Ida Kellar, Miriam Kellar, Emily Carr, Mary A. Lewis, E. Alice Smith, Edna King, Bessie Kellar, Emily Hartshorn, Gracia Morse, Minnie Ingersol, Frankie Ingersol, Cornelia Brownell, Rachael McNab, Mertie McNab, Lizzie Shepard, Ada Mockford, E. Maud Baker, Edith M. Knapp, Mertie Knapp, Grace Perkins, Lillian Hatch, Jessie Wallace, Cora J. Gardner, Alice Parmelee, Ora Rapp, Mary Poultridg, Mary Maltby, Ruth Benjamin, H. A. Langdon, Adelle Clark, Eva Milward, E. F. Wood, Nellie Day.

Contraltos—Mrs. W. C. Gardiner, Mrs. E. E. Leavenworth, Mrs. F. A. Lewis, Mrs. Clara Mills, and Misses Lottie Rogers, Mary Milward, Helen M. Iveson, Cora W. Palmer, Gertrude Cardus, Bertha L. Johnson, Agnes C. Rimmer, Hattie Hartshorn, Jean Brownell, Louise H. Morse, Nellie McNair, Blanche Lewis, Fannie Stanley.

Tenors—J. T. Whitcomb, Frank E. Howe, Clarence Meserve, George Mower, A. H. Plock, S. P. Stephens, E. I. Nott, Edward Gamble, Charles B. Peck, F. C. Chadwick, F. A. Lewis.

Bassos—Henry Chiswell, Matthew Robinson, William Mills, E. H. Perry, William C. Gardiner, C. A. Snell, Rev. Thomas Cardus, Lucius

A. Parmelee, John C. Squires, Frederick H. Fargo, E. E. Leavenworth, George W. Pratt, Myron A. Pratt, Myron A. Williams, W. H. Kearns, John Skehan, Harry C. Norton, Thomas Trick, Wilbur Trick.

Lunch was served in the corridors of Hotel Richmond at one o'clock P. M. Among the guests who sat at the table were Robert Morris of Johnsonburg, Pa., a great-grandson of Robert Morris; S. Fisher Morris of Eckman, W. Va., also a great-grandson of the distinguished patriot; Mrs. Morris, a descendant of the family of George Washington; Mr. and Mrs. John B. Church of Geneva, the latter being a descendant of Robert Morris; Hon. Walter Q. Gresham, secretary of State; Hon. John G. Carlisle, secretary of the treasury; Hon. Daniel S. Lamont, secretary of war; Hon. Wilson S. Bissell, postmaster-general; Hon. Hilary A. Herbert, secretary of the navy; Hon. Hoke Smith, secretary of the interior; Hon. Frank Jones, first assistant postmaster-general; Hon. Thomas E. Benedict, public printer; and a number of other invited guests.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE VILLAGE OF BATAVIA.

Hon Joseph Ellicott was the founder of Batavia. Late in the summer of 1797 he came from Philadelphia to Genesee to attend a convention for the purpose of entering upon a treaty with the Indians at that place, when the lands west of the Genesee river were purchased from them by Robert Morris. In September of that year the treaty was concluded, and after having made arrangements for the survey of the Holland Company's lands, Mr. Morris returned to Philadelphia in the following February. In May, 1798, he again started for the Genesee country, accompanied by his brother, Benjamin Ellicott, and Ebenezer Cary. He arrived at Buffalo in June.

April 18, 1798, James Brisbane and John Thompson left Philadelphia with a supply of stores for Mr. Ellicott and the men who were to survey the Morris Purchase. May 15 they arrived at the mouth of the Genesee river, having traveled from Oswego in batteaux, via Lake Ontario. At this point Mr. Brisbane proceeded up the Genesee river



JOSEPH ELLICOTT.

to Williamsburgh, taking with him one batteau loaded with stores. Mr. Thompson proceeded westward on the lake until he reached the mouth of the Niagara river, whence he proceeded to Buffalo with the remainder of the stores. Mr. Brisbane remained at Williamsburgh, located between Mount Morris and Geneseo, until October, 1798, when he removed with the stores in his charge to what is now the village of Stafford. Headquarters were maintained here until January 2, 1800, when the entire party—consisting of Joseph and Benjamin Ellicott, Mr. Cary, Mr. Brisbane and James W. Stevens, started to return to Philadelphia. November 1 of that year Joseph Ellicott received the appointment of general agent for the great Holland Land Company. A few days afterward he returned to Buffalo, arriving there early in January, 1801. Late in that winter he removed to Ransom's Tavern, in what is now the town of Clarence, Erie county, where he opened an office for the disposal of the lands of the Holland Company.

At a very early date, probably before March, 1801, Mr. Ellicott determined to make the present site of Batavia the location for the land office of the company he represented, deeming it a fine location for the village he hoped to found.¹ As the fact became known, a number of persons visited the spot with a view to making it a place of residence. Among them was Abel Rowe, who arrived in March, 1801, and erected the first building in the village, on the lot directly opposite that selected for the site of the land office. The building, which was made of logs, was used for a tavern, and for some time was widely known as "Rowe's hotel." Soon afterward Stephen Russell erected a log house on the land subsequently occupied by the Genesee house.

It was the original intention of Mr. Ellicott to name the place Bustiville or Bustia, in honor of Paul Busti, general agent of the Holland Land Company. He communicated the fact to Mr. Busti, but the latter entreated him to use another name, suggesting Ellicottstown; but Mr. Ellicott refused to honor himself in this manner, and announced that the place should be known as Tonnewanta. But this name evidently did not satisfy the founder of this village, for a few months later

¹ February 17, 1801, writing from Ransomville to Richard M. Stoddard at Canandaigua, Mr. Ellicott said: "I expect to make my establishment at or near the Bend of Tonnewanta, and there let the Genesee Road fork, one to be directed to Buffalo and the other to Queenston, and place my office in the fork looking Eastward." The "fork" subsequently became the site for the arsenal. In a letter to Stephen Russell at Bloomfield, written in May, 1801, he says: "I expect, shortly, to have all the Lots laid out at the Bend. Since I saw you I conceived it best to postpone them for the present, in order to attend to laying out a piece of Road before the leaves became so thick as to prevent us from seeing the country."

he began referring to it as Batavia, in accordance with a suggestion made by Mr. Busti. November 7, 1801, Mr. Ellicott wrote to Mr. Busti, dating the letter "Batavia."¹

One of the first steps taken by Mr. Ellicott after deciding to make "the Bend" his headquarters was the erection of a dam in the creek and a saw mill. The latter was completed about the middle of December, 1801, and kept in constant operation manufacturing planking and boards for the houses which were planned by the pioneers of Batavia.²

As there was no pine timber nearer the mill than at a point six miles distant, in the present town of Elba, Mr. Ellicott engaged Isaac Sutherland to cut a road to the Pinery (Pine Hill), and the work was begun January 18, 1802.

The first land office building was completed in December, 1801. It was a two-story log structure and was situated on the north side of West Main street, nearly opposite the site of the old land office now standing. Immediately after its completion this building was occupied by John Thompson and others in the employ of the company as a boarding place; but Mr. Ellicott did not remove his office from Ransom's until the spring of 1802.

February 20, 1802, John Lamberton was engaged by Mr. Ellicott to cut a public road through the village of Batavia. Lamberton, assisted by a man named Mayo, began the work the day following, cutting a road one hundred feet wide and two miles long, its western terminus being in front of the arsenal. This roadway, the clearing of which cost twelve dollars per acre, or about two hundred and ninety dollars, was completed in the following May. It at once became, and always has remained, the principal thoroughfare in Batavia—Genesee, now Main, street. The land now occupied by this street was at that time covered with timber. Mr. Lamberton's contract called for the cutting away of this timber and preparing it for logging. The road was constructed, probably, by the owners of lots fronting on the new street.

The necessity of a grist mill manifested itself at an early date. The first allusion to the enterprise is contained in letters from Mr. Ellicott to Mr. Busti, dated at Batavia, February 28, 1802, and forwarded by his

¹ In this letter Mr. Ellicott wrote: "In regard to the name of this place, it heretofore was called the Bend; from the circumstance of the Bend of the Creek, and is generally known by that name, but I have Baptized it by the Name of Batavia."

² This saw mill was torn down about 1822.

brother, Benjamin Ellicott.¹ This mill was not completed until late in the year 1804.

