



HISTORY

OF

WARREN COUNTY

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
OF SOME OF ITS PROMINENT MEN AND PIONEERS

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on the 8th of September Vaudreuil capitulated and New France, with all of its dependencies, fell into the hands of the British. Amherst made terms of generous magnanimity and the details were soon agreed upon, while England sent up a national shout of exultation. Although hostilities between the two nations ceased, a formal peace was not established until 1763, when, on the 10th of February, the treaty of Paris was signed, by which France ceded to Great Britain all her possessions in Canada.

On the 30th of July, 1760, Governor De Lancey, of New York, suddenly died and the government passed into the hands of Cadwallader Colden, who was commissioned lieutenant-governor in August, 1761. In October of that year General Robert Monkton was appointed governor of New York.

CHAPTER X.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

Pioneers of Northern New York — Governor De Lancey's Proclamation — Its Effect on Settlements — Jeffrey Cowper-Queensbury Surveyed — Abraham Wing's Advent — His Family — The Queensbury Patent — Names of the Original Proprietors — Their Early Meetings and Action — Division of Lots — Steps toward Permanent Settlement.

THE tumult of the war we have attempted to describe had scarcely ceased and the new reign of peace begun in the land, before the adventurous pioneer found his way into the wilderness of Northern New York in quest of a home where he and his descendants could enjoy the fruits of his labor. The territory known as the New Hampshire grants, over which there had been so much strife, was already echoing with the sounds of the settler's axe. From Charlestown, No. 4, in that territory John Goffe, in charge of eight hundred levies, cut the road already alluded to through the wilderness to Crown Point, where he joined Colonel Haviland in his expedition against Montreal; and through the lands of Queensbury hunters and trappers made their trails and disbanded soldiers explored among the often trod battle-fields for eligible sites for homes on lands given to them under military grants. There were small clearings about the three picketed forts which have been mentioned as erected during the French war along the line of the old military road; beyond these almost the entire territory was unbroken wilderness. Northward from Albany the only settlements were a small hamlet at Fort Edward and a still smaller one at Stillwater, and the tide of immigration soon to begin its flow northward had not yet set in. But while the smoke of battle had but just disappeared and there still lingered possible danger to the exposed northern frontier, already repeatedly

devastated by the hand of war, it was felt that there was a necessity for taking steps that would lead to its settlement by a class of inhabitants peculiarly adapted to withstand any incursion from hostile forces. In pursuance of this action Lieutenant-Governor De Lancey issued the following proclamation : —

"By, the Honorable James De Lancey Esq., His Majesty's Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-chief in and over the province of New York and the territories depending thereon in America.

[L.S.]

A PROCLAMATION.

"Whereas from the Success of His Majesty's Arms, in the reduction of the important Fortresses at Ticonderoga and Crown Point, and the Very Strong Works erecting at the latter, the whole Country along Hudson's River down to Albany, will for the future be so effectually covered and secured from the Ravages of the Enemy, that the Inhabitants may return to their settlements and abide there with safety to their Persons, Families and Estates ; in confidence of which many have already returned to their Habitations. And whereas the Fortress now erecting at Crown Point is in great forwardness, and His Excellency, Major-General Amherst Math assured me, that he is determined it shall be so far finished before the Troops go into Winter Quarters, as to answer the purpose of covering and protecting the country, and as an encouragement to Settlers, he has desired that I would make known that those who with the leave of this Government shall now choose to go and settle between Lake George and Fort Edward, will there find, three Several Spots of cleared Ground, two of them capable of containing half a dozen Families each, and the other not less than twelve ; on which shall be left standing for their Convenience the Wooden Hutts and Coverings of the Troops that have been posted there since the Beginning of the Campaign, which from the footing we have now at Crown Point, will be no longer necessary, and will be evacuated and left for the use of those who shall become Settlers. The first of the said Spotts is situated four miles above Fort Edward ; The Second at the Half-Way Brook ; and the other three miles from Lake George. The Soil good and capable of improvement, and all three well watered. The Half-Way Brook being the Spott sufficient for a dozen families. I have therefore thought fit by and with the Advice of His Majesty's Council to issue this Proclamation Hereby inviting the Inhabitants who formerly abandoned their Dwellings to return to their Settlements, and improve the advantages offered to them under the Protection and Cover of the important Posts and Strong Fortresses above mentioned. And as an inducement to such as shall be inclined to settle on any or either of the three Spotts of ground above described ; I do hereby promise his Majesty's Grant thereof to any persons who shall apply for the same, on condition of immediate settlement thereof in the form of a Township with a sufficient quantity of woodland adjoining for that purpose; and that I will use my Endeavors to ob-

tain for the Grantees an Exemption from the Payment of Quit Rent for such a number of years as His Majesty shall be pleased to indulge therein.

"Given under my Hand and Seal at Arms at Fort George in the city of New York the 21st day of September, 1759, in the thirty-third year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Second, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith and so forth.

" JAMES DE LANCEY.

" By his Honour's Command,

" G. W. BANYAR, D. Sec'y.

"God save the King."

This proclamation had the desired effect and led to the immediate application of Daniel Prindle and others for a patent for a township of twenty-three thousand acres, lying upon the Hudson river and embracing within its limits the three clearings mentioned. Previous to this however the buildings at Half-way Brook were occupied by Jeffrey Cowper, or Cooper (the name being spelled both ways), who was, without doubt, the first white inhabitant to make a permanent residence in the town. In regard to him Sir Jeffrey Amherst wrote in a letter to a Mr. Sharpe, dated New York, 20th of October, 1762, as follows: "The permit to Jeffrey Cooper to occupy the small Post at Half-way Brook between Fort Edward and Lake George, was only intended for the preservation of the barracks, etc., that had been erected there, and for the convenience of Passengers, as I judged it unnecessary after the reduction of Canada, to leave a Garrison at that Post."

Little is known of Cooper's life, but it has been conjectured that he was a seafaring man, from the fact that in the " Calendar of English Manuscripts " in the Secretary of State's office is filed a petition by " Ephraim Cook, owner. of the Snow Cicero, thirty-four guns," in which he applies " for a commission, and in case of his death, to his first lieutenant, Richard Harris, and Jeffrey Cowper, his second lieutenant to command said Snow Cicero." His name appears in the town records for the year 1766 only, and in April of the year preceding he stands charged in the account book of Abraham Wing 1 with one hundred pounds of pork and seven pounds of nails.

It is supposed that the permit to Cooper was granted as early as 1759 or 1760, while Amherst was in that vicinity.

In the summer of 1762 the survey of the town plot of Queensbury was in

¹ All of the extracts from what we call the Wing papers that appear in this work, are from Dr. A. W. Holden's admirable History of Queensbury, published in 1873. A few years prior to that date the late Abraham Wing gave Dr. Holden access to family books, papers, etc., which had descended through three generations of the family, from which he obtained much material that was almost invaluable in the preparation of his work. It was most fortunate that this work was performed when it was, for a little later when the great fire of 1864 destroyed the greater part of the village of Glens Falls, those books, papers, etc., were burned.

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to the religious sect known as Friends, or Quakers,¹ and were on that account opposed to the war; consequently they took no part in it, and as year after year of the contest passed and their own immediate locality was threatened, they at various times gathered hastily movable property and precipitately retreated to their old homes in Dutchess, to return again when the danger was passed. These flittings were so frequent that, in the language of one of the old residents, "It soon got to be very easy to go, for they had but little to move." But, notwithstanding these hardships and periods of absence, the existence of the settlement was maintained with persistent energy, and with the exception of the last year of the war, the inhabitants did not fail to meet annually and elect their town officers, as we have seen.

The following additional records complete the statements of losses by the inhabitants of Queensbury, as recorded in the Wing manuscripts:

No. 1.²

" Memorandum of Account of Outlays, Expenditures and losses by Abraham Wing:

" Time expended in Search of my Iron which was concealed by Sargent Williams & Company June the 20
 Day 1778 6 men and myself 1 Day £8 ,, 8 ,, 0
 "2 cwt of Nails..... 60 ,, 00 ,, 0
 "To 3 journies to Fort Stark in the Summer in pursuit
 of sd iron..... 3 ,, 12 ,, 0
 "2days at Court 2 ,, 8 ,, 0
 "2 large Carpenters Sledges or Mawls, 9 ,, 12 ,, 0
 "8 ax,,2 Iron wedges 6 ,, 8 ,, 0
 " ABRM WING."

No. 2.

Statement of losses by one Jacob Ferguson.

" Capt moss I understand by Cornal mcCray that you had wheat from my fathers place with others and as it was one third part mine please to pay Abraham Wing the money for what you Had and you will oblige your Friend.

" Queensbury the 4 of February 1780 JACOB FERGUSON."

" Capt putnam I understand by Cornal mcCray that you had sum wheat from my Fathers plase which wheat was one third part mine please to pay Abraham Wing for the Same and you will oblige your friend to sarve.

" Queensbury the 4 february 1780. JACOB FERGUSON."

¹ In the year 1813 the following named persons were returned from Queensbury as Quakers, subject to military duty, and refused : Solomon Haviland, Dilwin Gardner, Joseph Haviland, Stephen Brown, Jonathan Brown, Henry Brown, Isaac Fancher, William Sisson, Nathaniel Sisson, jr., Daniel Sisson, Jonathan Dean, David Dean, Joseph Dean, David Brown, Benjamin Lapham. Each of these was assessed four dollars in lieu of the year's military duty.

² HOLDEN's History of Queensbury.

No. 3.

Affidavit of Samuel Younglove relating to the destruction of property in
Queensbury in 1780.

“County of } Personally before me Albert Baker one of the Justices
Washington } ss. for said Washington County Samuel Younglove of
Lawfull age deposeth and saith that he saw James Stinslor take out of the house
of Abram Wing in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty to the
amount of about one hundred panes of glass with the sashes or near there abouts
and saw him have five saw mill saws and sundry other articles which the said
Stinslor told the deponent he had taken from the said Wing, and the deponent
further declares that the said Stinslor told him the deponent that he had got to
the amount of between forty and fifty pounds from old Wing. Farthermore
deponent saith not.

“Sworn before me this 11th June, 1787 SAML YOUNGLOVE”
" ALBERT BAKER J. Peace.”

No. 4.

Affidavit concerning cattle seized in 1780.

“Washington County State of New York ss.

" Personally appeared before me John Williams one of Judges of the Court
of Sessions & common pleas for the said County John McCrea of said County of
lawful age who being duly sworn on the holy Evangelists of Almighty God
deposeth and saith that in the month of October in the year of our Lord one
thousand seven hundred and eighty that the Garrison stationed at Fort Edward
were destitute of provisions and that the Commissary then at that post was
directed to get Cattle where they might be had for the support of the Troops by
order of General Schuyler Jonathan Jillet the then Commissary applied to this
deponent who had a pair of fatt oxen which he received and killed at the post
that this deponent applied to the commissary for payment who gave this
deponent a certificate for said Cattle which afterwards was destroyed with the
buildings of this deponent by the enemy that he the said Commissary left the
parts immediately after the Campaign ended so that this deponent could not
obtain any relief in the premises & has made application to the Legislature of
this State but did not receive any neither has he at any time or in any manner
received any kind of restitution for said Cattle and further he this deponent has
not assigned or made over said certificate to any person or persons whatever and
that the certificate which this deponent received for said oxen from said
Commissary was for fourteen hundred weight of Beef as near as this deponent
recollects and further this deponent saith not.

" Sworn before me this }
25th. December 1790 } JOHN WILLIAMS JUD CURIA.”

No. 5.

Official certificates in favor of Abraham Wing and son.

“No 416 I do hereby acknowledge myself indebted to Abraham Wing in

the Sum of Two Hundred dollars As Witness my hand this 11 Day of May 1780
MORN LEWIS D Q M G "

"This Certifies that Mr. Abraham Wing hath supplied the Publick with 150 plank and 50 Boards Price not known of the above Boards.

" JONATHAN NICKLISON."

