

tionary at local dances and other entertainments. Richard M. Stoddard, who came to this neighborhood in 1802, was the first local agent for the Triangle tract. Ezra Platt, who removed here from Canandaigua, either in 1801 or 1802, probably the latter date, was the first to receive the appointment of judge of Genesee County Court of Common Pleas. Stephen A. Wolcott, who came from Geneva in 1802, was the first cabinet-maker and builder in town.

Daniel Davis, whose settlement here has already been noted, married Naomi Le Barron soon after his arrival. She came from Killingworth, Conn., with the family of Philemon Nettleton. Their marriage was the first in the Ganson settlement and their daughter, Naomi Davis, was the first white child born there. Charles Wilbur, the first justice of the peace, performed the wedding ceremony. At the same time and place Gardner Carver and Lydia Davis were married by Justice Wilbur. Davis's farm was about two miles east of that of the Gansons, near the eastern edge of the present town.

Hinds Chamberlin was one of the very earliest pioneers, and one of the most enterprising and useful citizens in the community. In all public movements he was conspicuous as a leader for many years. He opened the first road from the Genesee river to Ganson's, over the old Indian trail, under direction of Richard M. Stoddard. The farm he first opened he sold in 1801 to Asher Bates, who in that year came from Canandaigua.

Richard M. Stoddard was one of the most conspicuous and influential men of the community in its early days. He came from Canandaigua with Ezra Platt. In May, 1801, Joseph Ellicott, then acting as special agent for Le Roy and Bayard, engaged Mr. Stoddard to make a survey of the Triangle tract, giving explicit directions as to the laying off of a tract of five hundred acres at "Buttermilk Falls." This tract, which was purchased in 1802 by Mr. Stoddard and Ezra Platt, is now entirely covered by the village of Le Roy. They erected on the Oatka a grist mill, which is believed to have been the first west of the Genesee river. Mr. Stoddard became the first sheriff of Genesee county and to his efforts is due in a very large measure the peaceful conditions which surrounded the inhabitants of this county during a portion of the first decade of the present century. He also built a commodious tavern and several other houses. He was a man of wide influence, which he invariably exercised for good.

In 1799 Gilbert Hall began the cultivation of the farm known in

recent years as the Phelps farm. Friend Hall came soon after and located near by. Jabez Fox and James Davis, jr., settled in town about 1800. Lyman Prindle built a home on West Main street in 1801. The following year Richard Waite came from Canandaigua. His home was frequently used in the early days as a house of worship. Daniel D. Waite, for many years editor of the *Batavia Advocate*, was his son. Captain James Austin was an early millwright in Le Roy, and Thaddeus Keyes had the first tannery there. Ebenezer Fox, one of the pioneers, conducted a singing school for some time. Aaron Scribner and Samuel Davis removed to this town about 1802. The latter was the proprietor of an early tavern. In a drunken brawl which occurred in his house he met his death at the hands of his son, James, and Elijah Gray, sr. Both were tried and convicted of the murder. Gray was sentenced to State prison for life, but sentence was subsequently commuted. James Davis was hanged for the crime, at Batavia, in 1829. Among others who settled in the town prior to 1802 were Captain Nathaniel Buel, John Sweatland and Orange Judd.

In 1805 Jeremiah Hascall came from Connecticut and settled upon the farm east of the village which in more recent years has been known as "Dreamland." He had four sons—Jeremiah, Amasa, John and Augustus P.—and two daughters.

In 1808 Simon Pierson located near Fort Hill. He was a descendant of Abraham Pierson, the first president of Yale University. He served as a major in the war of 1812, and enjoyed a reputation as an authority on Indian antiquities. He made numerous excavations in the ancient Indian fort near his home and discovered large numbers of Indian relics. Some of these he found below the largest trees, proving that the works were very ancient.

Contemporaries of Major Pierson were George W. Blodgett, the first saddler and harnessmaker, who settled upon the farm afterward occupied by his daughter, Mrs. J. R. Anderson; Mr. Brown, who was the pioneer blacksmith; John Gilbert, a blacksmith and axe-maker, father of the distinguished artist; Levi Farnham, the first manufacturer of clothing; Captain Isaac Marsh, who built an early saw mill, probably the first in town; John Hay, the first stone mason, who built the first Episcopal church; William Whiting, who came from Canandaigua in 1806; Colonel William Olmsted, who came from Williamstown, Mass., in 1806, father of John R. Olmsted of Le Roy.

Among others who located in the town of Le Roy prior to the begin-

ning of the war of 1812 were Heman J. Redfield, who became a distinguished citizen of Genesee county; Augustus H. Ely, Stephen Stillwell, Daniel Woodward, David Anderson, Alexander Anderson, Joseph Austin, Jonathan Wright, Benjamin Webb, Joel Butler, Thankful Buel, Joy Ward, Captain William Thomas, Edmund Beach, Jonas Bartlett, Christopher Cadman, Joseph Cook, Amasa Clapp, Lee Comstock, Thomas Studley, Thomas Severance, James Roberts, Elias Peck, Henry Goodenow, Ezekiel Hall, Israel Herrick, Daniel Pierson, Russell Pierson, Ebenezer Parmelee, David W. Parmelee, Zalmon Owen, William Holbrook, Moses McCollum, Alfred Morehouse, Jesse Beach, Philip Beach, Colonel Norton S. Davis, Dudley Saltonstall, whose daughter became the wife of Richard M. Stoddard; Phineas Bates, Cyrus Douglass, Dr. David Fairchild, Jabez Fox, Amos Hall, Nathan Harvey, Alexander McPherson, Abel Nettleton, — Scofield, Amzi Stoughton, Richard Waite, Stephen A. Wolcott, Dr. William Coe, Calvin Davis, John McPherson, Samuel B. Wolley, Daniel White, David White, Allen McPherson, Gideon Fordham, John Franklin, Jacob McCollum, Robert Nesbit, Captain David Scott, Asa Buell, Moses Lilly, Isaac Perry, George A. Tiffany, David Emmons, Jason Munn, Philo Pierson, Simon Pierson, the author; Abram Butterfield, Ithamar Coe, John Elliott, Dr. Frederick Fitch, Dr. Benjamin Hill, Captain Theodore Joy, H. Johnson, Silas Lawrence, Hugh Murphy, R. Sinclair, Stephen P. Wilcox, Major Nathan Wilcox, Harry Backus, Timothy Backus, Ebenezer Miles, Salmon Butler, Chester Barrows, Willis Buell, Ward Beckley, Jacob Coe, Silas Fordham, William Harris, Seth Harris, Martin Kelsey, Uriah Kelsey, James McPherson, jr., Captain Isaac Marsh, Graham Newell, Stephen Olmsted, Harvey Prindle, Elias Parmelee, Dr. Chauncey P. Smith, Dr. William Sheldon, Thaddeus Stanley, Alanson Stanley, J. Harlow Stanley, Thomas Tufts, Thomas Warner, Chester Waite, Captain John Webb, Washington Weld, Joseph Annin, Abraham Buckley, Nathan Bannister, Joseph Curtis, Levi Farnham, Julius Griswold, Samuel Gilbert, Ebenezer Lawrence, Pliny Sanderson, Elisha Stanley, John Thwing, Stephen Taylor, Stephen Walkley.

The mill of Stoddard & Platt was the first erected in Le Roy, its operation beginning in 1803. This mill antedates that which the Holland Land Company erected at Batavia.

The year before a wooden bridge had been erected over the Oatka. These two institutions served to attract people to Le Roy from the surrounding country, and were in a measure responsible for its early

growth. The bridge was built by James Ganson, under direction of Charles Wilbur and Jotham Curtis, commissioners of highways. The town voted \$50 towards paying the expense of construction, and \$200 more was raised by popular subscription. The work was finished five days after it had been begun, as men from all the adjacent country participated in the work, donating their services.

The post office at Le Roy was established in 1804, Asher Bates being the first to officiate as postmaster. Richard M. Stoddard and James Ganson were his immediate successors.

Richard M. Stoddard was the first to offer any merchandise for sale in town, but he did no general business. The first regular store in town was opened in 1806 by George F. Tiffany on the east side of the Oatka. Philo Pierson was also an early merchant, opening a store at the corner of Main and North streets in Le Roy about 1810. David Emmons and Captain Theodore Joy were proprietors of a general store at this point during the period under discussion. Captain Joy was one of the best known merchants between Canandaigua and Buffalo. M. & B. Murphy and James Annin located very early here. The latter first had a store on the east side of the Oatka, but like several others, he removed to the west side of the creek as soon as it became evident that that locality was to be the business centre of the village.

Dr. William Coe was the first regular practitioner to locate in Le Roy, where he settled in 1803. Besides practicing his profession he taught several of the higher branches of learning in the evening. Many of the prominent persons of the generation succeeding him owe to Dr. Coe the education they obtained. Dr. Frederick Fitch, Dr. Ella Smith, Dr. Chauncey P. Smith and Dr. William Sheldon practiced in town during this period. Graham Newell was the pioneer lawyer in town.

The name of the town was changed to Caledonia in 1807. In 1811 it was called Bellona, from the goddess of war, nearly every able-bodied man in town having enlisted in the American army to fight against the British. The name was not changed to Le Roy until 1813.

In the year 1798, Joseph and Benjamin Ellicott and James Brisbane are recorded as inhabitants of the town of Batavia. The separate chapter in the history of the village of Batavia furnishes more detailed information regarding these noted pioneers and some of their contemporaries. The early records show that John Branan located in town in 1800. In the township outside the village the first settlers were Isaac Sutherland, who built a substantial log house on his farm about two

miles west of the land office in the village, and General Worthy L. Churchill and Colonel William Rumsey, who located in the eastern section of the town. Soon after Benjamin Morgan, John Lamberton and Samuel F. Geer settled in the town.

The life and services of Joseph Ellicott, the founder of Batavia, have been touched upon in extenso elsewhere in this work. Let us now take a retrospective view of some of the less distinguished, though prominent and influential pioneer inhabitants, than the first agent of the Holland Land Company. Perhaps James Brisbane deserves the first place in the list.

Mr. Brisbane was born in Philadelphia, of Irish parentage, October 12, 1776. At the age of twenty-two years he left the City of Brotherly Love with a large quantity of supplies and general merchandise for sale to the corps of men then engaged in surveying the Western New York wilderness under the direction of Joseph Ellicott. Mr. Brisbane and those who accompanied him first stopped at Stafford, where a building called the Transit storehouse was erected. This was in 1798. January 2, 1800, he accompanied Mr. Ellicott back to Philadelphia. Returning in the spring of 1802 he located permanently in the new village of Batavia, which was laid out in that year, offering for sale the first lot of general merchandise ever shipped to that point. July 21, 1802, Gideon Granger, postmaster-general, commissioned him as the first postmaster of Batavia. This was the second post-office west of the Genesee, that at Lewiston being the first. Isaac Sutherland and Samuel F. Geer had erected a building on the northeast corner of Main and Church streets, which was immediately rented for use as a store by Mr. Brisbane, and afterward purchased by him. In 1806 he resigned the postmastership and Ebenezer Cary was appointed in his place. At the same time he disposed of his stock of goods and rented his store to Trumbull Cary. He soon after went to New York and engaged in the book business for two years. Returning to Batavia in 1808 he resumed business at his original stand, remaining there until 1821. During the earlier years of his residence in Batavia he purchased large parcels of real estate, which soon became exceedingly valuable. In 1833 he became the principal incorporator and largest shareholder of the Tonawanda railroad. Mr. Brisbane was married in 1807 to Mary Lucy Stevens, a sister of James W. Stevens, the first clerk of Genesee county. His death occurred May 29, 1851. He was survived by two sons: Albert, born in 1809, and George, born in 1812.

Among the other pioneers of the town, prior to the war of 1812, were the following:

James W. Stevens, a native of New Jersey and a graduate of Princeton College, came in 1800. At the earliest period of its land sales in Western New York he became connected with the Holland Land Company, and remained in that capacity until the affairs of that concern were closed up. He was the first clerk of Genesee county, holding office from 1804 to 1810. No man in all Genesee county was more highly esteemed than he.

David E. Evans, a nephew of Joseph Ellicott, came from his home in Maryland to assume a clerical position in the Holland Land office. He was elected to the State Senate in 1818 and served in that body four years. He became a member of congress in 1826, but resigned in that year in order to accept the agency of the Holland Company, to succeed Jacob Otto, a position he filled with great fidelity until 1837, when the affairs of the company were closed up. His death occurred in 1850. Mr. Evans was a public-spirited man, and a liberal contributor to all worthy enterprises, public or private.

Ebenezer Cary accompanied Mr. Ellicott as a surveyor to the Holland Purchase, and served the company for some time in various capacities. He was an early merchant in Batavia, succeeding James Brisbane.

Dr. David McCracken and Roswell Graham came in 1801, and James Cochrane in 1802. The latter was the proprietor of a bell foundry on Bank street. He died in 1826.

Trumbull Cary, brother of Ebenezer Cary, was born in Mansfield, Conn., August 11, 1787. He came to Batavia in 1805, and after spending four years as clerk for James Brisbane and Ebenezer Cary, bought out that firm and remained in business until 1840. He also served as postmaster for part of that time. He served in both branches of the State Legislature, and was an adjutant in the war of 1812. He was the founder of the Bank of Genesee, and was for many years one of the most successful business men and financiers in this section of the State. He died June 20, 1869.

Ebenezer Mix was born at New Haven, Conn., December 31, 1789. In 1809 he came to Batavia and worked at his trade as a mason in the summer and taught school in the winter. In 1810 he began the study of the law with Daniel B. Brown, but in the spring of 1811 entered the employ of the Holland Land Company, where he remained as

contracting clerk for twenty-seven years. During this period he was for twenty-one years surrogate of Genesee county. While serving in that office, he codified the State laws relating to the descent and distribution of estates. He served with distinction in the war of 1812, acting as the volunteer aide of Gen. Peter B. Porter at the memorable sortie at Fort Erie, September 17, 1814. He was recognized as one of the best mathematicians in the State, and was the author of a work entitled "Practical Mathematics." He also assisted Orsamus Turner in the compilation of his "History of the Holland Purchase." March 30, 1815, Mr. Mix married Jemima Debow. His death occurred in Cleveland, O., January 12, 1869.