When the Holland Land Company mapped out the village of Batavia in 1801, they divided it into about one hundred lots. These lots had a frontage of twenty rods each on what is now Main street. They were marked from No. 1 up, the even numbers being on the north side of the street and the odd numbers on the south side. Each lot was intended to be one mile deep, and the extent of land covered in the original map was much larger than that of the present corporation. The western boundary line ran through the spot formerly occupied by the State arsenal. From what is now Jackson street to the court house the lots were subdivided, and in the original map did not contain as much land as the others. Main street was then called Batavia street west of the court house and Genesee street east of that point.

The first sale recorded on the old records, and doubtless the first sale of village property, was made January 1, 1802, the purchaser being Stephen Russell. The lot was bounded on the east by what is now State street, was of sufficient depth to comprise an area of eight and one-half acres, and was sold for five dollars per acre, or forty-two dollars and a half for the whole lot. A four-acre lot having a frontage on Main street was sold April 30, 1807, to James Cochran, also for five dollars per acre. The lot on what is now the west corner of Jackson and Main streets, extending west to a point about the centre of the old Holden store, was sold March 21, 1810, to Samuel Peck and Benjamin Blodgett, for one hundred and fifty dollars.

A contributor to the *Batavia Spirit of the Times* of April 29, 1882, thus describes the improvement of the sanitary condition of Batavia from 1800 to 1882:

The first settlers were prostrated with bilious, typhus, typhoid fevers, ague and fever, dysentery, jaundice, and all the aggravated disorders of the liver to such an extent that there were not enough of the well to take care of the sick. Sickness compelled many who had located here to leave. Many of the settlers from New England went to Wyoming county, where the surface of the country was hilly and the water was soft. Even in 1829 the ague and fever prevailed to such an extent that the usual fall militia drill and militia exercises were dispensed with. Malaria with its attendant diseases still prevailed to a very great extent and created the greater portion of the sickness of that time.

¹ In this letter Mr. Ellicott, after alluding to certain business matters to be explained by his brother, the writer says: "His object is also to procure such necessaries in the Lower Country, as will be required for the completion of the Grist Mill erecting on account of the Company, and also to procure if practicable, a good Mill-Wright to construct the running gear of said mill."

The early physicians of that day were David McCracken, Ephraim Brown, Winter Hewitt, John Cotes, Levant B. Cotes, Chester Bradford, John Z. Ross, Richard Dibble, Truman H. Woodruff, Charles E. Ford, who ranked high in their profession and were skilled in the treatment of the malarial diseases of the country. Their investigation of the causes and their story of the character of the prevailing diseases and their conviction of the urgent necessity for their prevention made them strong advocates of surface drainage as the only effectual safeguard against sickness. This period closed with the year 1830, with some modification and abatement in the malignant type of the disease.

The second term ranges from 1830 to 1860. During this time a marked change was produced, resulting from a thorough and more extensive system of surface drainage. The Tonawanda Railroad drained the ponds at Mount Lucy, and filled the streets along its line nearly three feet. The village authorities inaugurated an effective system of surface drainage on the north and south sides of Main street. The spring, fall and winter overflow of the creek was checked by raising the road and making a dyke along its banks at Toad Point. The genial rays of the sun evaporated the latent miasma from a soil freed from the stagnant waters. The plow and the spade lent a helping hand, and the village to a certain extent was liberated from the slimy pools of water which had hitherto dotted its surface. Still the medical faculty insisted that many instances of malarial disease were constantly occurring where the drainage was imperfect. Dr. John Cotes, Levant B. Cotes, Truman H. Woodruff, Charles E. Ford, Holton Ganson, John Root, John R. Cotes, O. P. Clark were the leading physicians of this period. A still more efficient mode of drainage was strongly advocated by all these medical men. They admitted that the sanitary condition of the place showed marked improvement, and that they were not obliged to resort to the violent remedies of former years.

The last term extends from 1860 to 1882. During this time another marked change has taken place. The system of surface drainage has been abandoned and the tile system has been adopted. The population of the village has doubled and houses have been erected in close proximity to each other. No sanitary restraints have been enforced in regard to the position of wells and outhouses, and the contents of water closets and house drainage are poured into closed tile sewers running to the creek, the grade of which is so small that it produces a sluggish and impeded movement of its slimy contents. The outlet empties into the creek at low water mark, subject to have its malarious germs swept back into every cellar during the high floods of the creek. Below the outlet the waters of the creek are polluted with the offensive sewage and exhale a pestiferous miasma, poisoning the atmosphere along its banks. This has produced a return to the malarious condition of the time from 1820 to 1830. Ague and fever, bilious, typhus and typhoid fevers, dysentery, disordered action of the liver have again reappeared, and with them that class of diseases engendered by sewer gas, diphtheria, scarlet fever, roseola, malarial fever, mental depression, loss of vitality, general lassitude and debility and all the various types of nervous maladies which are the marked characteristics resulting from the poisonous emanations of sewer gas. Among the physicians of the last term, Dr. Levant B. Cotes was the veteran survivor of all his compeers. Dr. Ganson followed next in seniority, than in succession John Root, John R. Cotes, O. P. Clark, N. G. Clark, L. L. Tozier, John F. Baker, H. S. Hutchins, Hamilton, Morse, Davidson, Rand, Walkinshaw and others.

It was almost entirely through the efforts of Mr. Ellicott that the county of Genesee was erected, with Batavia for a county seat. The population of the new village was increasing at a satisfactory rate, and the legislative act designating Batavia as the capital of the new county gave it a prestige which instantly proved most beneficial. Determined that the village which he had founded should enjoy the full benefits which naturally should follow its selection for this important purpose, Mr. Ellicott at once began plans for the erection of a court house and jail, having stipulated, in his agreement with the Legislature, that these buildings should be constructed at the expense of the Holland Land Company. In a letter to Mr. Busti, written May 8, 1802, he said:

I am happy in the promptness with which you have agreed to carry into effect the erection of the Court House and Jail, as stipulated to be erected at the expense of the Company, by Mr. D. A. Ogden and myself. This stipulation was one of the principal inducements towards our effecting the passage of the Law establishing the new County. This money I conceive to be well laid out, for had we not have procured this Act for establishing the County, and bounded it as we have fortunately done, the Company would, in all probability, have had to erect another Court House and Jail, as well as that at Canandaigua, at their expense, and in which they would have been but little benefited.

It was in contemplation by Mr. James Wadsworth, and interest was actually making for that purpose, so to divide the county of Ontario, as to make his residence in the town of Hartford [now Geneseo], on the Genesee River, the County town of a County. . . .

In regards to the Court House and Jail, your ideas perfectly accord with my own, in erecting them in such a maner as will be the most economical, and at the same time answer well the purposes intended. I have received a Plan from New York, which my friend, D. A. Ogden, was kind enough to procure from an Architect of that place. It is not, in my opinion, calculated for the meridian of this Western World, this Century, but might probably answer for the meridian of the cities of London or Amsterdam.

Mr. Ellicott engaged Isaac Sutherland and Samuel F. Geer as architects for the court house, which was to be built after his own plan, and of wood. The frame was set up about November 1. Its raising "was a Herculean task of three days, and in consequence of the sparseness of population, required all the men that could be mustered in the surrounding country, even from Buffalo. The timber was exceedingly heavy, being almost exclusively oak, and we are told that the workmanship was so perfect, as to elicit the admiration of every one who saw it. Not the slightest mistake was discoverable, and when the frame was put

together, every joint was as perfect as mallet and chisel could make it.'¹ Though the building was not completed until 1804, the work had progressed so far by the spring of 1803 that the first sessions of the courts after the organization of the county were held in it at the time last named.

The first frame building in the village was erected by Isaac Sutherland in the spring of 1802, about two months before the construction of the court house was begun. It stood west of the Presbyterian meeting house, and was occupied as a residence by Mr. Sutherland and his family. About the same time Mr. Sutherland and Samuel F. Geer built another frame house on the ground subsequently occupied by the Presbyterian church, intended for their own use as a joiner's shop.

In the spring of 1802 James Brisbane visited New York and purchased a stock of groceries, provisions and general wares with which to stock a store which he had arranged to conduct under the patronage of the agents of the Holland company. Arriving with his stock at Batavia about the middle of May, he rented the building which Sutherland and Geer had erected for use as a joiner's shop and at once began business as a merchant—the first in town. A few weeks later he purchased the building and occupied it until 1822, when it was removed to make room for the Presbyterian meeting house.

