

acres in the county, which property is still in possession of his descendants.

Mr. Lawrence was first married to Rebecca, daughter of Dr. Thomas Bond, of Philadelphia. She had two daughters, and died in Philadelphia in 1771. He then married his cousin, Mary Morris, whose only son was born on that memorable day, July 4th, 1776. The mother died a month later, and, in 1778, her husband married her sister, Catherine V. Both were daughters of his uncle, Col. Lewis Morris, of Morrisania.

The two elder daughters were married soon after the family came to Sussex, Mary to Gabriel Ludlum, nephew of Robert Morris; Rebecca to Warren de Lancy, of New York.

The eldest son served as Ensign in the Regular Army, and died a month after receiving his commission as Lieutenant, in 1799.

Lewis, the second son, died at the age of seventeen, in Goshen, where he was at school.

MARIA, the third daughter, was seven years old when they came to Sussex. She married, in 1810, her cousin, WALTER LOUIS SHEE, son of Gen. John Shee, of Philadelphia. For a few years after marriage they lived in Oxford, a suburb of Philadelphia, but Mrs. Shee was anxious to return to New Jersey. In 1814, her father purchased the Beach farm, and rented it to Mr. Shee. They removed to this property, in Hamburg, which was given to Mrs. Shee by her father's will, and here she spent the rest of her life. Mr. Shee became Postmaster in 1815, or soon after, and Judge of Common Pleas Court under five appointments, serving from 1817 to 1842, and took an active interest in county affairs. He died in 1856. His wife survived all her family, dying in the spring of 1870, as she entered her 90th year. Spending nearly all her long life in the place, she was closely identified with it, and seemed to the younger generation a connecting link with the past. In her manner she preserved the stately formality of the old school, and had no liking for modern ways. She never saw a locomotive engine, and the idea of a railroad in the place was very distasteful to her. Those who had heard her dread of it, thought it strange that on the day ground was broken for the Midland

Railroad, in sight of her window, she lay on her death bed.

RICHARD, the third son, studied surveying, and did much active work in the county. He lived with his sister, Mrs. Shee, and died at her house in 1858.

CATHARINE, the fourth daughter, never married. After the death of her parents, she lived in a cottage on the Morrisvale farm. Her benevolence was so universal, that "Aunt Kitty," as she was called by all who knew her, was appealed to in every trouble. Her home was like a happy family in its variety of pet animals. Ill health obliged her to leave "The Cottage" in her last years, which were spent with her sister, Mrs. Shee. She died in 1862.

When Mrs. Shee lived at Oxford, she met a young girl who had lost both parents in infancy by yellow fever. Mrs. Shee wrote often about this interesting young girl, and in a letter to her father said she "wished one of her brothers would come on and fall in love with her, as she would make so good a wife." Her brother THOMAS took her advice, and was married to Janet Willson, by Bishop White, Dec. 1st, 1813. They lived on the Morrisvale farm, where Mrs. Lawrence died in 1821, leaving two children, Thomas and Catherine. The son was adopted by his grandparents, and the daughter by her aunt, Mrs. Shee. Mr. Lawrence lived for many years with his sister, in the Morrisvale cottage, and died at the residence of his son, in Sparta, in 1851.

The youngest daughter in this Lawrence family, SARAH, married Dr. Jesse Arnell, a physician who came to Hamburg from Goshen. He practiced for a few years, and they were married in the spring of 1813. Doctor Arnell died in July, 1814, and his wife in the following November.

Mr. Lawrence had three other children, Jacob, William and Lena, who died in infancy, a few years after they came to New Jersey.

*Samuel Beach*, M. D., who sold to Thomas Lawrence, in 1805, the house and land which became the home and farm of Judge Walter L. Shee, came with his brother, Calvin, to Hamburg from Parsippany, Morris Co., N. J., where their parents, Isaac and Mary (Bigals) Beach lived. Isaac Beach died in 1831,

aged 89 years. His wife died in 1830, aged 82 years. The grandfather of Samuel and Calvin Beach was Abner, and their great-grandfather, Benjamin.

Dr. Beach purchased lands which are described as five tracts. The first three were conveyed by Abraham Kitchel and Benjamin Lindsley to Jonathan Lindsley, in 1793. The 4th tract was conveyed by Joseph Sharp and William Sharp to Jonathan Lindsley, in 1796. Said four tracts were conveyed to Dr. Samuel Beach by Jonathan Lindsley, in 1801. The fifth tract was the one on which the house was built, and is described as a part of that conveyed by heirs of Mary Alexander to Gov. Lewis Morris.

