

CHAPTER VI.

HAMBURG AND SOME OF ITS PEOPLE.

It is an error to suppose that Hamburg is a larger village now than it has ever been. Its relative importance has been diminishing with advancing time for nearly a century. We must go back some fifty, or even ninety years, to reach what may be called its palmiest days. These were about the time when the Post Office was established, October 1st, 1795, under Thomas Lawrence, and all the iron works were in operation; when our citizens embarked in the enterprise of constructing a turnpike road fifty miles in length, to connect the village with the city of New York. When the Hamburg turnpike road was completed, about 1810, there was not a Post Office on the entire route to New York. Around the iron works many small houses were erected for the use of the workmen employed. These, with numbers of other dwellings then built, have mostly disappeared. For many years there were more stores here than at any other point in the county. Farmers brought their produce and did their trading, coming as far as from Andover and Wantage.

Mr. Sharp put up his store house about 1804, built the stone mill in 1808, and constructed the mill road running from his house and store to intersect the Newton road north of the North Church Cemetery. He stated that it was sixty-eight chains nearer by his road from Ryerson's (Walling house) than by Lawrence's. He made a strong effort to secure the office of Postmaster and bring the postal business to his store, but did not succeed.

He built the Haines homestead in 1800. Caleb and Issacher Rude were his carpenters, and he brought a man named Johnson,

from Salem, or Philadelphia, who did the joining and finer work.

Mr. Sharp had abundant means from the rise in value of his lands, and lived in good style, and what was esteemed luxury, in those days, until the losses attendant upon his iron works and other ventures diminished his income and he removed to another house, which he built along the Wallkill, in Vernon township, near the base of Pochunk Mountain, where he died in 1845, in his eighty-eighth year.

His wife was Elizabeth Simpson, daughter of Henry Simpson, who lived near McAfee. She was born in 1771, and died in 1824 while Mr. Sharp was living at Hamburg. She was a member of the Hamburg Presbyterian Church and of the North Hardyston, after the union of the two churches. They had four sons, Thomas, Joseph, Anthony and Isaac. Of their daughters, Eliza married Dr. James Fowler; Clarissa married Major Thomas B. DeKay, who lived in Vernon near the State line; Mary was the wife of Dr. Henry C. Rosencrantz, and lived in the house on the Rosencrantz hill; Deborah became the wife of Dr. Horace Vibbert, of Deckertown.

Issacher Rude, one of the carpenters who worked for Col. Sharp, was killed in the raising of a barn on the Conrad Tinker place. CALEB, his brother, also a carpenter, lived to the age of ninety-three and a half years, respected and beloved by all who knew him, and died in 1871. Their father, Caleb Rude, Senior, lived in Morris county and became a soldier in the Continental Army. The Tories made several raids upon his home, and that of his neighbors, so that he removed his family for safety to the vicinity of Stockholm, and took most of his pay in Continental money, in exchange for his house and farm. He had two sons in the army, Abner and Noah. When the war closed, his paper money was of no value, and he found himself poor. His wife died, and he bound out his son Caleb as an apprentice to Simon Wade to learn the carpenter's trade. Caleb, Jr., married Elizabeth Simpson, daughter of the Henry Simpson 3d, who lived on the William Edsall farm.

JOSEPH E. EDSALL was born in 1789 at Rudeville, in the log house where his parents, James Edsall and Mary Simpson lived,

He built the house on the creamery property in 1820, placing it directly in the road, which he crowded into the hill in front; and built three tenement houses adjoining. He had on the same ground a distillery and a tannery, below the hill. For a time he kept a store in his dwelling, and in 1824 put up a store house, which stood in the creamery garden, and at the foot of the church hill. When not used for a store it was occupied as tenements for families. Christopher Longstreet was Edsall's carpenter.

