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History of Monroe County NY: Town of Sweden & Village of Brockport

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SWEDEN.

THE "Triangle tract" is a body of land triangular in shape, lying between the "Mill-seat tract," originally owned by Phelps and Gorham on the east, and the "Holland purchase" on the west. It is twenty-eight miles in length, about nine and one-half miles wide on Lake Ontario, and terminates to a point on the line between the towns of Le Roy and Pavilion, in Genesee county, and embraces over one hundred and thirty thousand acres of land. Its eastern boundary is a line parallel with the general course of the Genesee river, and its western is a transit or meridian line. It was originally owned by Robert Morris, from whom it was purchased early in 1801 by Le Roy, Bayard, and Everts, of New York city, who had it surveyed the same year by Richard Stoddard, and offered for sale. It was divided into five townships, numbered from south to north, and each township into sections, generally one and one-half miles square, which were subdivided into twelve farm lots of one hundred and twenty acres each. In 1802, a road was opened four rods wide through the centre of the tract, leading to Lake Ontario, which has since been known as the Lake road. This road was given by the company, and was not included in the lots lying alongside of it. Settlements were commenced at Le Roy, and a grist-mill built there in 1801, but no sales beyond that town. In 1802 lands were offered for two dollars, and two dollars and fifty cents, per acre. At that time, this tract, with all the country west of the Genesee, belonged to the town of Northampton and the county of Ontario, with the county seat at Canandaigua. On December 8, 1807, up to which date a few sales had been made, and a less number of settlements had crept northwardly along the Lake road, the town of Northampton was divided, and the "Triangle tract," with the wild, unbroken country lying west, of indefinite extent, were combined under one town organization. It was designated at the time of division as Bayard, but immediately after changed to Murray. In 1814, when the town of Sweden was incorporated, this tract was divided into four towns, Le Roy, Bergen, Sweden, and Murray,—Sweden then embracing its present limits and Clarendon, in Orleans county, and Murray the two towns of Clarkson and Hamlin, and the town of Murray, in Orleans county.

On the fifth day of April, 1814, the first town meeting of the town of Sweden was held at the house of Reuben Stickney, and its organization effected by the election of the following officers:

Supervisor, John Reed; Town Clerk, Elisha Stewart; Assessors, Joshua B. Adams, Henry Hill, John Marshal; Road Commissioners, Alanson Dudley, Zenas Case, Calvin Gibbs; Poor-masters, Benajah Warden, Record W. Vining; School Commissioners, John Reed, William James, Calvin Gibbs; School Inspectors, David Glidden, William Sheldon, Lyman Humphreys, Elisha Stewart, Amos Frink, Peleg Sanders; Collector and Constable, William James; Constable, William Luther; Pound-master, Reuben Stickney; and twenty-seven overseers of highways.

According to census report made November 25, 1813, there were, within the limits of the present towns of Sweden and Clarendon, one hundred and forty families, and one other person, comprising eight hundred and nineteen souls, divided as follows, viz.: twenty-two males and twenty-two females forty-five years of age and over; one hundred and fifty-four males and one hundred and thirty-four females between eighteen and forty-five, and two hundred and sixty-five males and two hundred and twenty-one females under eighteen. The number of electors with freeholds who rented tenements of the yearly value of forty shillings was one hundred and forty-two; of the value of twenty to one hundred pounds, none; and of the value of one hundred pounds and over, five.

The town of Sweden, with its present geographical limits, comprises the third township of the Triangle tract. It extends north and south six miles, and has an average width of five and three-quarter miles, embracing twenty thousand nine hundred and forty-two acres, or about thirty-two and three-fourths square miles. The surface is generally level, though quite undulating in some parts, and the soil very rich and fertile. It is mostly a sandy loam, gravelly, or mixed with clay in some places. In no part of western New York has a finer quality or greater yield of the cereal-crops been produced. Of late years, in common with all this belt of country, much attention has been paid to fruit culture, especially apples, which are now a staple crop, and of superior quality and yield. Every year the area of orchards is increased, which in a few years will absorb a large

proportion of the surface. Streams flow in every direction from the centre of the town, which is more elevated. The Salmon rises west and southwest of the centre, and flows east, then northeast into Ogden. The west branch also rises south of Brockport, flowing northeast. In the west part of the town a considerable stream rises and flows southward into Riga. Other smaller brooks and tributaries rise from springs, supplying abundant water and good drainage. The Erie canal and Niagara Falls branch of the New York Central Railroad extend east and west across the northern part of the town.

We of the present day, who have witnessed the rapid settlement of our western States during the past quarter of a century, can have but a faint idea of the slow and tedious process of settlement sixty and seventy years ago, nor appreciate the difficulties and discouragements by which it was attended. Our western States have been opened by railroads and water communication before the emigrant has been invited thither to take possession of the open prairie lands, which were ready to receive the plow and the reaper, and which are gratuitously offered to all who have the courage to possess them. Western New York had no railroad, no water communication, and but few and poor wagon-roads. These must be traveled over some five hundred miles to arrive from New England, whence most of the settlers came. Then to purchase land at high prices, which were covered with a dense and heavy growth of timber that must be chopped and cleared away before he could plant, sow, or reap, was no ordinary undertaking. Many who came made the journey on foot, carrying all their possessions on their backs. Those who came with families had a lumber-wagon with a large box, over which was a covering of canvas or cotton cloth spread on hoops, into which were packed all the household goods, beds, clothing, provisions for the journey, wife, children, and other necessaries for furnishing a log cabin, which he had in prospect of erection in the woods. In this pleasure-car the family would be on the way two or three weeks coming from New England. No wonder that, under such circumstances, settlements were slow. Those who settled early on this tract were poor, for here lands could be bought on credit, being only required to pay interest and make improvements. But little capital was brought into this country by the emigrant, hence the wealth of to-day has been drawn from a productive soil through the labors of an industrious people. The earliest settlements made in this town, before recorded, were in 1807, by Nathaniel Poole and Walter Palmer, on the Lake road between Brockport and Sweden Centre, and later in the same season by Samuel Bishop, Isaac White, Stephen Johnson, and Joseph Hoskins; though the records of the land sales at Le Roy show that several lots were located in 1803, and that previous to 1807 some thirty lots had been sold within the three towns, yet it is not evident that they were settled on. But as no record of date was ever taken from those early settlers until they had removed or died, those given by the later settlers render the dates of the first somewhat uncertain. In 1808, John Reed settled in the south part of the town, and located about nine hundred acres of land, the same that his son John B. Reed and Asa Rowe and family now occupy. Timothy Tyler located south of the centre of the town; Edward Parks, south of Brockport; and Deacon Rice, at the place since known as Wilkie's Corners, the same year; also James Stickney and Amos Stickney, from Oneida county, and Reuben Stickney, Jr., Israel Stickney, and Lewis Gardner. These settlements were all made along the Lake road, which was the only road then opened in the town. Reuben Moore, Zenas Case, and Elder Zenas Case, Jr., settled in the east part of the town a little later, and about the same time settlements were commenced on the road known as the Fourth Section, by Elijah Steward, Walter Steward, Uriah L. James, William James, Simeon Palmer, and Joshua B. Adams. Benjamin S. Sheldon settled in the same neighborhood a year or two later; and in the same year William Warden, Aaron Hill, and Moses J. Hill, on the town line road leading west from Wilkie's Corners to Holley. In 1810 and 1811 settlements were made in the east and south parts of the town by Joseph Hutchinson, Joseph Luce, and Aramel Butler; also Roland Saunders and Edward H. Raleigh on the Lake road south of the centre. In 1811 or 1812, Levi Page and Ezra Brown settled at West Sweden, and Abijah Capen one mile west of the Lake road.