When Mrs. Shee made her home here, in 1814, the place was called "Oaklands."

The two brothers, Samuel and Calvin, returned to Parsippany, where Calvin remained until his death. Dr. Samuel was a resident of Jeffersonville, Indiana, for more than twenty years. He was born Nov. 7th, 1774, and died in the city of New York, June 1st, 1836. The brothers were related to Judge Samuel Beach Halsey, of Rockaway, and to Dr. Columbus Beach, of Beach Glen.

## CHAPTER III.

### EARLY SETTLERS AND THEIR FAMILIES—CONTINUED.

The *Ogdens* had much influence in Hardyston, and the history of the town requires no little mention of them. Going back to the first immigrant of the family, we find JOHN OGDEN, born in Northampton, England, whose descent is traced from John Ogden living in 1460. He lived in Stamford, Conn., in 1641, and contracted, in 1642, with the Dutch Governor, William Kieft, to build a stone church in the fort of New Amsterdam. The fort stood within the precincts of the present Battery, in New York city. By grant from Governor Kieft, with Richard Denton and others, he made the settlement of Hempstead, L. I., in 1644. He removed to Southampton, L. I., in 1647; held office as Magistrate from Connecticut and New Haven Colonies, and represented Southampton in the upper house of King's Council, Conn. It is claimed for him that Charles II gave him armorial bearings with the legend: "Granted to John Ogden Esquire by King Charles the second, for his faithful services, to his Unfortunate Father, Charles the First."

In 1664 he came to Elizabethtown, and was one of the two original patentees who established the settlement of the town. A man of sterling piety, he was frequently called "Good old John Ogden." He died December, 1681. Five grown sons accompanied him from Long Island. Jonathan, his third son, was the father of Robert Ogden 1st, and grandfather of Robert Ogden 2d.

ROBERT OGDEN 2d was born at Elizabethtown, October 7th, 1716; married Phebe Hatfield, and had a large family of children. Mrs. Ogden was a woman of patriotic spirit, and three of her sons and two sons-in-law were in the army, and her husband

was a Commissary during the war of the Revolution. Upon their removal to Sussex, she gave the name of Sparta to their new home in the wilderness, expressing the wish that the youth of this vicinity might emulate the virtues of the ancient Spartans. The name has traveled to the village four miles away, at the head of the Wallkill, whose Post Office is Sparta, while the site of the Ogden home is now known as Ogdensburg.

Robert Ogden 2d filled numerous offices of honor and trust under the royal government. At that time Elizabethtown was the state seat of government. He was a member of the Provincial Council and for several years Speaker of the House of Assembly. Being appointed one of the delegates from the Legislature of New Jersey to the Provincial Congress that met in New York in 1765, to protest against the Stamp Act, he, with the chairman of the convention, refused to sign the protest and petition to the King and Parliament, upon the ground that it should be transmitted to the Provincial Assembly, and through it be presented to the Government of Great Britain. This so displeased his constituents that he was burned in effigy on his return home. He convened the Assembly and resigned his Speakership and membership, and in his address on the occasion said: "I trust Providence will, in due time, make the rectitude of my heart and my inviolable affection to my country appear in a fair light to the world, and that my sole aim was the happiness of New Jersey." When the war of the Revolution began he took a firm stand on the side of freedom, and was a member of the Committee of Vigilance of Elizabethtown. He was so obnoxious to the Tories that they made great efforts to capture him. After the battle of Long Island and the occupation of New York by the British, it was no longer safe for him to remain in the vicinity. In a letter written Oct. 7th, 1776, to his son-in-law, Colonel Francis Barber, he says:

"We still continue in the old habitation, though almost surrounded by the regulars [British troops]. They have been on Staten Island, a month on Long Island, and three weeks in possession of New York, a large part of which is burned to the ground. A very serious part of the story—our troops yesterday evacuated Bergen—carried off the stores and artillery, moved off as many of the inhabitants as could get away, and fired all the wheat and

other grain.

“Your mother still seems undetermined whether to stay here by the stuff, or remove to Sussex. A few days will determine her, but perhaps in a few days it may be too late to determine a matter of this importance.”

The removal was forced upon them when Washington retreated through the Jerseys, and was no doubt effected soon after this letter was written. A division of the British army entered Elizabethtown Nov. 29th, and the winter, which found Washington in Morristown, found them in Sparta.