When Robert A. Linn, in 1820, exchanged properties with his brother-in-law, Judge Thomas C. Ryerson, he came to Hamburg, and after a few years, by another exchange, acquired the property where Edsall had lived. Dr. James Fowler had gone south, and Edsall bought his lot of land, on the opposite side of the road from the present Presbyterian Church. Upon the lot were an unfinished dwelling, a store house and barn. Edsall set to work to complete this house, but before it was done it was destroyed by fire. He re-built the dwelling in 1830, and from that time, with the exception of a year or two, when he rented it, he made it his home until his death in 1865. His wife was Esther, daughter of James Hamilton, who died in 1842, at the age of fifty-four years. In process of time, Mr. Edsall became possessed of most of the adjoining property, consisting of farm, mill, forges, and buildings. He was County Clerk, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, a member of the Legislature, and a member of Congress for two terms, in Mr. Polk's time and during the Mexican war.

DOCTOR SAMUEL FOWLER was born in Newburg, N. Y., October 30th, 1779. His ancestor, John Fowler, came from England and settled on Long Island as early as 1665. After completing his medical studies, at the age of twenty-one years, he began the practice of medicine in Hamburg, 1801. Of great versatility of talent, he engaged in many enterprises, and was successful in all. He was one of the most eminent physicians that our county has produced, and his was the leading mind in all medical consultations, and at the meetings of the Medical Society.

He was a distinguished naturalist and mineralogist, collecting a most valuable private cabinet of American minerals, and corre-

sponded with scientific men at home and abroad. His valuable letters and papers were consumed in the destruction of the Fowler homestead, in 1884, and the store of information they might have imparted is lost.

He married in 1808, Ann Breckenridge, daughter of Colonel Mark Thompson, of Changewater, N. J., who was a member of Congress under Washington's administration. Their only daughter surviving childhood, was Julia, who became the wife of Hon. Moses Bigelow, of Newark, N. J. Dr. Fowler built a house in Hamburg, which is still standing, and which he sold to Martin Ryerson. Soon after his wife's death he removed to Franklin, where he re-built and enlarged the house in which he lived until his death. This neighborhood had been called The Plains, from the flat lands beginning here and extending toward the North Church, which included the farm of Capt. George Beardslee. Dr. Fowler constructed a dam across the small stream that passed his house, and erected a grist mill, fulling mill, storehouse, blacksmith shop, a tannery, and several small dwellings. To these he gave the name of Franklin, and from this, the valuable iron ore in the vicinity received the name of Franklinite, and the Post Office and furnace that of Franklin Furnace.

Dr. Fowler's second wife was Rebecca Wood Platt Ogden, daughter of Robert Ogden 3d, of Ogdensburg, to whom he was married in 1816. For a time he carried on the manufacture of iron at the Hamburg forges, and afterwards at Franklin Furnace, for a while in partnership with John O. Ford, but mostly by himself. Through his sagacity and business tact, he made remunerative a hitherto failing business, and gave an impetus to this branch of manufacture in this county, which was unknown before and has been felt ever since.

He attended to the arduous duties of his medical profession, visiting patients many miles away. His practice extended over five counties of this State, and even into New York and Pennsylvania. He was constantly visited by patients who came long distances, and was sought by his medical brethren in consultation on difficult cases. No man could exceed him in industry and careful attention to all he undertook. He was well known, a personal

friend and warm supporter of General Jackson, was twice elected to Congress, and was in Washington in the stormy time of Calhoun and nullification. His celebrity as a mineralogist ranks him among the first in the country. He brought into notice the value of the minerals extending in the hill ranges from Sparta to Amity, Orange county, with their wealth of zinc and Franklinite. He was an honorary member of many of the scientific societies of Europe and America.

He was a liberal supporter of the North Hardyston Church, long the President of its Board of Trustees, a regular attendant upon its services, and left a legacy to the church.

It is due to place him in the first rank among those distinguished citizens whose talents and lives have reflected honor upon their State and country.

He died at Franklin, February 20th, 1844 in his sixty-fifth year, and is buried in the North Church cemetery.