A few others, not here mentioned, had settled in the town prior to the war of

1812, yet but a small portion of it was occupied up to this date, and during the war settlements were greatly retarded or almost discontinued, though some came in as others who came before were frightened away. Requisitions were frequently made on the settlers to go to the frontier to keep back the invading army, when many rendered patriotic service to their country. Some fell in defense of sailors' rights, and others returned to renew the battle with the forest, which was now just beginning to be cleared away. During the war some settlements were deserted, and but very few were advanced.

The prices of grain and provisions were extremely high, and those who had raised something to sell reaped a fine harvest. Oats were sold for two dollars per bushel, wheat at three dollars or four dollars, and other products in proportion. These extreme prices made it very hard for the coming settlers who were to rush in at the approach of peace. After the war, and as soon as men could devote themselves to the pursuits of civil life, settlements were renewed with more vigor than before. At the first election of town officers, in 1814, there were but five men living in the town, which then included Clarendon, who were entitled by law to hold office; consequently, much difficulty was experienced for several years in obtaining the number of officers necessary. The organic law of the State required solid qualifications for office,—a freehold estate to the value of one hundred pounds; and an elector, to vote, must possess or rent a freehold to the value of forty shillings. To obviate this difficulty it was not uncommon for men to get a small amount deeded to enable them to hold office. Since those days the country has evidently progressed, as men now often get elected to office with no qualifications whatever, either solid or substantial.

During succeeding years the settlement of the town rapidly advanced, and a more thrifty and enterprising population succeeded many of the early settlers, who sold their claims and removed farther west to pioneer other new countries, as is usually the case in new settlements. The year 1816 was remarkably cool and unproductive, and barely enough was raised to support the population and keep the new comers from want and hunger; and for two or three years following, so little land was brought under cultivation, and so great the demand to supply immigration, that food was very dear and difficult to obtain. A few years later, as lands were improved and a surplus raised, prices fell to almost nothing, there being no market where transportation could be found without great expense. The only outlet to an eastern market was at the mouth of the Genesee river, whereby the lake and the St. Lawrence tide-water could be reached. The best quality of white wheat brought only thirty-one to thirty-seven and a half cents per bushel, and, when drawn over bad new-country roads, made the condition of the farmer extremely discouraging; especially so, as nearly every one was in debt for his farm, and must raise money to pay interest or lose the property, with improvements his labor had made. Of the settlers who came into town during the five years succeeding the war, when most of the land was occupied, it can be truly said they were of the best and noblest character. They were the most enterprising sons of New England, descendants of the Pilgrim fathers,—young men who were reared upon the granite hills, inured to labor, and taught that industry, economy, and virtue were elements in a moral and religious character.

During the first decade most of the land was cleared, neat and comfortable buildings were erected, lands fenced, orchards planted, roads made, and societies organized. Never did a people labor more diligently, or accomplish greater results under like circumstances. Lands were productive, and had largely increased in value, so the farmer who had only cleared and improved his land found himself possessed of a valuable property, though the original purchase money had remained unpaid; which was the condition of many of the landholders up to 1825, when a new era dawned upon the country by the opening of transportation through the Erie canal. The names of those early settlers who were most active in the formation of society, in directing and arranging the municipal affairs of the town, establishing schools, and building churches, as well as reclaiming the forests and beautifying a land unsurpassed in wealth and excellence of soil and climate, and in social and intellectual advantages, by any other rural district of our country, may well be recorded in the annals of its history. Among the number were Jos. Staples, Robert Staples, Peter Stutphin, Oliver Spencer, Edmond Spencer, Chauncey Staples, John White, Jas. Stickney, Amos Stickney, Sam'l H. Davis, Abel Root, Jos. Randall, Chester Roberts, Elvis Lee, Sam'l Morgan, David Morgan, Dr. David Avery, Dr. E. B. Elliot, Levi Pond, Humphrey Palmer, Thaddeus Stone, Oramel Butler, Daniel Butler, Nathaniel Bangs, Dudley Root, William Root, Julius Comstock, Eli Gallup, Aaron Root, Samuel V. Way, Timothy Tyler, Jos. Hutchinson, Sisson Taylor, Reuben Allen, John House, Job Whipple, John Clarke, Mr. Bronson, Thos. Cooley, Lieutenant Crippen, Deacon Niles, Zadoc Hurd, Elisha Locke and sons, Samuel C. Bentley, C. J. Whiteher, Uriah L. James, Wm. King, Alanson Thomas, Elder Brackett, Royal Barlow, Elder Bigalow, James Jackson, Walter Phelps, Artemus Lyman, James Hart, Peleg Thomas, Seth L. King, E. H. Raleigh, Asa Babcock, Wm. Ward, James

White, Silas Parker, Abijah Capen, Ezra Brown, Rowland Sanders, Simeon Palmer, Benj. J. Sheldon, Aaron Hill, Moses Hill, Daniel Freeman, Jos. Preston, Benj. Remington, Elisha Brace, Lyons Udell, Samuel Chadsey, Wm. Seldon, Erastus Lawrence, Samuel Bishop, Silas Judson, John Reed, John Beadle, Elisha Steward, Chauncey Robinson, Elisha Huntley, Eldridge Farewell, Jacob Cooley, Harmon Cooley, and many others. The early social, moral, and religious character of the people may well receive a passing notice. Notwithstanding the severe toil and privations of pioneer life, it is not without its enjoyments. No people were more cheerful than the toilers in clearing away the forests, and none have been more kind or ready to aid their fellow-men. It was common, when one had a hard job of work, to make a "bee," at which his neighbors would join and help him out. "Raising-bees" were quite frequent, which would generally close with a ball-play or other sport. Logging-bees, husking-bees, apple-paring bees, were common occurrences, always attended with some amusement, but always work before pleasure. Society was open to all who conducted themselves with propriety; there was no class society, no aristocracy, for all were equally respected who were equally worthy. Crime was rare, for it was more creditable to work than steal or cheat. Men expected to labor, and the smartest workers were the noted persons. There were few politicians, but honest men held office. Religiously, men were more zealous, more emotional, more tenacious, and more sectarian, but whether more Christlike we will not attempt to say.

Great changes have taken place within the past half-century in society, morality, religious views, and, we trust, for the sake of civilization, towards a better condition. In all that pertains to the arts of civilized life their progress has been marked. In the general intelligence of the people, in agricultural knowledge and practice, in the right direction and use of labor, in the knowledge of mechanical principles, and the application of those principles to useful ends, and in all that enables man to accomplish more with less physical force, in substituting mind for muscle, they have advanced, and are not behind the progress of the age. John B. Elliot was the first physician settled in town. He located on Beach ridge, one and a half miles south of Brockport, at an early day, and afterward removed to Brockport, and opened a drug store. Dr. Ralph A. Gillet settled at the Centre in 1830 or 1831, in the practice of medicine. In the early settlement of the town, sickness of a malarial character prevailed. Fever and ague was the common lot of all, and physicians were much needed. After a few years Dr. Gillett opened a store in dry goods and groceries at the Centre, still practicing his profession. Daniel J. Avery and D. N. Glazier also opened stores at that place a few years later, and considerable trade was directed here for several years, but on account of the proximity of Brockport, mercantile business was closed up here about 1850.