The following letter from his son, Matthias, is of interest as showing their residence here at the time of its date, and also Ogden's connection with the Continental army. He had years before served the King's army as Commissary, when General Amherst commanded the royal forces; and again when General Abercrombie was commander-in-Chief before his defeat on Lake George. Much of the correspondence is still in existence:

“MORRIS TOWN, January 6, 1777.

“*Honorable Sir:* I send you Mr. Lowrey's letter, who, since it was written, has desired me to inform you that the way he does, and the method you must take, is to apply to General Washington, who will give a warrant for any sum of money you may apply for necessary for carrying on your commissary department. I am informed there is a complaint here for want of flour, and I think it best you should attend here yourself as soon as possible—where you will receive help from the military by General Washington's order, to take wheat or any other necessary for the army from such persons as have it to spare without distressing their families. General Washington will be here about noon. Forty Waldeckers were brought in yesterday by the militia. The killed, wounded and prisoners of the enemy at Princeton were about 600; our loss of men was about ten or twelve, and of officers six or eight, among which was General Mercer.

From yours dutifully,

M. OGDEN.”

“To Robert Ogden, Esq., Sussex.”

The forty Waldeckers were the Germans, so called from Waldeck, whence they were brought, captured January 5th, two days after the battle of Princeton, by Colonel Oliver Spencer, a son-in-law of Robert Ogden, near Springfield, N. J. For his gallantry

on this occasion, Spencer was rewarded with the command of a regular regiment.

Washington writing to Congress on the 7th of January, says :

“The most considerable skirmish was on Sunday morning [5th] when eight or ten Waldeckers were killed or wounded, and the remainder of the party, thirty-nine or forty, made prisoners, with the officers, by a force not superior in number and without receiving the least damage.”

One of Robert Ogden's descendants wrote: “My grandfather and his wife, Phebe Hatfield, lived on the rising ground toward the Snufftown mountain. He owned a great deal of land estate in this vicinity and some of ‘Drowned Lands’ of Wantage. There were no sawmills in the country when he emigrated from Elizabethtown. The house was built entirely of squared logs. I have often been in the house, but before my advent it was handsomely covered with weather-boards, and wainscoted and plastered within. The house was a large one, with a hall running through the centre. Four rooms were on a floor and a very large kitchen. My great-grandmother and her sister, Bettie Hatfield, made this house and its surroundings very beautiful. There was a large lawn and garden. Around the lawn were set rose-bushes, lilacs and syringas in regular order. The whole country was at that time a dense forest. A clergyman who was a guest of the family when some of the ornamental plants were in bloom exclaimed, ‘Mrs. Ogden, you have made the wilderness to blossom as the rose.’”

It was this house that was assailed by the gang of robbers (called cowboys) ; and its ample cellars afforded them refreshment and booty. The leader of the gang was Claudius Smith, who confessed to participation in the robbery when under the gallows at Goshen, N. Y., where he suffered for his numerous crimes January 22d, 1779. It was a very cold night. A colored girl said that as she was milking, she saw a man raise his head from behind a log not far from the house. But the family were not alarmed, as there were guards at a station two miles away, and they thought themselves safe from the Tories. The miscreants robbed the house of all the silver, but were disappointed in not finding the large sum of money which Judge Ogden was sup-

posed to have received for purchasing provisions for the Continental army. They drank freely of some whiskey kept in the cellar, were thrown off their guard, and found that they were recognized. One man said, "Judge, I have had many a good meal in your house before this." When they had ransacked everything and collected their booty, they took him, with the big family Bible, down into the cellar, and threatened to kill him if he did not take a solemn oath never to divulge who they were, or seek their punishment. Mrs. Ogden shrieked, thinking they were going to murder him.

The alarm was sounded next morning by one of the negro boys, who hid himself in the swamp all night, and on going out informed the guards. The troops with the neighbors gave chase. They tracked the men in the snow, and saw where they had cooked and slept and thrown away some blankets. A silver sugar bowl which had been dropped was found. This is still in the possession of one of Mr. Ogden's descendants, a lady of the Oliver Spencer family, living in Ohio. More of the hidden plunder was afterwards recovered, but the Judge so regarded his oath that he refused to authorize any proceedings against his spoilers. He had his house barricaded, and was not afterwards disturbed. According to the date upon the chimney, this house was built in 1777, in the spring and summer after Mr. Ogden's removal here. It was destroyed by fire in 1845.