"This Certifies that Abraham Wing hath Supplied the Public with Two tuns of Hay at One hundred and Sixty five Dollors pr tun Amounting to One Hundred and Thirty two Pounds for Which Sum this Shall be a Sufficient voucher Given under my hand and Seal———of September 1780 £132-0

"CHRIS PATES D Q M G

"FORT GEORGE 22d march 1780"

" These to Certify

" That abraham Wing Jun hath been two days Employed in Public services at the garrison at fort George with a sleigh and two Yoke of Oxen one day and with one Span of Horses the other Day for which he hath Recd no pay.

"To Whom it may } pr WM MOULTON Captn Commandt."
Concern }

No. 6.

Deposition of James Higson concerning two oxen, the property of Benjn. Wing —taken for the public service in 1781.

"The Public to Benjn. Wing Dr. 15th May 1781

"To Two Oxen Taken from Fort Miller by Lieut. Bagley, by order of Lt. Col. Vandike.

" Washington } This Day personally appeared Before me James Higson of
County } Lawfull age and made solomn oath in the presence of Al-
mighty God, that he Saw the above named 'Lt. Bagley Take the Oxen from Fort
Miller with a party of Soldiers and said he had orders from Col. Van Dicke to
Do So, and that he the sd Deponant knew the oxen to be the property of the
above named Benjamin Wing. JAMES HIGSON.

" Sworn before me at Fort Edward this 6th Day of March, 1786.

" ADIEL SHERWOOD Jus Peace

" We Do hereby Solemnly Sware that t0 the best of our knowledge the Two oxen above specified which were taken from Benjn. Wing for the use of the Continental Army, were worth at that time in specie Thirty pounds york money.

" PHINEHAS BABCOCK "

" ANDREW LEWIS

" JAMES HIGSON "

" Washington }
County } this Day personally appeared before me the above
Phis. Babcock, Andrew Lewis and James Higson and made oath to the same
"Fort Edward 6th March 1786. ADIEL SHERWOOD, Jus Peace
"6th March 1786, this day personally appeared before me Benjn Wing and

Most Solemnly affirmed in the presence of Almighty God that he had not received any Compensation for the within mentioned oxen.

" ADIEL SHERWOOD, Jus. Peace

It is presumed that no part of these claims was ever adjusted.

Queensbury was destined to still further devastation before the triumph of liberty was secured. The Tory element in this section continued to increase in numbers and vindictiveness, and the annals of the times are filled with thrilling incidents in which they and their loyal neighbors were the chief participants. The Sacandaga River and Lake George, with frequent forays into Queensbury, were the favorite routes for the incursions of the Tory bands. It was early in this season (1780) that Justus Seelye (according to the narrative of his son given to Dr. Holden), then a small boy and later a resident of this town, was smuggled into a neighbor's house at Fort Miller, where a meeting of Indians, as supposed, was held, and to whose consultations and proceedings he thus involuntarily became a witness. After they left he escaped to his home and related the events and conversation of the evening. A party was immediately organized in pursuit, which overtook and captured them, when one of them was discovered to be a neighbor and a Tory painted up in the fitting semblance of a savage. He with the rest of his party, all Tories, were sent to Albany and imprisoned, tried by court martial and hung.

In the autumn of the same year, when Captain John Chipman was in command at Fort George and Captain Adiel Sherwood at Fort Anne, both of these posts were captured by the British and the latter named unimportant fortification burned, the details of which, with those of other operations and the sanguinary engagement at Bloody Pond, have been given in an earlier chapter. The prisoners taken at the two forts were conveyed by way of Lake Leorge and transferred to the vessels on Lake Champlain, and Fort George was destroyed. The detachment of Tories and Indians that proceeded south from Fort Anne hastened on through Kingsbury street, burning and destroying as they went. In local traditions this year has ever since been termed " the year of the burning."

Of the incidents bearing a local interest and connected with these events, Dr. Holden notes the following in his work on Queensbury : "Among the number comprising this expedition [against the two forts] was a former resident of Sandy Hill named Adam Wint, who, espousing the royal cause, went to Canada in the early part of the war. He with another Tory from the same neighborhood acted as guides to a party of Indians to whom was assigned the incendiary work of destruction. At this time Albert Baker, sr.,¹ was attending

¹ The Bakers were of Scotch or North English origin. For political reasons the original or pioneer emigrant of the name was obliged to flee his country, and seek refuge in this country, during Cromwell's protectorate. Albert Baker, jr., was born 10th November, 1765. When he was four years of age his father moved to Sandy Hill. Caleb Baker, son of Albert, was the first child born of white parents in the town of Kingsbury. Albert, jr., was sent to school at Glens Falls before there was any school at Sandy Hill. He boarded at Abraham Wing's.

court in the eastern part of the county. While his sons and hired men were at work, a part of them in the barn and the rest in the fields near by, a neighbor by the name of Thomas Lyon came rushing by exclaiming, ' Boys what are you about ? Don't you see that all Kingsbury's ablaze ? You'd better be getting out of this !' After warning the family, the boys hitched up two yokes of oxen to a cart, and loading it hastily with what few things came readily to hand they made their escape by the way of Fort Edward. Even then the Tories had formed their ambuscade by the road side, for Gil Harris, who was one of the party, with others lay concealed behind a log on the route between Sandy Hill and Fort Edward, afterwards told Mrs. Baker that he saw her passing with a tea-kettle in her hand, and that she would have been taken a prisoner to Canada had it not been from a fear of being pursued by the soldiers at Fort Edward.

" A portion of the same party followed down the river on the west side as far as Stillwater, burning and destroying as they went. The fugitive settlers from Kingsbury and Queensbury are said to have been guided on their retreat by the blaze of the burning buildings.

" A widow Harris, who kept tavern nearly opposite the Baker house, had a little daughter captured by the enemy, but they shortly let her go again and she returned to her mother ; home she had none, for it was burned. There were seventeen families living in Kingsbury at this time. Of all the buildings and betterments everything was destroyed but two.

" At this time Queensbury was abandoned by its inhabitants, its dwellings and improvements were again burnt and destroyed and the settlement remained deserted for the next fifteen months, during which no record exists of town meetings, nor is there any other evidence of occupancy."

Of the situation after the era of destruction in Queensbury we have a vivid picture in the *Travels in North America*, by the Marquis de Chastellux, under date of December 30th, 1780, wherein he says: " I had scarcely lost sight of Fort Edward, before the spectacle of devastation presented itself to my eyes, and continued to distress them as far as the place I stopped at. Peace and Industry had conducted Cultivators amidst the ancient forests [who] were content and happy, before the period of this war. Those who were in Burgoyne's way alone Experienced the horrors of his Expedition ; but on the last invasion of the Savages, the desolation has spread from Fort Schuyler (or Stanwise) even to Fort Edward ; I beheld nothing around me but the remains of conflagrations ; a few bricks, proof against the fire, were the only indication of ruined houses ; whilst the fences still entire, and cleared out lands, announced that these deplorable habitations had once been the abode of riches and happiness."

" Among the prisoners taken at this time by a party of savages and Tories accompanying the expedition to Fort George, were Eben Fuller (brother-in-law to William Robards, before mentioned) and his son Benjamin ; Andrew

Lewis, who was held a prisoner in Canada to the close of the war, James Higson, soon afterward liberated through the intercession of his brother-in-law, Daniel Jones, Moses Harris the elder and his son William.

" The morning following the surrender of the fort, the dwelling where they lived was surrounded by the invading party, and before they could make any preparations either for defense or escape, they were made prisoners. The elder Harris was treated with uncalled for severity and harshness. His shoes and stockings were taken off, and he was loaded with a heavy pack of plunder, with which, after his house and out buildings were burned, he was compelled to travel the rough road which led along the western banks of Lake George to a point on Lake Champlain north of Ticonderoga, probably Bulwagga Bay.¹ The son begged the privilege of carrying his father's pack, and also to allow the old gentleman the use of his shoes and stockings, while he would go barefoot. Through the malignity of one of the Tories, who had an old grudge to revenge, this request was denied, and the old man's trail might, for many miles, have been traced by his bloody foot-prints. After reaching Lake Champlain the party, consisting of eighteen prisoners with their captors, were embarked in boats and bateaux, which had been concealed at that place on their way up, and after many privations, hardships and indignities, were finally landed at Quebec.

Here the captives were ransomed from the savages, and became prisoners of war. For a period they were held in close confinement, but after awhile the rigor of their discipline was somewhat relaxed, and the old man was permitted to follow the occupations of farming and also of dressing, and tanning deer-skins, with which he was familiar. In due course of time, he with other prisoners was sent to Halifax and exchanged, after which he returned to his former home in Duchess county. The younger Harris, with thirteen other prisoners, through the same Tory influence that had made both his march and imprisonment of unusual rigor and severity, was placed for more perfect security where they were guarded by a patrol of soldiers and kept at work. With the opening of spring a yearning for freedom possessed the hearts of the prisoners, and they concerted a plan for escape, which was afterward matured and carried into effect as follows: A boat from the main land furnished them daily with pro-

¹ " It is proper to state," says Dr. Holden in a foot note, p. 485, " that this narrative and the other Harris traditions were taken down by the author about the year 1850 from the relation of Moses Harris, nephew of William, the principal actor in this life drama, by whom my informant had heard the events related many times. In one respect, and perhaps without sufficient cause, I have varied my account from the original version as given to me; which made the date of the capture of the Harrises and other prisoners at the time of Burgoyne's advance, which the following reminiscence would seem to confirm; for William's son Benjamin informed me that his father's name was afterwards found on the muster and pay rolls in Sherwood's possession, as one of the militia drafted for that emergency, and that he was present in the fort as a soldier, and was made a prisoner at the time of the surrender of Fort Anne. It is gratifying, also, to record his justification of the surrender; inasmuch as, according to his judgment, the fort was wholly untenable against any considerable force.

visions and such necessary supplies as their condition required. From these supplies, they commenced saving up from their daily rations such portions as could be most easily preserved, until they had accumulated sufficient to last them for three days. When the critical moment of departure arrived, however, only seven of the fourteen could be prevailed upon to undertake the perilous journey. The most the others would do was to take a solemn oath not to make any disclosure or raise any alarm which would lead to their apprehension, until the evening following, when the sentries were changed, and the discovery would be inevitable. They seized the boat which brought their provisions in the morning and made their escape during the forenoon, landing upon the south shore of the St. Lawrence, on the borders of the vast wilderness stretching toward the New England colonies. Harris, being an excellent woodsman, here took the lead, and they struck boldly into the wilderness, pursuing their way southward for several days and nights with but little rest and scant refreshment, husbanding their slender stock of provisions to the utmost. These soon gave out and they were obliged to depend upon such chance fare as the forest afforded. At length, utterly worn out with fatigue they made a halt, and to avoid the intolerable annoyance of the mosquitos and flies, it was proposed to build a fire, or more properly a smudge, as it is called in woodman's parlance. Harris opposed the project and endeavored to dissuade them from it, on the ground that it would inevitably lead to their discovery and recapture, if they were pursued, which was exceedingly probable. He was overruled, however, by the majority, and a place was selected on a low marshy spot of ground, where the fire was started and then smothered with damp, rotten wood, which prevented it from blazing and made a dense, heavy smoke which kept off the insects. Around this they camped for the night, and exhausted with the protracted march and unwonted fatigue the entire party was very shortly buried in a profound sleep. About midnight they were aroused from their slumbers by a volley of musketry, by which one of their number was killed outright, and two others were desperately wounded. Harris, who was a large, muscular man, with limbs powerfully knit together, and of herculean proportions and strength, arose in time to parry a blow from a tomahawk, which was aimed by a gigantic savage at one of his companions. The Indian immediately grappled with him, and after a struggle for some minutes Harris succeeded in throwing him upon the now brightly blazing fire, when putting his feet upon his neck he pressed the savage's head beneath the flames. At this juncture, a near neighbor, and former friend of Harris before the war, a Tory by the name of Cyrenus Parks, approached him with his musket, clubbed, and ordered him to release the savage.¹ This he refused to do, and as he drew back to strike him, Harris ex-

¹ Cyrenus Parks had a brother named Joseph, who, after the war, lived on his brother's place, near neighbor to William. As he was a Whig and patriot in sentiment, he and the Harrises were very amicable in their relations, until a misunderstanding arose between them in regard to some business transaction, when a gradual coolness ensued, which, for a while, estranged them. One morning Joseph

claimed, 'You won't kill an unarmed man will you, Parks, and an old neighbor too?' Parks made no reply, nor for an instant wavered in his fell purpose, and the blow descended. Harris warded it off as well as he could with his arm which was broken by its force, the remainder of the blow falling upon his head, the lock of the gun cutting a large gash through the scalp, down the sides of the head to the ear.