Several other improvements were made in 1802. During the summer of that year William Munger erected the west part of what afterward became the Keyes house, which he conducted as a tavern. He was succeeded by Mr. Rowe, and then by William Keyes, under whose management it became the principal hotel in the village. About the same time Mr. Ellicott erected a frame building for use as a land office, tearing down the original log building and moving the records of the office into the new one about January 1, 1803. This building was afterward altered and became a portion of the residence occupied for many years by D. E. Evans. Stephen Russell also erected a two-story frame building as an annex to his log tavern, on the site which afterward was occupied by the Genesee house. It will thus be seen that the development of the village of Batavia was progressing at a most satisfactory rate as early as 1802.

The indomitable energy and public spirit of the founder of Batavia is everywhere in evidence. On every possible occasion he promoted the welfare of the village. All legitimate enterprises were encouraged

¹ Historical Sketch of the Village of Batavia, by William Seaver. 1849.

by him in a practical way and he was never slow to take the initiative when he believed the young village would be benefited by his projected act. May 15, 1802, he addressed to Gideon Granger, postmaster-general, a petition for the establishment of a post-office at Batavia, and recommending the appointment of James Brisbane as postmaster. In his petition Mr. Ellicott said:

Although I cannot flatter the Post Master General with much augmentation to the revenue which may arise from an establishment of this kind, yet as the country is fast settling, and the Land Office is kept here for the sale of a large extent of country, there is little doubt but that in a short period, a considerable revenue will arise from this establishment, as well as be productive of great convenience to the inhabitants.

The postmaster-general promptly appointed Mr. Brisbane postmaster; but there already being a post-office named Batavia in Greene county, the new office was designated Genesee Court House. The commission for the first postmaster was dated July 21, 1802, and the following month he entered upon the discharge of his duties, maintaining the office in his store. The mail was carried once in two weeks, either on foot or on horseback. The route west was from Canandaigua to Batavia, Lewiston and Fort Niagara, and eastward from Fort Niagara to Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Williamsville, Van Deventer's, the Indian Village, Batavia and Canandaigua and other points east. Soon afterward the increasing population warranted the establishment of a weekly mail from Canandaigua to Buffalo direct, Batavia being a post on the route.

An idea of the population of Batavia, and of Genesee county, in 1802, may be gained from a statement made in a letter written by Mr. Ellicott to Seth Pease May 15, 1802:

As you were acquainted with this part of the country before any settlement took place, it may not be altogether uninteresting to be informed of the number of votes given in at this village last election, for Members of Congress, which will be some data to form an opinion of the progress of settlement.

Oliver Phelps, Esq., Republican, 50 votes.

Nat. W. Howell, Esq., anti-Republican, 1 vote.

In this county, (Genesee), in consequence of the sparse settlements, not more than one third of the people could with any convenience attend the election polls, therefore we only voted 133, of which 117 were Republican and for Oliver Phelps, and the residue for Nat. W. Howell, so that it appears this county may be styled Republican.

The organization of Genesee county took place in 1803. The first court was held in the new court house June 14, when Richard Smith was admitted to practice as an attorney and counselor. November 8

the second court was held, at which Daniel B. Brown was admitted to practice.

During the early days of the village a favored few were permitted to purchase from twenty to forty acres of land fronting on Genesee, now Main, street, running back one mile in length. These had all been well schooled in the arbitrary doctrines of a landed aristocracy, the political creed of Joseph Ellicott. For years these men held their broad acres undiminished by a sale. They were hostile to the idea of any street parallel to Main, which they would have considered an invasion of their sacred rights. They held their corn and pasture lands for their own pleasure and convenience, claiming that the public had no right to sacrifice them for highway purposes; that public necessities were subject to their private interests. As a natural consequence Main street was filled with handsome residences. For years all taxes and improvements were lavished upon that broad thoroughfare. The result was that a residence upon that fine avenue became, to a certain extent, the arbiter of social position.

In the original village plot, as planned by Joseph Ellicott, all the streets converge at the bridge. He designed that the business part of the village should be built around the mill site and west on the banks of the creek. The business location was largely determined by the low prices at which Stephen Russell sold his subdivisions of lots 20 and 22. The first new street to be opened by the necessities of the pioneers was Mechanic street, now State. Then followed Center, then Bank, Liberty, Summit, South Liberty, Evans, Swan and Ross. They were generally occupied and built upon before they were legally opened as highways, becoming streets from the demands of a growing population and not in conformity to any plan laid down in the original village plot. North street was the only parallel street on the north side of Main. It was opened as a highway in 1842 and 1843. Ellicott avenue was laid out by the State.

The year 1807 was noteworthy by reason of the establishment of a printing office in the village, the press used being the first ever seen west of the Genesee river. Soon after the opening of the office the first newspaper in the county, the Genesee Intelligencer, was published by Elias Williams. Unfortunately publication was suspended in the following October. The early history of the press in Batavia is graphically told in a letter written by Benjamin Blodgett, one of the first editors, to Frederick Follett, in November, 1846. A part of this interesting letter follows:

The first paper published in this County was in the spring of 1807. Elias Williams purchased in Manlius, an old Ramage Printing Press that had been laid aside as useless, and a box of old type in pi, intended to sell as type metal, and brought them, in the winter of that year, to Batavia. After a laborious winter's work of assorting his old type, and patching up the old press, he published the first number of a paper called the "Genesee Intelligencer." This paper was printed upon a half sheet of medium size, with a subscription list of 100, and two or three columns of advertisements from the Holland Land Company, one Elopement, and one runaway apprentice Boy, for whose apprehension a bag of bran was offered as a reward. This was all the advertising patronage, if my recollection serves me right, that the paper commenced with. The paper was a sorry looking thing—the mechanical execution being so bad that it would have puzzled a Philadelphia Lawyer to find out what it was. I ought to have preserved a copy—it would be looked upon by the craft at this day, not only as a literary but a mechanical curiosity. Williams, becoming disheartened at the shabby appearance of his paper, and about to fail for the want of funds, induced me to go into partnership with him. Anxious to see my name at the head of a newspaper, as Printer, Publisher, and Editor, too, of the "Genesee Intelligencer," I embarked my all of this world's effects into the enterprise, which amounted to the vast sum of forty-eight dollars and seventy-five cents, the hard earnings of the summer before, as Pack Horseman and Cook to a Company of Surveyors on the Holland Purchase, a pursuit better fitted to my capacity at that day, than Editor of the "Genesee Intelligencer."

About the first of July, 1807, the firm of Williams & Blodgett resumed the publication of the "Intelligencer," with an increased subscription list and advertising patronage. After publishing 13 numbers, Williams went to Alexander to attend a Military Review, and has never since been seen or heard of in this country. This unceremonious leave-taking of Williams put a mighty damper upon the prospects of Mr. Editor Blodgett, who instead of realizing the golden dreams he had anticipated, found himself involved in debt about \$300, flat on his back with the fever and ague, which continued about six months without intermission; and for the want of help, not being a practical Printer myself, was obliged to abandon the publication of the "Intelligencer." However, in the spring of 1808, I rallied again, and in company with a man by the name of Peek, I started the "Cornucopia," (a very classic name,) with an enlarged sheet and new type, under the firm of Peek & Blodgett, with a subscription list of about 300. In the fall of 1811, Peek was taken sick and died, and with his death the "Cornucopia" went down.

I then, under the mechanical superintendence of David C. Millar, (afterwards Colonel, with his little cane and breeches,) commenced the publication of the "Republican Advocate," with a new Press and new type, and continued its publication for several years, when I sold out to Colonel Millar, who became sole proprietor of that paper.¹

Up to the year 1810 James Brisbane and Ebenezer Cary were the only merchants in town. In that year Ephraim Hart opened a mercantile establishment of extensive proportions, the management of which he intrusted to Clark Heacox.

¹ From the History of the Press in Western New York, by Frederick Follett.

For the first half dozen years in the history of Batavia no regular religious organization was supported, though meetings were held occasionally by laymen and itinerant preachers. The first religious society was organized September 19, 1809, when "a regular meeting was held at the Center School House in this place, this afternoon, agreeable to previous notice being given, for the purpose of forming a Congregational Church. The Rev. Royal Phelps, a missionary from the Hampshire Missionary Society in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts presided, and officiated in the transactions of the day. We spent the meeting with a sermon adapted to the occasion, from Joshua 24th Chap. 15th Verse, 2d Clause."¹

At the conclusion of the sermon Silas Chapin, David Anderson, Ezekiel Fox, Solomon Kingsley, Eleanor Smith, Elizabeth Mathers, Elizabeth Peck, Esther Kellogg, Hulda Wright, Patience Kingsley, Esther Kingsley and Polly Branard, signed the Articles of Faith and Church Covenant and were pronounced the constituent members of the new Congregational church. September 24, 1809, Rev. Royal Phelps preached "at Jesse Rumsey's barn" and administered the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, this doubtless being the first occasion of that kind in the history of the town. The church was regularly incorporated in February, 1811. The first regular pastor of the congregation was Rev. Ephraim Chapin, who received a call January 23, 1818, and served four years.