Aaron Van Cleve, who came to Batavia in 1809, was born in New Jersey in 1768. In 1791 he married a daughter of Benjamin Stevens and a sister of James W. Stevens. In 1799 he assisted Joseph Ellicott in running the West Transit Line. In 1809 he removed to Batavia, and two years later was appointed sheriff, serving until 1814. He also held other offices of trust.

In addition to those persons mentioned in the foregoing, the following are recorded as holders of property in Batavia village or township as early as 1802:

Elisha Adams, Joseph Alvord, Dr. J. Arnold, Thomas Ashley, William Blackman, Hiram Blackman, Russell Crane, Charles Cooley, Silas Chapin, Daniel Curtis, James Clements, Jeremiah Cutler, James Cochran, Gideon Dunham, Garrett Davis, Dr. C. Chapin, John Forsyth, E. Gettings, Samuel F. Geer, Rufus Hart, James Holden, Paul Hinkley, Paul Hill, Jesse Hurlburt, Joseph Hawks, John Lamberton, P. Lewis, Daniel McCracken, Rufus McCracken, James McKain, Benjamin F. Morgan, David Mather, Elisha Mann, R. Noble, Zerah Phelps, Peter Powers, Benjamin Porter, Stephen Russell, Benjamin Russell, H. Rhodes, Abel Rowe, Amos Ranger, Rowland Town, E. Tillottson, Henry Wilder, Aaron White, J. Washburn, William Wood, Elijah Spencer and Isaac Spencer.

Beside these the following are on record as having been owners of property between the year 1802, when Batavia village was founded, and the outbreak of the war of 1812:

John Alger, David Anderson, David Bowen, William H. Bush, Benjamin Blodgett, Ephraim Brown, Isaiah Babcock, Daniel B. Brown, M. Brooks, William Curtis, Benjamin Cary, Elisha Cox, Nathaniel Coleman, Eleazer Cantling, L. L. Clark, Simeon Cummings, Peleg Doug-

lass, Levi Davis, Silas Dibble, jr., Hugh Duffy, John Dorman, L. Disbrow, John De Wolf, Andrew A. Ellicott, Gideon Ellicott, John B. Ellicott, William Ewing, Seymour Ensign, Phineas Ford, Libbeus Fish, Eden Foster, Ezekiel Fox, Othniel Field, David Goss, R. Godfrey, Thomas Godfrey, Linus Gunn, Alanson Gunn, Hugh Henry, James Henry, John Herring, Hinman Holden, Samuel C. Holden, General Amos Hall, David Hall, Winter Hewitt, James G. Hoyt, H. Jerome, Samuel Jacks, Seymour Kellogg, Zenas Keyes, Chauncey Keyes, William Keyes, Solomon Kingsley, John S. Leonard, Henry Lake, William Lucas, Amos Lamberton, Reuben Lamberton, Thomas Layton, A. Lincoln, — Leonard, Asa McCracken, E. Messenger, Azor Marsh, David C. Miller, N. Miner, William Pierce, Blanchard Powers, Patrick Powers, James Post, Nathan Rumsey, Samuel Ranger, J. Z. Ross, Reuben Town, I. Norman Town, Benjamin Tainter, Joel Tyrrell, Jonathan Wood, Reuben W. Wilder, Oswald Williams, Elias Williams, Abel Wheeler, John B. Watkins, Abraham Starks, Joshua Sutherland, David Smith, Isaac Smith, Henry Starks, J. P. Smith, S. Stoughton, N. Walker.

James Brisbane, the first settler in the town of Stafford and the first merchant on the Holland Purchase, remained in that town but a short time. In 1802, when Mr. Ellicott began the work of laying out the village of Batavia, one of the first men to take advantage of the superior opportunities for trade which that locality offered was Mr. Brisbane. He had abandoned his storehouse, which probably was located on the west side of the creek, north of the bridge, in the present village of Stafford, some time before.

In 1799, the year after the arrival of Mr. Brisbane, James Dewey, one of the surveyors employed by Mr. Ellicott for the Holland company, was induced by Mr. Brisbane to clear about ten acres of land just west of the Transit, which he sowed with oats.

Frederick Walther located in Stafford during or prior to 1800. He was one of the first men to accept the offer of the company in 1800, regarding the establishment of taverns. Paul Busti, the general agent of the company at Philadelphia, had given authority "to contract with six reputable individuals to locate themselves on the road from the Transit Line to Buffalo Creek, about ten miles apart, and open houses of entertainment for travelers," in consideration for which they were to have "from fifty to one hundred and fifty acres of land each, at a liberal time for payment, without interest, at the lowest price per acre."

In accordance with this offer Walther took a tract of one hundred and fifty acres west of and adjoining the Eastern Transit Line, including the company's storehouse. He had already located on a part of this tract, but how long he had been there at this time is unknown. His stay was brief in this community on account of his unpopularity.

One of the earliest permanent settlers of whom any record has been left was Colonel William Rumsey, who came from Hubbardton, Vt., in 1802 and located on Stafford Hill. Colonel Rumsey also was a surveyor employed under direction of Mr. Ellicott, and a man of sterling worth. He became one of the most influential men in the town and county. His son, Joseph E. Rumsey, settled here the same year, but subsequently removed to Chicago.

In 1803 Nathan Marvin bought a large tract of land, upon which he settled, but he eventually sold the property and moved to Ohio.

General Worthy Lovell Churchill, who became one of the most conspicuous men in Genesee county in its early days, settled upon a farm near that of Colonel Rumsey in 1803. He served as an officer in the war of 1812, commanded the One Hundred and Sixty-fourth Regiment of New York State Militia, and served as sheriff of the county from 1820 to 1825.

John Debow and Zenas Bigelow began the cultivation of farms in Stafford in 1804. From that time to 1812 newcomers were quite numerous. Among those who came to town during that period were Eben Eggleston, who kept a tavern on the Big Tree road; D. Hall, Leonard King, Henry Rumsey, Josiah Churchill, Phineas White, John Bean, Malachai Tyler, Amos Stow, Seymour Ensign, — Falconer, Nathan Bannister and Betsey Bigelow. Tyler operated a small wood turning shop, where he turned out chairs, spinning wheels, bowls and other wooden implements. He also did blacksmithing. Amos Stow built a saw mill on Bigelow creek in 1811, and in the same year Seymour Ensign built a grist mill in the same neighborhood. The latter also conducted quite a business in wool-carding and cloth dressing. Captain Nathan Cash and Elisha Prentice removed to the town in 1812. Nathaniel Watson and Daniel Prentice located about 1812 on the Pultney lands of the Connecticut tract.

In 1806 Esther Sprout opened a private school on or near the present site of the village of Stafford. This undoubtedly was the first school in town. Nothing is known of any other schools which may have existed during this period.

Beside the Walther tavern referred to, Jonathan Bemis kept a public house in Stafford as early as 1804. David Danolds was another early landlord, his tavern being on the site of the one Walther had occupied, just west of the building occupied by Mr. Brisbane as a storehouse. Eben Eggleston's tavern on the Big Tree Road, opened in 1809, for many years was a famous hostelry.

Religious services were held in town as early as 1810, by the Rev. William Green, a Baptist preacher. The earliest meetings were held at the house of Colonel Rumsey. From these services sprang the first Baptist church of Stafford.

The town of Oakfield was first settled in 1801, when Erastus Wolcott and Aaron White built homes and began the cultivation of farms. Gideon Dunham located here soon after, in the same year, his neighborhood soon becoming known as Dunham's Grove. A little later in the same year Erastus Wolcott, Peter Rice and Christopher Kenyon moved into the town. Peter Lewis immigrated from Vermont in 1802 and settled on a farm near that of Gideon Dunham. Daniel Ayer and Job Babcock also came in 1802. The records show the following as having located here in 1803: Hiram Smith, James Robinson, Lemuel L. Clark, Silas Pratt, William McGrath, Philip Adkins, Darius Ayer and George Lathrop. Rufus Hastings, Roraback Robinson, Samuel Jerome, sr., Samuel Jerome, jr., Benjamin Chase and Solomon Baker came in 1804, and Caleb Blodgett, sr., Caleb Blodgett, jr., Micajah Green, George Hoge, Ezra Thomas, William Parrish, David Clark, Eldridge Buntley, George Harper, John Harper, David Woodworth, Nicholas Bentley and James Crossett came in 1806. In 1807 Elijah Blodgett, a native of Vermont, came from Ontario county and settled at what is now Mechanicsville. William McCrilles settled here in 1810 and George W., John and Jeremiah H. Gardner in 1811. In the latter year George Driggs located on the north line of the Reservation. He cut that portion of the Lewiston road from Alabama to Walsworth's tavern. Other early settlers included John Orr, Russell Nobles, Othniel Brown, Harvey Hubbard and Laurens Armstrong.

The first mills in Oakfield were those built by Christopher Kenyon in 1811. Gideon Dunham was the first tavern keeper.

The earliest inhabitant of Bergen was Samuel Lincoln, who purchased a farm in that town in 1801. Soon afterward, in the same year, Benajah Worden, George Letson, William Letson, James Letson, David Scott, Gideon Elliott, Richard Abbey, Jesse Leach and Solomon Levi

settled in various portions of the town, mostly in Lincoln's neighborhood. From that time to 1812 the following were recorded as settlers in Bergen, all being landholders: Alexander White, Alexander Bissell, Amos Hewitt, A. E. Wilcox, John Landon, Abram Davis, Captain James Austin, James Landon, Isaac Wallace, Orange Throop, Joseph Throop, David Potter, Levi Bissell, Aaron Bissell, Wheaton Southworth, John Gifford, Samuel Butler, Jesse Barber, Jedediah Crosby, Captain William Peters, Samuel Gleason, Oliver Avery, Aaron Arnold, Eben Arnold, Deacon Benjamin Wright, Deacon Pitman Wilcox, Deacon John Ward, Deacon Levi Ward, Deacon Timothy Hill, James Munger, Joarab Field, Wickham Field, Joel Wright, Stephen R. Evarts, David H. Evarts, Captain Phineas Parmelee, Nathan Field, Uriah Crampton, Captain Samuel Bassett, Selah M. Wright, Bela Munger, William H. Munger, Harvey Field, Joshua Field, Dr. Levi Ward, Colonel W. H. Ward, Hamilton Wilcox, General Daniel Hurlburt, M. C. Ward, Josiah Pierson, Simeon Pierson, John Pierson, Philo Pierson, Linus Pierson, Russell Pierson (brothers), David Franklin, Ishi Franklin, Sylvanus Franklin, Reuben Franklin, Daniel Franklin (brothers), Harvey Kelsey, Captain Daniel Kelsey, Uriah Kelsey, Martin Kelsey, Charles Kelsey, Thomas Stevens, Daniel Stevens, Jesse Griswold, Josiah Buell, Job Seward, Roswell Parmelee, Ebenezer Parmelee, Abner Hull, Ebenezer Hull, Phineas Nettleton, John Smith, Samuel Smith, Deacon Selden, Major Nathan Wilcox, Calvin Seward, Augustus Buell and Jonathan Wright.

Hamilton Wilcox was a member of a colony which came from East Guilford, Conn., in 1808. At the age of sixteen years he began teaching school in Bergen. In the winter of 1813-14, when troops were called for, he left his school to take command of a company. On the night of December 30, 1813, as the British were crossing the river at Black Rock, he was wounded by a bullet. He was taken back to Bergen, where his arm was amputated, causing his death four weeks later.

Aaron Arnold was the oldest son of Enoch Arnold, and was born in Berkshire county, Mass., in 1781. In 1806 he married Eliza Allen of Canaan, Conn., and the following year he removed to Bergen and began farming. He became a man of wealth and influence, and served his town several terms as supervisor.

Ebenezer Arnold, youngest son of Daniel Arnold, came from East Haddam, Conn., in 1802. He was for many years a deacon in the First Congregational church of Bergen.

Wickham Field came from Killingworth, Conn., in June, 1809, in company with several other pioneers of Genesee, and settled about two miles west of Bergen village.

Abner Hull, who came also from Killingworth, Conn., in 1808, served as justice of the peace and supervisor of Bergen for many years. He was a man of upright character, noted far and wide for his integrity. One of his sons, Ferdinand H. Hull, was sheriff of Genesee county from 1860 to 1862 inclusive. Carlos A. Hull, who has served as county clerk continuously since 1867, is another son. Abner Hull's wife was Rachael Parmelee.

The first religious organization in Bergen of which there is any record was the Congregational church organized January 25, 1808, at the house of Deacon John Ward. But before this date religious services had been held by Rev. Calvin Ingalls, a missionary, in the barn of David Franklin.

Harvey Kelsey was the earliest school teacher. Titus Wilcox, Joshua Field and Hamilton Wilcox were other teachers of the pioneer days.

Jared Merrill erected the first saw mill in Bergen. The store of Dr. Levi Ward, opened in 1808, and that of Josiah Pierson, opened in 1811, are believed to have been the first in town. In 1809 Samuel Butler opened a tavern, the first public house in Bergen.

The earliest settlements in Bethany were made in the year 1803, when John Torrey, Orsamus Kellogg, John Dewey, Charles Culver, Captain George Lathrop, Richard Pearson, Samuel Prindle, L. D. Prindle, David Hall, O. Fletcher, Nathaniel Pinney, Horace Shepard and Jedediah Riggs took up farms in town. Whether all these actually settled here in that year or not is not shown by the records. Captain George Lathrop settled in town in that year, but he had two neighbors who were there before him. Captain Lathrop was an officer in the war of 1812. Solomon Lathrop came in 1804, but remained but a short time. Henry Lathrop, who settled here the same year, resided in town until his death. Richard Pearson, sr., came from Lyme, Conn., in 1803, and purchased a good sized tract, but did not permanently settle in Bethany until 1815. Richard Peck, who located here in 1806, was a lieutenant in Colonel Rumsey's regiment in the war of 1812. Jedediah Lincoln located in town in 1805, and Peter Putnam a short time afterward.