" Harris fell stunned and remained insensible for many hours. When he awoke to consciousness he found another gash on the opposite side of his head, caused by the blow of a tomahawk, two wounds upon his forehead caused by the muzzle of a musket, jammed down with considerable force with the intent of dispatching him, and a bayonet thrust in the chest, which had been given to see if he was still alive. All his companions were gone, as well as his coat, shoes and knapsack, which he had taken off the evening before, and which had served him as a pillow during his fatal sleep. He staggered to his feet, dressed his wounds as well as he could, slung his broken arm through his neck handkerchief, and, maimed and crippled, resumed his slow and toilsome progress towards home. He subsisted upon roots, leaves and herbs, such as he could find suitable for the purpose upon his route, and an occasional frog dressed with his remaining hand, aided by his teeth, and eaten raw.

" At length he came out on the bank of a stream. While standing upon the gravelly beach, looking around for materials with which to construct a raft, the stream being deep and rapid, and he unable to swim, he suddenly caught sight of two men cautiously reconnoitering from some distance above him. He immediately concealed himself among the thick bushes and rank vegetation along the stream and crept back into the woods to an old tree top, which had been his place of concealment and lodging the night before. After waiting some time, and reflecting that his situation could be made but little worse even by a return to captivity, he resolved to go back and surrender himself to the lurking foe. He accordingly went back and again discovered the two men cautiously peering at him through the brushwood. Stepping boldly out in sight, he beckoned them to approach, when, to his great joy, he found that they were two Dutchmen from the Mohawk Valley, comrades of his, who had also escaped on the night of the attack. They dressed his wounds, which

called upon William, manifesting a disposition to conciliate and make friends again. In great good humor he related several anecdotes and border adventures, until he thought his listener had reached a genial frame of mind; when, leading his way quietly and gradually to the subject, he asked William if he would not be willing to overlook the past and forgive his brother Cyrenus, if the latter would make a suitable acknowledgment and ask his forgiveness. Springing from his seat in a tempest of rage, the old scout replied with an oath: " No, he tried to kill me in cold blood, and if I ever get a chance I'll shoot him." Joseph still pressed and argued the matter until Harris's suspicions were aroused, and he exclaimed: " Joseph, Cyrenus is at your house, and if he wants to live he had better keep out of my way. "

The next night Cyrenus made his escape to Canada. The popular tradition that Harris tracked him to the St. Lawrence River and shot him as he was crossing that stream, is declared by the family to be without warrant, and untrue.

were found in a putrid condition and swarming with maggots. They also adjusted his broken arm, dressing it with splints prepared from barks of trees and bound it together with his handkerchief. The next day they constructed a raft and crossed the stream. Fortunately, Harris had a hook and a line in his pocket, and coming to a good sized brook, they encamped and caught a fine string of trout, which they cooked and ate, the first warm meal they had enjoyed since they left the island.

" Continuing their journey they came, after some days' travel, upon a small clearing and log house. One of the three went forward, after carefully and cautiously reconnoitering to see that no enemy was around, and begged of the woman of the house. She proved to be French. They were still in Canada. She gave the messenger to understand that she had no food to give, that her husband was away from home, and that their place was visited almost daily by armed bands of Indians and Tories. A loaf of corn bread baked in the ashes was, after some search, discovered carefully hidden away, which the fugitive eagerly seized and carried to his companions. They made what haste they could to get out of the dangerous locality. After many more days' wandering they came out upon the settlements of the Lower Goos, now Bellows Falls, on the Connecticut River. Here the trio parted, the two Dutchmen proceeding to Cherry Valley by way of Albany, and Harris repaired to New Perth, now Salem, in Charlotte county, where his wounds were first regularly and properly dressed by Dr. Williams, then member of the Colonial Legislature, and colonel of militia. His wounds were a long time in healing. After his recovery it is stated that he served as a minute man, or one of the reserve militia, until the close of the war."¹

During the two years following the occurrence of the events narrated, the history of Queensbury remains a blank, so far as local records are concerned. It was practically wiped out of existence as a settlement. Our early chapters have chronicled the public operations in this region which came down to the spring of 1783, when on the 19th of April (the day which completed the eighth year of the war), the cessation of hostilities and the triumph of the colonists was announced throughout the country. No sooner was peace restored than the proprietors of Queensbury again entered upon their duties. On Tuesday, May 6th, of that year the town meeting was held and the following officers elected: —

Moderator — Abraham Wing.

Town Clerk — Benjamin Wing.

Supervisors — Nehemiah Seelye, and Phineas Babcock.

Constables — William Robards, and David Buck.

Assessors — David Bennett, Wm. Robards, and James Higson.

Pathmasters — Benjamin Wing, and Silas Brown.

¹ This narrative is given in DR. HOLDEN'S History of Queensbury, P. 485, etc.

Overseers of the Poor — Abraham Wing , and Benedick Brown.

Collector — Nehemiah Seelye.

Treasurer — Abraham Wing.

Fence Viewers — Phineas Babcock, David Bennett, and Jeremiah Briggs.

In July of this year the locality was visited by General Washington and a portion of his staff (probably on the 19th or 21st of the month) on their way to inspect the posts at Lake George, Ticonderoga and Crown Point. On this occasion the party halted, and calling Walter Briggs, who was at work in an adjoining field, he came and helped them to water from the upper branch of the Butler Brook.

With the advent of peace came all of the beneficent influences that soon lifted the country from the terrors and depression of a long and destructive war to the plane of prosperity — a transition that was nowhere else more welcome than to the harrassed and distressed inhabitants of the region with which this history is most concerned.

This portion of our work may be appropriately closed with the following description of Queensbury and Glens Falls, as they appeared to the Marquis de Chastellux at the end of the year 1780: —

". . . . On leaving the valley, and pursuing the road to Lake George, is a tolerable military position which was occupied in the war before the last; it is a sort of entrenched camp, adapted to abatis, guarding the passage from the woods, and commanding the valley. . . . Arrived at the height of the cataract, it was necessary to quit our sledges and walk half a mile to the bank of the river. The snow was fifteen inches deep, which rendered this walk rather difficult, and obliged us to proceed in Indian file. In order to make a path, each of us put ourselves alternately at the head of this little column, as the wild geese relieve each other to occupy the summit of the angles they form in their flight. But had our march been still more difficult, the sight of the cataract was an ample recompense. It is not a sheet of water as at . Cohos, and at Totohaw; the river confined, and interrupted in its course by different rocks, glides through the midst of them, and precipitating itself obliquely, forms several cascades. That of Cohos is more majestic, this, more terrible; the Mohawk River seemed to fall from its own dead weight; that of the Hudson frets, and becomes enraged, it foams, and forms whirlpools, and flies like a serpent making its escape, still continuing its menaces by horrible hissings. . . . On their return, the party stopped again at Fort Edward to , warm by the fire of the officers who command the garrison. They are five in number, and have about one hundred and fifty soldiers. They are stationed in this desert for the whole winter."

Mention has been made in another chapter of the settlement of Jacob Glen on the south side of the river, where he obtained, according to traditions of the Parke family, his title of Elijah Parke the original settler in that neighbor-

hood. After the Revolutionary War Glen rebuilt the mills destroyed during the struggle, manufactured lumber and passed some weeks every summer at a cottage originally built by one of the Parke family and standing on the hill overlooking the present paper-mill site. Here he lived in what was grand style for that period. It was during one of these visits, as related by Dr. Holden, that, "in a convivial moment, it was proposed by him to pay the expenses of a wine supper for the entertainment of a party of mutual friends if Mr. Wing would consent to transfer his claim and title to the name of the falls. Whether the old Quaker pioneer thought the project visionary and impracticable, or whatever motive may have actuated him, assent was given, the symposium was held, and the name of Glens Falls was inaugurated."¹

"Mr. Glen hastened to Schenectady and ordered some hand-bills printed, announcing the change of name. These were posted in all the taverns along the highway and bridle paths from Queensbury to Albany, and the change of name was effected with a promptitude that must have been bewildering to the easy-going farmers of the town in those days. The following letter, written in elegant running hand, and still existing among the Wing MSS., is believed to determine the date of this enterprise:²—

"Mr. Glen's compliments to Mr. Wing, and requests the favor of him to send the advertisement accompanying this by the first conveyance to his friends at Quaker Hill.

"Mr. Glen hopes Mr. and Mrs. Wing and the family are all well.

"Glen's Falls, April 29th, 1788."

"Superscribed, 'Mr. Wing, Queensbury.'"

After the Revolution. — Pioneer settlement had long been delayed in Queensbury; but when a permanent peace was firmly established it was among the first localities to feel its effects, as shown by a gradual influx of population, increased cultivation of lands and a general aspect of thrift. A writer over the signature "Harlow" stated in the Warren Messenger, February, 1831, that "the first clearing [at Glens Falls] was limited to the hill which rises from the falls, and in the year 1783 presented only a wheat field, with a solitary smoke on its border, and two other dwellings in the vicinity of the forest. These houses were built after the architecture of the first settlers, of a few rough logs, placed one upon another, the interstices filled with straw and mix-

¹ The name of the village has passed through several changes of orthography, and is found printed as Glens," "Glenns," in each instance both with and without the indication of the possessive case, and his finally, in recent years, settled down to the common usage adopted in this work - "Glens Falls."

² Colonel Johannes Glen, after whom the village was named, was the son of Jacob, who was the of Johannes, jr., who was the son of Jacob, the eldest son of the original immigrant, and brother Johannes Glen, of Schenectady. According to Professor Pearson's record, he was born 2d of July, 1735, and baptized in Albany, where his father lived. His mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Cuyler. He was quartermaster in the French and Revolutionary Wars, stationed at Schenectady; in 1775 bought lands on the Hudson, above Fort Edward, of Daniel Parke, which tract was afterwards called Glens Falls."

ture of mud and clay. But in the year 1784 an individual by the name of Haviland [Abraham, a blacksmith by calling] erected, to use a graphical expression, a small framed house, near the hotel in the upper part of the village,¹ which was soon followed by that now occupied by Mr. Royal Leavins,² completed upon the model of an old-fashioned Massachusetts country house; which two buildings were consequently the first of the kind which graced our landscape."³

On the 26th of January, 1784, the inhabitants of Fort George were annexed to the Queensbury district by a vote of the inhabitants, and in the same year, by act of Legislature, the name of Charlotte county was changed to Washington county. The "inhabitants of Fort George," as appears in the New York legislative papers, are embraced in the following:—

"The Petition of Jonathan Pitcher, Gurdon Chamberlin, Wyatt Chamberlin and Isaac Doty, residing on a tract of land at the South end of Lake George commonly called Garrison Land, humbly sheweth; That your Petitioners, some time since, being desirous to emigrate from the Old Settlements, and to fix ourselves on the Frontier of the State, did obtain, from the Surveyor Genl. of the state, leases of the Lands whereon we now reside, which Leases being only for the Term of One Year, induceth us to address Your Hon'ble Body on the Subject. Your Petitioners having removed our families to this place at great Expence from a very considerable distance, ardently wish to continue on the same, and do most humbly pray that our leases may be renewed for as long a Term of time as your Hon'ble Body shall deem most eligible; or that any other mode may be adopted, whereby your petitioners may be allowed to occupy the premises.—Lake George, De. 30, 1783."