The impending hostilities between Great Britain and America which were inaugurated in 1812 prompted the State government to adopt measures for the protection of the Canadian frontier from invasion. The plans for defense included the erection of an arsenal for the storage of arms and ammunition at Batavia. In 1810 or 1811 the State made a contract with Joseph Ellicott for the erection of a log building twenty feet square and twelve feet high to be used for this purpose. This "arsenal," not a very imposing edifice, but large enough and possibly strong enough for the purposes for which it was intended, was situated above the mill, on the opposite side and near the bend of the creek, on the Alexander road. It was abandoned soon after the close of the war of 1812, when the old stone arsenal in the west end of the village was erected by the State, under the supervision of Major Isaac Sutherland.

June 6, 1815, after a series of services according to the ritual of the Protestant Episcopal church had been conducted by Rev. Alanson W.

¹ From the church records.

Welton, a number of the resident adherents of that denomination met in the court house for the purpose of organizing a Protestant Episcopal church. Rev. Mr. Welton presided, and these officers were chosen: Wardens, John Hickcox, Samuel Benedict; vestrymen, Richard Smith, Isaac Sutherland, Isaac Spencer, John Z. Ross, Chauncey Keyes, David C. Miller, Aaron Van Cleve, Oswald Williams. It was decided that the society then organized should be known as St. James's church in Batavia. The record was certified by the chairman, S. Cummings, and Trumbull Cary, in the presence of Samuel Risley and Isaiah Babcock, acknowledged before Hon. D. McCracken, one of the judges of the Genesee county courts, and recorded in the county clerk's office by Samuel Lake, deputy county clerk. At the first meeting of the vestry, held at Hickcox's inn, July 1, 1815, Richard Smith was appointed clerk, and it was resolved that Isaac Sutherland, John Z. Ross and Chauncey Keyes "be a Committee to wait on the Agent of the Holland Land Company, to ascertain what aid may be obtained from the said Company towards the erection of a Protestant Episcopal Church, in the Village of Batavia, and that the said Committee report at the next meeting of the Vestry." July 15 the committee reported "that in behalf of the Holland Land Company, the Agent would make a donation towards the erection of a Protestant Episcopal Church, if of Wood, of One thousand Dollars, and if of Brick, of Fifteen hundred Dollars." At a subsequent meeting of the vestry at Hickcox's inn, which occupied the southern part of the court house, Aaron Van Cleve and Isaac Sutherland were appointed a committee to ascertain from the agent of the Holland Land Company what site might be obtained for the church. October 21 of that year Isaac Sutherland was designated to superintend the erection of a brick church. At the same time Richard Smith, the clerk of the vestry, was appointed treasurer and Chauncey Keyes and Isaac Spencer collectors. Major Sutherland declining to act as superintendent, another person was appointed in his place. The vestry immediately contracted with David Canfield and Thomas McCulley of Schenectady to perform the mason work, and on April 10, 1816, ground was broken and the erection of the new church was begun. The church was not completed until 1822. The first regular rector, Rev. Levi S. Ives, subsequently bishop of North Carolina, did not enter upon his duties until 1822, and his ministrations closed in summer of 1823.

Soon after the organization of St. James's church, a Methodist Epis-

copal class, which had been organized as early as 1816, perhaps prior to that time, began to take steps toward the organization of a regular church society. December 15, 1819, a meeting of the local Methodists was held at the court house. Rev. Elisha Howse presided, assisted by Jeremiah Bennett, and Thomas McCulley, Samuel F. Geer, Jeremiah Bennett, Seymour Ensign and Silas Hollister were elected trustees of a congregation which it was then and there decided should be known as the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Batavia. The first church edifice was not erected until 1823.

The Batavia branch of the Genesee County Bible Society was organized April 5, 1819. The meeting was held in the old brick school house, and Rev. Mr. Chapin acted as moderator and Thomas McCulley as secretary. The society was organized by the election of these officers: Chairman, Ephraim Towner; clerk, Thomas McCulley; treasurer, Parmenio Adams; collector, Urial Spencer; distributing committee, Lemuel Foster, Amherst Crane, Ahimaz Brainard, Thomas McCulley.

A fair idea of the commercial and industrial progress made by the village during the period closing with the year 1819 may be gathered by reference to the following list of business men in town in that year:

Merchants, James Brisbane, Cary & Davis, Jonathan Lay, William H. Wells, J. P. & A. Smith, William R. Thompson, W. S. Moore & Co. Druggists, H. Tisdale, Hewitt & Billings. Leather and shoe store, Ephraim Towner. Jeweler, C. C. Church. Milliner, Miss Ann Forbes. Tailors, James Cawte, H. B. Pierpont, Samuel Mead. Hatter, Nathan Follett. Tavernkeepers, William Keyes, Hinman Holden, Horace Gibbs, Mrs. Leonard, Joseph Baker. Lawyers, Richard Smith, Daniel B. Brown, P. L. Tracy, Ethan B. Allen, T. C. Love, C. Carpenter. Physicians, D. McCracken, Ephraim Brown, John Cotes, Winter Hewitt, John Z. Ross. Saddler, Simeon Cummings. Cabinet and chairmaker, Thomas Bliss. Tanners, E. Towner, Oswald Williams. Meat market, Mr. Folsom. Book store, Oran Follett.

The year 1821 was marked by the first fire of any importance which occurred in Batavia. The number of buildings destroyed and the pecuniary losses appear small when compared with the great fires which are so common in these days, but the destruction of even \$10,000 worth of property was heavily felt by the citizens of Batavia over three-quarters of a century ago. The Spirit of the Times describes the fire, which occurred on the night of December 22, as follows:

The flames were discovered to proceed from a block of buildings occupied as stores and shops on the north side of Main street, and exhibited to the agitated minds of our citizens a scene terrible and alarming in the highest degree; the destructive ele-

ment was raging with the greatest fury in the heart of our village, and a prospect almost inevitable of the fairest portion of it being laid in ashes. The fire had made such progress before it was discovered, as to forbid all attempts to save the buildings situated on either side of Mr. L. Baker's Silversmith shop where it is supposed the fire originated. The active exertions of the citizens were turned to prevent it extending its ravages to the adjacent building. The struggle was long and doubtful, but the cool and deliberate action of a few individuals, favored by the stillness of the night, and the constant pouring of water over the sides of the exposed buildings, accomplished at last what the most sanguine hardly dare hope.

Mr. Gibb's dwelling house on the west, and the Grocery Store of Mr. Davis at the east, were situated but a few feet from the building burnt, yet they were saved with no other means than the use of buckets. The injury they sustained is trifling.

The destruction of property is of considerable amount. Three buildings destroyed. One of them was occupied by Messrs. Moore & Finch as a Dry-goods store and owned by Mr. Horace Gibbs. Another by L. Baker as a Silver-smith shop, also owned by Mr. Horace Gibbs. The other was occupied by Mr. James P. Smith, Merchant, Charles C. Church, watch-maker. The upper part was occupied by D. C. Miller, Esq., as the Advocate Printing Office, which was totally destroyed. The building was owned by Messrs. F. & T. Palmer. Mr. Miller is probably the greatest sufferer in this dreadful calamity, having lost the whole of his printing apparatus, list-books, accounts, etc.

The amount of property destroyed may be estimated at about \$10,000. The greatest amount was consumed in the building occupied by Messrs. Moore & Finch, but it gives us pleasure to state, that their loss, between 5 & \$6,000 was covered by an insurance.