Dr. S. M. Olden succeeded Dr. Gillett as town physician in 1839 or 1840. After about ten years' practice he removed to Brockport. Dr. Huntley also located, and practiced there until about 1855, when he too moved to Brockport, where he still resides, since which time there has been no physician located in the rural districts, and Sweden has been notably a healthy section.

Nathan Poole built the first log house on the north side of Beach ridge, where he settled. It was constructed of logs covered with bark, the floors of hewn plank, and the chimney of sticks and mud, and without nails, spikes, or screws. James Beadle built the first frame house, and kept the first tavern. It was located about one-half mile south of Sweden Centre. Jehiel Davis built the first grist-mill in town in 1813 or 1814, in the eastern part, on Salmon creek; and Roswell Burroughs the first saw-mill, on the same creek, in 1815. William and James Hollister erected the first distillery, in 1816. In 1826 and 1827 there were three distilleries in town to supply the home demand for whisky, and one grist-mill to supply the same with bread. The first corn was raised in 1807, and the first wheat in 1808; and the first orchard planted was by Samuel Johnson, in 1809 or 1810.

The population of the town, by the census of 1875, was 5259, and the number of dwellings 1030. The assessed value of real and personal estate in the same year was \$3,389,861. The average value of real estate per acre was \$145.11. The valuation of real estate was \$3,054,356; personal property, \$412,660. The amount of taxation, exclusive of local school taxes, was \$22,778.38. The value of real estate exempt from taxation was \$136,300. The number of churches, 11; church organizations, 13; and the value of church property, \$51,500.

The interests of education were not overlooked in the busy life of the early settler, but due attention was given to the maintenance of good common schools; beyond these few advantages were offered to the young. The common schools were perhaps behind those of the present day, but were conducted much the same, though parents then owned and educated their own children, interesting themselves personally in their progress and discipline. Now, since children have become the property of the State, and the State assumes the right and authority to educate them, it may be that parental care and responsibility have been too much withdrawn, and that a little of that old-fashioned discipline handed down

from our New England parents, and enjoyed by the children of the early settlers, would improve the manners and conduct of those of the present day. All this part of the State was settled by a class to whom schools for their children, and church organizations as the central pillar of society, were of the highest importance. Consequently, as soon as their homes were made and some of their indispensable comforts secured, we find them looking about for some means of instruction for their children; and, if regular schools and school-houses were impracticable, the children met at private houses, and received the first rudiments from some of the older members. The first schools taught in the town were on the Lake road near the Centre, and extended in other parts of the town as rapidly as the settlements required. In those days, on account of the sparse settlements, many children were obliged to travel long distances through the woods, and in the winter season over bad, unbroken roads, which we, with our conveniences, can never appreciate. But may not these drawbacks have taught our fathers the value of what few opportunities they possessed?—for they were more diligently improved in those days than at present. We have now in Sweden eleven good school-houses and districts, with efficient teachers trained in an institution within her own borders.

Below are given the names of the supervisors of the town from its organization down to and including 1876, with the date and time of service of each, together with the town officers of 1876, viz.: John Reed, 1814 to 1820, both inclusive; Silas Judson, 1821 to 1823; James Seymour, 1824 to 1825; Joseph Randall, 1826 to 1829; Robert Staples, 1830 to 1835; Samuel H. Davis, 1836 to 1838; Joseph Randall, 1839 to 1840; Nathaniel Palmer, 1841 to 1842; Robert Staples, 1843 to 1847; Humphrey Palmer, 1848; Robert Staples, 1849; Asa Rowe, 1850; Samuel H. Davis, 1851 to 1853; Frederick P. Root, 1854 to 1858; Chauncey S. White, 1859 to 1860; Henry Root, 1861; Thomas Cornes, 1862; Samuel H. Davis, 1863 to 1864; Thomas Cornes, 1865 to 1866; Walter C. Fairbanks, 1867; Luther Gordon, 1868 to 1869; F. F. Capen, 1870 to 1871; E. W. Young, 1872 to 1873; Ira Crawford, 1874 to 1875; and Lucius T. Underhill for 1876.

Other officers are—Town Clerk, Henry C. Hammond; Collector, Charles W. Root; Justices of the Peace, Lucius P. Beadle, Daniel Holmes, John Allen, Ransom Chickering; Assessors, Ezra H. Graves, Charles P. White; Commissioner of Highways, James W. Spencer; Overseers of the Poor, Heman Barlow; Excise Commissioner, George Burrows; Auditors, Francis Haight, W. C. Fairbanks, William H. Roberts; Constables, Edgar B. Fellows, Amos Coats, James S. Pollock, L. E. Andrews, James Mufford; Inspectors of Elections, first district, Asa Rowe, H. L. While, F. F. Capen; second district, William J. Edwards, T. K. Burch, Ransom Chickering.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SWEDEN

was organized at Sweden Centre on September 5, 1816, by a council convened for that purpose, and consisting of the following persons: Rev. Comfort Williams, of Rochester; Rev. Alanson Darwin, of Riga; Rev. Henry Smith, from the Female Missionary Society of Utica; Rev. Elam Clark, from the Youth's Missionary Society of Oneida; Deacon Ward, of Bergen; Deacon Davis, of Parma; Justus Brown and Asahel Finch, also of Parma. The first members were Theda Clark, Abigail Smith, Lydia Lee, Sally Hollister, Lucretia Bennett, Abigail Beedle, Daniel Avery, Elisha Smith, Samuel Blair, Joseph Langdon, Rebecca Cone, Anna Brown, Artemus Lyman, Sarah Stickney, Rosanna Avery, and Silas Judson. Daniel Avery was chosen clerk of the society. The first minister was Josiah Pierson. On January 4, 1819, when the church numbered thirty-three members, Silas Judson was chosen delegate to the Ontario presbytery, and on June 23, 1833, it was received into the presbytery of Rochester, and became a regular Presbyterian church, having been organized as a Congregational church. The first deacon of the church was David Fancher, who was chosen October 6, 1819. The first church building, a wooden structure, was erected in 1821, and dedicated by Rev. Abraham Foreman, previous to which services were held in the school-house at the Centre. The present church edifice was built of brick, completed and consecrated in 1836. The officers of the church are (1876) Joseph Staples, Joseph Sutphen, Samuel V. Way, Chauncey S. White, Horace Chapman, and Wesley Nelson, and the membership eighty-three. The Sabbath-school was organized in the school-house, in 1818 or 1819, of which Dr. Daniel Avery and Calvin Gibbs were superintendents. It now includes one hundred and twenty-four pupils and nine teachers, with Wesley Nelson superintendent. Connected with the school is a library in charge of Charles Ellis, librarian, which was purchased in 1826.

THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF SWEDEN

was organized in the east part of the town, on May 6, 1819, with the following membership, viz.: Rebecca Niles, Daniel Freeman, Nabby Freeman, Joseph Lee,

Rhoda Douglass, Davis Douglass, Patty Lee, Samuel G. Lewis, Hannah Allen, Judah Church, Sarah Lewis, Amos B. Niles, Eunice Cooley, Henry Niles, Nancy Howard, Orrin Case, Olive Lee, Jildin Tennant, Nancy Cooley, Reuben J. Allen, Almy Howard, John Smith, Amy Allen, Barnard M. Howard, Susanna Bently, Samuel Bently, Betsey Phillips, Sybel Case, and Anna Smith. The first clerk was David Douglass. Meetings were held at private houses, when there were no roads, and the way was found by marks on trees, and later, alternately in the north and south school-houses, until the erection of the present church building, in 1835 and 1836. It is a stone structure, located in the east part of the town, at a cost of two thousand eight hundred and forty-nine dollars, and dedicated Wednesday, September 14, 1836, by Elder Coleman, assisted by Elders Putnam and Case. The first pastor of the church was Elder Vining, who began his pastorate June 26, 1819, at an annual salary of seventy dollars. He was succeeded by Elder Arch. Grant, February 9, 1824, at seventy-five dollars; Elder Zenas Case, April 16, 1825, at forty dollars; Elder Willey, January 14, 1831; Elder Zenas Case, 1832; Orson D. Fuller, 1835; Allen Crocker, June 11, 1838; D. Loomis, January 15, 1843; Elder Beckwith, as a supply; Benjamin F. Mace, October 18, 1847, for six months; Elder Norman Thomas, January 20, 1849; Zenas Case, 1856; Winfield Scott, August 5, 1860; and Elder Howard, July 26, 1862. There is no pastor at present, and has not been for thirteen years. The building is out of repair, and not used for worship, though the organization remains in existence, of which M. Cooley is the present clerk.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SWEDEN CENTRE

was organized some time in 1855, in the school-house at the Centre, with forty members. For many years previous a class had existed in this part of the town, and regular services held. The meetings of the society were continued in the school-house until the completion of the present edifice in 1856, which was begun soon after the organization. It was erected at a cost of five thousand dollars, of which one hundred and fifty dollars was furnished by the Ladies' Aid Society, and supplied with an organ at a cost of ninety-five dollars. It was dedicated March 8, 1856. The first pastor was Rev. Joseph Latham, who served two years, and was succeeded by Rev. Rufus Cooley, one year; Sheldon Bowker, one year; John Alabaster, two years; J. B. Wentworth, two years; P. R. Stover, two years; Smith Williams, one year; E. A. Rice, one year; Ryan Smith, one year; William Drake, one year; E. P. Beebe, three years; J. O. Wilsey, one year; J. Rogers, one year; James Wallace, one year; Ira Richards, six months, when he died; and John M. Johns, who is pastor at present. The trustees are Nathan Lock, Chester Hart, and Darwin Stickney. The church is in a flourishing condition, with a membership, at present, of thirty. The Sabbath-school was organized in March, 1856, in the new church building, as soon as completed, and began with fifteen teachers and forty-five pupils. Ichabod Beadle was chosen first superintendent, Mrs. Chester Hart assistant, and Darwin Stickney secretary and librarian. The school now numbers fifty teachers and pupils, of which Orrin Doty is superintendent, Miss Ada Lock assistant, and Miss Frank Ellis secretary and librarian. The library contains one hundred and fifty volumes.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF WEST SWEDEN (DISSOLVED)

was organized in that part of the town, as near as can be ascertained, some time in 1835, through the efforts of Rev. S. M. Chace, of Brockport. The trustees were J. Cook, William Warn, and Nathaniel Fox. The church building was erected in 1836, forty by thirty feet in size, and at a cost of about twelve hundred dollars. It was located at West Sweden, and is still standing. During the years that this society kept together, it changed ministers so often that it is impossible to obtain a complete list. The first pastor was Rev. Philo E. Brown; second, Wallace Lock; third, Rev. Mr. Fellows; fourth, Reuben Frost; and fifth, Rev. Mr. Filmore. Among the succeeding ones were Revs. Judd, Anderson, Kingsley, Abell, and last before dissolution, Rev. Mr. Baker. A flourishing Sabbath-school was organized at the time the church edifice was completed, with Truman Richmond as superintendent. A good library was also established, containing one hundred volumes. This society sprang into existence from a class that had been formed in an early day by members living in this part of the town and the northern part of Bergen, but on account of a modification of religious belief, which, at that time, spread considerably among the Methodist churches of the country, the society became small, and in 1855 dissolved.

THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF WEST SWEDEN

began then to take form from the seceders of the original society. The organization was perfected in the old building, in 1860, by a transfer to it of all the church property belonging to the old organization. This church has no officers,

but transacts all its business in open meeting. It first began with twenty-seven members, and its services are conducted in connection with the society at Brockport, the same minister officiating in West Sweden in the morning, and in Brockport in the afternoon. Its first minister was Rev. John Wells, succeeded by Revs. Moses Downing, Levi Wood, E. Herrick, Geo. Marcellus, Melvin Burritt, A. H. Green, E. P. Sellers, Nathan Brown, Geo. Marcellus, and J. W. Reddy, the present incumbent. The Sabbath-school was organized with the church, in 1860, with about seventy pupils, and a corresponding number of teachers. Loring Hill and Franklin Smith were the first superintendents. It now has eighty pupils and about fifteen teachers. Loring Hill and Frank Cowan are the superintendents at present. The female members of this church wear a peculiar dress, remarkable for its plainness.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH OF SWEDEN AND BERGEN

was organized in the school-house, at West Sweden, January 7, 1835, by delegates from the Baptist churches in Brockport, Byron, Holley, Sweden, Ogden, Le Roy, and Parma. Rev. D. Eldridge was moderator, Rev. Zenas Case clerk, and Rev. Mr. Crane, of Le Roy, preached the sermon. The first members were Rev. John B. Potter, who was also first pastor, Wm. D. Potter, Seneca Anderson, Edmund Spencer, Guy Chapell, John Jennings, James M. Hollister, Lyman Davis, Geo. Davis, Curtis Cook, Shubael H. Reed, Alfred Robinson, Horace Lord, Timothy Baker, Horatio Reed, Susannah Potter, Lucy Anderson, Wealthy Spencer, Cornelia Spencer, Clarissa Chapell, Mary Jennings, Elizabeth Jennings, Eleanor Miller, Julia

Davis, Mary Davis, Abigail Churchill, Sally Adair, Betsey Cook, Sarah H. Reed, Almira Robinson, Melissa Lord, Sally M. Langdon, and Jane G. Reed. First trustees, John Jennings, Edmund Spencer, and Mr. Troop. The first and only deacons were Seneca Anderson and James H. Walker. Horatio Reed was first clerk, and for four years, James M. Hollister fifteen years, and Horatio Reed again and last. Services were held in the school-house at West Sweden until the erection of the church building, which was begun and completed in 1835, and is still standing. It was located at West Sweden, and cost about two thousand four hundred dollars. No corner-stone or dedication services. John B. Potter, the first pastor, occupied the pulpit two years, Martin Coleman twelve years, Rev. Joel Lyon two years, Rev. S. Parsons four years, Rev. Harvey Silliman about three years, and Rev. R. C. Palmer about one year, since whose incumbency there has been no pastor. It has now no officers, and, consequently, no organization. It has only seven members living. Horatio Reed, one of the first members, is the only male member now living. The Sabbath-school was organized when the first meeting was held in the West Sweden school-house, and was composed of nearly all the members, their children, and many others residing in the vicinity. Horatio Reed was the superintendent. There is no school, and has been none for many years. A library was purchased soon after the school was formed, about forty volumes of which are now in possession of Horatio Reed. The church records show two hundred and fifty-eight names. Forty-two died while members, and one hundred and fifty-eight received letters of dismission to other churches, while fifty-one left without letters.