Dr. Holden adds upon this subject: "Jonathan Pitcher then kept a sort of rude tavern at the head of the lake. Hugh McAuley was also another inhabitant of Lake George at that time. Robert Nesbit, who was in trade there for several years, did not come until June, 1785."

¹ Corner of South and Glen streets.

² The dwelling lately owned and occupied by T. W. Finch.

³ The same writer continues as follows: "As early as 1786-87 the fruit of their reflections was seen, a small, rudely constructed school-house, now the residence of Mrs. Flannagan. [Now the of Dr. Holden, 17 Elm street]

"The village of Glens Falls was formerly known by the name of Wing's Falls, a name probably derived from Mr. Abraham Wing, one of the first emigrants to this place, who lived in a log building which occupied the spot of Mr. L. L. Pixley's store.

"Then followed the dams, the one above, and the other below the falls, and the mill seats afforded by them, owned and occupied by Mr. Benjamin Wing, and General (Warren) Ferriss. Only one of these dams is still remaining — that at the head of the rapids, now a bank of live feet high, and about 600 broad, over which the river pours its waters in one unbroken sheet. . . . An Indian, for a trifling reward, paddled his canoe to the brink of the precipice, and then shot like lightning into the gulf to disappear forever, and the same is related of many others who dared the fury of tile cataract.

"But it is safe to leap from any of the rocks, at the southern point of the island or as far west as the bridge. This was fully attested by Cook, who jumped three successive times from the old king-post, into the water beneath (the gulf at the foot of the arch), and returned, exclaiming like Patch, 'There's no mistake.' " — HOLDEN'S History of Queensbury, p. 498.

James Stevenson came into the town in 1785, when, as stated by members of his family, there were but eighteen families in the whole town. The mills had been destroyed during the war and the inhabitants were forced to go to Jessup's Falls or Fort Miller for their grinding. Joseph Varney, son of Josiah Varney (a pioneer who married a daughter of Benedick Brown), told Dr. Holden in 1868, that " Uncle " Silas Brown used to back grists over the mountain by a line of blazed trees, afterwards a bridle-path, to Jessup's grist-mill, in what is now Luzerne, during and after the Revolution.

About this time the first house of worship was erected in the town — conclusive evidence that the inhabitants felt a degree of peaceful security in their homes to which they had theretofore been strangers. It was built by the Society of Friends on the south side of the Half-way Brook, adjoining the west side of the road leading to Dunham's Bay. The structure was of logs and about 20 by 30 feet dimensions. It stood within the limits of a small enclosed parcel of ground, used even to the present day as a place of burial. It has been described by those remembering it, as a long, low building, roughly ceiled on the inside, divisible by a movable or sliding partition into two parts, and provided by rough benches for seating the congregation. It had two entrance doors and was lighted by small windows placed high up towards the roof. Here the first and second generations of the Friends of Queensbury met and worshiped, and in the limits of that field their remains repose without a monument or mark to designate their resting place from the common earth by which they are surrounded. Here, too, was kept the first school in the town, and the first burial ground where the founders of the town were laid to rest.

Among the arrivals about the year 1785 was the Peck family, of whom Peter Peck, father of Reuben, Daniel and Edmond, was the head. They came from Litchfield, Conn. According to the family tradition they were two weeks on the way, the boys trudging along on foot, driving two yokes of oxen, with heavy, rude wagons laden with their effects, while the father rode on horseback. At that time there were only three dwellings at Glens Falls, a foot path to the Ridge and a rough wagon road up Bay street as far as the Quaker Church. Dr. Holden gives the following details of the settlement of this family: Mr. Peck purchased a large farm, or rather tract of wilderness, stretching from the Big Cedar Swamp on the east, to the road leading to Dunham's Bay on the west. A family named Varney then occupied a log house situated just north of the Half-way Brook, on the west side of the Bay road. Peck made it his home with these people for a short time, and was persuaded by them to build his house at a point nearly half way between the Ridge and Bay roads, they representing it, probably for the sake of having nearer neighbors, to be the most eligible and desirable point on his tract for that purpose. He accordingly commenced his clearing, dug a well but finding the land too low for a dwelling abandoned the improvement and erected a substantial log

house on the Ridge road, then called the new road, on the site of the brick house now owned by Mr. Amos Graves. His nearest neighbor north lived in a log house situated to the east of the old Roger Haviland farm house. The spot it occupied is now part of an open, cultivated field. There was another log dwelling on the ground now covered by the Reuben Numan residence. There was also one or two other log houses in the neighborhood, which comprised all that portion of the then existing settlement to the south of what was subsequently designated as Sanford's Ridge. The road was then newly cut through the the forest, the stumps still remaining, with fallen trees, decayed logs and rubbish lying across. It was hardly a respectable bridle path, and the unbroken wilderness stretched away from it on either hand for miles and miles save the three or four small clearings around the buildings above mentioned.

" During the summer of 1786 Peck, accompanied by his youngest son, Edmund, then a lad five or six years old, started on horseback for the purpose of assisting to secure the harvest of a neighbor, David Ferriss, who lived in a small house on the side-hill just south of the Half-way Brook-on the east side of the road now leading to the Oneida. At nightfall he started on his return with his little boy seated before him on the horse. The dense forest soon shut out the last faint light of day, and he was obliged to stumble forward in the dark as best he might, trusting mainly to the sagacity of his horse for keeping in the road. At length, in endeavoring to guide his horse around the upturned roots of a large fallen tree which obstructed the way, he found to his consternation that he had lost the path. After spending some considerable time in a fruitless effort to regain the road, groping his way from tree to tree in the thick darkness, the thought occurred to him that a loud outcry, might arouse the family he had just left and that some one would come to his assistance with lanterns or torches. He accordingly commenced shouting at the top of his voice, and presently fancied he heard the call returned. He called again, and the answer was repeated more distinctly. The calls and answers were repeated in rapid succession, until he discovered to his horror that it was no human voice which responded to his alarm, but that of the dreaded panther. With an alacrity inspired of terror, Peck dismounted, and feeling his way rapidly along, at length he came to a large tree with low branching boughs to one of which he fastened his horse, and climbing the tree, found a refuge for himself and boy, on a large projecting limb. Through the entire length of that long and dreary night, the panther prowled around this retreat, at one moment threatening an attack upon the frightened horse, and at another stealthily rustling through leaves of the adjacent tree tops, awaiting an unguarded moment to make his fearful spring. A few raps with a stout cudgel on the trunk of the tree, from time to time, served to deter the brute from making his attack, until the morning light made its most welcome appearance,

when the ferocious monster with low growls slunk away towards the recesses of the Big Cedar Swamp. As soon as the light became distinct enough to enable the benighted traveler to find his way, he descended from his perch, and to his great satisfaction discovered the road at no great distance, and, remounting the horse with his boy, soon after reached his home in safety. On his way he saw another huge panther apparently asleep in the top of a high tree, but on his return with a rifle the animal was gone. It had very probably made its way back to the big swamp, which for a long period afterward afforded a safe covert for these and other ferocious denizens of the forest."

Before tracing further the progress of settlement in the town, the following record of an election registry of 1786 will be of value in determining who were the residents of the town at that time and entitled to vote for senators and assemblymen ; the registry embraces thirty-six voters, showing that the increase of settlement since the close of the war had been encouragingly rapid :—

" Att an Election held in Queensbury, May the 2 by an adjournment.

1786.	Candidates for Sinnet.				Candidates for Assemblymen.			
Electors Names.	Alexr. Webster.	John Williams.	Peter B. Tearse.	Adiel Sherwood.	Albert Baker.	Edward Savage.	Nehemiah Seelye.	Seth Sherwood.
Abrom Wing		1	1	1	1	1		1
William Tripp	1		1	1	1			1
David Seelye.....	1		1	1	1			1
David Bennett	1		1	1	1			1
Thomas Tripp.....	1		1	1	1		1	
Elisha Folger.....	1		1	1	1			1
Benedick Brown.....	1		1	1	1			1
Justice Brown.....	1		1	1	1		1	
Volentine Brown.....	1		1	1	1			1
Ebenazar Buck.....	1		1	1	1			1
Howgal Brown.....	1		1	1	1			1
Jeremiah Briggs.....	1		1		1			1
Silas Brown.....	1		1	1	1			1
James Tripp.....	1		1	1	1			1
Jonathan Tripp.....	1		1	1	1			1
James Stevenson.....	1		1	1	1			1

Josi Varney	1	1	1	1	1
Hosea Howard.....	1	1	1	1	1
James Butler.....	1	1	1	1	1
Richard Bennet.....	1	1			1
William Guy	1	1	1	1	1
Walter Briggs.....	1	1	1		1
John Martin	1	1	1		1
David Bennet.....	1	1	1		1
Edward Fooller	1	1		1	1
Nathaniel Odle	1	1	1		1
Nathaniel Varney.....	1	1	1	1	1
Jonathan Hubbel.....	1	1	1	1	1
Stephen Lapham	1	1	1	1	1
Jonathan Pitcher.....	1	1	1	1	1
Henry Martin	1	1	1	1	1
Benjamin Wing.....	1	1	1	1	1
Phinhehas Babcock	1	1	1	1	1
James Hixen.....	1	1	1	1	1
Stephen Howard.....	1	1	1	1	1
Miles Washborn.....	1	1	1		1"

These inhabitants, or such of them as had suffered losses during the war, pleaded their inability to pay the quit-rents and arrearages on their lands which now, through the change of government, lapsed to the State. To these the abatement and liquidation of all just indebtedness and future claims was awarded on the number of acres as given below, respectively, with the auditor's certificate as follows :—

" Auditor's office, New York, 10th December, 1789. I do hereby certify that I have receiv'd Sundry Certificates signed by Ebenezer Russell, Judge for Washington county setting forth that the following persons were possessed of the number of acres set opposite their respective names in a Patten granted Daniel Prindle & others 29th May, 1762, and that on account of the war they were oblig'd to quit their Farms viz :—

	ACRES.
Lot 29, Abraham Wing Jun	150
" 29 & 32, Nath. Babcock, Willett & Daniel Wing ...	450
" 102, Asa & Parks Putnam.....	250
" 31, Daniel Hull	150
" 23 & 29, Charles Lewis	150
" 7, Ebenezer and Nathaniel Fuller	250
" 22 & 23, Russell Lewis.....	150
" 37, Anstice & Sarah Hicks	250

Carried forward

1800

	ACRES.
Brought forward.....	1800
" 36 & 29, Mary Lewis	160
" 103, Howgil & Timothy Brown	250
" 39, Silas Brown.....	150
" 37, Truelove Butler	150
" 77, William Roberts Junr, & Ebenr, Roberts	250
" 26 & 27, William Roberts	116
" 82 & 20, 35, 36, & 40 William Wing	90
" 36, Andrew Lewis.....	150
" 38, Benedick Brown.....	150
" 23, James Higson.....	150
" 22, Abraham Wing	150
" 15, Benjamin & Nehemiah Wing	250
" 2, Reed Ferriss & Caleb Powel	250

4066

"And I further certify that the above mentioned Persons are thereby discharged from paying all past and future Quit Rents for the Quantity of acres set opposite their respective names amounting in the whole to four thousand and Fifty Six acres in the above Pattent.

" PETER S. CURTENIUS, State Audr."