The first direct result of the fire, aside from the temporary set-back to the business development of the village, was an agitation for the establishment of an adequate system of fire protection and the incorporation of the village. June 23, 1822, a mass meeting of citizens was held, when Silas Finch, William H. Wells and Trumbull Cary were appointed a committee to petition the State Legislature for an act of incorporation. For some reason the first attempt in this direction failed; but at the next succeeding session of the Legislature a charter was granted, on April 23, 1823. Following is the original act incorporating the village of Batavia.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of New York represented in Senate and Assembly: That the inhabitants resident within all that part of the Village of Batavia in the county of Genesee as Surveyed by Joseph Ellicott bounded as follows: Beginning at a point in the East line of lot Number forty-four in said Village eighty rods north from the centre of Genesee street thence westwardly parallel with the centre of Genesee and Batavia streets Eighty rods therefrom to the western bounds of Lot Number Three in said Village thence southerly on the west line of said lot number fourteen to the Southwest corner of said Lot, thence continuing in the same direction to the south bank of Tonnewanta Creek thence up the Southern bank of

Tonnewanta Creek to a point eighty rods south of the Centre of Genesee Street thence eastwardly parallel with said Genesee Street to the East line of Lot Number Forty-five thence northerly on said line to the place of beginning shall be a corporation by the name and Style of the Trustees of the Village of Batavia and by that name they and their Successors may have perpetual succession, shall be known in law; shall be capable of suing of being sued and of defending and being defended in all Courts and places whatsoever and in all manner of actions and causes and they and their Successors may have a common Seal and may alter the same at pleasure and shall be in Law capable of purchasing holding and conveying any real or personal Estate for the use of said corporation and shall have power to erect and keep in repair one or more fire Engine or Engines and Ladder fire hooks and other instruments for extinguishing fire; to improve the streets and sidewalks and remove and prevent encroachments thereon; to prevent horses cattle and swine from running in the streets; to erect hay scales and regulate the assize of bread and to raise money by Tax to carry into effect the above mentioned powers and for defraying the incidental expenses of supporting the several bye laws and regulations. Which money to be raised shall not exceed the sum of three hundred dollars annually Provided that no part of the said sum to be annually raised shall be applied to the making or repairing sidewalks, and shall be assessed upon the freeholders and inhabitants of said Village who are voters there in proportion to their property real and personal within said Corporation by the Trustees thereof and collected by the Collector of said Village in the same manner as the Taxes of the County of Genesee and collected by virtue of a warrant to him directed signed by a majority of the Trustees of said Corporation and by him paid into the hands of the Treasurer thereof: provided that no tax shall be levied or monies raised for any of the purposes aforesaid nor any public buildings erected nor any purchase or sale of any real or personal estate be made nor any fire Engine house or houses erected or disposed of without the consent of the freeholders and inhabitants of said Corporation assembled qualified to vote as hereinafter mentioned or a majority of them to be given at a public meeting duly notified as hereinafter mentioned.

And be it further Enacted That the Inhabitants residing within said Corporation and who shall have been in possession of real property within said Corporation for six months next Previous to the time of voting and shall have paid highway or other Taxes within the limits of said Village may on the first tuesday of June next meet at some proper place within the said Corporation to be appointed by any two Justices of the Peace of the town of Batavia a notice whereof shall be put up in at least three Public Places within said Corporation ten days previous to said first Tuesday of June next and then and there proceed to Elect five discreet persons resident within said Corporation and who shall have resided therein for the space of one year then next previous to such election and having freeholds therein to the value of Five hundred Dollars or other property to the value of One thousand Dollars to be the Trustees thereof and who when Chosen shall possess the Several rights and powers hereafter specified and Such Justices shall preside at such meeting and shall declare the Several Persons having the greatest number of votes duly Elected Trustees and on every first tuesday of May after the Election of Trustees there shall in like manner be a new election of Trustees for said Corporation and the Trustees so elected shall hold their offices for one year and until others are Elected in their stead and the said

Trustees or a majority of them shall after the first Election as aforesaid perform the duties required from the said Justices in respect to notifying the inhabitants of Said Village and presiding at Such Election.

And be it further Enacted That it shall be lawful for the said Trustees of said Village or a major part of them and their Successors to make ordain constitute and Publish such prudential bye Laws rules and regulations as they from time to time shall deem correct and proper and for the benefit of said Village relating to the objects mentioned in the first section of this act and not inconsistent with the Laws of the State or of the United States and shall further be lawful for the said Trustees to ordain constitute and publish such fines and forfeitures for the breaking any such laws.

And be it further Enacted That the inhabitants of said Village qualified to vote for Trustees as aforesaid at their first and annual meetings thereafter shall and they are hereby authorized and empowered to choose one Treasurer and one collector being inhabitants of said Village and having resided therein One year next previous to such election and the persons having the greatest number of Votes for each office respectively shall be deemed duly chosen and in case a vacancy shall happen in either of the above Offices by death removal from said Village or refusal to serve the trustees shall have the power to appoint some other person of the Qualification aforesaid to supply such vacancy until the annual meeting and the person so appointed shall be liable to the same penalties and restrictions as if duly elected at the annual meeting which said Treasurer and Collector shall be entitled to receive for their several services such suitable compensation as the legal voters of said Corporation or a majority of them at their annual meeting shall deem proper.

And be it further Enacted That the Trustees Treasurer and Collector shall before they proceed to execute their several offices and within ten days after their election respectively take and subscribe an oath or affirmation before any Justice of the peace of the town of Batavia for the faithful Execution of the Office or trust to which they may be severally elected Provided nevertheless That the said Treasurer and Collector before they take the oath or affirmation aforesaid shall respectively give security to the Trustees of said Village for the faithful discharge of their respective Offices in such sum and in such manner as the majority of them shall deem sufficient.

And be it further Enacted That it shall be lawful for the Trustees of said Village or a majority of them to appoint not exceeding fifty firemen out of the inhabitants of said Village and the same or any of them to remove at pleasure and to appoint others in their stead and to regulate the times of meeting and exercise of said Company of firemen to appoint their Captain and other officers and to make such bye laws rules and regulations for the government of said Company and regulate ordain and establish such penalties for the breaking or disobeying of such bye Laws rules and regulations as they may deem expedient Provided that no penalty shall be inflicted on any fireman exceeding the sum of fifteen Dollars for any one offence and that the said Trustees or a majority of them shall have the power of remitting such fine or any penalty when they may deem it expedient.

And be it further Enacted That the Trustees within twenty days after their election or a major part of them shall and it is hereby made their duty to assemble at some convenient place in said Village and there choose and appoint some one suitable person of their body to be President of the said board of Trustees and some other suit-

able person being a taxable inhabitant of said Village to be Clerk to said board of Trustees and it shall be the duty of the President when present to preside at the meetings of the Trustees, to order extraordinary meetings of the Trustees whenever he may conceive it for the interest of the Village; to hear and receive complaints of the breach of any of the laws of said Corporation to see that all the bye laws rules and regulations of said Village are enforced and faithfully executed to prosecute in the name of the Trustees all offenders against or violators of the bye laws ordained and published as aforesaid to keep the seal of said village and to affix it together with his signature to all such rules and regulations as a majority of the Trustees shall deem proper and in case of the Death removal or inability of the President to discharge the duties of the Office it shall be the duty of the Clerk to notify the other Trustees of such death removal or inability who shall within ten days thereafter meet and elect another President out of their body to hold his office until the next annual meeting: and it shall further be the duty of the President to take care of protect and preserve all the property belonging to said Village as a Corporation to preside over all public meetings of the villagers for the purposes and to do all such other acts and things as may be proper for the President of the Trustees to do and it shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep the minutes of all such votes orders rules and regulations as are made by the freeholders and inhabitants of such Village at their public meetings, and also to attend the meetings of the trustees and record all the bye laws rules and regulations passed by them; and the Trustees shall have power to remove such clerk and to appoint a new one, and to appoint one pro tempore in case of the absence of the Clerk as a majority of them shall agree, and the Clerk shall receive such compensation for his services as a majority of the trustees shall deem sufficient to be paid out of the funds of said Village.

And be it further Enacted That it shall be the duty of the Trustees and their Successors annually to assess on the several inhabitants and freeholders residing in said village the amount of the taxes which the freeholders and inhabitants of said Village shall at the annual meetings determine to be raised levied or collected in proportion to their property real and personal within said village and they shall likewise exercise the office of fire wardens in said village in case of fire.