Among the other inhabitants of the town who are recorded as having resided here before the war of 1812 were the following: Solomon Kingsley, Peter Adley, John Boynton, William Coggeshall, W. B. Cogge-

shall, James Cowdrey, Jeremiah Cowdrey, Lewis Disbrow, Peleg Douglass, John Grimes, Elisha Giddings, Joseph Hawks, Thomas Harding, John Halsted, Alanson Jones, John Roberts, Israel Shearer, David Tyrrell, Joel S. Wilkinson, Isaac R. Williams, William Williams, David Anderson, Israel Buell, Abel Buell, Erastus Bennett, James Bennett, Jeremiah Bennett, Joseph Bartlett, Eli Bristol, Jason Bixby, Jonathan Bixby, John Chambers, Ezekiel Fay, John Greenough, John Huntington, Thomas Halsted, Asher Lamberton, Gershom Orvis, Eli Perry, Alfred Rose, Richard Stiles, Josiah Southard, Elisha Wallace, Peter Wilkinson, Isaac Wilson, Philo Whitcomb, Joseph Adgate, Elisha Andrews, Lewis Barney, D. W. Bannister, Peter Davidson, Chester Davidson, Moses Goodrich, Liberty Judd, David Ingersoll, David Morgan, Henry Miller, Mather Peck, Thomas Starkweater, David Stewart, Joseph Shedd, Eben Wilson, Heman Brown, Buell Brown, Sylvester Lincoln, jr., Moses Page, Elisha Hurlburt, Nathaniel Brown, Calvin Barrows, Eleazer Faunce, O. Walker, W. Waite, sr., Israel Cook, Alexander Grimes, Daniel Marsh, Jesse Rumsey, Judge Wilson, Charles Smead, Robert Lounsbury, Israel Fay.

The first mill in Bethany was built about 1808, at Linden, by a man named Coles. The dam was twenty four feet high. In 1810 another mill was built at that point by Judge Isaac Wilson. In 1809 or 1810 Calvin Barrow erected a carding and woolen mill, which was widely patronized for many years. Judge Wilson had one of the first general stores in town. He was also a justice of the peace for several years, and the first postmaster at Linden. Joseph Chamberlain was the proprietor of the first tavern at that point. The first tavern in the town, however, was that kept by Sylvester Lincoln and opened for business in 1805. At Canada a mill was in operation very early, perhaps as early as 1808. Its proprietor was a man named Bennett, and the locality was known for some time as Bennett's Mills. Nathaniel Brown built a grist mill at West Bethany in 1811.

Religious services were held in Bethany as early as 1810, when the Methodist brethren conducted camp meetings at "Bennett's." The year following services were held by Benjamin Barlow, a local preacher, Brother Howe and Father Waller. Dr. Jonathan K. Barlow was the pioneer physician of the town.

The first inhabitant of Darien was Orange Carter, who came from Vermont in 1803 and located near Darien village, or Darien City. The year following Isaac Chaddock, also from Vermont, located in the same

vicinity. Stephen Parker opened a tavern in 1808, which was the first in town. Amos Humphrey built the first saw mill in town in 1809. It was located on the banks of Eleven Mile creek.

Saxton Bailey, accompanied by his son Joshua, removed to Darien in 1806 and purchased a farm of six hundred acres. His family followed two years later. Of these one son, Daniel, became a captain in the war of 1812. John Bardwell and his family, including his son Dexter, removed here from Orange county, Vt., in 1810. Peleg Bowen, a native of Galway, Saratoga county, N. Y., removed to Darien in 1811. He spent his life upon his farm, and served with honor in the war of 1812. Owen Curtis, a native of Warren, Conn., came to Darien in 1808 and bought a farm, on which he resided for seventy years.

The pioneer Orange Carter was born December 23, 1774, in Connecticut. His wife was Betsey Rumsey of Vermont. Mr. Carter had been employed for several years assisting in the survey of the Holland Purchase, and the farm he selected in the north part of the town was one of the finest in Genesee county. For a year his nearest neighbor lived three and one-half miles distant, in Alexander, and he had to travel six miles to find a grist mill. Mr. Carter served in the war of 1812. He died in Wisconsin in 1855, aged eighty-one years.

Brazilla Carter, a native of Connecticut, settled in 1812 in Darien, after a trip of six weeks, with an ox sled and cart, from his New England home. He died at the age of eighty-six years on the farm where he first settled.

Abner C. Colby, Reuben Colby and Daniel Colby removed to Darien from Canaan, N. H., in 1812, taking contracts for land at three dollars per acre, with ten years' time for payment. Their farms adjoined one another and the settlement became known as the Colby neighborhood.

Jonathan Durkee, a graduate of Dartmouth College, came to Darien in 1810 and took up four hundred acres of land. He became prominent in the affairs of the town, serving as justice and supervisor.

Alva Jefferson and Ichabod Jefferson were pioneers of 1812, locating in the southern part of the town.

Colonel Abraham Matteson, a native of Bennington, Vt., removed from that place to Darien in 1808, with his wife, formerly Betsey Woodard of Bennington. He entered the war of 1812 as a private and was mustered out as a colonel. He held numerous offices, serving as a justice for sixteen years. He also represented Genesee county in the State Assembly. He died in 1831.

Henry Saulsbury, born at Schodack, Rensselaer county, N. Y., about 1790, removed to Darien in 1810, residing there the balance of his life. He held numerous local offices and was a man of influence.

Other pioneers of Darien of this period included George Wright, David Goss, Rufus Kidder, Israel Doane, James Day, Captain Jonathan Bailey, Benjamin Carter, David Carter, John Long, David Long, John Lambertson, Stephen Parker, Joseph Peters, Samuel Carr, S. D. Cleveland, A. L. Clemens, Owen Curtis, Amos Humphrey, John Sumner, James G. Tiffany, H. G. Tiffany, D. Tiffany, Major William Thayer, Jonathan Vaughan, Daniel Jones, Levi Jones, Jotham Sumner, Orris Boughton, E. N. Boughton, John Ball, Peleg Brown, Nathaniel Jones, John Murray, Jerome Sumner, Joel Sutherland, Harry Stone, Jonas Kinne, Winslow Sumner, Tyler Sumner, David Sutherland, John Sutherland, John Stickney, Daniel Carter, Frank Chapin and Ira J. Tisdale.

Elba was first settled in 1804. July 11, 1803, the Holland Land Company issued to John Young a deed to land south of Elba village. In the spring of the following year Mr. Young and his wife came from Virginia on horseback, and located on their new farm. For a while they endured great hardships and privations. It is related that their first bed was a large cotton bag which they purchased of Mr. Brisbane at the Transit storehouse and filled with the down of "cat tails." Mr. Young at once set to work to clear up and cultivate his land, and soon found himself in possession of a most fertile and productive farm. His log house was the first erected in the town of Elba.

Soon after the arrival of John Young, in 1804, John Roraback established himself at the point which afterwards became known by the name of Pine Hill. He was a weaver, and for many years manufactured "homespun" for most of the settlers within a radius of several miles. A little later Bannan Clark, Thomas Turner and Ephraim Wortman settled in the same community. Patrick O'Fling was also a very early inhabitant. He and his three sons and a son-in-law fought in the war of 1812. Mr. O'Fling had previously served in the Revolution. The Drake family—Samuel, John, Jesse and James—came to town in 1811. Lemuel Foster came about the same time. In 1808 Eleazer Southworth, Asa Sawtelle, Sherrard Parker and Daniel Mills located here. George and John Mills settled near the latter, and that community was known for years as the Mills neighborhood. Near the latter Locklin Norton located about 1809. In 1808 Isaac Higley founded a home in the eastern section of the town. Borden Wilcox,

Dudley Sawyer, Deacon Seymour, Sylvanus Humphrey and Enos Kellogg were also residents of the town during or prior to 1812. The existing records also show the names of Dr. Daniel Woodward, Reuben Perry, Col. E. J. Pettibone, David Kingsley, Elisha Kellogg, John Willis, Archibald Whitten, Thomas Parker, Nathaniel Johnson, Hiram Smith, Col. Samuel Hall, Mark Turner, Nelson Parker, Phineas Barr, Loren Barr, John Lamberton, Ira Howe, Isaac Barber, John Howe, Phineas Howe, Simeon Hosmer, Cornelius Barr, Richard Edgerton, Dudley Sawyer, Samuel Cummings, Nathan Miner, Silas Torrey, Edmund Burgess, Horace Jerome, Joel Jerome, Joseph Mills, Aaron White, Stephen Harmon, Mason Turner, Asa Babcock and Samuel Laing.

Horace Gibbs and Comfort Smith erected the first saw mill and grist mill on Spring creek in 1810.

Mason Turner opened a school on Gifford Hill, at the house of J. W. Gardner in 1811. This was the first school established in Elba.

Dr. Daniel Woodward probably was the first physician to practice in this town.

The exact date of the first permanent settlement within the limits of the present town of Alexander is not definitely known. Early gazetteers state that Alexander Rea or Rhea located here in 1802, and that John Oney (Olney), Lewis Disbrow, George Darrow and William Blackman followed in 1802 and 1803. It is known that Alexander Rhea, for whom the town was named, obtained a deed to a tract of land in 1802, but it is doubtful if he settled upon it in that year. He erected a saw mill on the site of Alexander village in 1804, but may have become a resident before that date. Mr. Rhea was one of the surveyors employed by the Holland Land Company. Later on he was a brigadier-general of the State militia, and also served as State senator for several terms. He was a man of influence and amassed a fortune. In 1809 he removed from his first farm and took up a larger tract, since known as the Pearson farm.

Some authorities refer to William Blackman as the first actual settler, though it probably never will be known whether his occupation of land in the town antedated that of Rhea. Elijah Root and William Johnson came in 1803 or 1804. In the latter year Lillie Fisher, Caleb Blodgett, Benham Preston, Joseph Fellows, Elisha Carver, Elias Lee, John Lee, Solomon Blodgett, Samuel Russell and Elijah Rowe were recorded as owners of land. Some of those who took up

land in 1806 were John Churchill, David Clark, Henry Rumsey, Jonas Blodgett, Isaac Chaddock, Captain Ezekiel T. Lewis, Alexander Little, B. Lyman, J. McCollister, David Carter, John Chamberlin, Aaron Gale, Timothy Fay, Henry Williams, Elnathan Wilcox and Amos Jones. The latter taught the first school in the town. Ezekiel Churchill, G. W. Wing, Philo Porter, S. Bradway, Rudolphus Hawkins and Joseph Gladden settled here in 1807. Timothy Hawkins came during this period from Tolland, Conn. William Adams, who located in the village about 1807, built a saw mill and grist mill soon afterward. He was for some time a lieutenant in the State militia.

William Parrish and his son Isaac came from Randolph, Vt., in 1806. The latter was pressed into service during the early part of the war of 1812, while on a business trip to Batavia, but was allowed to return home after reaching Buffalo. Hon. Abel Ensign and Harvey Hawkins settled in town in 1808, and were proprietors of the first tavern and store. The year following Lyman Riddle, John Squires, Thomas Rice, Shubael Wing and Edmund Tracy purchased land and founded homes. Levi Thompson and Moses M. Page located here in 1810, and soon afterward Colonel Seba Brainard settled in the same neighborhood. • John and Samuel Latham, who came about the same time, erected the first frame dwelling in Alexander. In 1810 and 1811 Gehial Stannard, William Waite, Spencer Waldo, John Cady and Return B. Cady became their neighbors. Captain Elisha Smith, who settled at Alexander village in 1812, was a native of Washington county, N. Y., and a soldier in the war of 1812. Timothy Mooers built the first mill at Alexander village. Leverett Seward, another pioneer, was a soldier in the war of 1812 and served twice in the Assembly.

The early history of Pembroke is closely identified with that of Darien, and the names of most of the early settlers of the former town are contained in the preceding pages of this chapter devoted to the pioneer history of Darien. David Goss made the first settlement in 1804. He came from Massachusetts and erected a dwelling which he also used as a tavern. Dr. David Long, from Washington county, N. Y., John Long, his son, and Samuel Carr settled in town in 1808, and Joseph Lester, from Connecticut, in 1809. Samuel Carr built the first grist mill and saw mill, and also kept a tavern, believed to have been the first in Pembroke. The Longs located at what is now Corfu, and for many years that neighborhood was known as Long's Corners. Dr. Long was the first medical practitioner to establish himself in Pem-

broke. Anna Horton opened a school in 1811, the first in town. Jonas Kinne, who came to Long's Corners in 1812, soon after erected a commodious two story tavern, which became a famous public house for those days.

Although the old gazetteers affirm that Peter Crosman, who located in Pavilion in 1809, was the first settler in that town, recent research shows that settlements were made within the present limits of the town at least four years earlier than that date. Isaac D. Lyon, who removed to this town in 1805, doubtless was the pioneer white inhabitant. The next record extant shows that in 1807 Richard Walkley and the Lawrence family established homes in the town. Peter Crosman came in 1809, and in the same year we find settlements made by Levi and James McWethy, Solomon, Ezra and Laura Terrill. Reuben Burnham, Dr. Benjamin Hill, William Halbert, Orange Judd, Rowland Perry, Joshua Shumway, Calvin Spring, Erastus Spring, Amos Spring, Elliott Terrill and Ezra Walker came in 1810; Barber Allen, Amasa Allen, Issachar Allen, William Almy, Leman Bradley, Samuel Bishop, H. B. Elwell, Libbeus Graves, Calvin Lewis, Daniel Lord, Samuel Phelps, Elijah Phelps, Page Russell, Cyril Shumway, Noah Starr, Isaac Storm, Jesse Sprague, Daniel Walker, Isaac Walker, Loomis Walker and Sylvanus L. Young in 1811; and Harry Conklin, Lovell Cobb, Francis Herrick, Richard Pearson, W. E. Pearson, D. W. Matteson, Isaac Shepard, Hazel Thompson, Dr. Abel Tennant and Dr. Daniel White during or before 1812.

Ezra Terrill, one of the most prominent of the earliest pioneers, came from Vermont in 1809. He bought four hundred and eighty acres near Union Corners, and erected thereon a log house. He married Roxanna Elliott. Daniel Lord was a tailor, and he and his wife made many suits of clothing for the soldiers of the war of 1812. Captain James Sprague, a native of Connecticut, in company with Aaron Spaulding, built the first saw mill in the neighborhood, on the Oatka. Amasa Allen and his wife, formerly Lucinda Loomis, was one of those who came in 1811. Captain Issachar Allen, his son, was an officer in the State militia. Dr. Daniel White, the first physician in town, was a surgeon in the war of 1812.

James Walsworth, who came to Alabama in 1806, and opened the first tavern there, was the first settler in that town. As far as can be ascertained from careful study of the records he was the only one to locate in that town prior to 1812.