Here we find the germ of the Sparta Church. The record of legal organization at the County Clerk's office styles it, "the dwelling house of Rob. Ogden, Esq., the present and most usual place of meeting of said congregation." Here its owner and his pious wife would gather their tenants and neighbors for divine worship, he himself leading the services on the Sabbath when no clergyman was present. The New Jersey Legislature on March 10, 1786, passed an act for the incorporation of religious societies. This church was the first to avail itself of the new law, and, associated with the congregation of Cary's Meeting House, they assumed the name of "The First Presbyterian Church in Hardyston," November 23d, 1786. Steps had been previously taken towards the erection of a meeting house. Snow was on the ground in



the spring of 1786, when the first timber was cut.

Judge Ogden died January 21st, 1787, in his 71st year. Before the completion of the new meeting house, he was laid to rest a little in its rear. Before his removal to Sussex he had long been an Elder in the Elizabethtown church, and was a member of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia, 1763 and 1766. His lands extended from the head of the Wallkill to Franklin Furnace, with large tracts of mountain land. Ogden Mine was worked in 1762, and named for him. The zinc mines were opened long after his death, upon lands once his. He owned portions of the Wallkill Drowned Lands. The turnpike bridge across the Wallkill, a mile and a half north of Hamburg, has always been called "Ogden's Bridge."

Mrs. Phebe Ogden survived her husband and died December 22, 1796. Her remains were buried beside his in the Sparta church yard.

From History of the Cliosophic Society.

Memoir of ROBERT OGDEN.

By the Hon. Daniel Haines, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

Robert Ogden, Jr., one of the founders of the Cliosophic Society, was the great-grandson of Jonathan Ogden, who was one of the original associates of the "Elizabethtown purchase," and who died in 1732, at the age of eighty-six.

Of his grandfather, Robert Ogden, but little is known by the present generation, except that he was one of a long line of pious ancestry.

His father, Robert Ogden, Sr., resided at the old borough of Elizabeth, N. J., and filled with ability and fidelity, several offices of honor and trust; among others, that of Surrogate for the County of Essex. He was one of the King's counsellors, and for several years speaker of the House of Assembly.

During the war of the Revolution, he was one of the three who composed the Patriots' Committee of Vigilance for the town. During the struggle, he retired to Sparta, in the County of Sussex, where he continued a life of usefulness, to both church and state, until the year 1787, when he died, at the full age of three score years and ten.

Robert Ogden, Jr., was born at Elizabethtown, on the 23d of March, 1746. He entered the college of New Jersey at the age of sixteen, and graduated in 1765, at the age of nineteen years. While a member of College, he united with William Patterson, Luther Martin, Oliver Ellsworth and Tapping Reeve, in the formation of the Clisophic Society, then known by the name of the "Well-Meaning Society."

He chose the profession of the law, and pursued his preparatory course under the direction of that distinguished jurist and eminent statesman, Richard Stockton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Having completed his term of clerkship, Mr. Ogden was admitted to the bar, and received "a license to practice law in all the courts of New Jersey, on the 21st June, 1779."

In April, 1772, Governor Franklin showed his confidence in his ability and integrity by appointing him "One of the Surrogates of New Jersey, in the room and stead of his father Robert Ogden, Senior, resigned."

He opened his law office at Elizabethtown, and soon acquired an extensive and lucrative practice, and the name *par excellence* of the "Honest Lawyer." In such esteem was he held that, within ten years after his admission to the bar, he was called to the degree of Sergeant-at-Law, then held by twelve only of the most learned and upright counsellors.

During the war with Great Britain he took an active and efficient part, and by his energy and means contributed much to the establishment of American independence. In patriotism and valor he was not surpassed even by his brother, General Matthias Ogden, who was wounded at the storming of the heights of Quebec, and subsequently distinguished for military skill and personal daring in many battle-fields of the Revolution. But Providence denied to him the honors of the field. His right arm having been disabled by a fall in childhood, he could neither wield a sword nor handle a musket, but he rendered good service in the capacity of Quartermaster and Commissary of stores. He gave his time and his talents, spent his money and pledged his credit freely to supply the suffering army of Washington with subsistence, clothing, horses, and transportation. His readiness and ability to do this will be shown by the following incident: His brother, Captain Aaron Ogden, afterwards Colonel, and Governor of New Jersey, one of the aides-de-camp of General Lafayette, was summoned to the tent of that distinguished and beloved patriot and friend of American liberty. On his appearing at the tent, the Marquis said, "Captain Ogden, have you a good horse?"