VILLAGE OF BROCKPORT.

In the early settlement of this country, Clarkson village was the most important point west of Rochester, at which centered all travel, business, and enterprise. Situated on the great thoroughfare between Rochester and the Niagara river, the Ridge road, on beautiful ground, surrounded by a rich and fertile country, and already the nucleus of an extensive business, it had all the elements of rapid and permanent growth. But in 1817, when the great Erie canal was projected, it was foreseen by shrewd and sagacious men that wherever it should cross the Lake road, then a highway of much travel, there would be a central business point. As soon as the canal was surveyed, and its location fixed at this place, enterprising men bought out the early settlers, and prepared for the accommodation of a business sure to spring up. That portion of the village ground lying west of the Lake road was purchased by Hiel Brockway of John Phelps for thirteen dollars per acre. The east part, from the town line to Market street, was bought by James Seymour of Rufus Hammond for seven dollars per acre. The southeast corner, from Market street to Parkes' farm, was bought of Benj. Knight by James Seymour, Abel Baldwin, and Myron Holley. Those lands bordering on the road were surveyed into village lots, and building commenced in 1822, by Hiel Brockway, James Seymour, Joshua Fields, Luke Webster, John G. Davis, and Charles Richardson. Hiel Brockway was the largest owner of village land and commanded the most means, and, by common consent, gave name to the place. He was a man of great enterprise and business capacity, and to build up the town, and add to the value of property, he offered liberal terms to those who would erect buildings. He also gave lots for the erection of churches, and, some years later, grounds for a college.

The village of Brockport was incorporated and charter adopted in 1829, pursuant to an act that passed the legislature April 6, the same year. The first officers elected are not now known, as the early records are all lost. In 1852 the charter was remodeled. A board of five trustees constituted the village government until the adoption of the present charter, on June 25, 1872. The first election under the new charter was on July 26, 1872, when the following officers were chosen, viz.: President, Luther Gordon; Trustees, G. H. Allen, Edgar Brown, and Samuel Johnson; Treasurer, J. H. Kingsbury; Collector, John Short; Clerk, Wm. G. Raines; Street Commissioner, B. H. Halsey; Police Constable, David Bennett. The president for 1873 was J. H. Kingsbury; for 1874, M. O. Randall; 1875, James Cotter, Jr.; and the officers for 1876 were—President, M. M. Oliver; Trustees, A. G. Boyd, Daniel Paine, Ezra N. Hill, and Pat. Donnellan; Treasurer, J. H. Kingsbury; Assessors, E. H. Graves, Wm. H. Roberts, and Chas. Benedict; Collector, Edgar Brown; Clerk, John D. Burns; Street Commissioner, David Toaz; Police Constables, E. B. Fellows, Jas. Mufford, and L. Andrews; Board of Health, M. M. Oliver, President, C. M. Winslow, Wm. Bradford, and Dr. Wm. B. Mann, Health Physician.

The first fire company, called No. 1, was organized July 9, 1832, with thirty-four members, and disbanded November 10, 1835. On the same day No. 1 was reorganized with thirty members. On July 4, 1837, No. 2, with twenty-five members, was formed; and on May 28, 1838, Davis Carpenter was chosen chief engineer, and Geo. P. Eddy assistant engineer. On June 3, 1843, Hook-and-Ladder Company disbanded. In the same year the fire department was reorganized, as follows, viz.: Chief Engineer, Davis Carpenter; Assistant Engineer, John Efler; Fire Wardens, Seth L. King, Harry Backus, Samuel Kingsbury, Roswel Smith, and Oliver Landon. Water Witch, No. 1, with twenty-five members, Geo. B. Aloone, foreman, and Jas. Elliott, assistant, was organized 1843, and disbanded April 25, 1847. Fire Company No. 2, with twenty-two members, G. Whitney, foreman, was formed, and disbanded same as No. 1. Hook-and-Ladder Company No. 1, with twenty members, Thos. Buckley, foreman, and Geo. H. Allen, assistant, was formed in 1843. Empire Hook-and-Ladder Company, with twenty-four members, A. F. Brainard, foreman, was organized April 18, 1846, and disbanded May 8, 1848. Fire Company No. 2, "Conqueror," with twenty-one members, John A. Latta, foreman, was formed September 1, 1847. "Conqueror," No. 2, May 21, 1850, and others, reorganized. The fire department was kept up in effective working order until about 1862 or '63, when, the engines getting well worn, all the companies were disbanded, and Brockport has been without any fire department since.

PROMINENT MEN.

Among the prominent men of Brockport, James Seymour was the first sheriff of Monroe County, which office he held five years. In 1827, Mr. — Storms, the first practicing lawyer of Brockport, was elected to the legislature. In 1833, Levi Pond, a pioneer, was elected to the legislature by the anti-Mason party; and in 1837 H. P. Norton was elected to the same office, and in 1856 was elected surrogate of Monroe County. In 1844, one of Brockport's ablest and most successful business men, E. B. Holmes, after a heated campaign, was elected to Congress as a representative from the twenty-eighth district, and was re-elected two years later. He served honorably to himself and his constituents. In 1853, Dr. Davis Carpenter, of large professional practice, was elected a member of Congress from this district. He acquitted himself with integrity of purpose, and was true to the principles of the party which elected him. In 1842, Jerome Fuller was elected a member of the State legislature. Mr. Fuller emigrated from Litchfield county, Connecticut, and settled in Brockport in 1835, where he early gained a high reputation at the bar. In 1847 he was elected to the State senate, where he became distinguished as a statesman. In 1850 he removed to Albany, and established the *State Register*, a political paper, which he conducted until the fall of 1851. He was then appointed chief-justice of Minnesota. He returned to Brockport in 1852, and resumed the practice of law, and in 1867 was elected a delegate to the State convention. In the fall of the same year he was chosen to the judgeship of Monroe County. Serving a term of four years with eminent distinction, he was re-elected in 1871 for a term of six years, which he is now serving. In 1838, Joseph Randall, of Sweden, was chosen a member of the legislature, and also, in 1857, Robert Staples, of Sweden, was elected, and re-elected the year after, and served with credit and ability.