Benham Preston, who originally located in Batavia, and who removed to Byron in 1807 or 1808, was the first permanent settler in that town. In 1808 Elisha Taylor and —— Hoskins took up land and built homes there. Mr. Taylor came from Otsego county, N. Y. The following year the colony was increased by the arrival of Wheaton Carpenter from Rhode Island, Elisha Miller from Pennsylvania and Chester T. Holbrook from Cayuga county. In 1810 Nathan Holt came from Otsego county, and in 1811 Asa Merrill immigrated from Oneida county. Chester T. Holbrook taught the first school, which was opened in 1810. The earliest religious services were held in 1809 by Rev. Royal Phelps, a Presbyterian clergyman from Cayuga county. The first religious society in town was the Baptist church organized in 1810 by Elder Benjamin M. Parks. The first grist mill and saw mill were erected by Samuel Parker in 1809 or 1810.

In addition to those already mentioned as pioneers of Byron, the following are recorded as having settled in the town in the years mentioned: 1806, Sherrard Parker; 1807, Benoni Gaines; 1808, Elijah Loomis; 1809, Asahel Cook; 1810, Richard G. Moses, Elijah Brown, Elkanah Humphrey, E. Taylor; 1811, John Bean, David Cook, Andrew Dibble, Benajah Griswold, Amasa Walker; 1812, Paul Bullard, David Shedd, Ezra Sanford, Zeno Terry, William Terry.

According to the survey of the Holland Purchase into ranges and townships, the various counties and their towns, as at present organized, were included in the ranges and townships of the original survey as follows:

Allegany County.—Bolivar, Township 1, Range 1. Wirt, t. 2, r. 1. Friendship, t. 3, r. 1. Belfast, t. 4, r. 1. Caneadea, t. 5, r. 1. Hume, t. 6, r. 1. Genesee, t. 1, r. 2. Clarkesville, t. 2, r. 2. Cuba, t. 3, r. 2. Belfast, eastern part of t. 4, r. 2. New Hudson, western part of t. 4, r. 2. Rushford, t. 5, r. 2. Centreville, t. 6, r. 2.

Wyoming County.—Pike, t. 7, r. 1. Gainesville, t. 8, r. 1. Warsaw, t. 9, r. 1. Middlebury, t. 10, r. 1. Eagle, t. 7, r. 2. Weathersfield, t. 8, r. 2. Orangeville, t. 9, r. 2. Attica, t. 10, r. 2. China, t. 7, r. 3. Java, t. 8, r. 3. Sheldon, t. 9, r. 3. Bennington, t. 10, r. 3. China, t. 7, r. 4. Java, t. 8, r. 4. Sheldon, t. 9, r. 4. Bennington, t. 10, r. 4.

Genesee County.—Bethany, t. 11, r. 1. Stafford, eastern part of t. 12, r. 1. Batavia, western part of t. 12, r. 1. Elba, t. 13, r. 1. Alexander, t. 11, r. 2. Batavia, t. 12, r. 2. Elba, eastern part of t. 13, r.

2. Oakfield, western part of t. 13, r. 2. Darien, t. 11, r. 3. Pembroke, t. 12, r. 3. Alabama, t. 13, r. 3. Darien, t. 11, r. 4. Pembroke, t. 12, r. 4. Alabama, t. 13, r. 4.

Orleans County.—Barrre, t. 14, r. 1. Barre, southern part of t. 15, r. 1. Gaines, northern part of t. 15, r. 1. Carlton, t. 16, r. 1. Barre, t. 14, r. 2. Ridgeway, western tier of lots in t. 15, r. 2. Barre, southeastern part of t. 15, r. 2. Gaines, northeastern part of t. 15, r. 2. Carlton, t. 16, r. 2. Shelby, t. 14, r. 3. Ridgeway, t. 15, r. 3. Yates, t. 16, r. 3. Shelby, t. 14, r. 4. Ridgeway, t. 15, r. 4. Yates, t. 16, r. 4.

Cattaraugus County.—Portville, t. 1, r. 3. Portville, southern part of t. 2, r. 3. Hinsdale, northern part of t. 2, r. 3. Hinsdale, southern part of t. 3, r. 3. Rice, northern part of t. 3, r. 3. Lyndon, t. 4, r. 3. Farmersville, t. 5, r. 3. Freedom, t. 6, r. 3. Olean, t. 1, r. 4. Olean, southern part of t. 2, r. 4. Hinsdale, northern part of t. 2, r. 4. Hinsdale, southern part of t. 4, r. 4. Rice, northern part of t. 3, r. 4. Lyndon, eastern part of t. 4, r. 4. Franklinville, western part of t. 4, r. 4. Farmersville, t. 5, r. 4. Machias, southwestern corner lot of t. 6, r. 4. Freedom, residue of t. 6, r. 4. Burton, t. 1, r. 5. Burton, t. 2, r. 5. Humphrey, t. 3, r. 5. Franklinville, t. 4, r. 5. Machias, t. 5, r. 5. Machias, southern tier of lots in t. 6, r. 5. Yorkshire, part of t. 6, r. 5. Yorkshire, southeastern part of t. 7, r. 5. Carrolton, t. 1, r. 6. Carrolton, southern part of t. 2, r. 6. Great Valley, northern part of t. 2, r. 6. Great Valley, t. 3, r. 6. Ellicottville, t. 4, r. 6. Ellicottville, southern part of t. 5, r. 6. Ashford, northern part of t. 5, r. 6. Ashford, southern part of t. 6, r. 6. Little Valley, t. 1, r. 7. Little Valley, t. 2, r. 7. Little Valley, t. 3, r. 7. Mansfield, t. 4, r. 7. Otto, t. 5, r. 7. Otto, southern part of t. 6, r. 7. Ashford, part of t. 6, r. 7. South Valley, t. 1, r. 8. Cold Spring, t. 2, r. 8. Napoli, t. 3, r. 8. New Albion, t. 4, r. 8. Otto, eastern part of t. 5, r. 8. Persia, western part of t. 5, r. 8. Otto, southeastern part of t. 6, r. 8. Persia, southwestern part of t. 6, r. 8. South Valley, t. 1, r. 9. Randolph, t. 2, r. 9. Connewango, t. 3, r. 9. Leon, t. 4, r. 9. Dayton, t. 5, r. 9. Perrysburgh, t. 6, r. 9.

Erie County.—Sardinia, northwestern part of t. 6, r. 5. Sardinia, northern and western parts of t. 7, r. 5. Holland, t. 8, r. 5. Wales, t. 9, r. 5. Alden, t. 11, r. 5. Newstead, t. 12, r. 5. Newstead, southern part of t. 13, r. 5. Sardinia, northeastern part of t. 6, r. 6. Concord, northwestern part of t. 6, r. 6. Sardinia, eastern part of t. 7, r. 6. Concord, western part of t. 7, r. 6. Colden, t. 8, r. 6. Aurora, t. 9, r. 6. Lancaster, t. 11, r. 6. Clarence, t. 12, r. 6. Clarence, southern part of

t. 13, r. 6. Concord northeastern part of t. 6, r. 7. Collins, northwestern part of t. 6, r. 7. Concord, eastern part of t. 7, r. 7. Collins, western part of t. 7, r. 7. Eden, western tier of lots in t. 8, r. 7. Boston, eastern part of t. 8, r. 7. Hamburg, t. 9, r. 7. Black Rock, two western tiers of lots in t. 11, r. 7. Amherst, northern tier of lots in t. 11, r. 7. Cheektowaga, residue of t. 11, r. 7. Tonawanda, two southeastern lots in t. 12, r. 7. Amherst, residue of t. 12, r. 7. Amherst, southern part of t. 13, r. 7. Collins, northern part of t. 6, r. 8. Collins, t. 7, r. 8. Eden, t. 8, r. 8. Evans, southwestern part of t. 9, r. 8. Hamburg, residue of t. 9, r. 8. Buffalo City, as constituted in 1850, southwestern part of t. 11, r. 8. Black Rock, residue of t. 11, r. 8. Tonawanda, southern and eastern parts of t. 12, r. 8. Brandt, southern part of t. 8, r. 9. Evans, northern part of t. 8, r. 9.

Niagara County.—Royalton, northern part of t. 13, r. 5. Royalton t. 14, r. 5. Hartland, t. 15, r. 5. Somerset, t. 16, r. 5. Royalton, northeastern part of t. 13, r. 6. Lockport, northwestern part of t. 13, r. 6. Royalton, eastern part of t. 14, r. 6. Lockport, western part of t. 14, r. 6. Hartland, eastern part of t. 15, r. 6. Newfane, western part of t. 15, r. 6. Somerset, eastern part of t. 16, r. 6. Newfane, western part of t. 16, r. 6. Pendleton, northern part of t. 13, r. 7. Lockport, eastern part of t. 14, r. 7. Cambria, western part of t. 14, r. 7. Newfane, eastern part of t. 15, r. 7. Wilson, western part of t. 15, r. 7. Wheatfield, northwestern part of t. 12, r. 8. Wheatfield, t. 13, r. 8. Cambria, eastern part of t. 14, r. 8. Lewiston, western part of t. 14, r. 8. Wilson, eastern part of t. 15, r. 8. Porter, western part of t. 15, r. 8. Niagara, t. 13, r. 9. Lewiston, t. 14, r. 9. Porter, t. 15, r. 9.

Chautauqua County.—Carroll, t. 1, r. 10. Poland, t. 2, r. 10. Ellington, t. 3, r. 10. Cherry Creek, t. 4, r. 10. Villanovia, t. 5, r. 10. Hanover, t. 6, r. 10. Ellicott, northern tier of lots in t. 1, r. 11. Carroll, southeastern part of t. 1, r. 11. Busti, southwestern part of t. 1, r. 11. Ellicott, t. 2, r. 11. Gerry, t. 3, r. 11. Charlotte, t. 4, r. 11. Arkwright, t. 5, r. 11. Hanover, four lots in the southeastern part of t. 6, r. 11. Sheridan, residue of t. 6, r. 11. Busti, eastern part of t. 1, r. 12. Harmony, western part of t. 1, r. 12. Busti, southeastern part of t. 2, r. 12. Harmony, southwestern part of t. 2, r. 12. Ellery, northern part of t. 2, r. 12. Stockton, northern tier of lots in t. 3, r. 12. Ellery, residue of t. 3, r. 12. Stockton, t. 4, r. 12. Pomfret, t. 5, r. 12. Pomfret, t. 6, r. 12. Harmony, t. 1, r. 13. Harmony, t. 2, r. 13. Stock-

ton, northeastern lot in t. 3, r. 13. Ellery, residue of the eastern tier of t. 3, r. 13. Chautauqua, western part of t. 3, r. 13. Stockton, eastern tier of lots in t. 4, r. 13. Portland, northwestern part of t. 4, r. 13. Chautauqua, residue of t. 4, r. 13. Portland, t. 5, r. 13. Clymer, t. 1, r. 14. Sherman, t. 2, r. 14. Chautauqua, eastern part of t. 3, r. 14. Westfield, western part of t. 3, r. 14. Chautauqua, southeastern part of t. 4, r. 14. Westfield, residue of t. 4, r. 14. French Creek, t. 1, r. 15. Mina, t. 2, r. 15. Ripley, t. 3, r. 15.

The names of all the purchasers of land in Genesee county, from the commencement of the land sales up to January 1, 1807, are given below. They appear in the order in which the contracts were taken each year, their locations being designated by townships and ranges. Reference to the plan of Genesee county as it appears in the foregoing tabulation will show in what towns these settlements were made, and what year:

1801.—Batavia village, Abel Rowe, Stephen Russell, David McCracken.

Township 12, range 1, Worthy L. Churchill, William Rumsey, Daniel Curtis, William Blackman, Hiram Blackman, William Munger, Eleazer Cantling, Nathaniel Walker, John A. Thompson, Peter Stage, Jesse Rumsey, John Dewey, Zenas Bigelow.

Township 12, range 2, Gideon Dunham, Isaac Sutherland, Samuel F. Geer, Peter Lewis, John Forsyth, John Lamberton, Russel Noble.

Township 12, range 5, Orlando Hopkins, Otis Ingalls, David Cully, Peter Vandeventer.

Township 13, range 2, Aaron White, Peter Rice.

1802.—Batavia village, Charles Cooley, James McKain, Elisha Gettings, Joseph Alvord, Zerah Phelps, Elijah Tillotson, James W. Stevens, Hezekiah Rhoads, Rufus Hart, Israel M. Dewey, James Brisbane, William Wood, Major Nobles, Russell Crane, Oswald Williams, Rowlen Town, Silas Chapin, Ebenezer Cary, Paul Hinkley, Timothy Washburn, Moses Hayse, James Holden, Elijah Spencer, Benjamin Russell, Paul Hill, Peter Powers, Daniel Curtis, Libbeus Fish, Henry Wilder, Jesse Hurlbut.

Township 11, range 2, Lewis Disbrow.

Township 12, range 1, Elisha Adams, Roswell Graham.

Township 11, range 2, Alexander Rea,¹ John Olney, George Darrow.

Township 12, range 2, Samuel F. Geer, Benjamin Morgan.

¹ This name appears on the records as both Rea and Rhea.

Township 13, range 2, Daniel Ayer, Job Babcock.

1803.—Batavia village, John S. Leonard, James Clement, Jeremiah Cutler, Elisha Mann.

Township 11, range 1, John Torrey, Charles Culver, Abner Ashley, Elisha Wallace, David Hall, Sylvester Lincoln, M. Scott, Nathaniel Pinney, Orsamus Kellogg, George Lathrop, Solomon Kingsley, Jedediah Riggs, Horace Shepherd, John Dewey, Lyman D. Prindle, Samuel Prindle, Oliver Fletcher.

Township 12, range 1, Lewis Disbrow, Ebenezer Eggleston, Peter Powers, Enos Kellogg, Charles Culver, John Henry, Moses Dimmick, Robert Berry, Stephen Wickham, Lemuel T. Pringle, James Guttridge, James Fuller, John Berry, John Spencer, Burgess Squire, Moody Stone, Asa Osborne, Elisha A. Eades, Parley Fairbanks.

Township 13, range 1, Archileus Whitten, David Kingsley, Thomas Parker.

Township 11, range 2, Ezekiel Churchill, George Darrow, Elijah Root, Joseph Fellows, Miles Wilkinson, Benedict Ames.

Township 12, range 2, Peleg Douglass, Alanson Gunn, Benjamin Tainter, Henry Lake, John Lamberton, Hugh Henry, Amos Lamberton, Joshua Sutherland, William Pierce, Elisha Cox, David Bowen, Abraham Starks, William Lucas.