And be it further Enacted That the Collector shall within such time as shall be hereafter limited by the bye laws of said Corporation after the receipt of his warrant for collecting of any Tax that may have been ordered to be raised collect and pay the same to the Treasurer and that such collector shall have and exercise the same power in the Collecting such Taxes by distress and sale as the several collectors of Towns have in the levying and collecting of Taxes and that all monies which may at any time be in the hands of the Treasurer shall be liable to be drawn out by the Trustees or a majority of them and applied and disposed of as shall have been directed by the freeholders and Inhabitants of said Village or agreeably to the provisions of this act: Provided nevertheless that the Trustees shall have the Power to apply and dispose of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated for any purpose or purposes for the benefit of said Corporation in their discretion anything in this act to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further Enacted That the said Trustees shall keep an account of their necessary disbursements and shall exhibit the same to the Taxable inhabitants of said Village at their annual meeting or any other legal meeting of said Corporation when required by a vote thereof.

And be it further Enacted That if any one of the inhabitants of said Village qualified as aforesaid shall hereafter be elected and chosen a trustee and shall refuse or neglect to serve as such it may be lawful for the Trustees duly qualified or the major part of them to impose and inflict upon such person so neglecting or refusing such reasonable fine or fines as they may think proper Provided That such fine for any one offence shall not exceed the sum of Ten dollars to be recovered in the same manner that other fines or penalties are recoverable by this act and that in all cases when the Trustees of the Village of Batavia shall sue or prosecute by virtue of this act it shall be sufficient for the said Trustees to declare generally that the Defendent is indebted to them by virtue of this act to the amount of twenty five dollars or under and give any special matter in evidence under such declaration and in any action or actions which may be brought for or against the Trustees or for or against any other person or persons for anything done under this act the freeholders or Inhabitants of said Village shall be and they are hereby declared Competent Witnesses or Jurymen for either party in such action.

And be it further Enacted That it shall be the duty of the President of the Board of Trustees to give notice to the Inhabitants of said Village of all public meetings at least one week previous thereto in such manner as a majority of the Trustees may deem proper and that it shall be lawful for the Trustees or a majority of them to call a public meeting of the inhabitants of said Village when they may think it expedient.

And be it further Enacted That all fines penalties and forfeitures and all monies obtained in any manner whatever by virtue of this act shall be paid into the hands of the Treasurer for the public use of said Village and the Treasurer shall and he is hereby authorized in case any person having so received any money by virtue of this act to and for the use and proper benefit of said Village and shall refuse or neglect to pay the same to him to prosecute every such Offender in the name of the Trustees of said Village for monies had and received to and for the use of said Village.

And be it further Enacted That each and every individual owning or being in possession of land in the said Village adjacent to the Street of said Village shall make and improve side walks in front of such land under the direction and superintendence of the Trustees Provided nevertheless that no individual shall be compelled to expend a greater sum than Ten Dollars in any One year for such purpose and in case any person shall neglect or refuse to build or repair such side walk in front of his or their land after being duly notified by the Trustees the said Trustees may erect or repair the same and charge such person or persons therewith and recover the same in the same manner that other penalties are recoverable by virtue of this act.

And be it further Enacted That this act be and the same is hereby declared to be a public act and shall be construed in all Courts of Justice within this State benignly and liberally to effect every beneficial purpose therein mentioned and contained.

A supplementary act passed April 9, 1834, contained the following provisions:

Be it enacted by the people of the State of New York represented in Senate and Assembly That in addition to the powers vested in the Trustees of the Village of Batavia in and by the act of which this is a supplement that the said Trustees have full power and authority to determine the number of groceries to be kept in the

said Village and to license such and so many thereof for such sum or sums of money as they the said Trustees or a majority of them shall determine to be just and proper which said money shall be paid into the hands of the Treasurer of the said Corporation for the use of the said Corporation the said Trustees shall also have full power and authority to compel each and every house keeper or person being in possession of any building in said village to keep their fire places chimneys and stoves clean and in good repair also to order and direct each and every person who shall be in possession of any building in said Village to provide themselves with one or more fire buckets the said Trustees shall also have full power and authority to suppress and prevent nuisances generally and may make and ordain such prudential by-laws rules and regulations in reference to the above objects as to them or a majority of them shall seem meet and proper.

And be it further Enacted That the person or persons in possession of any real estate in said Village at the time any tax is assessed shall be liable to pay the amount assessed thereon and if such person or persons is or are not bound by contract or otherwise to pay such tax or any part thereof he she or they shall and may recover the same from the owner or owners of such real estate or other person whose duty it was to have paid the same.

And be it further Enacted That it shall be lawful for the freeholders and inhabitants resident in the Village of Batavia qualified to vote at their annual meeting in each and every year to choose and elect by ballot a Village Constable who when elected shall be vested with the same powers and authority and subject to the same duties in all cases civil and criminal as by law appertain or belong to constables chosen at the annual Town meetings of the Town of Batavia Provided however that the said Constable shall not have power or authority to execute any civil process except the Corporation of said Village shall be a party thereto or interested therein and provided further that the said Constable shall within ten days after his election and before he enters upon the Duties of his office shall take and subscribe an oath or affirmation before any justice of the peace faithfully to execute the Duties of his office and shall also give security to the Trustees for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office in such sum and in such manner as Majority of the said Trustees shall deem proper and sufficient.

And be it further Enacted That it shall be and is hereby made the duty of the Trustees of the Village of Batavia at each and every annual meeting of the inhabitants of said Village to exhibit a just and true account of the expenditure of all monies which shall have been assessed or otherwise received for the use of the Corporation of said Village.

In accordance with the provisions of this charter a meeting of the inhabitants of the village was held June 3, 1823, at the tavern of James Ganson. C. Carpenter and D. Tisdale, justices of the peace, presided, and the following were chosen officers for the first year:

Trustees, Daniel H. Chandler, David E. Evans, Nathan Follett, Simeon Cummings, Silas Finch; treasurer, Trumbull Cary; collector, Parley Paine.

These officers met June 14 and made these appointments:

President, Daniel H. Chandler; clerk, Oliver G. Adams; assessors, Silas Finch, Nathan Follett; superintendent of streets and sidewalks, Simeon Cummings; pound-keeper, Robert P. Betts.

While the original charter of the village of Batavia and its supplement are quaint documents, they are hardly more interesting than the first ordinances adopted June 5, 1823, by the trustees, signed by Daniel H. Chandler as president, and printed and posted in conspicuous places throughout the village. These ordinances related exclusively to the subject of impounding stray animals, fast riding or driving, and defining sidewalks. After describing the duties of poundmaster and the limitations of owners of animals, the first ordinance provides that "such Pound keeper shall receive for his services the following fees, to wit: for driving each swine to pound, six cents, and six cents for each day he shall keep the same; and for driving each horse to pound, twelve and an half cents, and twelve and an half cents for each day he shall keep the same; and six cents for advertising, and six cents for selling each swine or horse impounded as aforesaid." Sidewalks were defined as "the space of twelve feet, on each side of the streets." It was also ordained that "there shall be no running or racing of horses in the several streets within the boundaries of the Corporation of the Village of Batavia. . . . Each and every person running a horse upon any of the streets within the said Corporation, shall forfeit and pay to the trustees of the said corporation, the sum of one dollar, with costs of suit; and each and every person running a single horse, with a carriage, sled or sleigh, on any of the streets aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay as aforesaid, the sum of Two Dollars; and each and every person running a pair or span of horses, with a carriage, sled or sleigh, on any of the streets aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay as aforesaid, the sum of Five Dollars; and each and every person, who shall a second time be guilty of a violation of this ordinance, shall forfeit and pay as aforesaid, double the amount for each and every offence above enumerated, with costs of suit as aforesaid."

From this time on the village began to realize the benefits of incorporation. Streets were improved, sidewalks constructed, street lights were provided for and measures were taken to guard against the ravages of fire. The first fire company was not organized, however, until April 20, 1824. The "Rules and Regulations enacted by the trustees of the Village of Batavia in relation to the Fire men and Fire Company in said Village April 20th, 1824," read as follows:

There shall be one fire company established in the village of Batavia to consist of twenty-five men, and shall be denominated Batavia Fire Company, and located at such place as the Trustees may hereafter designate.

The following persons are hereby appointed fire men in said company:

William Seaver, Jun., Captain; Nathan Follett, Hinman Holden, Norman Town, William R. Thompson, Benjamin Allen, Stephen Grant, Naham Loring. John S. Moon, Jonathan Lay, Horace Gibbs, David M. Gardner, Rufus Burnham, Walter Seymour, Daniel H. Chandler, Frederick Follett, William Purcel, Parley Paine, Oran Follet, William Platt, Daniel Gates, Ralph Stiles, Hezekiah Platt, William Dickinson, Charles C. Church.