SIDNEY PHOENIX HAINES, son of Elias and Mary Ogden Haines, was born in the city of New York in 1804, and was sent, when quite young, to Florida by his father, who was a partner in the company which obtained the *Aredondo Grant* from the Spanish government, and began the first American settlement in the territory. Sidney acted as agent for his father, and traded for him with the Spaniards and Indians. The frequent voyages of their brig, which conveyed cattle and goods, and all the hazards of the early settlement, were well suited to his adventurous spirit; and hunting and exploration added a charm to his southern life. At the breaking out of the Seminole war the settlers were obliged to flee for their lives, leaving all their property and improvements. When the United States government assumed possession of Florida, it refused to recognize the rights of the settlers, and restore to them the territory to which they laid claim.

When driven from Florida, the young man came to Hamburg, and, about 1828, became established in business. In 1830 John Brodrick was his partner, and they kept store in the house that once stood where the brick store of Edsall, Chardavoyne & Co. now is. Haines ran one of the Sharp forges for a time, and burned charcoal upon the mountain.



HARDYSTON MEMORIAL.

He married Diadamia Austin, second daughter of Alanson Austin, of Warwick, N. Y., in 1830, and lived in the Walling house. He was Post Master in 1833, and for some years after, the salary being \$48.25. When Brodrick retired from the firm of Haines & Brodrick, Robert A. Linn entered into partnership with him, and the new firm of Linn & Haines conducted a thriving business for a country store.

Mr. Haines was a very jovial man, and popular wherever he was known. For a time he entered warmly into politics, and at the meetings would get off many witty sayings. He had a four horse team and a large wagon, which he often drove to the political meetings, or the voting polls, with a full load of the men employed in his works. They were all Jackson Democrats in those days. Later, when he became a christian man and a church member, the same team, with its driver, often carried as full a load to the extra religious meetings of Dr. Fairchild.

He started a Sunday School upon the mountain, near his "Coal job," in the vicinity of the Mud Pond, and rode on horseback to attend it on Sunday afternoons. The "coal job families" were among the poorest and most destitute portion of our population, but the Sunday School bore precious fruit in leading some to Christ, as did the Log Chapel Sunday School, somewhat modeled after it, in later times.

The late *John Riggs*, a leading minister of the Free Methodist Church, learned to read and received his first religious impressions in this Sunday School. For nearly thirty years, he labored and preached through the mountains, in school houses and dwellings, reaching scores who were overlooked by churches and christians. His death occurred in April, 1888, and the large attendance from all denominations at his funeral attested the high esteem entertained for one who, with few advantages, accomplished much good.

Sindey Haines was benevolent, and interested in every christian work, into which his good wife also entered most heartily. This earnestness characterized him all his days; and his widow, now at the age of eighty-five years, in her home in Denver, Colorado, is still engaged in good works. The sick and the poor find

in her a friend and a comforter.

Haines visited the west, and embarked in the enterprise of founding a great town, projected on the banks of the Mississippi River, in Missouri, to be called Marion City. The location seemed excellent, stretching along the river for a mile and a half, with convenient landings for steamboats, and making a fine port. The lands were purchased from the government, the streets laid out, churches planned, and a college founded, with Rev. Dr. Ely as President. Haines moved his family there in 1838. For a time all went well, but other towns attracted the settlers, and after a great freshet, when the river rose so high as to flood the place, he changed his home to Palmyra, and afterwards to Hannibal, Mo. Here he engaged extensively in business, and on one of his business tours contracted inflammation of the lungs, from which he died, July 13th, 1847.

HENRY THOMSON DARRAH was the son of Sheriff William Darrah and Elizabeth, daughter of Captain Richard Edsall. He was born in the old Darrah house Oct. 14, 1805. His youth was spent upon the farm; he attended the district school and was one of the foremost scholars. He had been clerk in the store in Upper Hamburg, and upon his father's death, in 1830, took the business on his own account, and continued it until his removal to Missouri, in 1837. He was early the subject of religious impressions, and in 1831 united with the North Church and became very useful in this community, as well as in his western home. He was a magistrate in St. Louis. His fondness for study continued through life, and, familiar with books, few surpassed him in general knowledge. He died in St. Louis.