Proceedings identical with these were entered into between the State auditor and the following named persons, releasing them on the number of acres attached to their names, on the 28th day of December, 1791 :—

PROFESSOR'S	NO. ACRES.	NO. LOTS.
Valentine Brown	150	41
Schuyler Brown	100	41
Phebe Robberd	145	26
Joseph Hepburn	150	49
Ebenezer Fuller Junr	150	50
Benjamin Fuller	100	50
Edward Fuller	125	38
Patrick Hepburn	150	48 & 57
Matthew Fuller.....	125	33
Justus Brown.....	125	39
John Akin.....	150	84
Albro Akin	100	84
Sarah Akin.....	150	84
Thomas Worth.....	125	51
Barsilla Worth	125	51

Carried forward..... 1970

PROFESSOR'S	NO. ACRES.	NO. LOTS.
Brought forward.....	1970	
John Toffy	150	44
Hulet Toffy	100	44
James Ferriss.....	150	57
Nathaniel Taber.....	100	57
William Taber	100	3
Ephraim Woodard	150	3
David Ferris.....	100	12
Benjamin Collins.....	100	12
Ichabod Merritt	150	1
Joseph Merritt.....	100	1
James Stephenson	125	88
Jacob Stephenson	150	90
Stephen Stephenson	100	90

3545

Again on the 1st of April, 1790, the following were released in a similar manner :—

POSSESSORS' NAMES.	NO ACRES.	NO. LOTS.
Peter Peck	130	25 & No. 3 Town Plot.
Reuben Peck.....	125	30
William Tripp	125	11
Jonathan Tripp.....	125	11
Jeremiah Briggs	150	31
Nathaniel Varney	160	30

805

An account in settlement with the auditor also appears in the records, wherein Reed Ferriss is credited with eighteen pounds nineteen shillings and four pence for the release of 510 acres in one tract ; and Enoch Hoag with seventeen pounds, three shillings on 250 acres.

It will have been observed that among these names appear several the details of whose settlements have already been given; others will be noted in succeeding pages.

Town Formation. — Queensbury is one of the original towns erected by act of Legislature on the 7th of March, 1788, and its boundaries were defined as follows : " All that part of the said county of Washington, bounded easterly by Westfield and Kingsbury, and separated from Westfield by a line beginning at the northwest corner of the town of Kingsbury and running in the direction of Kingsbury west bounds till it strikes the water of Lake George westerly by Fairfield, northerly by Lake George and a line running from the mouth of McAuley's Creek near the south end of said lake direct to the north-

east corner of the town of Fairfield, and southerly by the bounds of the county," (namely, the Hudson River, which at this point runs nearly a due easterly course) "shall be, and continue a town by the name of Queensbury."

The town then embraced the territory, which in the year 1813 (according to Spafford's Gazetteer of New York, published in that year) comprised the towns of Bolton, Caldwell, Chester, Hague, Johnsburgh, Luzerne, Queensbury, and Thurman, being all that part of the county of Washington lying west of Kingsbury and Lake George; in other words, more than the entire present county of Warren.

An act of the Legislature of April 6th, 1808, changed the name of the town of Westfield to Fort Ann, and that of Fairfield to Luzerne, for the very good reason of the "considerable inconvenience which results from several of the towns in this State having the same name."

On the 22d of October, 1798, the division line between the towns of Westfield (Fort Ann) and Queensbury was run out by the supervisors of the two towns, assisted by Aaron Haight, surveyor, and "that portion of the town of Queensbury usually called Harrisena" was annexed and erected into a separate road district. About the same time a strip of territory one mile wide was taken from the eastern limits of the town of Fairfield (Luzerne) and annexed to the western side of Queensbury. Following are the present boundaries of the town as provided by law:—

"The town of Queensbury shall contain all that part of said county bounded southerly and easterly by the bounds of the county; (viz. "by the middle of the said [north] branch and of the main stream of the said [Hudson's] river, until it reaches the southeast corner of the patent of Queensbury, with such variations as may be necessary to include the whole of every island, any part whereof is nearer to the north or east shore of the said river than to the south or west shore thereof, and to exclude the whole of every island, any part whereof is nearer to the said south or west shore than to the north or east shore aforesaid; and easterly by the east bounds of said patent, and the same continued north to Lake George,") westerly by Luzerne, and northerly by a line beginning at the southwest corner of Caldwell and running thence easterly- and northerly along the bounds of Caldwell to Lake George; and then along the east shore of Lake George to the bounds of the county."

Natural Features, Localities, etc. — The natural characteristics of the town, names of localities, etc., are thus clearly described by Dr. Holden: ¹ "The eastern and northern portions of the town are rolling and hilly, while the western part is one extended sandy, plain, originally covered with a densely timbered pine forest, which for the first half century gave employment to a large per centage of the population and to the numerous saw-mills which were erected in the early days of the settlement on nearly every brook and rivulet in the

¹ History of Queensbury, p. 144, etc.

town. Since then, and long within the memory of many- living, these extensive pine plains have been periodically cropped of the second growth yellow pine to supply the increasing demand for fuel. Now there is less than five hundred acres of woodland all told between the village and the mountain, and under a more thorough and intelligent system of agriculture these barren sand plains are rapidly being reclaimed and becoming the most remunerative of our farming lands.

" The western part of the town is bordered by the Palmertown Mountains, an outlying ridge of the great Adirondack range, whose beginning is at the village of Saratoga Springs, and whose termination is at Harrington Hill in Warrensburgh. At the north, lying partly in this town and partly in the town of Caldwell, is the abrupt acclivity known as French Mountain, some sixteen hundred feet in height, whose sharp promontory- projects for several miles into the head waters of Lake George. On the northeast the Dresden chain of mountains throws out three considerable elevations called the Sugar Loaf, Deer Pasture, and Buck Mountains, the last two of which slope down to the very verge of the lake, and are still the home of the deer and the rattlesnake, with which all this region once abounded.

" This township, occupying a plateau on the great water-shed between the Hudson and St. Lawrence Rivers, its numerous streams, brooks, ponds, and rivulets, and its surface drainage as well, find widely diverging outlets ; that from the northern and central parts of the town making its way to the Half-way Brook and thence through Wood Creek to Lake Champlain and the St. Lawrence, while the rivulets and marshes of Harrisena empty into Lake George, and those of the west, south and eastern parts of the town are tributary to the Hudson. It is noteworthy that the volume of all the streams, the river included, has materially diminished within the memory of the oldest inhabitant, while a few, by drainage and exposure to the sun and air, have ceased to exist. The same remark holds true of several swamps and marshes, which in the early days of the settlement were the lairs and coverts from which wild beasts issued in their predatory attacks upon the stock of the pioneers. Wild Cat Swamp, lying upon the western borders of the village, has been almost entirely reclaimed, while a large portion of the Big Cedar Swamp, stretching away for two miles from its eastern boundary, is now under successful cultivation. Among the numerous brooks, ponds and streams, with which the surface of the town is diversified, the following are considered worthy of mention: Cold Brook, which for a small portion of its extent forms a part of the eastern boundary of the town and county, runs southwardly and empties into the Hudson immediately opposite an island, which in 1772 was deeded by one of the Jessups of Tory memory to Daniel Jones. This brook and the flat adjacent was the scene of a terrible massacre during the French War, which is elsewhere recorded. Reed's Meadow Creek, the outlet of the Big Cedar Swamp above

referred to, flows east and southeasterly, and after receiving various accessions in its somewhat tortuous route it becomes Fort Edward Creek, and debauches into the Hudson at the southern extremity of the village of Fort Edward. Its name is derived from Reed Ferris, one of the early proprietors here, and one of the commissioners appointed by the proprietors to apportion the undivided sections of the township, two of which were included within the limits of the swamp. Setting back from this outlet was a beaver dam, marsh and meadow, where the first settlers supplied themselves with hay. The Meadow Run derived its name similarly from a large beaver meadow, which was almost the only resource of the inhabitants at the Corners for the sustenance of their stock during the long and vigorous winters of this latitude. In some of the military reports and narratives it was called the Four Mile Run, it being about four miles distant from the military post at the head of Lake George. This stream has its origin in the Butler Pond, on a summit of a spur of the Palmertown Mountains, in the west part of the town. A neighboring elevation has, from the earliest days, been known as Hunting Hill, from the abundance of game once gathered there. An adjoining eminence is the seat of a rich vein of iron ore, which, three years since, was successfully worked under the auspices of the Corning Iron Company, a body of Albany capitalists.

" The Meadow Run, after passing through an expansion of its waters called Mud Pond, winds around the base of a series of knolls, and is received at the head of Long Pond not far from the outlet of Round Pond, another small sheet of water lying among the hills a few rods to the south. A canal was cut by Dr. Stower from one of these ponds to the other some years ago, for lumbering purposes, but was never completed or put in operation. There are two or three extensive peat beds in this neighborhood, one of which, at the head of an estuary stretching westwardly through the marsh which makes back from Long Pond, has been extensively worked during the past few years by the Albany company above referred to. There is at present a saw-mill in successful and remunerative operation near the head waters of the Meadow Run.

" Rocky Brook, designated in the early road surveys and records of the town as Hampshire Creek, is a bright, sparkling mountain stream, leaping and flashing along the ravine at the western base of French Mountain, propelling two saw-mills on its route, and winding along through meadow, woodland and marsh, empties into the Meadow Run about twenty rods above the head of Long Pond. On the flat west of its banks, was one of the three picket posts referred to in Governor Colden's proclamation, elsewhere quoted, and which is designated on one of the early maps as Fort Williams.

" In the western part of the town, having its rise in the mountain ride which separates it from Luzerne, is the once famous trout stream variously known as the Pitcher, the Ogden, and the Clendon Brook, deriving these name from persons once living in its vicinity. In former years it furnished the mo-

tive power for a number of saw-mills, whose decaying debris encumber its banks at varying intervals with their unsightly accumulations. Still further west, on the confines of the town, Roaring Brook, bounding from crag and cliff, pours its cold and foaming waters fresh from their mountain sources into the Hudson near the reefs.

"The waters of Long Pond are discharged through the Outlet, a stream which, flowing eastwardly, effects a junction with the Half-way Brook at a settlement called Jenkins or Patten's Mills, near the eastern boundary, of the town. This brook supplies the power for several saw-mills, a grist-mill, a cider-mill, and a woolen factory.

"The Half-way Brook, which was noted in the early colonial times as a halting-place and rendezvous for the troops and convoys of supplies in their transit between the great military posts at Fort Edward and the head of Lake George, is situated nearly midway between these points, and hence derives its name.¹

"The Half-way brook has its source in the same mountain range, and but a short distance west from the head waters of its sister stream, the Meadow Run. Near the foot of the mountain, and nearly encircled by hills, is a natural basin, which, a few years since, was artificially enlarged, and cleaned, and a massive wall of masonry thrown across its outlet, for the formation of a reservoir to supply the Glen's Falls Water-works, a public and much needed improvement, which has been but recently completed at a cost of about eighty thousand dollars. The surplus and waste water is directed back to its wonted channel immediately below the reservoir. Running a tortuous course south-eastwardly across the plains, the Half-way Brook expands into the Forge Pond, a small sheet of water, about one and a half miles west of Glen's Falls, and for a long period the favorite resort of the disciples of the gentle Isaac Walton, in pursuit of the speckled trout which once abounded in this stream. At this point, as far back as the year eighteen hundred and eleven, a forge and trip hammer shop were erected by an enterprising pioneer named Johnson. At the same time a saw-mill was built which is still in operation, and which for years supplied the neighborhood and sent to market the products of the neighboring forests. The manufacture of iron for some cause did not prove remunerative, and the enterprise, after languishing a few years, was finally abandoned, leaving its name, however, to the pond as a parting legacy, and a reminder of the old French proverb, that 'it is only success that succeeds.' About a mile below, and nearly opposite to the garrison ground already referred to, is an enlargement of the Half-way Brook called Briggs's Pond, at the foot of which stands a dam and race way, affording water power. Here at the close of the last century stood a saw-mill; while across the flat, some forty or

¹ It was on the banks of this famous stream that were erected two of the picketed enclosures about the middle of the last century, as described in an earlier chapter.

fifty rods further west, in a ravine, partly natural, but enlarged by the hand of art, stood a large grist-mill, carried by water conducted by a canal artificially constructed, and leading from the pond above named. These mills were owned and run by Walter Briggs, and were resorted to by the inhabitants and farmers from far and near, at a period when there was no grist-mill at Glens Falls. The buildings have long since been torn down or removed, but the embankments of the canal, and the foundations of the mill are still conspicuous in the green meadow. From this point the Half-way Brook bears north-eastwardly through a continuation of swale, marsh, and meadow, creeping sluggishly along at the base of the ridge, and passes the Kingsbury town line in the neighborhood of a settlement bearing the euphonious name of Frog Hollow. A basin among the hills, half a mile to the west of the settlement called the Oneida, contains a circular sheet of water, a few acres in extent, known as the Round Pond. Here was built among the pines, on its shore, the first Baptist Church of Queensbury. A small enclosure near by contains one of the oldest burial places in town.