It was designed in 1823 to make Rochester the western terminus of the Erie canal until the slow and difficult work of cutting through the great ledge at Lockport was effected, especially as the section west of the Genesee river was to be supplied with water from Lake Erie. But through the personal efforts of James Seymour with the canal commissioners it was opened twenty miles farther west, making Brockport the western terminus, and supplied with water from the river. This gave Brockport two years' sway of unrivaled growth and prosperity as the central shipping and business point of an immense section of country north, west, and south. The opening of the canal to this point was in itself a great epoch in the history of western New York. The value of farm produce was doubled by the cheapness of transportation, and merchandise was greatly cheapened by the same cause, while an inexhaustible market was opened to the farmer. In 1825, when the canal was opened through to Buffalo, Brockport, as an important manufacturing and business centre, was assured, and its subsequent history is replete with great enterprises, noted and successful business men, and large wealth.

The first lawyer in Brockport was Mr. Bender, who came in 1823. The first to practice was Mr. Storms, and the next Daniel Burroughs. The first physician was Andrew Millican, who also began practice in 1823. Davis Carpenter was second, commencing in 1824. He is now, and has been, a practicing physician in Brockport for over half a century. Joseph Webster and James Clarke opened the first grocery store, and John B. Elliott was the first druggist. James Seymour built the first brick store, twenty-eight by sixty feet in size, where the Decker bank building now stands. He also built one of the first dwelling-houses, now owned by Mrs. Taylor, corner of State and Market streets. He constructed the first canal-basin and warehouse, in 1823, on land now occupied by D. S. Morgan & Co. Thomas H. Roby was president of the first bank, established in 1838, and Joseph Ganson the first cashier. This bank was opened on the east side of Main street, in the Fields block. In 1840 or 1841 the bank was purchased by John E. Nichols, who became president, when it was removed to the west side into a building owned by E. B. Holmes. It wound up its business in 1846 or 1847. The first store in the village was opened by Charles Richardson, and James Seymour in his new brick store and John G. Davis opened immediately after; also Ralph W. Gould, Thomas R. Roby, and George Allen the next season. The first public-house in the village was kept by Jesse

Barber. Of the residents at the commencement of the village, in 1822, but two are now living here, and but six who were here in 1826. Prices were low compared with the present, but usually in relative proportion to the cost of living. Labor was about half present prices, and board from one dollar to one dollar and seventy-five cents per week. Whisky, an indispensable article in those days, was eighteen cents per gallon, and "drinks" of "old rye" three cents. Merchants found it necessary to keep it to treat their customers, and grocery-men to keep it as an article of trade as important as coffee or sugar. But the temperance reform of 1829 and 1830 brought a change in public sentiment, and in a measure broke up the custom. Farm produce was also cheap,—the best wheat fifty to seventy-five cents, oats twenty-five cents, corn thirty-seven and a half cents per bushel, and pork and beef two dollars and a half to four dollars per hundred. Lumber eight dollars to ten dollars, and brick three dollars per thousand. Mechanics received one dollar to one dollar and a half, and common laborers sixty-two and a half to seventy-five cents per day, or twelve dollars per month. Articles of foreign production were dear, while home manufactures were cheap.

NEWSPAPERS.

The first newspaper started in Brockport was called the *Brockport Free Press*. It was established by Harris & Hyatt, and was first issued December 6, 1827, with Thomas H. Hyatt as editor. The second was the *Brockport Recorder*, first issued January 9, 1828, and edited by Abiathar M. Harris. The third newspaper was the *Monroe Republican*, Warren & Reilley, proprietors, first issued May 30, 1833. On June 17, 1835, two years later, J. O. Balch established *The Jeffersonian* at Clarkson village, one mile north, which lived about one year, and then died. The fourth newspaper established in Brockport was the *Branchport Sentinel*, J. & J. H. Denio, proprietors, and first issued June 16, 1843. On May 30, 1844, the *Brockport Watchman* was established, and issued by Edwin T. Bridges, and was the next in order. The *Brockport Weekly Journal*, first issued September 3, 1852, was the sixth, and was owned by W. Gardner & H. H. Miller; and on October 30, 1858, the seventh weekly paper, the *Brockport Gazette*, was first issued by William Haswell (2d). These seven weekly journals are all now defunct. Some flourished a short and some a longer time, and all filled their mission as pioneers in journalism, preparing the way for a higher, better, and more successful press, and then passed out of existence. The *Brockport Republic* was established and first issued October 17, 1856, by Horatio N. Beach, editor and proprietor. On July 1, 1871, L. T. Beach became proprietor and local editor, with H. N. Beach still associated as political editor. It is still under the same management, a substantial and well-conducted journal, independent in politics, though favoring the Republican party. The *Brockport Democrat* was started July 21, 1870, by Williams & Brink. On the fifth issue, Charles H. Brink succeeded to the proprietorship. Two months later, the paper was issued by Mahon & Brink. Two weeks later, A. D. Mahon assumed charge. In November, 1871, Johnson Brigham became a partner. In May, 1873, A. D. Mahon retired. In August, 1874, C. Marsh purchased it of Mr. Brigham, and published it as the *Democrat and Standard*. In September, 1874, C. & G. F. Marsh assumed charge. The following month George F. Marsh became proprietor, and continued the paper as the *Democrat*. He published it until June of this year, when the firm C. & G. F. Marsh once more assumed charge, and are still publishing it. It is ably conducted and independent in politics. In 1859 W. H. H. Smith established a small daily advertising sheet for gratuitous circulation, called the *Daily Advertiser*, for the benefit of, and supported by, the business men of the town. It was issued very irregularly, and after a few years perished. On August 12, 1875, *The Temperance Times*, a weekly journal, was established by Mrs. Carrie N. Thomas, editor. It is still conducted and maintained by Mrs. Thomas, with the aid of the Women's Temperance League.

MANUFACTURES.

Manufacturing early drew the attention of the enterprising men of Brockport. In the year 1828, Harry Bachus and Joseph Ganson established an iron foundry in a building now standing and used as a dwelling in the rear of the Episcopal church on State street. About 1830 they removed to the grounds now occupied by the Johnston Harvester Company, north of the canal, on Main street. Here the firm changed to Bachus, Webster & Co., and later to Balch, Webster & Co. Then a few years after to Bachus, Burroughs & Co., and again to Bachus, Fitch & Co. This firm commenced as pioneers in the manufacture of threshing machines, with improved machinery, and horse-power to run them; the stationary machines being the only ones in use up to this time. It was also the first to introduce into this section the McCormick grain-reaper, which led finally to the extensive manufacture of reapers, and added largely to the business of the town. It was through this firm that Cyrus McCormick was first induced to make a trial