His wife was *Mary Ogden* daughter of Elias Haines, born Oct. 3d, 1806, a woman of great literary attainments, whose prose and poetic writings frequently appeared in religious papers and magazines. Her benevolence and christian activity were exhibited wherever she went. Her death occurred at Flora, Ill., in 1883.

After their marriage they lived in the Darrah-Dale cottage, which was afterwards transformed into the Baptist parsonage. When they occupied it, the beautiful order of the grounds and the wooded glen adjoining, made it a gem of a home, with pic-

turesque surroundings.

Their only child, *Elizabeth*, born at Hamburg June 25th, 1832, married General Lewis B. Parsons, of Illinois. In her were combined rare graces of mind and heart, and an artistic talent which she cultivated by several years of study in Europe. She died at Scarboro, Me., September 2d, 1887.

JOHN NEWMAN, supposed to have been born on Long Island, came to this vicinity from Monmouth county, N. J. He had two sons, Emanuel and David.

Emanuel purchased the present James Ludlum Munson farm of Robert Ogden, in 1775. He bought other lands of Lewis Morris in 1779, and of Anthony Brodrick in 1780. His wife was Ann Carnes, who became entirely blind. He died in 1795, leaving no children.

David purchased at one dollar and a quarter per acre the Beaver Run tract, which, including the Dusenbury farm and extending to the Morris Vale farm, contained 980 acres. He lived in a house which stood near the present Beaver Run Post Office. At his death his landed estate was divided into six farms and given to his four sons and two daughters. The eldest son, Emanuel, inherited the Roleson farm, David the Hardin farm, James the Hiles farm, John the Beaver Run farm, Elizabeth, who married James Congleton, had the Congleton farm, and Jane, who married Joseph McDaniels, the Dusenbury farm.

Emanuel, Jr., died in 1850, aged 77 years. His son is Samuel Newman, who sold the farm he inherited to Jackson Roleson, and now resides near Deckertown. Jane, wife of Emanuel, Jr., died in 1863, aged 84 years.

David Newman McDaniels, grandson of David Newman, was born in 1804, and now resides near Wilksbarre, Pa. He remembers well his coming when a boy to see the four companies of the 2d Sussex Regiment when, in 1814, they set off on their march to Sandy Hook. They assembled in Hamburg, and with flying colors and martial music, marched over the Sharp's bridge and by the Lawrence road and past the North Church.

In his childhood he was frequently taken to the Cary Meeting House, which was then an old building, and he is sure it

must have been erected before the Revolutionary war.

Ashman Carpenter was born in Morris county in 1762, and at the age of sixteen became a soldier of N. J. State troops. With two others, he captured a party of four Hessians, coming upon them by surprise when they had halted at a spring. The prisoners were taken into the American lines but their muskets were retained. Carpenter's was preserved for a great while, until one of his sons traded it off for a bird gun. After the war he farmed for a time for Mr. Thomas Lawrence, and lived in the stone house, standing a little back from the North Church road. Coby Quick, a stone mason, said to have been a brother of Tom Quick, the Indian slayer, was its builder. Carpenter learned the weaver's trade, and wove linen and woolen cloth. After a time he received instruction in the weaving of blue and white counterpanes, and was very skillful in forming figures and flowers in his web. He died in 1839.

Anthony Chardavoine and his brother were early owners of the Dusenbury property, which was afterward sold to David Newman, and inherited by his daughter, Mrs. Jane McDaniels. They kept a store there for a long time, until Anthony purchased the farm in Red Cedar Hollow, which after his death was bequeathed to his son William, and is now occupied by his grandson, Barret H. Chardavoine. On the Dusenbury farm is the "Indian Meadow," and upon it is a mound largely made up of fragments of broken stone and flint chips, left by the Indians who had there a sort of factory for stone implements and arrow heads.

Peter Shafer, born 1792 or 1793, and who still survives, was living in 1818 on the Harker farm, now known as the Peter Fountain farm. One morning he saw four black animals come out of the woods and follow down the Wallkill. At first sight he mistook them for dogs, but got his gun and pursued them. He soon found that it was a she bear with three cubs. They climbed a large tree just below the Haines house, where Shafer killed the old bear and captured the cubs.