" Butler's Brook, near the north bounds of the corporation limits of Glen's Falls, has its source in three small brooks, one of which receives the drainage of the Wild Cat Swamp and west part of the village, the second crosses the plank road at the old Mallory place, and the third has its source in a swale a little north of the Warren county fair grounds. It was on this branch, tradition informs us, that in the year seventeen hundred and eighty-three, while on his way to visit and inspect the fortifications at Lake George, Ticonderoga and Crown Point, General Washington and his staff halted to slake their thirst, and were waited upon with a cup and pail and a supply of water from the brook by Jeremiah Briggs, who was at work in a neighboring field. This stream derived its name from one of the earliest settlers who lived in its vicinity. Espousing the royal cause, at or during the war, he buried such of his effects as he could and fled to Canada. His house shared the fate of most of the buildings in this vicinity at that time, being burnt by the savages and Tories in one of their numerous eruptions. The Butler Brook after the confluence of its branches winds around the cemetery grounds and unites with the Half-way Brook about two miles north of Glens Falls, midway between the Ridge and Bay roads.

" These ponds and streams during the early days of the settlement were abundantly stocked with trout, which, with the game then so plentiful in the surrounding forests, constituted a large portion of the resources of the inhabitants. It was related to me by one of the patriarchs of the town that in a winter of uncommon severity, some of the families in Harrisena carried through their stock of cattle on a supply of salted fish, of which they had secured a large quantity the preceding season. Until the erection of dams and mills shad ran up in the spring as far as the Falls, where they were caught in considerable quantities, and were to some extent an article of commerce.

" The original survey of the township contemplated the location of the village at the Half-way Brook, where the existing clearings and buildings offered a strong inducement to the first settlers to locate their houses. Here the town plot was laid out, ranging due north and south. The lots were of ten acres each and forty-four in number, beside the road ways four rods in width, surrounding the whole an eight rod road in each directing, bisecting the plot into four equal sections. Four central lots at these angles were reserved for church and school purposes and for public buildings. Either half to the east and west was also divided by a north and south road four rods in width.

" It is needless to say that no settlement was ever established here, and that Champlain's tannery, and the Pitcher tavern occupying the site just north of the Half-way Brook, upon which a brick house now stands, are the nearest approach to public buildings erected on the site of the projected village, after the original survey by Zaccheus Towner in 1762. The old Pitcher tavern was a place of considerable note in those days when every log hut was an inn, and every framed dwelling a hotel. It was kept by Jonathan Pitcher, whose name frequently appears in the town records, chiefly in connection with matters pertaining to the excise law, on two occasions he being excused by a vote of the people from paying his license.

" Harrisena is a neighborhood at the north part of the town, and derives its name from the original founders of the settlement. The region comprising this somewhat vaguely defined locality includes some of the most fertile and productive farming lands in the county of Warren. The Harrisena Patent proper embraced two thousand acres of land, and was originally conveyed to Robert Harpur and others, but the grant for some cause was surrendered to the crown and reissued in 1772 to John Lawrence, Henry Boel and Stephen Tuttle, who relinquished or sold their title to Moses Harris. He, with another brother, settled upon it in 1787, and in the following January obtained certificates of location of the same, with several other rights or claims, embracing in all a territory' of between three and four thousand acres. At about the same time Joshua Harris secured certificates of location for four lots of two hundred acres each in the same vicinity. These lands have mostly remained in the hands of the Harris family and their descendants to the present day. The first house erected here was a log tenement, built near a spring about ten rods southeast of the Rufus Harris place. Joseph Harris was the first settler, and moved here about the year 1784. The next was a framed house and was built for Moses Harris by John Phettyplace. It stood near the site occupied by the Henry Harris homestead. This wealthy and thriving agricultural district has in the course of years become thickly and compactly settled, for a farming region, possessing admirable public schools, two churches, one of which has a settled pastor; its ailments cared for by a resident physician; many, of its wants provided for and supplied by home mechanics; while bordering upon the bays and points jut-

ting in and out around the head of Lake George are several pleasant and attractive places of resort, where travelers, invalids, pleasure seekers, business men, worn out with the wearying and incessant round of business cares, repair year by year in constantly increasing numbers, for that rest and recuperation so difficult to find among the hot, crowded thoroughfares of our fashionable resorts and summer watering places.

" Five miles to the north of the village of Glens Falls, on the road to Harrisena, is situated a small settlement, which, for upwards of fifty years, has borne in local colloquial phrase the name of the Oneida. The attempt has been made to call it Northville and Middleville, but no effort to shake off the former appellation has been successful. About the time of the last war with England this was a place of considerable importance, having two good sized and well patronized inns, three stores doing a quite extensive trade, a large lumbering business, in connection with adjacent mills, various mechanic shops, and a Baptist church and society. Here two noted justices of the peace, Dan D. Scott and James Henderson, held their weekly and august tribunals, at which as many as one hundred and seventy summonses, besides criminal processes and subpoenas have been made returnable in one day. Every Saturday, sometimes oftener, from fifty to two hundred people assembled here to listen to the encounter of argument, the brilliant collision of wit and repartee, and the splendid oratory of that -gifted and eloquent array of legal talent which then graced the bar of Warren and Washington counties.

" The first house at the Oneida was erected by Joshua Chase about the year 1793. The name was derived from a half-breed Oneida Indian by the name of Thomas Hammond. He, with his sister Dinah, were brought up by Capt. Green, of Whipple City, now Greenwich, Washington county, N. Y. Some little time previous to the outbreak of the war he removed to Queensbury, and opened a store of general merchandise in a building which is still standing on the corner opposite and fronting the old tavern stand ; and here, for a number of years, he was engaged in carrying on a considerable trade, mixed up to some extent with the lumbering business. From the oft repeated expressions, ' Let's go up to the Oneida's,' ' I bought this at the Oneida's,' ' We must send down to the Oneida's,' was derived the name which through the vicissitudes of half a century has clung like a burr to the settlement. Hammond married Keziah, a sister of James Reynolds, of Caldwell. Pursued by the red man's curse, an unappeasable appetite for the terrible fire-water, he finally failed in business, removed to French Mountain, and died an inebriate and outcast. Since then the magnificent pine forests which once stretched their serried ranks across plain and hill side, from the lake to the Kingsbury line, have been cut down, the local traffic has diminished, and the importance of the settlement decreased.

" The Ridge, or Sanford's ridge, is a name applied to a thickly settled farm-

ing district, stretching a distance of three or four miles along a crest of rich, arable land beginning about two miles north of Glens Falls village, and terminating beyond the town line on the east. Toward the close of the last century this was a settlement of greater size and importance than the village at the Falls. At that time there were two stores, a tavern, several mechanic shops and two physicians. In the year 1800 the Quaker church was built on the corners two miles north of the village. The first settler at the Ridge was Elijah Bartow who plied his trade as a blacksmith on what is known as the Gould Sanford farm. He lived in a log house near by. One of the first framed houses in the neighborhood was built and occupied by James Tripp on the site now covered by the residence of Joseph Haviland. Abraham Tucker about the same time built on the farm southwest of the Quaker church. Tills neighborhood derived its name from David Sanford, esq., who, in 1795, removed from the town of New Milford, Conn., to Queensbury and established himself in trade at this point. For the next ten years he was prominently identified with the business interests of the town, and the development of its resources. He was frequently chosen to office, and up to the time of his death was a man of mark and consideration."

Returning now to the subject of the early settlements in the town and the incidents and enterprises connected therewith, we may properly first make further mention of Benedick Brown, who was one of the original settlers and probably came into the town as early as 1772, as his name appears in the records as overseer of the poor in 1773. He had a family, the sons being named Valentine, George, Justus, Howgill, Silas, and Timothy. They were Quakers and at one period the descendants of the family were so numerous in the town that a settlement between the outlet of Long Pond and Glens Falls was locally known as "Brown-town." Valentine Brown built the first saw-mill north of Glens Falls. He was grandfather of George Brown, now of Lake George (Caldwell). In this family was also Daniel V. Brown, a descendant in the fourth generation from Bededick; he was sheriff in the county from 1861 to 1864, previous to which date he had been supervisor. He was a prominent business man of Glens Falls and an active Democratic politician. He was drowned on the steamer Melville on the 8th of January, 1865, while on his way with Edward Riggs to South Carolina to procure volunteers or substitutes for the Queensbury quota in the anticipated draft. (See biography herein.)

Reed Ferriss, of Dutchess county, was an early and intimate friend of Abraham Wing the founder of Queensbury, and purchased a large tract in the original patent. One of his lots was upon the eastern border of the town. Mr. Ferriss was the founder of Ferrissbury, Vt., according to Dr. Holden. The outlet of the Big Cedar Swamp derived its name from him, being called in the early survey and records, Reed's Meadow Creek. After the Revolutionary War Mr. Ferriss came up the river every season to look after his interests here

and in Vermont. His eldest son was named Edward, was a hatter, and removed to Glens Falls about the year 1794 bringing with him about \$500 in cash. At that time this was quite a fortune, and he was offered in exchange for it great lot number 29, of the original survey, now embracing the most thickly settled and valuable portion of the village of Glens Falls, and the offer was declined. Soon after his arrival here he bought the lot next north of the present Glens Falls Insurance building, on the rear of which he erected a hat shop, where he carried on business for a number of years ; he also built other structures and gave considerable impetus to the early growth of the place. In 1798 he erected a tavern on the site of the present dwelling owned by A. Newton Locke, and in 1802 he began building the old Glens Falls Hotel on the site of the present Rockwell House. A year or two later he diverted the springs of water and the rivulet on the side-hill, now covered by the Glens Falls Opera House, into a shallow reservoir, making a fish pond in the rear of Albert Vermillia's market building ; this was, for a period, one of the attractions of the place. Early in the century he erected the long known structure on Warren street, now owned by Mrs. Dr. Holden, which was subsequently variously designated as Ferriss's Row, the Tontine, the Long Row, Hemlock Row, and McGregor's Row. This structure was burned in 1856. Mr. Ferriss married first Parthenia, daughter of Dr. Seth Allen, and second, her sister Hannah.

John A. Ferriss was a son of Edward and one of the leading men of Glens Falls. He was the first postmaster of the village, was president of the village in 1839 and held other positions of trust. He formerly carried on business on the corner of Warren and Glen streets, on the site of what is now the Holden block, and was recognized throughout the county as public-spirited and enterprising, commanding the respect of all. He died in 1840. Hon. Orange Ferriss, of whom a brief sketch is given in the chapter devoted to the legal profession, was a son of John A. Ferriss.

David Ferriss was an early settler in the town, but little is now known of him. According to Dr. Holden, " while yet there was little more than a bridle path from Glens Falls, then known as the Corners, to the Ridge, he settled on the farm now occupied by Isaac Mosher a little south of the Half way Brook on the road to the Oneida, where he built him a log house, which he not long afterwards abandoned, and being of an adventurous turn, went west, where, after various adventures, he was finally accidentally drowned in the Mississippi, while running a raft of timber down that stream. The name of Widow Ferriss appears recorded on the town book for the year 1792."

Of the Gilchrist families of Glens Falls and Fort Edward the same writer says that "the ancestor of the American branch came to this country shortly prior to the Revolution, and was the head of this which, among many Scotch families, in those early days, took up tracts of land in and about Argyle, He-

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He was president of the Alumni Association of the Albany Medical College in 1881, and read an address before that body.

Dr. Chapin has held no political office nor has he any ambition in that direction, or for any public station, his chief desire having been to win and merit the approbation of his fellow practitioners, and the esteem and confidence of his patients. In this he has succeeded to a gratifying degree.