Township 13, range 2, Hiram Smith, Silas Pratt, William McGrath, George Lathrop, Darius Ayer, Philip Adkins, Lemuel L. Clark, James Robinson.

Township 12, range 3, Jesse Tainter, Abner Lamberton, Micajah Brooks.

1804.—Township 11, range 1, Peter Adley, Isaac Wright, Elijah Bristol, Israel Shearer, Alanson Jones, Joseph Hawks, Joel S. Wilkinson, Peleg Douglass, Isaac R. Wright, Elisha Giddings, John Smith, Abner Ashley, Charles Culver, William Coggshall, William B. Coggshall, John Halstate, John Grimes, James Cowdry, John Roberts, David Tyrrill.

Township 12, range 1, Nathaniel Walker, Pardon Starks, Zenos Keyes, Benjamin Cary, Alfred Lincoln, Horace Jerome, Nathan Miner.

Township 13, range 1, John S. Sprague, Nathaniel Johnson.

Township 11, range 2, Elijah Root, Samuel Russell, Benham Preston, Elisha Carver, Elias Lee, Jesse Hawkins, Solomon Blodgett, Rufus Blodgett, John Lee, Ezekiel T. Lewis, Elijah Rowe.

Township 12, range 2, Elizur Messenger, Isaac Smith, Levi Davis, Azor Marsh, David Smith.

Township 13, range 2, Rufus Hastings, Roraback Robinson, Benjamin Chase, Solomon Baker, Samuel Jerome, sr., Samuel Jerome, jr.

Township 12, range 3, David Goss.

Township 12, range 4, John Richardson, Stephen B. Tilden, Jacob Farnham.

Township 13, range 4, James Walworth.

1805.—Batavia village, William Ewing.

Township 11, range 1, Phineas Smith, Harvey Prindle, Cyrenus Glass, William Williams, David Anderson, Solomon Lathrop, Jonathan Bixby, John Bixby, Ezekiel Fox, Philo Whitcomb, John Greenough, Gershom Orvis, Heman Brown, Nathaniel Brown, Peter Putnam, Patrick Alvord, Alford Rose, Richard Stiles, John Chambers, Thomas Halstead, John Boynton, Eli Perry, Abel Buell, Joseph Barlett, David Morgan, Asher Lamberton, Israel Buell, William Bannister, Amasa Robbins, Jesse Cowdry, Isaac Wilson, Josiah Southard, John Grimes.

Township 12, range 1, Asa Webster, James Heacocks, Oliver Sweatwell, Asa Osborn, Hiel Chapman, Abel McKain, Nathan Graham, Joseph Bentley.

Township, 13, range 1, Hiram Smith, Colonel Samuel Hall, Horace Carr, Benjamin Chase, Elisha Kellogg, Dudley Sawyer, Samuel Cummings, Nathan Miner, Silas Torrey, Edmund Burgess.

Township 11, range 2, John McCormick, Levi Harris, William Prout, Asa Buckley, Ezra Blodgett, Noah Brooks, Asa Frost, Nathaniel Eastman, Thomas Lee, Daniel Rawson, David Rowland, Elisha Fox, Seth Landon, Stephen Day, Abijah Warren, Samuel Reed, Daniel Davis, Manna Chase, Amos Adams, Joseph Gladden, Joseph Cady, John Olney, Gurdon Williams, Jonas Marsh, Charles C. Jackson, Elisha Sutton, William Burton, William King, Isaac King, Samuel Benedict.

Township 12, range 2, Timothy Washburn, Thomas Godfrey, Reuben W. Wilder, Rufus McCracken, Azor Nash, Lemuel L. Clark, Joel Tyrrell, Hugh Duffy, James Henry, Richard Godfrey, John Algur, John Herring, Jonathan Wood, Reuben Lamberton, Amos Lamberton, Paul Hill, Silas Dibble, jr.

Township 11, range 3, Orange Carter, Israel Doane, Samuel Russell, James Jones, David Clark.

Township 12, range 4, Francis B. Drake, David Sarles, Noah Pease, Ephraim Pease.

1806.—Township 11, range 1, Daniel W. Bannister, Jerry Cowdry, Thomas Starkweather, Mons Goodrich, Lewis Barney, David Morgan,

Ebenezer Wilson, David Filkin, Peter Davidson, Chester Davidson, Franklin Putnam, David Stewart, Lyman D. Prindle, Joseph Shedd, Henry Miller, Orsamus Kellogg, Ebenezer Eggleston, Henry Rumsey, Elisha Bristol, Elijah Andrews, David Ingersoll, Joseph Bartlett.

Township 12, range 1, Solomon Sylvester, Daniel B. Brown, Israel Graham, Moses Norton, Peter Putnam, Amos Jones, Alvah Jones, Stephen Powell, Webster Powers, Robert Norton, Benjamin Graham, Joseph Savacool, Henry Stringer, jr., Samuel Ranger, Peter Stage, Gurdon Huntington, John Gould. ✓

Township 13, range 1, Joel Jerome, James Mills, Horace Jerome, Aaron White, Enos Kellogg, Ephraim Wortman, Benjamin Chase, Sylvester Eldridge, Silas Torrey, John Roraback.

Township 11, range 2, Elijah Root, jr., Ezra Whipple, John Humphrey, James Clisby, Jacob Thompson, Amos Thompson, George Har- rick, Joseph Carpenter, David S. Clement, William Wood, Noah Brooks, Benjamin C. Goodrich, Joel Munn, Phineas Munn, John W. Lawson, Andrew McLean, Ebenezer Seeley, John Olney, Joseph Van Debogart.

Township 12, range 2, Newcomb Godfrey, Elijah Clark, Richard Godfrey, William J. McCracken, Edmund Badger, William H. Bush, Othniel Field, James Post, Caleb Blodgett, Samuel Risey, Elisha A. Eades, Joshua Barrett, Elisha Morehouse, Thomas Godfrey.

Township 13, range 2, Micajah Green, Caleb Blodgett, jr., George Hoge, Eldridge Buntley, Nicholas Bentley, George Harper, James Crossett, John Harper, David Woodworth, David Clark, William Parrish, Ezra Thomas, Caleb Blodgett.

Township 11, range 3, Amos Jones, Joseph Fellows, Timothy Fay, Henry Rumsey, David Carter, Elnathan Wilcox, John Chamberlin, Alexander Little, Nahum Thompson, Jonas Blodgett, Isaac Chaddock, John McCollister, Burnhan Lyman, Henry William, David Clark, John Churchill, jr., Reuben Nichols, Joseph Peters, Aaron Gale.

Township 12, range 4, John Richardson, Jariel Scott, Samuel Carr.

Following are the names of the first persons who took contracts and, in most instances, became pioneer settlers in the various towns of Gene- see county embraced within the limits of the Holland Purchase in which no contracts were taken previous to January 1, 1807. The names of those who settled in the county previous to that date are found in a list which appears in previous pages:

1810.—Township 13, range 3, town of Alabama, Jesse Lund, David Gary, Charles Bliss, Levi Smith, John S. Wolcott, Nathan McCumber.

1807.—Township 11, range 4, town of Darien, William Humphrey, Emery Blodgett, Joshua Bailey, Josiah Lee, Rufus Kidder, Amos Humphrey, David Long.

1822.—Township 13, range 4, town of Alabama, Benjamin Patterson, Solomon Force, Augustus L. Barton, Joseph Barber, Ezra N. Russell.

CHAPTER X.

The War of 1812, and the Part Taken Therein by the Inhabitants of Genesee County.

While the United States and Great Britain were ostensibly at peace during the period from 1783 to the beginning of 1812, the two nations were far from being on friendly terms. Great Britain continued her depredations wherever practicable. She maintained military posts on the Canadian frontier, despite the treaty stipulations to the contrary, and constantly menaced our trade and commerce and our frontier settlements. When Congress, realizing probably that another conflict was inevitable, began to build a navy, Great Britain took offense. In 1797 this country put into commission three frigates—the Constitution, the Constellation and the United States. Each carried a full complement of guns. At the close of the year 1798 the United States had a navy of twenty-three vessels, with an aggregate of four hundred and forty-six guns.

As soon as it was learned that this country was placing itself on a war footing, the British formed a plan to cripple the American navy. The first intimation of the intentions of Great Britain came November 16 of that year, when Captain Phillips, in command of the American cruiser Baltimore, sailed from the harbor of Havana, Cuba, to escort a number of merchant vessels to Charleston, S. C., and protect them from attack by French privateers, which then infested the western waters of the Atlantic. Just outside the harbor Captain Phillips met a British squadron and advanced toward the Carnatic, the flagship, to speak with the commander as an act of courtesy.

Then, without a word of warning, the British squadron bore down upon the American merchantmen and seized three of them. Captain

Phillips went on board the Carnatick to protest, but was informed that every man on the Baltimore who could not prove that he was a native-born American would be compelled to enter the British service then and there. Captain Phillips announced that he would prefer to make a formal surrender, but this privilege was denied him. Upon returning to his own vessel he found that a British officer was mustering the American sailors. Fifty-five of these were transferred to the Carnatick, but later, when Phillips struck his flag, all but five of them were returned. These five men, with the three merchant vessels seized, were carried away by the British squadron.

Great Britain at that time was the acknowledged mistress of the seas, consequently all that the United States government could do was to protest against the outrage. Not only was no attention paid to the protest, but Great Britain continued to prey upon American commerce upon the high seas, impressing into her service the best American sailors during the next fourteen years. Great Britain claimed the right of search, not only as regarded American vessels, but also all neutral vessels, her desire being to look for British subjects to press them into the British naval service for her war with France. Every time America offered to endeavor to reach a friendly understanding with Great Britain on the subject the offer was rejected or not noticed.

In 1807 Napoleon, in his attempt to compel the United States to become his ally as against Great Britain, issued a decree declaring all vessels which submitted to the right of search and impressment by Great Britain to be denationalized and subject to capture if caught going to or coming from a British port, or on the high seas. Spain and Holland, desirous of pleasing Napoleon, issued similar decrees. These acts placed the commerce of the United States in a dangerous position. The menace was all the greater by reason of the fact that our principal foe maintained a naval force along the American coast for the purpose of preying upon our commerce.

Early in 1807 the British frigate Leopard fired upon the United States frigate Chesapeake upon the refusal of Commodore Barron, in command of the latter vessel, to grant to the British commander the privilege of searching his vessel, killing and wounding twenty men. As soon as the American colors were hauled down the Chesapeake was boarded by officers of the Leopard. Commodore Barron tendered his vessel as a prize, but Captain Humphrey, the British commander, refused to accept her, knowing that such an act would give the Americans

a valid claim against his government. The crew of the Chesapeake was then mustered. Three Americans who had once been impressed into the British service were placed in irons, and John Wilson, a British seaman who had deserted, was taken on board the Leopard. All four were sentenced to be hanged, and Wilson was executed, but the three Americans reprieved upon condition that they should enter the British naval service.

This act naturally aroused an intense feeling of resentment upon the part of the people of the United States. The British government disclaimed the act and recalled Humphrey from service in the navy; but two of the captured Americans sailors were held in slavery on British ships for five years, while the third died in the service.

Up to this time the strife between the Federalist and Democratic parties in America had been so fierce that a great civil war was feared. Taking advantage of the situation, Great Britain endeavored to increase this antagonistic feeling by establishing a propaganda of anti-democracy. John Henry, an Irishman, who was a naturalized citizen of the United States, residing in the State of Vermont, contributed to the press some letters denouncing the federal officials for their incompetency and declaring that the country was incapable of self-government. His letters were noticed by Sir James Craig, governor of Canada, who in 1806 sent the author an invitation to come to Montreal. In that city arrangements were made by which Henry was to devote his entire time to the propagation of popular discontent in the United States, Sir James promising him £30,000 if he should succeed in inciting the Americans to civil war. He was granted authority to offer the Federalists the support of British influence, should such a promise be needed to encourage them. After five years of steady work this project failed, and Henry was refused compensation for his labors. Piqued at his treatment, he came to the United States and revealed the entire plot to President Madison. All knowledge of the plot was denied by the British ministry, but when it was proposed to submit to a court of inquiry all the correspondence in Henry's possession, the proposition was voted down by the House of Lords.

In 1807 the United States Senate passed an embargo bill prohibiting all ships then in American ports from sailing for any foreign port, excepting that foreign ships might sail in ballast. This act was a declaration to the world that the United States would voluntarily sever all connections with the rest of the world until Great Britain, France,

Spain and Holland should end their obnoxious practices and allow American ships to sail the seas unmolested. The effect of this act was to annihilate the commerce of this country, and in 1809 it was repealed upon the urgent solicitation of the business men of the country. In its place was passed a non-intercourse act, which simply prohibited trade with Great Britain and France. A little more than a year later this act was also repealed. Madison now having succeeded Jefferson as president, upon the recommendation of the former another embargo act, to obtain for sixty days, was passed, and the country, the limit of its endurance having been reached, began preparations for war.¹

War was formally declared June 19, 1812. At that time the British had in Upper Canada a force of fifteen hundred regulars, besides six thousand in the valley of the St. Lawrence. Canada had a British population of four hundred thousand and a militia of forty thousand to draw from. They also had formidable strongholds along the American frontier. Opposite Buffalo stood Fort Erie; near the falls of Niagara was Fort Chipewewa, and at the mouth of the Niagara river stood Fort George. At sea they were simply overwhelming in strength, as compared with the United States. The only forts the Americans possessed in this vicinity were at the mouth of the Niagara river and at Oswego. To handicap us still further thirty five hundred American sailors were at that time practically held in slavery on board of British men-of-war, where they would be compelled to fight against their own country.

The population of the entire region west of the Genesee at the beginning of the war probably was between twenty five and thirty thousand. The population principally centered upon the Buffalo road and in the few small villages. Away from this thoroughfare the population existed in small neighborhoods and isolated families. The region was poorly prepared for war. There were no perfect military organizations, although there were several small local militia companies, organized more for parade than anything else. Their training, when it came to a question of actual warfare, amounted to practically nothing. But the American spirit was the same in 1812 as in '76, and the peaceable pioneers were transformed as if by magic from raw and inexperienced soldiers into brave and effective fighting men. The spirit of patriotism, of liberty, became the father to the genius of warfare. The backwoodsmen of Genesee county were among the bravest and hardest soldiers who served in that crisis in the affairs of the American commonwealth.

¹ These events have been cited simply to explain the causes leading up to the stirring events which took place in and near the original county of Genesee during the years of 1812-1814.