He married a daughter of William Cassady, and after the death of his father-in-law bought out the interest of the other heirs, and made the house his home until he sold it to Thomson D. Riggs.

Major ABSALOM SHAFER, brother of Peter, lived in the David Benjamin house. He was Captain of the "Hardyston Volunteers," a military company formed in Hamburg. They wore blue coats, white pantaloons, and high crowned hats; the front of each hat was covered with a plate of tin, on which was painted the name of the company, and surmounted with a white feather tipped with red. Peter Fountain was fifer to this company.

ELIAS L'HOMMEDIEU, M. D., was of Huguenot descent, and born 1794. His mother was Cornelia Losey, of Morris county. He began to practice medicine in Hamburg, and announced his coming in May, 1816, by the advertisement that he had "taken board at James Horton's Inn, and would punctually attend the calls of all who should favor him with their patronage." In 1821 he purchased of the heirs of Martin Ryerson the Dr. Fowler house and farm. His wife was Sarah Denton, of Vernon. He was the Fourth of July orator in 1821, and is said to have been a man of much versatility of talent; was appointed Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1832, and again in 1837, serving for ten years. He united with the North Church in 1831, was made an Elder in 1837 and became very useful and influential.

When the Hamburg Manufacturing Company failed, in 1838, he was appointed Trustee of the creditors, and purchased, December 7, 1838, at a sale made by Sheriff John Brodrick, for the sum of \$4,041, one hundred and nine acres, being that part of land conveyed by mortgage of Nathan Smith, whereon is the Clinton ore bed, usually called the Clinton mine.

Joseph E. Edsall had by foreclosure of mortgage secured possession of the Hamburg furnace. L'Hommedieu & Edsall united in business and operated the iron works for a time. It was a losing enterprise for the doctor, and he relinquished the entire business into the hands of his partner, April 1846. He removed to Newark, and entered the grocery and commission business with John Y. Baldwin. His commercial ventures were unsuccessful. He died at Bloomfield, July 28, 1853.

He had five children. His eldest daughter, Mary, married Rev. Mr. Moore and removed with him to the West. His sons, William Henry and Hezekiah Denton, died in early manhood.

JAMES CONGLETON was born in Hardyston, June 12, 1780; married March, 1805, Elizabeth, daughter of David Newman, who was born 1787, at Beaver Run, and died 1861, on the farm where her entire life had been spent. Mr. Congleton united with the North Church in 1819; was made an Elder in 1821, and continued in that office for fifty years, serving the church with sincere piety and consecration. A man was once being examined before the Session for admission to the communion, and in narrating his experience said, that the regular and faithful attendance of the old deacon so affected his mind, he could not rest until he followed him to church and gave his heart to God. Mr. Congleton fell asleep January 21, 1871, in full age, like a shock of corn fully ripe.

His eldest son LEVI CONGLETON, was born April, 1810, married Charlotte, daughter of Hezekiah Schofield, united with the North Church in 1831, and was made an Elder in 1866. He removed to Sparta, but returned to Beaver Run a short time before his death, November, 1879. His widow died August, 1887, at Sparta.

JOHN ERASTUS CONGLETON was the fourth child of Levi, born in 1841; was sergeant Co. D., 27th Regiment N. J. Vols. He married Anna Mary Hiles, daughter of William Hiles, of Beaver Run, and granddaughter of Rev. George Banghardt. They united with the North Church in 1866. He was made an Elder in 1876, and after giving promise of great usefulness, died suddenly, June 23d, 1879, at Beaver Run.

JOHN BUCKLEY, whose father came from England, carried on the tannery business at Hackettstown. He was an active business man. His name appears as a witness to a deed given for the site of the Hackettstown Presbyterian Church, in 1764, in the prosperity of which church he was largely interested. He married Mary Turner. His sons were *George*, Reuben, James, John, Robert and Amos. He removed to Hardyston and came in possession of the farms afterwards owned by Michael R. Sutton and Abram Stoll, and carried on farming and the tannery business. His sons, Robert, James, John and Amos removed from Hardyston.