The members of said Company shall hereafter elect their captain by a plurality of the votes of the members present, and, such person so elected shall be respected in his office, and shall discharge the duties of the same and shall hold his office for one year, and until another shall be elected. . . .

It shall be the duty of the members of said company, in the event of fire, to repair with all possible dispatch to the place of rendezvous, and conduct themselves in an orderly and efficient manner in discharging their duties in extinguishing fire, under the penalty of Five Dollars for each offense, to be prosecuted for and recovered and applied according to law.

In case of fire . . . it shall be the duty of every person present to obey the directions of the Trustees of the Village, in the formation of Bucket Lines, and to render such other assistance as may be required, and any person present who shall refuse to comply with such orders, shall for each offense, pay to the Trustees for the use of the Inhabitants of said Village, a fine of five dollars.

This was the first fire company organized in Batavia, and the foundation of the modern fire department of the village.

May 4, 1824, the board of trustees of Batavia, consisting of Daniel H. Chandler, David E. Evans, Silas Fink and Nathan Follett, reported that they had expended the sum of \$295.51 for street improvements; also that "the trustees have very recently expended \$17. in constructing a sluice way across the street near Mr. Burnhams in order to drain, a pond, which threatens, unless speedily removed, to create considerable sickness."

A tragic event, the notorious "Morgan affair," which had its inception in Batavia, transpired in the year 1826. The details of this lamentable occurrence are given in an earlier chapter on the history of the county.

The brewing industry in Batavia had its inception in a brewery and malt house established in 1827 by Libbeus Fish. The business grew steadily until by 1860 the annual output amounted to eight thousand barrels. Libbeus Fish was sole proprietor until 1835, when his son, Eli H. Fish, became proprietor. In 1862 the latter sold the business to Boyle & Smith, who in turn sold it in 1864 to Mr. Fish. The build-

ings were burned in 1865. The same year Mr. Fish erected a malt house on the site, conducting it until 1871, when he formed a partnership with Robert A. Maxwell. Early in 1872 Maxwell & Ensign succeeded to the business. The plant was destroyed by fire in December, 1872, but within a few months had been rebuilt by Mr. Fish, who then formed a partnership with A. H. King. In 1876 the interest of Mr. Fish was purchased by A. H. King & Son. Fire again destroyed the plant in May, 1883; but King & Son at once rebuilt it, increasing its capacity twofold. In 1886 Mr. King became sole owner, and in 1888 the property passed into the hands of Upton & Warner.

In 1850 John Eager bought the old stone Methodist Episcopal church on West Main street, which he converted into a brewery. This he conducted until 1862, when it was destroyed by fire. He then erected a commodious brick building on the opposite side of the street, in which he continued the business. Mr. Eager died December 23, 1869. His widow conducted the business for a short time, since which it has been in the hands of his sons and daughter, Wellington T. Eager, Herbert B. Eager, and Mrs. E. M. Whitcomb.

In 1857 Eli H. Fish constructed capacious ale vaults on the site of the original Fish brewery. This plant changed hands several times until, in 1880, it came into possession of William Gamble, who operated it until 1887, in which year the buildings were burned. Soon after the Batavia Brewing Company was formed, with William Gamble as superintendent, and this company erected a new building in the eastern part of the village in the fall of 1889.

The Bank of Genesee of Batavia was incorporated in 1829 with the following directors: Alva Smith, James C. Ferris, Oliver Benton, Henry Hawkins, Gaius B. Rich, Jacob Le Roy, Trumbull Cary, Rufus H. King, Jonathan Lay, Roswell L. Burrows, Israel Rathbone, Phineas L. Tracy, Joseph Fellows.

Its capital stock originally was one hundred thousand dollars, but this was increased the first year to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The first president was Trumbull Cary and the first cashier William M. Vermilye. In 1851 the institution was reorganized as a State bank. In March, 1865, it became a national bank, under the name of National Bank of Genesee, having a capital stock of one hundred and fourteen thousand four hundred dollars. In 1885 the charter was renewed and it continued business as a national bank until June, 1888, on which date the charter was surrendered and the bank was reorgan-

ized as a State bank having a capital of seventy-five thousand dollars. Among those who at various times have served as directors of the Bank of Genesee are Jacob Le Loy, Oliver Benton, Trumbull Cary, Alva Smith, James C. Ferris, Gaius B. Rich, Rufus H. King, Henry Hawkins, Phineas L. Tracy, Israel Rathbone, Joseph Fellows, Jonathan Lay, R. S. Burrows, John Foot, G. W. Lay, David E. Evans, James Wadsworth, Horatio Stevens, John S. Ganson, Samuel Skinner, C. M. Lee, John B. Skinner, Benedict Brooks, Horatio Averill, Thomas Otis, William M. Sprague, J. E. Robinson, Benjamin Pringle, S. Grant, Aaron D. Patchen, Walter Cary, J. S. Wadsworth, T. H. Newbold, Miles P. Lampson, Thomas Brown, William Lampson, H. U. Howard, E. H. Fish, R. T. Howard, Augustus N. Cowdin, Trumbull Cary, Dr. Charles Cary, J. N. Scatcherd, and H. F. Tarbox. The following have served as officers of the bank:

Presidents.—Trumbull Cary, from the organization to March 31, 1840; Phineas L. Tracy, 1840–1851; Benjamin Pringle, 1851–1855; H. U. Howard, 1855–1885; Augustus N. Cowdin, 1885–1898; Trumbull Cary, 1898 to present time.

Vice-Presidents.—Phineas L. Tracy, 1834–1840; J. C. Ferris, 1840–1844; J. B. Skinner, 1844–49; Benjamin Pringle, 1849–1851; Alva Smith, 1851–1853; H. U. Howard, 1853–1855; Alva Smith, 1855–1857; J. B. Skinner, 1857–1870; E. H. Fish, 1870–1879; Walter Cary, 1879–1882; W. Lampson, 1882–1885; H. F. Tarbox, 1891–1894; J. N. Scatcherd, 1894–1898.

Cashiers.—William M. Vermilye, from organization to May, 1830; J. S. Ganson, 1830–1838; J. E. Robinson, 1838–1851; T. C. Kimberly, 1851–1858; M. L. Babcock, 1858–1859; Augustus N. Cowdin, 1859–1885; Trumbull Cary, 1885–1898; Lewis F. McLean.

For many years the Bank of Genesee was the only financial institution in this section of the State, and its business extended over nearly all of Western New York.

The first official record of any fire engine in the village of Batavia is found in the annual report of the board of trustees for 1830:

An attempt had made some years ago, to organise a fire Company; but it had failed, probably, because the Corporation had no Engine; an essential object, to concentrate and direct the attention and discipline of such a company.

In September last, a small Engine, upon an improved and cheap plan, was bro't to this village, exhibited for several days to the inhabitants, and offered for sale on a year's credit, at \$270, with interest.

A Memorial was presented to the trustees, signed by forty-seven persons, contain-

ing the names of the most respectable inhabitants, and heaviest taxpayers in the Corporation, praying the trustees to purchase said Engine, and pledging themselves to vote for a tax to meet the payment for the same.

In compliance with so respectable, and so reasonable and proper request, the trustees purchased said Engine, and gave a Note for the same, under the seal of the Corporation, on interest.

The faith and credit of the Village are therefore pledged for the payment of it, and it is hoped and presumed they will be honorably redeemed.

Immediately upon the purchase of the Engine, a Fire Company was organized, under the command of William Seaver Esq., Captain.

This organization was known as Triton Fire Company. Its officers and members were as follows:

Captain, William Seaver; first engineer, Daniel H. Chandler; second engineer, Nathan Follett; secretary, Abraham Van Tuyl; treasurer, John S. Ganson; members, Henry Tisdale, Daniel Latimer, Ralph Stiles, B. Humphrey, James B. Lay, John Wilson, Alva Smith, Joseph Clarke, Albert Hosmer, James Milnor, Homer Kimberly, Stephen Grant, V. M. Cummings, Frederick Follett, George A. Lay, Norman Town, D. C. McCleary, John Chatfield, I. N. Town, Junius A. Smith.