The proclamation of President Madison, carried by couriers mounted on fleet-footed horses, traveling by relays, reached Fort Niagara June 26 and Black Rock, the headquarters of Colonel Swift, the same day. As these couriers passed through the country they spread the news as they rode, so that the entire community was informed of the advent of war almost as soon as the official intelligence had been received by the officers on the frontier. There was a general feeling of insecurity, almost of helplessness for the moment, as it was known that the enemy, close at hand, were fully prepared for a war, and even for invasion of our territory, while the preparations for defense upon our side were almost wholly lacking. Some of the more timid, magnifying the danger which menaced them, fled eastward across the Genesee. At the same time immigrants from New England and other eastern points, fearless and undismayed, continued their journey into the heart of the famed "Genesee county," willing and anxious to take up arms to repel the invader if necessary.

Unfortunately the news of the declaration of war reached Canada at least twelve hours before the officers on the American frontier had been informed. John Jacob Astor, who had immense fur interests in Canada, dispatched a messenger from New York to notify Thomas Clark, his representative at Queenston. This measure was adopted by Mr. Astor for the purpose of insuring, if possible, the safety of the immense cargoes of furs coming down the Great Lakes. As soon as the news had been received in Canada all Americans in that country were arrested, and preparations for hostile actions were immediately begun. The first intelligence the people of Buffalo had of the inauguration of hostilities was when a small vessel, bound up Lake Erie from Black Rock with a cargo of salt, was captured and taken to Fort Erie.

May 21, 1812, the armed force upon the Canadian frontier of New York consisted of about six hundred men only, excepting the garrison at Fort Niagara. These men had been called out by the governor of the State in pursuance of an act of Congress. While the governor's requisition was for a draft of the militia, most of these soldiers were volunteers, under command of Colonel Swift. July 4, eight days after the news of the declaration of war was received, this force had been increased to about three thousand. General William Wadsworth first assumed general command, but he was soon succeeded by General Amos Hall, who in turn was succeeded, August 11, by General Stephen Van Rensselaer, who made his headquarters at Lewiston. The Cana-

dian troops were in command of General Brock, the acting governor of the province.

“One of the most fruitful sources of apprehension and alarm in the earlier stages of the war was the fear that the Seneca Indians would revive their ancient predilections and be found allies of the British and Canadian Indians. Their position was at first enigmatical—undefined. Their chiefs, prominent among whom was Red Jacket, at that period, counseled and maintained neutrality; and neutrality was unfavorably construed by the border settlers. Their position of neutrality was, however, early secured by a talk in council. But when these apprehensions were partially quieted, every breeze that came from Canada or from the west brought with it to the scattered border settlements of the Holland Purchase rumors rife with accounts of contemplated Indian leagues, and banded descents with the tomahawk and scalping knife. Judge Erastus Granger, the then government Agent of the Senecas, took an early opportunity to hold a council with them and get assurances of neutrality. In a letter from Mr. Ellicott to Mr. Busti, dated July 7, 1812, he assures him of the entire safety of the country from invasion—of comparative quiet, and adds:—‘I send by the mail that carries this letter our last newspaper, which contains a speech made by an Indian chief to the inhabitants of this village, and our reply, by which it will be seen that our Indians are disposed to be on good terms with us—and that they have declared the Mohawk Indians, residing in Canada, out of the confederation of the Six Nations, and of course, “enemies in war, in peace, friends.”’ This position of neutrality, partially preserved in the first stages of the war, was not long maintained. The Senecas, rightly determining their true position and interests, soon became fast friends to the United States,—useful armed allies, in several contests.”¹

At a council held by the Indians in the summer of 1812 a formal declaration of war was adopted and placed in writing by an interpreter.² It read as follows:

We, the chiefs and counselors of the Six Nations of Indians, residing in the State of New York, do hereby proclaim to all war chiefs and warriors of the Six Nations that war is declared on our part against the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. Therefore, we command and advise all the war chiefs and warriors of the Six Nations to call forth immediately the warriors under them, and put them in motion to protect their rights and liberties.

¹ Turner's History of the Holland Purchase, pages 588 and 589.

² This is probably the only document of the kind ever issued by an Indian nation or tribe.

Despite this formidable declaration, and through the influence of such of their chiefs as desired to maintain a strictly neutral attitude during the war of 1812, the Indian share in the work of the battlefield during that struggle was very small. Doubtless the early American disasters had something to do with causing this proclamation to remain practically a dead letter.

The hastily organized militia which began to hurry to the frontier was enthusiastic, but the organization of these bodies was imperfect and, for the most part, the discipline very poor. When this militia finally reached the field of actual hostilities and the smell of burning powder and the rattle of artillery and musketry reached its members, it is hardly remarkable that the trial was too much for most of them.

The plan for the campaign of 1812 embraced the invasion of Upper Canada, at Detroit and at Niagara, and the employment of regulars, volunteers and militia. Governor Hull of Michigan, who was in Washington in the spring of this year, told the president that the British, anticipating war with this country, had sent throughout the northwest emissaries bearing arms and presents to the Indians and endeavoring to procure an alliance with them. For this reason Hull objected to the invasion of Canada from Detroit, as this would leave Michigan open to attacks from the savages. In pursuance of his advice, Commander Stewart was sent to Lake Erie with orders to construct a fleet. The president also called upon Governor Meigs of Ohio for twelve hundred militia, which, with a regiment of regulars, assembled at Dayton. May 25 Hull arrived and assumed command. When he arrived at Detroit on July 4 he found the British erecting fortifications at Sandwich, across the river. Hull's defense of Detroit was a complete and shameful failure, largely the result of his own incompetency, and August 16 the fort and the troops, about two thousand, were surrendered to the enemy. Hull was afterward court-martialed, convicted of cowardice and sentenced to be shot, but his age and service in the Revolution caused the court to recommend mercy, and he was pardoned by the president.

Early in the campaign it became evident that American success on the northern and Niagara frontiers could be achieved only with absolute control of Lake Ontario. The Americans therefore built a small navy on Lake Ontario. During the summer important events occurred on the Niagara frontier, which was thinly settled at that time. August 13 Major-General Stephen Van Rensselaer, in command of the detached

militia of New York State, arrived at Fort Niagara. At this time the condition of Niagara was pitiable. Five thousand men had been promised to General Van Rensselaer, but as late as September 1 his entire force on the Niagara frontier was but six hundred and ninety. Two weeks later he asked Governor Tompkins and General Dearborn, who was highest in command in the Lake region, for reinforcements, explaining in detail the precarious situation in which his army and the frontier then was. By October 1 detachments of regulars and bodies of militia began arriving, the former, under command of General Alexander Smyth, halting at Buffalo, and the latter, under General Amos Hall, being stationed at Lewiston. In the latter were numbers of men from Genesee county.

The plan to be carried out by Van Rensselaer, if possible, was to concentrate the regulars near Niagara, where they were to cross the river, and storm and take Fort George from the rear. At the same time the militia, under the personal command of Van Rensselaer, were to cross the river from Lewiston and take the heights of Queenston. But through the delay and disobedience of General Smyth, a proud Virginian attached to the regular army, who "could not bend to the necessity of obedience to a militia general,"¹ Van Rensselaer was greatly delayed in undertaking offensive operations.

In the meantime Lieutenant J. B. Elliott of the United States Navy had captured the *Detroit* and the *Caledonia* off Fort Erie. The former was originally the brig *Adams*, taken by the British at the surrender of *Hull*, and the latter was the property of the Northwestern Fur Company, laden with a cargo valued at two hundred thousand dollars. Unfortunately the captors were compelled to burn the *Detroit* and set her adrift to keep her from again falling into the hands of the forces of General Brock, but the *Caledonia* was saved and afterwards did service under Commodore Perry on Lake Erie. This daring exploit caused unbounded enthusiasm throughout the United States, and correspondingly depressed the enemy.²

After tolerating the insolent conduct of Smyth until the American troops were on the verge of mutiny, October 10 General Van Rensselaer prepared to move upon Queenston Heights. The force under his com-

¹ Lossing.

² General Brock, in a letter to Sir George Prevost, October 11, 1812, said: "The event is particularly unfortunate, and may reduce us to incalculable distress. The enemy is making every exertion to gain a naval superiority on both lakes, which, if they accomplish it, I do not see how we can possibly retain the country."

mand comprised thirty-six hundred and fifty regulars and twenty-six hundred and fifty militia, stationed at Niagara, Lewiston and Black Rock, while the British force numbered seventeen hundred and fifty, including two hundred and fifty Indians under John Brant. The enemy had planted batteries at every formidable point, commanding the landings at both Lewiston and Queenston. It was decided to make the attack upon Queenston at three o'clock on the morning of October 11, the invading force to be under command of Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer. The attack was destined to be delayed, however. The troops assembled for embarkation at the hour designated, but Lieutenant Sims boarded the first boat and rowed away in the darkness, preventing the dispatching of the remaining boats, all the oars for the expedition having been stored in the boat taken by him. Passing a considerable distance beyond the point selected for landing, he stepped on shore and fled at his utmost speed. Whether this act was the result of cowardice or treachery will never be known. This incident necessarily resulted in the temporary abandonment of the plans.

At three o'clock in the morning of October 13 the troops crossed the river, and the regulars, under command of Captain John E. Wool, charged gallantly up the heights, which were soon gained. The approach of the Americans was soon noted by the enemy, and lively firing began, Colonel Van Rensselaer and Captain Wool both being wounded. When the battle began General Brock was at Fort George, seven miles down the river. He at once proceeded to the scene of the action at full speed, accompanied by his staff, but Wool and his men came upon them as soon as they had reached the heights. The entire company of officers fled in dismay, and the American flag was soon floating over the battery near which they stood. Brock's next step was to lead a body of his troops to drive Wool from the heights. The superior force of the British pressed the Americans back to the edge of the precipice, which rises perpendicularly two hundred feet above the Niagara; but at this critical moment, when they seemed to be lost, Wool's heroism and cheering words inspired the little band of Americans, who turned furiously upon the enemy, driving them in utter rout down the hill.

A few moments later, as Brock was rallying his men at the foot of the hill preparatory to an attempt to take the position from which they had been forced, he fell, mortally wounded.

Until Gen. William Wadsworth of the New York militia arrived to

take command, Wool was left in charge of the heights. In the meantime General Sheaffe assumed command of the forces of the enemy, which he again rallied. Lieut.-Col. Winfield Scott had crossed the river and joined the Americans on the heights as a volunteer, and at the request of General Wadsworth assumed active command. Early in the afternoon a band of Indians under the leadership of John Brant attacked the American pickets with great fury. The militia were about to flee, when the loud voice and towering form of Scott checked them. Then, an instant later the entire body under him, about six hundred, turned on the savages and drove them into the woods.

By this time General Van Rensselaer was endeavoring to forward reinforcements from Lewiston; but these refused to go, evidently through cowardice, announcing that they were not compelled to leave the soil of the United States. They therefore remained safely at Lewiston, while their fellow countrymen were being killed by the score. While Van Rensselaer was entreating these troops to accompany him across the river, the troops engaged in the action were fairly overwhelmed by the enemy, and soon were compelled to surrender. Their loss had been one hundred and ninety killed and wounded. Nine hundred were made prisoners, and sent to Newark. The loss of the enemy in killed, wounded and prisoners was only about one hundred and thirty.

Thoroughly disgusted by the unaccountable conduct of the militia and the jealousies of some of the regular officers, General Van Rensselaer now resigned his command to the boastful and proud General Smyth, who at once began to concentrate troops at Buffalo preparatory to the invasion of Canada. While these preparations were being made, the enemy began the bombardment of Fort Niagara, on November 21, from breastworks in front of Newark. At nightfall the fort had been considerably damaged, but it was gallantly and successfully defended by its little garrison.

General Smyth had planned his invasion of Canada for the morning of the 28th. But before moving he had issued innumerable proclamations, which gave the enemy all the information they needed about the contemplated movements of the American army. The landing on Canadian soil was effected at three o'clock in the morning, but by a small force only. The general embarkation, for some mysterious reason, was postponed one day, while those who had reached the western shore of the river fell captives to the enemy. By this time the whole American force was thoroughly disgusted with the actions of the wordy

Smyth. The general embarkation began at three A. M. on Tuesday, December 1, when 1,500 men entered the boats. General Porter was to lead and direct the landing. But by the time everything was in readiness to proceed Smyth astonished his officers by suggesting—in fact, ordering—that the invasion be not made at all that season. Consequently the troops were all ordered ashore, the militia and many of the volunteers were sent to their homes, and the regular army went into its winter quarters.

So great was the indignation against the incompetent Smyth for this act of tremendous folly that he was more than once fired upon when he left his tent. General Porter charged him with cowardice, and in the quarrel which ensued Smyth challenged his accuser to mortal combat. Porter accepted the challenge and a meeting was had. After each had fired, and neither had been injured, the two men apologized to each other and shook hands. Smyth resigned December 22, being succeeded by Col. Moses Porter. Thus closed the campaign of 1812.

The campaign of 1813 opened almost at the same time on the shores of Lake Ontario, on the coast of Virginia and in the valley of the Maumee. General Harrison's operations in the West were successful, and he was able to protect the inhabitants on the borders of Lake Erie. But the spring was well advanced before much activity was seen on the Niagara frontier. At this time General Dearborn was in command of the entire northern frontier. April 25 he sailed from Sackett's Harbor in Commodore Chauncey's fleet, with seventeen hundred troops under the immediate command of General Zebulon Pike. The plans of both the navy and army were to attack York (Toronto), Fort George, Fort Erie and Chippewa, and then proceed to Kingston. April 27 the fleet appeared before Toronto and began the attack; but the British, in desperation, blew up their powder magazine located on the lake shore, killing fifty-two Americans and wounding one hundred and eighty. General Pike and ten of his aids were among those mortally wounded. The British lost forty killed in the same explosion. The place soon after surrendered, but the Americans, deeming it of little strategic value, abandoned it.

On account of tempestuous weather the attack upon Fort George was delayed a week. Commodore Chauncey, General Dearborn and other officers of the fleet and army proceeded in advance of the main body and chose a landing place four miles east of Fort Niagara. At that time the force of the enemy in and near Fort George, all under

command of General Vincent, numbered about eighteen hundred. May 8 the American troops landed at the place designated, and Chauncey returned to Sackett's Harbor for reinforcements and supplies. May 22 he reached the American camp east of Fort Niagara. Oliver Hazard Perry reached that point the evening of the same day.