He was married first, in 1853, to Lurinda Dodge, daughter of Amos Dodge, of Owego. She died in 185-, and he was married to Matilda Rockfeller, of Albany, daughter of William T. Rockfeller, in July, 1863. He has a daughter Lula, by his first wife. A son by his second wife died in infancy. They now have an adopted daughter, Carrie W. Chapin, who lives at their home.

GEORGE BROWN.— One of the earliest permanent settlers on the Queensbury patent was Benedick Brown, who probably arrived there as early as 1772, as his name appears in the ancient records as overseer of the poor for 1773. One of his sons was Valentine Brown, who had a son Richard. Valentine settled at the outlet of what is now called Glen Lake (formerly known as Valentine's Pond), and Richard Brown located about one and a half miles from the site of the Half-way House, which is on the road from Glens Falls to Lake George. Richard Brown's children were George (the eldest and the subject of this sketch), Clark J., Daniel V., and Stewart. His wife was Sarah Vaughan, of Washington county, a descendant of one of the Rhode Island pioneers. Descendants of this family are very numerous in Northern New York.

George Brown was born on the paternal homestead, September 3d, 1815. His younger days until he was twelve years of age were passed at home and most of the time in attendance at the district schools. When he reached the age of twelve his father died. The family were very poor and the boy, being the eldest son found the burdens of caring for his younger brothers and widowed mother upon his shoulders. But he proved himself equal to the task, and heroically assumed it. He began working out by the month at whatever he found that would pay him best, devoting his earnings to bettering the situation of the family. He continued this course until he reached the age of nineteen, when he returned to the family homestead and assumed the charge of the farm. Here he remained until the year 1846, when he found his proper vocation in catering to the public as a landlord. He began first in a small building that stood opposite the Halfway House, where he remained three years, meanwhile building the famous old hostelry on the opposite side of the road. From the day Mr. Brown entered this hotel, situated as it was about midway on the long popular thoroughfare from the outer world to the famed lake and surroundings, he gave it a reputation for comfort and hospitality that was recognized by all who ever had occasion to enter its doors. This popularity continued unabated while Mr. Brown remained at the head of the house.

a period of nearly forty years, and only waned after the building of the railroad diminished the highway travel.

Mr. Brown's business operations were not confined to keeping the hotel, for he was the founder of the hamlet of French Mountain, and erected nearly all the buildings. Among these was a store where he carried on a general trade until his removal from the place ; this business was started in 1849. He also carried on a tin-shop in connection with this store. He built a saw-mill in 1852 which he operated until 1876, and erected a tannery in 1867 and ran it until 1874, in partnership with James T. Crandell. He built seven or eight dwellings also, and during the period named carried on the homestead farm. He was postmaster at French Mountain from 1850 to 1880, and, in short, was almost the proprietor of the entire settlement. With the necessary decline of business here incident upon the building of the railroad, Mr. Brown sold out his entire possessions, except thirty acres or farming land, and removed to Caldwell in March, 1884, where he assumed charge of the Central Hotel, which he had owned since 1880, it having between those two dates, been in charge of his son, Clark J. Brown ; the latter died in March, 1884. This house Mr. Brown has rendered very popular among hundreds of his old guests and many new ones.

Mr. Brown has been a Democrat in politics until about ten years ago, when he espoused the principles of the Greenback organization. He held the office of town assessor three successive years, and was pathmaster of his district for twenty successive years. In 1856 he was nominated for the Assembly, but defeated, as he expected to be, by the combined vote of the Republican and Know Nothing parties. In 1882 he was nominated on the Greenback ticket for sheriff.

Although now seventy years old, Mr. Brown is active and energetic to an astonishing degree, and superintends his business with an the enthusiasm and success of his earlier years and enjoys the respect and esteem of his fellow townsmen.

Mr. Brown was married in 1843 to Silvia Odell, who was born November 22d, 1824, and is descended from one of the pioneer families, a daughter of Benjamin Odell. Their children have been as follows: Valentine, the eldest, born March 26th, 1845 ; died in February, 1875. Sarah Jane, born July, 30th, 1847 ; is the wife of James T. Crandell, of Caldwell. Benjamin O., born November 26th, 1849; died November 11th, 1883. Clark J., born March 23d, 1854; died March 14th, 1884. Mary Ann, born January 2d, 1856 ; is the wife of A. P. Scovill, of the town of Queensbury. Kate, born January 25th, 1859 ; is the wife of William D. Buckbee, of Queensbury. Stewart D., born January 5th, 1861 ; now lives with his parents in Caldwell; married Ida Worden, daughter of Isaac Worden. Virginia, born July 18th, 1866 ; died November 12th, 1874.

MERRITT AMES.—One of the early settlers of Poultney, Vt., was Elijah Ames, one of the sons of whom was Oramel Ames, who was born July 22d, 1800, and died June 2d, 1870. His wife was Maria Spaulding, of Middletown, Vt. Their children were Merritt, the eldest and the subject of this sketch, Eliza, Morris, Ellen, Milo and Mary. Oramel Ames was a farmer, but also learned the shoemaker's trade and was a competent veterinary surgeon.

Merritt Ames was born in Poultney, Vt., December 22d, 1825. His boyhood passed in laudable and successful efforts to obtain a good English education in the Vermont common schools, combined with considerable hard work at home between terms. This continued until he reached his majority, during which period he had lived with his parents in Poultney, East Dorset, Granville and Middletown, and acquired a far better education than was common among his associates who enjoyed only similar facilities.

In the year 1846, when, he was twenty-one years old, the young man left home, came to Glens Falls and began an apprenticeship as a moulder with James Wells. Here he remained two years, in which time he became proficient in his chosen occupation. He next went to Fort Edward, where he worked at his trade in all about five years, separated at intervals with shorter periods of labor in Philadelphia, Troy and Whitehall. His entire period of work at his trade extended over about ten years, at the end of which he returned to Glens Falls richer in experience than in money.

Mr. Ames is a man not only of good natural qualifications, but of broad views, extensive reading and careful thought ; he is moreover a natural orator of more than ordinary ability. To these characteristics may undoubtedly be credited the impulse which led to his next occupation. Beginning in 1846 he went on the road with an entertainment embracing at different periods a series of paintings delineating scenes in the arctic explorations of Dr. Kent Kane and those in Africa by Dr. Livingstone, Bible and astronomical scenes, etc. These were accompanied by appropriate explanatory and descriptive lectures prepared by Mr. Ames himself. This entertainment was an unqualified success, its popularity, without a doubt, arising more from the interesting character of the lectures and from the energy and business ability infused into the enterprise by the proprietor than from any other feature. This occupation was followed for ten years, during which period several States were traveled over, reaching as far west as Chicago, in the churches of which city the lectures were last given.

Returning permanently to Glens Falls in 1866 Mr. Ames entered upon an entirely new field of labor. He began the work of refining photographers residues (silver waste, etc.) and manufacturing nitrate of silver and chloride of gold, for the use of photographers, dry plate manufacturers and wholesale druggists. Under his skillful and energetic management this business has been developed to splendid proportions. The sale of the manufactured products

and the refining of residues has extended from the provinces to the Gulf of Mexico and into more than twenty-five States. Men are employed on the road and in the work at home two assistant chemists are engaged in the practical part of the business. The building up of such an establishment in a small inland location leads one to question how it has been accomplished. To this Ames replies, " I have never sought to cheapen my products nor to undersell others. My success is directly traceable to promptness in return of refined goods, and the quality and quantity of the same." So potent have been these principles that he has become a larger refiner of photographers' residues and manufacturer of nitrate of silver and chloride of gold than any other single person, and he has been honored with refining the waste from five of the photographic departments of the United States government. This success in such a work needs no comment; it merely shows what has been accomplished by energy, perseverance, and integrity. In these years Mr. Ames has gained the highest good will and esteem of all his fellow citizens.

He was baptized into the first Baptist Church of Middletown, Vt., on the 5th of March, 1843, and has ever since been a zealous and faithful member of that sect. His earnest and consistent church work and his thorough knowledge of the Bible have given him much prominence in the church as a teacher and occasionally as a preacher. He has for the past twelve years taught an adult Bible class in which are many leading church members.

Mr. Ames was married in 1847 to Celia Gould, daughter of George Gould, of Albany, a union that has brought nothing but peace and contentment with it. Their children are Adelbert M., born April 26th, 1848 ; died in infancy. Emma M., born December 29th, 1851 ; married W. W. Buckingham and lives in Brooklyn. Lina V., married William E. Baldwin, of Saratoga, who is now associated with Mr. Ames in the chemical works.

L EONARD GANSEVOORT McDONALD was born in the town of Queensbury, Warren county, N. Y., in 1821, and is now a citizen of Glens Falls, in said town, and has one of the finest and most desirable residences in that place, which he built and finished in 1869, and has occupied ever since.

He received a liberal education in the common schools and academies, and in 1844 engaged in the mercantile business in company with his brother, William H., in which he continued until 1849, when he went to California, and after his return became one of the largest manufacturers of the celebrated Glens Falls lime, in which business he continued for about twenty years, and its introduction and general use is largely due to his personal effort and perseverance.

He is one of the prominent men in Warren county, and is well-known throughout the State as one of the leading men in his devotion to, and earnest

advocacy by his writings, and otherwise, of the financial and main principles of the so-called Greenback party, having been twice nominated and placed upon the State ticket of that party.

His father, William McDonald, came into this town from New Milford, Conn., where he was born in 1792, when but eight years of age, and resided here about seventy years. He was installed a Mason in 1805 by Dewitt Clinton and others, and in 1821 was elected a member of the Legislature in this State, and was twice afterwards elected to the same position. To him, and his personal effort, more than to any other man in Warren county, is due the success and prosperity of the village of Glens Falls. As Governor Dewitt Clinton is said to be the father of the Erie Canal, equally, if not more so, was William McDonald the father of the Glens Falls Feeder Canal, for by his own effort, while a member of the Legislature, he procured the passage of a bill, and a survey was ordered and made, which he personally attended and assisted, to change the location which had been previously made for the building of the Feeder Canal, from the river at Sandy Hill to the river about two miles west of the village of Glens Falls, and from there to the summit level of the Champlain Canal, and from that time the growth and future prosperity of Glens Falls became firmly established and assured.

Doctor Charles McDonald, the father of William McDonald, and the grandfather of Leonard G., was a physician of considerable eminence, who emigrated from Scotland during the old French war, and as a surgeon served in the American army during the Revolutionary struggle. After the war ended he resumed the practice of his profession at New Rochelle, Westchester county, N. Y., where he died at the age of eighty-five years; and his son William McDonald died at Glens Falls in the year 1870 at the age of eighty-six and a half years, leaving eight children, the oldest, Mrs. Jane Maria Clark, wife of Dr. E. G. Clark, of Sandy Hill; Richard D., Leonard G., William H., Walter, Mrs. Julia A. Arms, wife of Lewis L. Arms, of Glens Falls; Mrs. Helen Cool, wife of Alvin F. Cool, formerly of Glens Falls, and Edward McDonald. His mother's maiden name was Mary Sanford, daughter of ——— Sanford, and sister of David Sanford, of New Milford, Conn., who came into this town in 1785, and settled on Sanford's Ridge, where he carried on a large farming, mercantile and lumber business.

The mother of Leonard G. McDonald, before she was married to William McDonald in 1809, was Maria Jane Davis, daughter of Richard Davis, son of Harry Davis, who was one of the early settlers in Poughkeepsie in the seventeenth century, and her mother (the maternal grandmother of Leonard G.) was the daughter of ——— Geer, who was killed by the Indians while defending his home at the massacre of Wyoming during the French and Indian war.

Leonard G. McDonald was first married in 1854 to Helen Webster, daughter of Charles Webster of Stockbridge, Berkshire county, Mass., and she died

in April, 1871, and in 1872 he married his present wife, Clara M. Twinning, daughter of Thomas Twinning, of Lenox, Berkshire county, Mass., having no children by either wife.

He is a prominent member and one of the wardens of the Episcopal Church in Glens Falls, and for over twenty years has regularly attended as a delegate the Diocesan Conventions of that church.