at Brockport of his rudely constructed reaper in 1844. So well did it succeed that the firm arranged with McCormick one hundred machines for 1846, which, however, failed to give satisfaction, and were nearly all returned. Improvements, which experience suggested, finally enabled them to manufacture in after-years a successful machine. In 1846, Mr. Bachus, who had been at the head of the business for many years, retired, and the firm was changed to Fitch, Barry & Co, who after a few years were succeeded by Silliman, Bowman & Co. In 1851 or 1852 the firm again changed to Ganson, Huntley & Co., and a considerable business was done in the manufacture of reapers,—the Palmer & Williams machine. This was the first self-raking reaper used in this section, though it was a combination of the invention of the quadrant platform, patented by W. H. Seymour, and the sweep rake patented by Aaron Palmer. These two inventions together made the first successful automatic raking reaper known to have been used. Great improvements have since been made, until now machines manufactured here have a world-wide reputation, having been awarded the first prizes in all the great trials in Europe and America. In 1868 these shops passed into the hands of Samuel Johnston, an inventor, and Byron E. Huntley, a former partner, who commenced the manufacture of the Johnston harvester. Beginning moderately, the business rapidly increased until November, 1870, when a stock company was formed, with a capital of three hundred thousand dollars, known as the Johnston Harvester Company. Samuel Johnston was chosen president, and B. E. Huntley secretary and treasurer. In 1871 five hundred machines were manufactured, and the demand abroad increasing, Mr. Huntley was assigned as general agent to Europe, and F. S. Stebbins made secretary and treasurer. In 1872 sixteen hundred machines were made, and the foreign and home demand has so rapidly increased since that from five thousand to six thousand are now yearly manufactured. It now has a capital of five hundred thousand dollars, employs over five hundred men, and fills orders from England, France, Germany, Holland, Austria, Russia, Turkey, Prussia, Hungary, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Africa, New Zealand, and South America. In September, 1875, the present board of officers were elected: Charles E. Dewey, president; Hon. James S. Thayer, of New York, vice-president; F. S. Stebbins, secretary and treasurer; and B. E. Huntley, general foreign agent, with office at London, England. It is a matter of national pride that American skill has so far outstripped the inventions of the world that all enlightened nations are calling upon our manufacturers for this most important and useful machine.

In the year 1844 a second foundry and machine-shop was established, in the east and central part of the village, by William H. Seymour and Thomas R. Roby. But business was hardly begun when Dayton S. Morgan, a young man of enterprise and ability, bought Mr. Roby's interest, and the firm became Seymour & Morgan. Mr. Seymour had been favorably known in the business affairs of Brockport ever since its first start, in 1822,—first a clerk, then a partner, and finally successor of his brother James in the mercantile business. The new firm began moderately in the manufacture of stoves and farm implements. In 1846 it began the manufacture of the McCormick reaper,—the same year that Backus, Fitch & Co. undertook the same enterprise,—and built and sold one hundred machines the first year. (They were the first one hundred successful harvesting machines known to have been manufactured in the world.) During this experience the necessity of improvements was learned, and in 1849 the firm constructed an improved machine, called the "New Yorker." About this time Mr. Seymour had invented and patented some valuable improvements in automatic raking, especially the quadrant platform, which no subsequent invention has been able to supersede or evade. In 1852 a self-raking reaper was built by Seymour & Morgan, and another by Palmer & Williams, which differed somewhat in construction, but each possessing important principles essential to a perfect machine. Both were manufactured by Seymour & Morgan. These were the first self-raking reapers made successful in this country or elsewhere. These patents were subsequently consolidated in one machine, each party holding specified interests. They were renewed by act of Congress in 1866, and many manufacturers of reapers have paid royalty to them. In 1853, George H. Allen became a partner in the firm, which was then known as Seymour, Morgan & Allen, and continued until 1873. In 1873-74 a new reaper, combining important improvements, which experience had taught to be necessary in a perfect machine, to overcome difficulties in all conditions of grain, was made, called the "Triumph." This is the consummation of the forty years' experience, the skill and genius of the firm, and its complete success is attested by the rapidity with which it is being supplied to the farmers of the surrounding country. Seymour & Co. have done, and are doing, an extensive business, building at times three thousand reapers in a single season, and are justly renowned as the first to introduce the American Harvester to the world, the first to manufacture a successful hand-raking reaper, the inventors and first to bring into use the successful automatic raking reaper, and the inventors and builders of the "Triumph."

George F. Barnett, one of the oldest residents of Brockport, and for several years superintendent in the manufactory of Seymour & Morgan, associated with George B. Whiteside as a partner in business, and commenced the manufacture of a general assortment and variety of agricultural implements and castings in 1850. Their factory is located in the west part of the village, and is doing an extensive and successful business.

Silas Hardy began the manufacture of sleighs and carriages in 1822, on the east side of Main street, south of the canal, which was continued extensively until his death, in 1838; after which it passed into other hands for a short time, or until purchased by John Smith & Co., in 1839. The new firm commenced the manufacture of furniture, and has continued to the present, though largely extended. In 1864 their shops were destroyed by fire, and they removed their factory to a place north of the canal, and in the west part of the village, while a substantial brick block was erected on the old grounds. On the removal of the factory the facilities for manufacturing were so much enlarged that the retail trade was abandoned and the wholesale only retained.

Isaac Barnes began in an early day the manufacture of carriages, in the west part of the village, and conducted it successfully until 1862, when his failing health obliged him to abandon it. A. Boyd & Bro. have since conducted it.

BOAT-BUILDING.

Among the different branches of manufacturing in the early days of Brockport not the least prominent was that of boat-building. Before railroads the packet-boats on the canal afforded the most comfortable and speedy mode of travel. Though at a less rate of speed than the ordinary stage, by running day and night a greater distance was attained. A daily line of boats had been established between Rochester and Albany, connecting with stage lines on the Ridge and Buffalo roads, when Mr. Hiel Brockway, seizing the favorable opportunity, built and equipped in fine taste a number of packets, and in 1828 launched them, and established a daily line through to Buffalo. Mr. Brockway afterwards, connected with E. B. Holmes, followed boat-building several years, which, with the line of packets, became a great source of wealth to them and prosperity to Brockport. In 1839 or 1840 Elias B. Holmes established a new and independent line, called "The Opposition," which reduced the profits very much,—to the gain, however, of the patrons. The completion of the Rochester and Niagara Falls Railroad in 1850 destroyed the business of the canal packets, and all lines were discontinued. Manufacturing has been the prominent interest in Brockport, to which it owes its past and present prosperity.

OCCUPATIONS.

The occupations followed, and the number of houses engaged in each, in Brockport are as follows, viz., nine physicians, seven clergymen, ten lawyers, two reaper and mower manufactories, one of agricultural implements, one of cabinet ware, three cooperage, one gas manufactory, two lumber manufacturers and dealers, two of marble, two of carriages, five of boots and shoes, four of clothing, three of harness, two of hats and caps, four dressmakers, three justices of the peace, four blacksmith-shops, two dentists, three dealers in flour and feed, four produce dealers' firms, one furniture establishment, two undertakers, four barbers, four restaurants, two hair-dressers, five insurance agents, five hotel-keepers, one bank of discount, one national bank, two photographers, three meat markets, one fish market, two bakeries, one confectionery, three livery stables, two jewelers, three druggists, fifteen groceries, four dry goods, four hardware, two dealers in farm implements, eighteen liquor stores, five fruit dealers, one express agency, two telegraph offices, one fruit-canning, five milliners, one whip-maker, one glove-maker, three printing offices.

THE BROCKPORT UNION AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

was organized in October, 1859, with Hon. E. B. Holmes, president, H. N. Beach, secretary, and Thomas Cornes, treasurer. It leased sixteen acres in the southeast part of the town, for ten years, of Lorenzo Porter and Humphrey Palmer, and constructed one of the finest half-mile tracks in the State. At the expiration of the lease, being unable to secure an extension of the owners, or to purchase the property, it was disbanded, which took place in October, 1869. The last officers were H. W. Seymour, president, Daniel Holmes, secretary, and O. B. Avery, treasurer. Hon. E. B. Holmes was president for five years, L. D. Babcock three years, and H. W. Seymour two years.