May 27 the troops were taken to a spot a short distance west of the mouth of the Niagara, where a landing was effected under cover of the guns of the fleet. Under the leadership of Colonel Scott and the dashing young Perry, and in the face of a terrific fire the brave Americans ascended the bluff which skirts the shore at that point, and the British retreated a short distance. After spiking their guns and destroying their ammunition, the enemy abandoned the fort and retreated to Beaver Dams, where they had a stock of supplies.

While the victory at Fort George was being accomplished, the garrison at Fort Erie opened a brisk cannonade upon Black Rock; but the following morning the British exploded their guns and magazine, destroyed their stores, and abandoned the fort, which was immediately occupied by the Americans under Colonel Preston. Within a brief time the enemy had destroyed everything else that could be of value to the Americans and which was located near the river on the Canadian side, leaving the latter in full possession of the entire Niagara frontier.

By midsummer General Dearborn's operations had progressed so little and met with such small success that he was superseded, on July 6, by Major-General Wilkinson. Meanwhile five vessels which had been quietly fitted out at the mouth of Scajaquada creek sailed away, on June 15, and joined Perry's fleet at Erie.

In June General Dearborn had withdrawn the regular soldiers from Buffalo and Black Rock, leaving a large quantity of stores practically unprotected. Realizing his error, probably, he stationed ten artillerymen in the block house at Black Rock and issued a call for five hundred militia from neighboring counties. A few days before Dearborn relinquished command about three hundred of these militiamen arrived and were posted in the warehouses at Black Rock, under command of Major Parmenio Adams of Genesee county. Before the work of garrisoning this point was completed, however, a British expedition of about four hundred men under Colonel Bishopp started to attack the place. On the afternoon of July 10 this force left its headquarters at Lundy's Lane, rowed up the river and at daylight of the 11th landed a mile below the mouth of the Scajaquada. Soon the forces under Major

Adams learned of the advance of the enemy, and fled precipitately, without firing a gun or making the slightest show of resistance. The British at once occupied the camp which the American militia had abandoned, and small detachments started out to capture officers and prominent citizens at their homes. General Porter managed to escape just before the British reached his home, but left his arms and part of his clothing. As he was approaching the village he met a body of one hundred regulars under Captain Cummings, whom he ordered to station themselves near by and await reinforcements. At Black Rock fifty citizens placed themselves under Captain Bull and went to reinforce Cummings's command. About one hundred of Adams's retreating militia, who had been kept together by Lieutenant Phineas Staunton, rallied for the recapture of the position. Chief Farmer's Brother of the Senecas also gathered a band of his warriors together and joined the American forces. Volunteers came in from other places in the neighborhood, all eager to make the attack upon the unsuspecting British, who believed they had effected a victory whose results would be permanent.

At eight o'clock the assault was ordered. The surprise of the enemy was complete. Colonel Bishopp fell from his horse badly wounded, and his men became demoralized. When the American regulars pressed forward the entire British force fled in confusion to the bank of the river. The militia, which had fled in fright a few hours before, now fought like veterans, springing to their work with the utmost enthusiasm and bravery. The forest resounded with the war-whoops of the Senecas engaged in the fight. After retreating as far as Black Rock the enemy embarked in boats found there, but the pursuing Americans kept up a strong fire on the craft, mortally wounding the gallant Colonel Bishopp, who died five days later. The boat in which he lay was the last to leave the shore, and immediately after he fell it signalled its surrender. The entire British loss during this expedition in killed, wounded and missing has been variously estimated at from seventy to one hundred. The Americans lost three killed and five wounded. The British did not destroy more than one-third of the valuable naval stores at Black Rock, destined for the use of Perry, nor did they succeed in reaching the military stores at Buffalo.

During the succeeding few weeks several minor engagements took place. August 12 Perry and his little fleet left Erie, reaching Put-in-Bay on the 15th, where a plan of campaign was arranged with General

Harrison. On September 10 occurred his memorable battle with the British fleet under Captain Robert H. Barclay, after which he sent to General Harrison the historic dispatch: "We have met the enemy and they are ours."

This remarkable naval victory gave the Americans undisputed control of Lake Erie, and inspired the entire country. Other successes followed during the balance of the year, and the feeling of discouragement which had pervaded many sections of the country gave way to general expressions of joy.¹ But while success rewarded the valor of American arms elsewhere, the campaign along the Niagara frontier was wretchedly managed during the ensuing few months. General Wilkinson unwisely withdrew the main body of his troops to the lower end of Lake Ontario, though strongly advised not to do so by General Porter and other officers. Porter, Chapin and McClure offered to raise a thousand men to aid him in making a sally from Fort George; or, if provided with artillery, they offered to invade the enemy's country and conquer the British. Wilkinson's stubborn refusal to see the wisdom of either of these suggestions was the beginning of the mismanagement which marked operations on the frontier from that time until the spring following.

When Wilkinson left Fort George he turned over the command of that post to General McClure, who now had one thousand militia, sixty regulars and two hundred and fifty Indians. The terms of enlistment of volunteers and militia were rapidly expiring. He endeavored to retain them by offering small bounties, but they declined to remain in the service. Soon after the news came that Generals Drummond and Riall had arrived on the peninsula with reinforcements from Kingston, and that a body of troops under Colonel Murray was moving on Fort George. Upon being apprised of this movement McClure determined to abandon his post and post his garrison in Fort Niagara. Before doing so, however, he notified the inhabitants of the village of Newark that he intended to burn that place, which he did a few hours after notice had been given. Of the one hundred and fifty houses in that village but one was left standing, and a large number of women and children were driven from their homes to face the blasts of a severe winter with no other protection than that afforded by the clothing they

¹"The people were becoming more and more a unit in opinion concerning the righteousness of the war on the part of the Government, and its beneficial effects in developing the internal resources of the country; also in demonstrating the ability of a free government to protect itself against a powerful foe."—Lossing.

wore and could carry with them. This cruel and totally unnecessary act was roundly condemned by many of McClure's officers, but it had been sanctioned by the War Department.¹

After abandoning Fort George and making an attempt to destroy it by explosion, McClure stationed one hundred and fifty regulars in Fort Niagara, and on December 12 proceeded to Buffalo, whither he called two hundred additional regulars from Canandaigua. Soon after Colonel Murray, with five hundred British soldiers and Indians, occupied the ground which the Americans had abandoned.

General McClure's unwise and unnecessary act in devastating Newark was justly censured by those who believed in honorable warfare, and particularly, as an imprudent measure, by those who felt confident of the retributive blow that soon was to follow.

Soon after the British had taken possession of Fort George, the awful work of devastation on the part of themselves and their Indian allies began, in retaliation for the burning of the village of Newark. About sunrise of December 19 a party of Indians who had left the main body reached Lewiston, where a small force was stationed under command of Major Bennett. The Americans retreated with the loss of half a dozen men. Among those killed in the indiscriminate slaughter that followed the attack was Dr. Alvord, one of the pioneer physicians of Batavia. As soon as the assault began the inhabitants of that part of the frontier began a retreat eastward. With them went the Tuscarora Indians, whose village was in that vicinity. The invaders met with no formidable resistance, except upon Lewiston Heights, as they attempted to advance to Niagara Falls. Here Major Mallory and a small body of volunteers, who had been stationed at Schlosser, drove the enemy down the hill; but the lost ground was soon recovered, and there was a fine show of resistance all the way to the mouth of Tonawanda creek.

During the summer of 1814, the British being in possession of Fort Niagara, parties of Indians from that stronghold occasionally ventured out and attacked inhabitants who had returned to their homes. In these expeditions the Indians—and frequently the British, too—inflicted great damage upon the inhabitants of that region. Terror reigned in

¹ The Secretary of War, then at Sackett's Harbor, addressed General McClure, "or officer commanding at Fort George," as follows, under date of October 4, 1813: "Understanding that the defense of the post committed to your charge may render it proper to destroy the town of Newark, you are hereby directed to apprise the inhabitants of this circumstance, and invite them to remove themselves and their effects to some place of greater safety. JOHN ARMSTRONG."

all the territory west of the Genesee. Anticipating a further march of the invading force, and an attack upon Batavia, where there were an arsenal and considerable military stores, General Hall soon collected a force from General Wadsworth's brigade, and a number of volunteers from Genesee county, and established headquarters at Batavia. On Christmas day, a considerable force having been organized and armed, the troops started to march to Buffalo. There he found a disorganized and confused body of troops, and all were in consternation and dismay. These were organized with the force already under his command and preparations for resisting the enemy were made at once.

About midnight of December 29 news was received at Buffalo that a British force had crossed the Niagara river near the head of Grand Island, fired on a patrol of mounted men, and taken possession of a battery located upon the site of the lower village of Black Rock. General Hall at once ordered out the troops at Buffalo, but believing that the attack at Black Rock was intended simply to draw off the main force at Buffalo, in order to enable the enemy successfully to attack that place, he decided not to proceed against the British. Colonels Warren and Churchill, who were in command at Black Rock in the absence of General Hopkins, were ordered by General Hall to attack the enemy, dislodge them from their position they had taken and drive them from their boats. The attack was hastily prepared and made under cover of intense darkness, but failed to accomplish its purpose. The attacking force was dispersed; whereupon the main body of troops at Buffalo was ordered to proceed toward Black Rock. A small corps of men headed by Colonel Chapin and Major Adams made a second assault upon the battery, but this force, too, was dispersed. These two failures foreshadowed what was to come. The story of the events of the morning of December 30 is told in the following extract from an official dispatch from General Hall to Governor Tompkins:

As the day dawned I discovered a detachment of the enemy's boats crossing to our shore, and bending their course toward the rear of Gen. Porter's house. I immediately ordered Col. Blakeslie to attack the enemy's force at the water's edge. I became satisfied as to the disposition and object of the enemy. Their left wing, composed of about one thousand regulars, militia, and Indians, had been landed below the creek, under the cover of the night. With their centre, consisting of four hundred royal Scots, commanded by Col. Gordon, the battle was commenced. The right, which was purposely weak, was landed near the main battery, merely to divert our force; the whole under the immediate command of Lieut. Col. Drummond, and led on by Maj. Gen. Riall. They were attacked by four field pieces in the battery at

the water's edge, at the same time the battery from the other side of the river opened a heavy fire upon us, of shells, hot shot and ball. The whole force now opposed to the enemy was, at most, not over six hundred men, the remainder having fled, in spite of the exertions of their officers. These few but brave men, disputed every inch of ground, with the steady coolness of veterans, at the expense of many valuable lives. The defection of the militia, by reason of the ground on which they must act, left the forces engaged, exposed to the enemy's fire in front and flank. After standing their ground for half an hour, opposed by an overwhelming force and nearly surrounded, a retreat became necessary to their safety, and was accordingly ordered. I then made every effort to rally the troops, with a view to attack their columns as they entered the village of Buffalo, but all in vain. Deserted by my principal force, I fell back that night to Eleven Mile creek, and was forced to leave the flourishing villages of Black Rock and Buffalo a prey to the enemy, which they have pillaged and laid in ashes. They have gained but little plunder from the stores; the chief loss has fallen upon individuals.

This disaster was the culmination of a series of events in a badly managed campaign. The efficient forces upon that part of the frontier had been withdrawn and untrained and unorganized militia from Western New York assigned to the important duty of defending one of our most vulnerable points. The entire invading force under General Riall was but a little over one thousand, while our force was numerically superior; but the enemy had the advantage of thorough organization and fair discipline.

Though the cowardice and flight of many of the soldiers who participated in this engagement, not to speak of the panic-stricken ones who fled without making a show of resistance, was a disgrace to American arms, the records show that the untrained soldiers from Genesee county who volunteered their services behaved most admirably. This county complied promptly with the military requisitions made upon it, though the majority of those who so bravely went to the front made greater personal sacrifices than the representatives of most communities who fought in that war. The growing crops, whose failure meant little less than the desolation of many homes, were deserted when the call to arms was issued; and this meant much in a new country like that west of the Genesee. The absence of the tillers of the soil and the consequent neglect of the crops produced unusual distress and suffering among the inhabitants.

The volunteer militia performed valiant service, frequently equal to that of the regulars; but as a rule the work of the men who waited to be drafted was wretched, cowardly. It was the latter class that permitted itself to be so completely routed by General Riall's forces.

About three o'clock on the afternoon of the 30th, after the invading forces had reduced Buffalo and Black Rock to ashes, the enemy crossed the river from the latter point with the public and private property they had captured. They also took with them about ninety prisoners, about half of whom were from Colonel Blakeslie's troops. More than forty were killed and denuded and their mutilated bodies left upon the snow. Among the Americans slain, the highest officer was Lieutenant-Colonel Boughton of Avon. The enemy lost about thirty killed and sixty wounded; but not an officer was killed, and only two were wounded. Had the two thousand Americans been well disciplined and in command of thoroughly efficient officers in all cases, there is little doubt that the enemy might have been driven back across the river and held at bay, temporarily at least, and much loss and suffering averted. When General Hall reached Williamsville he rallied a few hundred fugitives and called for reinforcements, but this step was taken too late, as there was no more fighting.

The scenes and incidents of that memorable day, December 30, along the principal thoroughfares leading eastward, including the Big Tree road, can never be properly described. In the rush was an indiscriminate mob of militia, citizens, sleighs, ox-sleds, wagons, horsemen and horsewomen, children and infants, all with one thought uppermost in their minds—to get as far from Buffalo and Black Rock as possible, and with the greatest speed. “An ox sled would come along bearing wounded soldiers whose companions had pressed the slow team into their service; another with the family of a settler, a few household goods that had been hustled upon it, and one, two or three wearied females from Buffalo, who had begged the privilege of a ride and the rest that it afforded; then a remnant of some dispersed corps of militia, hugging as booty, as spoils of the vanquished, the arms they had neglected to use; then squads and families of Indians, on foot and on ponies, the squaw with her papoose upon her back, and a bevy of juvenile Senecas in her train; and all this is but a stunted programme of the scene that was presented. Bread, meats and drinks soon vanished from the log taverns on the routes, and fleeing settlers divided their scanty stores with the almost famished that came from the frontier.”¹ The news of the disaster flew faster than the fugitives, and many homes were found deserted.

January 1 a body of the enemy again appeared at Buffalo and burned

¹ Turner's History of the Holland Purchase.

the few remaining houses, excepting one occupied by an aged woman and her two daughters. Just as the work of destruction was completed a detachment of mounted men was seen crossing Scajaquada, and the British hastily mounted and rode down the hill. The Americans fired upon them and Adjutant Tottman, who was in command, was killed.