In politics he was formerly a Democrat, but for the past seven or eight years, after much study, and investigation, he firmly adopts and earnestly advocates the general and leading principles of the Greenback party, as advocated and maintained by such men as Peter Cooper, Warwick Martin and others, whose lives have ended in advancing and maintaining the leading and financial principles of that party or faction.

DANIEL V. BROWN, SR. — The reader of the history of the town of Queensbury in early days has learned that among the earliest settlers in what is now Warren county was Benedick Brown, whose name is found among the town officers of 1773, when he was made overseer of the poor. He had a son, Valentine Brown, who settled near the outlet of what is now called Glen Lake (known for many years as Valentine's Pond). One of his sons was named Richard, who located about one and a half miles from the site of the Half-way, House between Glens Falls and Lake George. His children were George (see biographical sketch herein), Charles J., Daniel V., the subject of this notice, and Stewart. Richard Brown's wife was Sarah Vaughan, of Washington county, a descendant of one of the old Rhode Island families, now numerous, represented in the Eastern States.

Daniel V. Brown was born in the town of Queensbury on the 29th of May, 1821. His boyhood was passed at home and he was given such educational advantages as then offered in country-districts. Of these his active mind availed itself to the utmost, and he secured a groundwork which, with his later study and experience, enabled him to step into the foremost rank of business men. About 1843 he left his home and located permanently in Glens Falls, where he engaged extensively in the forwarding business on the canals, and also interested himself at various times in other ventures of trade or manufacture. His distinguishing characteristics in his business career, were cool and accurate judgment, capacity to deal promptly with large interests and problems, and unflinching integrity.

Mr. Brown was a zealous and active politician of the Democratic school and was honored by his fellow townsmen with various positions of trust and responsibility. He was collector in 1848, '49, supervisor in 1859, and sheriff in 1861-64; was president of Glens Falls in 1861, and trustee for five years theretofore. In these public offices he exhibited the same zeal and fidelity that made his private business successful, and enabled him to acquire a competence before his early, and lamentable death.

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Charles F. and one daughter, Mary A. (deceased); and Alonzo T. Black. Alonzo is now in the employ of the State employed in the fine inside paneling of stone, marble and wood work, where he has been engaged for nine years. James B. is a farmer in Vermont, and Orlin a large dairy farmer in Rupert, Vt., with a dairy of seventy cows. Mr. Black was first employed as a coast surveyor under President Van Buren.

Blumenauer, Henry, Queensbury, p. o. Glens Falls, was born in Ulster county in 1850 and settled in Glens Falls in 1872. He apprenticed himself to Mr. Snyder to learn the confectionery business. In 1878 he opened a shop of his own on Glen street and moved in 1884 to No. 8 South street, where he commenced the general baking business in connection with his confectionery trade. He furnishes the finest of goods in his line to parties as well as private families. In 1884 Mr. Blumenauer married Miss Fannie Works, of Essex county. Mr. Blumenauer's parents were Jacob and Rose Blumenauer, natives of Germany.

Bolton, Richard and Hannah (Beadwell), Horicon, p. o. Brant Lake, were both natives of Yorkshire, England. He was born in 1809 and she in 1819. Were married in 1835, and emigrated from England in 1846. Mr. Bolton was accidentally drowned in the Schroon River, and for her second husband Mrs. Bolton married Thomas, brother of the deceased. He was also a native of Yorkshire, England, and a soldier of Co. A, 93d N. Y. Vol. Infantry. He died in 1881 and his widow now resides with her son Thomas. Thomas was born June 6th, 1838, and married Sarah E., daughter of Henry Jordan, in 1861. They had five children, Effie J., John, Frederick, Thomas J. and Harry. Richard Bolton, son of Richard, sr., was born in Stockton, England, in 1845. Is a farmer and owns 440 acres of land. Has been commissioner of highways. Was married in 1868 to Laura, daughter of John Waters, of Hague, and they have three children, Ellis V., Richard and Ella. Valentine, another son of Richard Bolton, sr., was born in Warrensburgh, N. Y., March 1st, 1849. He owns a good farm of 329 acres. Was married to Rosetta, daughter of Rodney Horse, of Milwaukee, Wis., in 1871, and their children are William Burt, Valentine, jr., Grace, Martha and George. John Bolton, another son of Richard, was a soldier of the 118th N. Y. Vol. Infantry, and died in the service at Fort Ethan Allen, December 24th, 1862.

Bolton, Joseph, son of Thomas E., was born February 14th, 1856, in Chester. Is a farmer and owns 190 acres of land. Was married to Lovina, daughter of Ephraim Bien, of Vermont, in 1882, and they have one child, Cora.

Bradley, Thaddeus, Caldwell, p. o. Lake George, was born in Caldwell in 1812. In 1832 he married Miss Mercy Bennett, and they have several children. One son, Thaddeus, enlisted in 1862 and served until the close of the war. Marvin was married to Miss Leonora Bennett in 1885. Mr. Bradley was a son of Nathaniel and Eunice (Shaw) Bradley. They had a family of three children, two of whom are dead. Thaddeus is the only child living. Thaddeus's grandparents were among the earliest settlers in Caldwell. Mr. Bradley's wife, Miss Mercy Bennett, was a daughter of Abel and Jemima (Harrington) Bennett. He was formerly of Vermont, and when he came here there was but one block-house at Lake George, used as a government store-house and treaty was made that year in the fall of Mr. Harrington's settlement.

Braley, Pliny P., Queensbury, p. o. Glens Falls, commenced his business in 1879 and is now located in the Opera House Block. Is a dealer in books, stationery, wall paper, wool yarns, zephyrs and all fancy goods of that order. He was born in Bolton, Warren county, in 1854, son of Stephen and Philomela Braley. Miss E. C. Boyd, partner of Mr. Braley in his business, was born in Bolton, Warren county, a daughter of Rufus and Eliza Goodman Boyd, who settled in Glens Falls in 1848.

Brayton, George W., Queensbury, p. o. Glens Falls, jobbing butcher and farmer; born at East Lake George, 1832; wife Caroline Beadleston, married in 1854, seven children, two sons and five daughters. Parents, Asa W., and Polly (Phelps) Brayton, the former born in 1805 in Queensbury, the latter in Washington in 1805, married in 1826, died in 1856, children four now living; Silvia J., Mariah, George W., and Danford. Grandparents, John and Mary (Harris) Brayton. The former was born in Washington county, and settled in Queensbury about 1790. Eleven children, six now living; Lois, William, Asa, Orlin, Polly, Diantha. John died 1826 and Mary died 1853.

Brooks, Landon W., Stony Creek, p. o. Creek Centre, came to this town from Maine when only a year and a half old, and has lived here ever since. He is a farmer and owns 129 acres of very fine land, most of which is under cultivation. Has filled the offices of collector and commissioner of highways in the town; was married in 1874 to Mary E. Glassbrook. Their two children both died in infancy.

Brown, Asahel C., Queensbury, p. o. Glens Falls, was born in Queensbury, Warren county, in 1826. He was a son of Richard and Mahitabel (Teff) Brown. They had two children, Asahel C. and Justus S.; Asahel was married in 1865 to Hester Brown, of Queensbury, and

they have two children: Hollis R. and Hattie M. Mr. Brown's grandparents were Justus and Desire Brown. They had a family of eleven children. A portion of their land is still in possession of Asahel.

Brown, Dolphus J., Caldwell, p. o. Lake George, was born at Lake George in 1862. He engaged at Lake George in the hardware trade until 1885, when he sold out his stock and is now completing an extensive general meat market; in 1884 he was married to Miss Nellie Lewis, daughter of Hamilton Lewis, of Warrensburgh. Mr. Brown's parents were Alphonso and Eunice (Mead) Brown.

Brown, George, Caldwell, p. o. Lake George, was born in Queensbury, Sept. 3d, 1815. He has been one of the prominent and active business men of the county, engaged in various branches of business. He has, for over forty years, been identified in the hotel business of Warren county. Has always had room and board for the poor, and is to-day one of the most popular landlords of Northern New York. He is proprietor of the Central Hotel at Lake George; in 18— he was married to Miss Sylvia Odell, of Queensbury. They had eight children, four of whom are now living: Sarah, Aimah, Katie D. and Stewart D. His grandparents, Valentine and Margaret (Haight) Brown, settled in Queensbury before the Revolutionary War. Mr. Valentine Brown commenced the manufactory of sawed lumber and built the first saw-mill in Queensbury.

Brown, Myron O., Bolton, p. o. Bolton Landing, was born in Bolton in 1837. He is one of the founders and proprietors of the Green Island Improvement Association on Lake George. He is the lessee of the Sagamore Hotel, embracing 75 acres, and having ample accommodations for 350 guests. It is one of the finest summer resorts in the United States. The building, furniture, and the manner in which it is conducted is a credit to the State. Mr. Brown has held the office of supervisor six terms at Bolton. He was an early merchant; in 1862 he was married to Miss Mary E. Wilson, daughter of Captain Wilson, of Sandy Hill, and they have two sons: Willard W. and Frank B. Mr. Brown's father, Luther Brown, was sheriff of the county, and supervisor several terms.

Brown, Richard J., p. o. Bolton, was born in 1846 in New York city, and settled with his parents in Bolton in 1860. By profession he is a civil engineer. Has been justice of the peace one term, and appointed notary public in 1885. In 1874 he purchased his present site and erected his hotel "The Lake View House," which he continued to improve until it will give ample accommodation to 100 guests. In connection with his hotel he has a small steamer for the pleasure of the guests of his house. Was married in 1870 to Miss Helen J. Allen, of Saratoga. His parents were Richard F. and Elizabeth (Lee) Brown. He was the only son.

Bullard, Chas. E., Queensbury, p. o. Glens Falls, was born in Northville, Fulton county, in 1851, and settled with his parents in Glens Falls in 1860. Was a graduate of the Canandaigua Commercial School in 1872. He then clerked it for Mr. H. Colvin in the furniture business and in 1875 became a partner. In 1876 he, with Mr. Henry Swan, purchased the business of Colvin & Co., forming the partnership of Bullard & Swan. In 1880 he took the entire business, which he conducted alone until 1882, when he sold part interest to John R. Loomis. The firm is now Bullard & Loomis, having a complete stock of the most desirable patterns in the furniture and upholstery line in which they are extensive dealers as well as manufacturers. They also have a large undertaking department in which all grades, patterns and prices can be found at No. 118 and 120 Glen St. In Oct., 1879 Mr. Bullard married Mary Thomson, of Johnsburgh, Warren county. Have a little girl born February 27th, 1885.

Bullard, David H., Dr., Queensbury; p. o. Glens Falls, was born in Schuylerville, Saratoga county, N. Y., in 1812. He read medicine at West Troy and finished his studies at the Albany Medical College under Drs. March and Armsby in 1849. He commenced practice in Fulton county in 1853, and settled in Glens Falls in 1860. In 1838 he married Julia Spier, of Fulton county. They had seven children: Julia E., Emma A., Sarah F. and Harriet A., Charles E., Frederick H., and William R. Dr. Bullard's parents were Alpheus and Hannah (Fitch) Bullard.

Burdick, Jas. P., Queensbury, p. o. Glens Falls, was born in Saratoga county in 1843, and settled with his parents in Glens Falls in 1846. His father, Allen Burdick, was engaged in the manufacture of lumber, and James commenced business with him and for several years shared it. Their mill was destroyed three times by fire; Mr. Burdick was married in 1874 to Miss Kate Rugge, daughter of George Rugge, of Glens Falls.

Burgess, Lewis, p. o. Hague, born Aug. 14th, 1834, is a native of Dresden, Washington county; he commenced as a school teacher and afterwards occupied a position as chief clerk for ten years at the Fort William Henry Hotel. In 1860 he entered the merchandizing business, and from that date has been the postmaster of his town; has held the office of supervisor of his town for two years and is serving his thirteenth year as justice of the peace. Of later years he has spent his winters in Florida, where he has heavy real estate interests. His suc-

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