In the annual report for 1831 the trustees said:

It will be recollected that in the year 1829 an Engine was purchased for the use of this Village. That the Engine was purchased in good faith, by the then acting Trustees, there can be no doubt,—indeed they did not venture upon its purchase, without first obtaining the consent of the citizens of the village to do so. The Engine was purchased, and a Corporation Note, for \$270 given for the payment thereof, payable in one year from date. The Note became due, we believe in September last. At the last annual meeting of the Electors of the Village, a vote was taken to raise \$300 by tax, in order to meet the payment of said Note. Before the Note became due, the Trustees were satisfied, that the Engine did not answer the recommendation given of it at the time it was purchased. It therefore became a subject of some moment, whether it should be paid for, or not. In order to determine this question, it was thought best to refer the subject back to the inhabitants of the Village for their decision. A meeting for this purpose was called—and it was the unanimous opinion of those present, that a compromise should be made, if possible, with the owners of the Note, by paying them for all damages which the Engine might have sustained, during the time it has been in our possession, and that they take the same back—and in case they would not do this, the Trustees were advised to stand trial, on the suit, if one should be commenced. The President of the Village, accordingly wrote to the Agent of the Company, who resided in New York. The only answer which has ever been received to this letter, was one from a Lawyer in that city, informing that the Note had been left with him for collection, and that unless immediately paid, the same would be prosecuted. Some four or five months have since elapsed, but no prosecution has been commenced. That the Engine is, comparatively, good for nothing, there can be no doubt. It may perhaps, be well for the Electors now as-

sembled, to take some order on this subject. We leave this, however, entirely to your good judgment.

Two destructive fires occurred in Batavia in 1833. The first of these occurred about two o'clock on the morning of March 4, and was first discovered in a wooden building on Main street, near the corner of Jackson street, in which was located a billiard parlor. This building was destroyed, together with one on the west side occupied by William Manley as a saddler's shop, and two small buildings on the east side, occupied respectively by G. C. Towner as a law office and by ——— Wentworth as a shoe shop. Most of the contents of these buildings were saved.

A more disastrous fire occurred April 19, 1833, the flames first being discovered between one and two o'clock in the morning in a small wooden building nearly opposite the Eagle Tavern. It spread with great rapidity along Main street "until its progress eastward was arrested, though with difficulty, at the intersection of Mechanic street, and westward by the new three-story Arcade Buildings erected by A. Champion of Rochester. The following buildings were destroyed: The Tavern House at the corner of Genesee and Mechanic streets, together with its appurtenances, occupied by Harvey Rowe, and owned by Messrs. Lamberton and Hurlburt. Mr. Rowe's goods and furniture were principally saved. Loss of buildings, about \$1,200. An uncompleted building, owned by Joseph Wilson, which was fitting up for a grocery, valued at about \$300. A small building occupied by R. Blades as a Tailors' shop. Loss of building about \$150. Some of Mr. Blade's goods and furniture were destroyed. A building owned and occupied by Joseph Wilson as a grocery, together with most of the goods. Loss about \$500. The Store of Messrs. Sherman and Crandall, occupied by them as a Dry Goods and Book Store, and Book Bindery, most of the goods were saved. Whole loss about \$2,000. A building owned by William Dickinson, and occupied by J. T. Allen, Watch-maker and Jeweller, and Messrs. Gilbert & Seward, Tin and Sheet Iron manufacturers. Mr. Dickinson's loss \$400; Mr. Allen about \$100. A small building owned by Mrs. Ross, occupied by Hugh Evans as a grocery and Bakers shop, valued at about \$100. A two-story building, owned also by Mrs. Ross, and occupied by W. P. Goldsmith as a Tailors shop; Charles Seward as a dwelling; E. C. Dibble, Attorney at Law, and Doct. L. B. Cotes, as a Druggist Store. In the basement was a grocery, kept by Caleb Allen. Building estimated at

\$800, insured \$300. A share of the loss is sustained by G. W. Allen, to whom the building was leased for a term of years, and who had fitted it up and rented it to the present occupants. Although the number of buildings was considerable, yet as will be perceived, some of them were not of very great value. The aggregate loss of buildings is estimated at about \$4,000. There has, however, been some considerable other loss, but to what amount we are unable to state.”

The report of the village trustees, submitted May 7, 1833, shows that the village paid John Anderson the sum of five hundred dollars for a “fire engine and apparatus;” and that the further sum of \$49.89 was paid to William Dickinson for “hooks and ladders, axes, etc.” The year following one hundred dollars more was paid to John Anderson “for engine;” \$18.50 to D. Latimer “for storing engine;” and \$40 to William Dickinson “for carriage for hooks and ladders.”

A still more disastrous fire than that of 1833, which might properly be dignified by the name of conflagration, occurred in Batavia May 30, 1834. The buildings destroyed burned with great fury. There had been no rain for some time and everything was quite dry. Added to this, a strong wind was blowing from the southwest. The local fire company responded quickly to the alarm, bringing the little fire engine called the “Triton.” William Seaver, the historical writer, who was foreman of the fire company at that time, in referring to this apparatus says that it “could only be worked by six men at a time, three on each crank, like turning a grind-stone, and its effect on that fire was about equal to a pewter syringe on the crater of Mount *Ætna*.” As soon as the roofs of the two big hotels caught fire, the gale drove the blazing shingles to great distances, at one time threatening to destroy the whole village. Fortunately, about half an hour after the fire started the wind suddenly veered to the northeast. The most authentic account of this conflagration appeared in the *Advocate* of June 3, 1834:

The most destructive fire ever known in this county, broke out in this village on Friday last, about 5 o'clock P. M. It was first discovered in some combustible materials near the barns and stables connected with the Eagle Tavern. The out-houses were quickly one mass of flame, and being situated near the Eagle Tavern, it was found to be impossible to prevent the destruction of that noble edifice, and soon the devouring element was seen bursting in large volumes from its windows. A gentle gale was blowing from the southwest nearly in the direction of Genesee street, which caused the flames to expand along the line of buildings on the south side of that street with alarming rapidity, and to progress in that direction in spite of every effort

¹ From the *Batavia Advocate* of March 5, 1833.

to avert them, till every building was a blazing heap of ruins from the Eagle Tavern to Mr. Latimer's house near the corner of Jackson street, where by indefatigable and persevering efforts of the Fire Company, the march of the destroyer was at length stayed.

The fire extended south from the Eagle Tavern along Court street to Mr. Wood's blacksmith shop on Bigtree street. The spectacle presented by the conflagration was truly appalling. The following estimate of the number of buildings destroyed, the amount of Insurance, loss &c. on each, will be found nearly correct.

Genesee street.—B. Humphrey's Eagle Tavern, estimated loss of buildings, barns, sheds &c. \$10,000. Insured \$7,000.

Tavern house occupied by H. Rowe, and owned by A. Champion of Rochester, no insurance. Loss \$3,000.

Taggart & Smith's Law Office, no insurance. Loss \$300.

Jones & Leech, tailors shop, owned by M. Taggart Esq., no insurance. Loss \$200.

Law Office and dwelling house, owned by T. Fitch Esq., no insurance. Loss \$1,200.

Building owned by E. B. Seymour, and occupied by Mr. Buxton as a Cabinet shop, by Gilbert & Seward as a Tin Factory, and by T. Cole as a tailor's shop. Insured \$300. Loss of building \$600.

Dwelling House owned by Mrs. Hewett, no insurance. Loss \$800.

Dwelling house owned and occupied by Richard Smith Esq., no insurance. Loss \$400.

Allen & Chandler's Law Office.

Dwelling house owned by E. B. Allen, and occupied by Mr. Ottoway, and Wm. Fursman. Loss \$1000.

Two small buildings, one occupied as a grocery and the other as a dwelling.

Court Street. Two dwellings owned by H. & E. C. Kimberly. Loss \$600.

Barns and sheds owned by A. Hosmer. Loss \$500.

Big-Tree Street.—Two dwelling houses owned by Jesse Wood. Loss \$900. Insured \$500.

Considerable furniture and other property were also destroyed, of which it is impossible to form an estimate.

The whole number of buildings, including dwellings, barns, &c, is about 25. Aggregate loss of property, it is supposed cannot be less than \$30,000.

By this fire a large number of persons were rendered homeless, and the central and most conspicuous and valuable portion of the village was annihilated.

For many years the "Snake Den tavern," located on the corner of Main and State streets, was a largely patronized hostelry. This hotel was built in 1834 by Truman Hurlburt, sr., and named the Genesee house. It was also popularly known as the Snake Den tavern.

The fourth church established in Batavia, the Baptist church, was organized November 19, 1835, at a meeting held in the court house. Gideon Kendrick and P. S. Moffit presided over the meeting. It was voted that the society be called the "Baptist Society of Batavia Vil-