For weeks the frontier remained deserted and desolate. The villages of Buffalo, Black Rock, Niagara Falls, Lewiston and Youngstown and the intervening tenements and farm houses presented one long panorama of ruin.

Batavia, being the principal place at a comparatively safe distance east of Buffalo, became the final rallying point of what was left of the American army, and the headquarters for the homeless refugees from the frontier. The most valuable articles, including the records, of the Land Office, were carried east of the Genesee river. Mr. Ellicott's residence was converted into headquarters for the officers of the army, and his office into a hospital; barns and sheds were occupied and many private houses were thrown open. Had it not been for the hospitality of the inhabitants of Batavia the condition of the fugitives would have been inestimably worse than it was. The following letter will give some idea of the condition of the country west of Batavia during the period immediately succeeding the disaster on the Niagara frontier:

CANANDAIGUA, 8th Jan., 1814.

Gentlemen:

Niagara county and that part of Genesee which lies west of Batavia are completely depopulated. All the settlements in a section of country forty miles square, and which contained more than twelve thousand souls, are effectually broken up. These facts you are undoubtedly acquainted with; but the distresses they have produced, none but an eye-witness can thoroughly appreciate. Our roads are filled with people, many of whom have been reduced from a state of competency and good prospects to the last degree of want and sorrow. So sudden was the blow by which they have been crushed, that no provision could be made either to elude or meet it. The fugitives from Niagara county especially were dispersed under circumstances of so much terror that in some cases, mothers find themselves wandering with strange children, and children are seen accompanied by such as have no other sympathies with them than those of common sufferings. Of the families thus separated, all the members can never again meet in this life; for the same violence which has made them beggars, has forever deprived them of their heads, and others of their branches. Afflictions of the mind so deep as have been allotted to these unhappy people, we cannot cure. They can probably be subdued only by His power who can wipe away all tears. But shall we not endeavor to assuage them? To their bodily wants we can certainly administer. The inhabitants of this village have made large contributions for their relief, in provisions, clothing and money. And we have been ap-

pointed, among other things, to solicit further relief for them, from our wealthy and liberal minded fellow citizens. In pursuance of this appointment, may we ask you, gentlemen, to interest yourselves particularly in their behalf. We believe that no occasion has ever occurred in our country which presented stronger claims upon individual benevolence, and we humbly trust that whoever is willing to answer these claims will always entitle himself to the precious reward of active charity. We are, gentlemen, with great respect,

WM. SHEPARD,
THAD'S CHAPIN,
MOSES ATWATER,
N. GORHAM,
MYRON HOLLEY,
THOMAS BEALS,
PHINEAS P. BATES,

Committee of Safety and Relief at Canandaigua.

To the Hon. Philip S. Van Rensselaer,
Hon. James Kent,
Hon. Ambrose Spencer,
Stephen Van Rensselaer, Esq.,
Elisha Jenkins, Esq.,
Rev. Timothy Clowes,
Rev. William Neill,
Rev. John M. Bradford.

In response to this appeal the State Legislature immediately appropriated \$50,000; the Common Council of Albany, \$1,000; the Common Council of New York, \$3,000. Liberal subscriptions were also made by residents of New York, Albany, Canandaigua and other localities, including \$2,000 by the Holland Land Company and \$200 by Joseph Ellicott. The entire relief fund amounted to about \$63,000, which did much toward relieving the immediate wants of the sufferers from the war.

As soon as the intelligence of the invasion reached the national capital, President Madison directed General Lewis Cass to proceed to the scene, investigate the causes of the disaster and suggest such measures of relief and defense as should appear necessary. In a letter written by General Cass to the Secretary of War, dated January 12, 1814, the former says:

The fall of Niagara has been owing to the most criminal negligence. The force in it was fully competent to its defence. The commanding officer, Captain Leonard, it is confidently said, was at his own house, three miles from the fort, and all the other officers appear to have rested in as much security as though no enemy was near them. Captains Rogers and Hampton, both of the 24th, had companies in the fort. Both of them were absent from it. Their conduct ought to be strictly investigated. I am also told that Major Wallace of the 5th was in the fort. He escaped

and is now at Erie. The circumstances attending the destruction of Buffalo you will have learned before this reaches you. But the force of the enemy has been greatly magnified. From the most careful examination I am satisfied that not more than six hundred and fifty men, of regulars, militia and Indians, landed at Black Rock. To oppose these we had from two thousand five hundred to three thousand militia. All except a very few of them behaved in the most cowardly manner. They fled without discharging a musket. The enemy continued on this side of the river until Saturday. All their movements betrayed symptoms of apprehension. A vast quantity of property was left in the town uninjured, and the Ariel, which lies four miles above, is safe. Since the first inst. they have made no movement. They continue to possess Niagara, and will probably retain it until a force competent to its reduction arrives in its vicinity.

The campaign of 1814 was as brilliant and successful, as a whole, as that of 1813 had been disastrous. Experience had been a bitter, but competent, teacher, and the campaign was now conducted by the Americans with more vigor and judgment. In the spring troops began to arrive on the frontier. New officers were in command, and rigid discipline and general efficiency were inaugurated. General Riall commanded the Canadian frontier and had headquarters on Queenston Heights. The One Hundredth Regiment of the British army was stationed along the river from Chippewa to Fort Erie. April 10 General Winfield Scott arrived at Chippewa. A few weeks later Major-General Jacob Brown arrived on the frontier and assumed the chief command. His forces comprised two brigades, commanded respectively by General Scott and Colonel Eleazer W. Ripley, to each of which was attached a small body of artillery. There was also a small troop of cavalry. All were under excellent discipline and high spirits. In addition to these troops were about eleven hundred volunteers from New York and Pennsylvania, and about six hundred Indians who had been inspired to help the Americans by the eloquence of the famous Red Jacket. These volunteers and Indians were under the chief command of General Peter B. Porter.

In the latter part of May General Scott removed his headquarters to Buffalo, where the troops were constantly drilled and perfect discipline maintained. By July 1, the Americans were ready for action. The day following Generals Brown, Scott and Porter reconnoitered Fort Erie and laid plans for its capture. The capture of these works was comparatively easy. Sunday morning the army passed over the river. General Scott's brigade and the artillery corps of Major Hindman landed nearly a mile below Fort Erie, between two and three o'clock in the morning. General Ripley and his brigade landed about the same

distance above the fort. A little later a small force of Indians crossed over. The enemy was completely surprised. The fort was approached on both sides by the army, while the Indians skirted the woods in the rear.

General Brown demanded the surrender of the garrison, giving the commander two hours to reach a determination. Meantime a battery of "long eighteens" was planted where it commanded the fort. But the enemy was overawed and surrendered at six o'clock, being immediately sent over the river to the American shore. The prisoners numbered over one hundred and seventy, all being in command of Major Burke. Several pieces of ordnance and some military stores were also captured. During the brief period of firing which took place in the morning one man was killed and two or three wounded on each side.¹

This almost bloodless capture of Fort Erie was but the beginning of a vigorous and successful campaign. July 4 Scott and his brigade proceeded to Black Creek, a few miles above Chippewa. Ripley advanced on the afternoon of the same day. The next day Scott was joined by General Porter with his volunteers and Indians. General Riall was still in command of the British forces, which in the meantime had also been considerably reinforced.

About daybreak of July 5 operations began by attacks on the American picket lines, the chief purpose of the enemy being to divert attention from the main attack against the American centre. But this plan failed. The American commander, feeling sure of his position and strength, gradually drew in his pickets and thereby led the enemy into a general action. The Indians fought splendidly under command of General Porter, Red Jacket and Captain Pollard, and the British were soon forced back towards Chippewa with heavy loss. General Porter's command followed, but on reaching the outskirts of the woods he encountered the main body of the enemy, and most of his men, being unaccustomed to the din of battle, broke away in confusion. The remainder of the army, however, soon came upon the scene, and after a sharp conflict the entire British force broke and fled to the entrenchments below Chippewa creek, destroying the bridge and thus preventing the victorious Americans from pursuing them. In this battle the American loss was sixty-one killed, two hundred and fifty-five wounded

¹This account of the capture of Fort Erie is taken from the story published in the Buffalo Gazette in its issue next succeeding the event described.

and nineteen missing. The British loss was six hundred and four, of whom two hundred and thirty-six were killed.

General Riall, in his retreat, proceeded to Queenston, occupying Fort George with part of his troops and making his headquarters twenty miles to the westward, near Lake Ontario. General Drummond, completely chagrined over the defeat of the British veterans by what he considered raw American troops, resolved that the British arms should redeem themselves. He therefore at once organized a large army, and with a force one third larger than that of the Americans under General Brown, advanced to give battle. Brown in the meantime had moved forward to Queenston, where he hoped to find Chauncey's fleet awaiting on the Niagara river to co-operate with the land forces. But Commodore Chauncey's fleet did not appear and the army was compelled to prepare to fight it out alone. Riall, however, had received considerable reinforcements in the meantime. General Brown therefore ordered a retreat to Chippewa. On the morning of the 25th news came from Lewiston that the British were at Queenston and on the Heights in considerable numbers, and that five of the enemy's fleet had arrived and were proceeding up the river. Soon after it was learned that they were landing at Lewiston. General Drummond had arrived from Kingston with reinforcements, while Riall's troops at the same time had been put in motion. That morning a large part of the forces under Lieutenant Colonel Pearson held a commanding position on an eminence in and near Lundy's Land. Brown evidently had not received intelligence of this movement, for he made plans to attack him at Queenston. Late in the afternoon he ordered a forward movement. Soon after he was informed that a large British force had been seen at Niagara Falls, but he believed that it was Drummond and his troops going up the river to capture the store of supplies at Schlosser. For the purpose of recalling the enemy he decided to menace the forts at the mouth of the river. Accordingly, about four o'clock he ordered General Scott to march rapidly after them with Towson's artillery and all the mounted men at his command.

Within twenty minutes after receiving his orders Scott's command was in motion. About half past five he crossed the Chippewa, believing that a large body of the enemy was on the other side of the Niagara instead of directly in his front. But he soon learned the true situation. He met the forces of Riall, and the memorable battle of Lundy's Lane followed.

Scott's command consisted of about 1,200 men. The British force was greatly superior in point of numbers. Retreat would have been fatal to the Americans, and Scott heroically decided to fight, though the odds were so greatly against him. Halting a moment to send a dispatch to his commander notifying the latter of the true situation, he began the attack. General Brown realized that the battle was in progress even before he had received Scott's dispatch, for he could plainly hear the report of musketry and the cannonading. Ordering the brigade under Ripley to follow him, he hastened to the field at the head of his personal staff. Meeting Scott's messenger, he ordered the latter to continue on and bring the whole force into the field. As soon as Ripley's brigade reached the field, General Brown, seeing that Scott's brigade was becoming greatly exhausted by the severe fighting they had been doing, interposed a new line between them and the enemy, thereby holding the latter in readiness for a new conflict.

The British now fell back, their right resting on a height commanding the whole plain on which they and the American forces were moving. It was now perceived that this height must be carried or the Americans would lose the battle. McRee was ordered to detach Col. James Miller with the Twenty-first Regiment for this hazardous and difficult duty, and to proceed with the remainder of the Second Brigade down the Queenston road in order to divert the attention of the enemy from his right, which was to be attacked. Turning to Colonel Miller, General Brown said:

"Colonel, can you storm that work and take it?"

"I'll try, sir," was the laconic response. And he did take it.

Miller's assault was a brilliant one.¹ The British retired in confusion from the line of advancing bayonets, leaving their cannon and several prisoners in possession of the Twenty-first Regiment. About the same time Ripley's brigade advanced and encountered the enemy on the right of Miller's operations. A part of his brigade was broken under the galling fire of the British regulars, but the line was immediately formed again and brought into action. At this moment Major Jesup, of Scott's brigade, who had been ordered to act independently on the right

¹ With three hundred men he moved up the ascent steadily in the darkness, along a fence lined with thick bushes that hid his troops from the view of the gunners and their protectors who lay near by. When within a short musket range of the battery, they could see the gunners with their glowing linestocks, ready to act at the word, fire. Selecting good marksmen, Miller directed each to rest his rifle on the fence, select a gunner and fire at a given signal. Very soon every gunner fell, when Miller and his men rushed forward and captured the battery.—Lossing.

of the American army, after capturing and sending to camp General Riall and several other British officers, proceeded toward the heights as far as the Queenston road. At this point he was joined by General Brown, who directed him to advance up Lundy's Lane and form on the right of Ripley's brigade, whose left was resting upon the height defended by the captured cannon. Meantime General Porter had arrived with his command and was formed on Ripley's left.

Fresh troops had been sent from Queenston and Fort George to reinforce the enemy, which now advanced in strong force. At the first fire, however, the British fled in great confusion. A second attack was made, and the enemy fought with great obstinacy, but two or three volleys sufficed to drive them down the height. Soon another desperate assault was made, but this, too, was repulsed after a terrific hand to hand contest, the enemy fleeing in great disorder and leaving many prisoners in the hands of the victorious Americans. In the last assault both Generals Brown and Scott were wounded. The former was shot twice, but remained on his horse. General Scott, however, was disabled and carried from the field.

The Americans now fell back to Chippewa, having effectually repulsed the enemy. Here General Brown ordered Ripley, upon whom the command had devolved, to rest awhile and then reoccupy the battlefield. The latter disobeyed orders and remained at Chippewa, and this so irritated General Brown that he sent to Sackett's Harbor for General Edmund P. Gaines with orders for the latter to assume temporary command on the Niagara frontier. Through Ripley's disobedience the Americans were deprived of the substantial advantages of the hardly-earned victory, for the British returned, captured most of the cannon and again occupied the field.¹

While the Americans were really the victors, the British also laid claim to the honor by reason of their having taken possession of the battlefield after the Americans had left it. In this engagement the American loss was one hundred and seventy-one killed, five hundred and seventy-one wounded and one hundred and ten missing. The loss of the enemy was eighty-four killed, five hundred and fifty-nine wounded, one hundred and ninety-three missing, and forty-two prisoners.

On the morning of the day following the battle General Brown, Gen-

¹This battle was fought entirely between sunset and midnight. The moon was shining brightly, and as there was no breeze its later and more sanguinary incidents occurred among dense clouds of smoke caused by the burning powder.