George lived on his father's farm, and was an Elder of Hardyston Church, and of North Hardyston Church after the separation in 1819, and assisted in planting the maple trees which now surround that edifice. His pastor, Rev. Dr. Fairchild, in speaking of the struggles of the church, years after the death of Mr. Buckley, said that "George Buckley was a great worker in the church; he could almost carry the ark alone." Removed in 1837 to Warren county. Reuben Buckley, brother of John, Sr., settled in Wantage township after the Revolutionary war, and had three daughters.

Reuben 2d, son of John, Sr., married Sarah, eldest daughter of Samuel and Abigail Wade. He resided and died in Hardyston, where his widow continued to live, and raised a family of five sons and one daughter.

Simon Wade, the oldest son of Reuben 2d, born April 14th, 1808, married Jane, daughter of Jacob and Bethia Kimble. He was Elder in the North Hardyston Church from 1848 until his removal to Wantage township. He there became an Elder in the Deckertown Church, and served until his death in 1875. His wife, Jane Kimble, died in 1885.

Jacob and Ephraim Kimble were twins, and only children of Daniel Kimble, who married a Keltz. *Jacob* married Bethia, daughter of James Hopkins, and lived at the Big Spring. He was an Elder at the North Church from 1827 to the time of his death, in 1863. His sons were Burr Baldwin, Jacob and David Hopkins. His daughters—Lydia, married to William Lantz; Sarah, to Samuel Beardslee; Jane to Elder Simon W. Buckley; Catharine, to Abram Stoll; Lucilla, to Elder Samuel O. Price; Charlotte, to Sheriff James Smith, and Matilda, unmarried.

Ephraim was the father of Robert and Ephraim M. He lived in the house which was burned down, and rebuilt of brick by his son, Ephraim Martin Kimble.

James Hopkins owned land from Big Spring to Mark Congleton's, and had two sons, Jonathan and David, and three daughters, Charlotte, wife of Benjamin Kays, Sr.; Bethia, wife of Elder Jacob Kimble, and Lydia, wife of Elder Samuel Tuttle. To each of his children he bequeathed a large farm.

William Inglis, Esquire, married Lucretia, daughter of Michael Rorick. Their home was at Monroe Corners. His son, Rorick Inglis, died July, 1888.

Shadrach Fountain came from Saddle River, Bergen Co., N. J., and worked on the farm of Thomas Lawrence. His name indicates his Huguenot descent. He was the father of Peter Fountain, and Mary, wife of Nathan Smith.

Nathan Smith was born in 1777, and died in 1857. He was the owner of the Welch farm, which he purchased from Joseph Sharp. After the discovery of the hematite iron ore mine upon it, he sold the farm to the Clinton Manufacturing Company, and lived on the Harker farm, along the Wallkill, above Hamburg. He afterwards bought the farm on the Mill road, and lived in the house which William Ayres built in 1822, opposite the Bennett Field. Henry I. Simpson took down the old house and built the present one, for one of his sons. Mary Fountain, wife of Nathan Smith, was born in 1780, and died in 1835. Nathan left a large property divided at his death among fourteen children.

Nathan Smith and Peter Fountain together bought the Harker farm. Smith sold out to Fountain, and Fountain sold considerable portions of it to Colonel Edsall.

William Ayres lived on the Mill road, and his sons, Archibald and James, in two small houses, which he put up for them on the two hills beyond. In the first, afterwards lived the Widow Markham, who told fortunes, and was accounted a witch.

Benjamin, son of Moses and Abigail Northrup, was born at Ridgefield, Conn., 1739, and died September 1774. His wife was Lenora, born 1739, and died March 1811. They removed first to Dutchess county, N. Y., and came about 1769 to the North Church and lived on the Plains farm now owned by the Franklin Iron Co. He was the owner of a large tract of land. Their son Moses was born 1762 and died 1846; their grandson Moses Whitehead was born 1799 and died 1877, and Henry Northrup of Lafayette is their great grand son.