THE BROCKPORT CENTENNIAL RELIEF CLUB

was organized July 1, 1876, with seventy-five members, and the following officers: George Norton, president; J. W. Larkins, vice-president; Charles Hallam, recording secretary; C. H. Ginther, financial secretary; Solomon Kitner, treasurer; William Henrich, Jr., messenger.

BROCKPORT COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.

In the year 1832 or 1833, the Baptist Association of Western New York resolved to establish a college at some point west of Rochester, where the greatest inducement should be offered in the way of local aid towards its erection. Commissioners being appointed to receive proposals and determine location, Hiel Brockway offered to donate six acres of land for college grounds, and three thousand dollars in money. Others offered liberally, and after considerable strife between it, Le Roy, and Warsaw, this place was successful, having offered the greatest inducements. Subscriptions were circulated in western New York, more especially among the Baptist people, and a sufficient amount raised to induce the building committee to commence the erection of the building. In 1834 the work was begun, and pushed rapidly until the building was inclosed, but not without incurring a large indebtedness. In 1835 or 1836 a portion was completed, and a school opened in a collegiate course, with Professor Morse as principal. The great indebtedness very much embarrassed the association, creditors holding mortgages on the property for a large amount of money. Times grew worse, changing to a financial panic throughout the country, and the association found it impossible to complete the building and to maintain a college according to the original plan. In 1836 the association, failing to meet the mortgage then due, lost the building through a foreclosure sale, it falling into the hands of Philemon Allen, a contractor, who, soon after, failed himself, when the property passed to his assignees. The school was closed, as it could no longer be maintained, and Brockport college was known no more, the building becoming literally a harbor for beasts. The Baptist society of Brockport having charge of its erection had also failed, and the original design of establishing a college at this place appeared to have become impossible. But the enterprise of Brockport could not allow an institution of that character to be lost forever for the want of proper effort, or a structure which had already cost so much money to sink into decay. On August 19, 1841, the citizens of Brockport met to consider the feasibility of purchasing the buildings and grounds, which were offered for three thousand eight hundred dollars, and of completing the original design of establishing a collegiate institute at this place. It was proposed to create a fund by issuing certificates of stock, in shares of twenty-five dollars, making each holder a part owner of the property. One hundred and fifty-eight shares were taken by forty-four persons, ranging from two to eight each, and amounting to three thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars. On September 12, following, a board of twenty-four trustees were elected as follows, viz.: Rev. B. B. Stockton, T. R. Chapen, H. Backus, R. W. Gould, E. B. Holmes, S. H. Davis, Joseph Ganson, F. P. Root, John Efner, J. A. Latta, William Downs, Joseph Roby, W. H. Seymour, J. H. Nichols, S. G. Williams, A. W. Cary, George Allen, F. W. Brewster, William Barry, H. Brockway, I. Joslyn, D. Burroughs, Jr., T. R. Roby, and A. Fitch. Two others were subsequently chosen, W. E. Skidmore and Peter Sutphen, and Israel Starks to fill vacancy. J. Ganson was elected clerk, but no president was chosen until July 5, 1842, when T. R. Roby was chosen. It was resolved that, as the Baptist denomination had expended much money in the enterprise, if at any time within ten years they could raise sufficient funds to maintain a church college, and pay the three thousand eight hundred dollars, it should be transferred to that society. A loan was procured on the property, and a subscription raised to complete the building and improve the grounds. The institution was then incorporated as a collegiate institute, and Julius Bates, A. B., formerly a teacher in Gaines (Orleans county) Academy, was engaged as principal for a term of four years, at an annual salary of eight hundred dollars. The other teachers in the institute during the first year were Oliver Morehouse, J. O. Wilson, J. R. Wilson, David Black, Mrs. N. A. Bradley, Mary Mortimer, Francis Colier, Mrs. R. Morehouse, Miss C. Thurston, and Eliza McCarty. The term began November 4, 1842. Mrs. Bates took control of the house and all the internal management. On January 3, 1843, E. B. Holmes was elected president of the board of trustees, George Allen, vice-president, J. Ganson, secretary, and John H. Nichols, treasurer. Two thousand five hundred dollars additional stock was raised, at twenty-five dollars per share, and a donation of eight hundred and eighty-four dollars from the citizens of the town. The number of the students rapidly increased, and the fame of the school spread abroad, and it was soon classed among the first institutions of the kind in the State. For the years 1844 and 1845, R. W. Gould was made vice-president, and T. R. Roby treasurer, the other officers remaining unchanged.

On the 27th of October, 1845, Julius Bates, the principal, in the height of his success was stricken down with death, and arrangements were immediately made for Professor Morehouse, one of the teachers, to take the management as principal, and Mrs. Bates to continue in charge of the boarding department; and the school was conducted to the end of the term with the same efficiency as under Mr. Bates. In November following Jerome Fuller was elected a mem-

ber of the board in place of George Allen, deceased, and on July 14, 1846, was elected president, the other officers continuing. At the end of the term Professor Morehouse resigned, and Jacob C. Tooker became principal until the close of 1849, when J. G. K. Trinar was called to that position, Mrs. Bates still in charge of the boarding department. Under this management the school was conducted with great success and gave general satisfaction. In May, 1853, Mr. Trinar resigned, and Mr. N. P. Stanton and wife, from Buffalo, took charge, the former as principal and the latter as assistant. Under the new régime the school sprang into new activity, and a more than common prosperity prevailed. On January 11, 1854, the board of trustees elected E. Whitney president, B. Densmore vice-president, C. E. Mott secretary, and H. Lathrop treasurer. The school had now attained its highest efficiency, celebrated far and wide, when on Sunday, April 2, 1854, at eleven A.M., while the citizens were at church, they were startled by a great uproar, and, rushing out, beheld their institute wrapped in flames, which, by two P.M., was completely razed to the ground. The school of course was broken up, the students scattered and connected with other institutions, and but little hope remained that the Brockport Institute would ever be re-established. The salaries of the teachers for the first year under Mr. Bates amounted to two thousand two hundred and five dollars; for 1845, for six teachers, to two thousand five hundred dollars,—eight hundred dollars the highest, and Phebe Baker's the lowest, three hundred dollars. Board in the institution was first one dollar and twenty-five cents per week, but in 1852 it was raised to one dollar and forty cents per week to make it self-supporting. On the next morning after the fire the trustees met and came to the determination to rebuild as soon as possible, and with little delay the work was begun under the direction of the former principal, Mr. Stanton, who had been already engaged on liberal terms for a period of years to take charge of the school. On November 1, 1855, it was announced that the institution would be opened on Tuesday, November 27, 1855, under the immediate supervision of N. B. Stanton, Jr., A.M., assisted by a full and able corps of teachers. But meanwhile Mr. Stanton was elected to the State legislature, and was compelled to resign. The trustees had incurred an indebtedness of about ten thousand dollars, and to meet it eight thousand dollars was obtained by mortgage on the property from the University of Rochester, and a second mortgage of two thousand dollars given to David Burbank for that sum loaned, he to become principal for ten years, on complying with specified terms and agreements. The school was opened pursuant to notice, with E. J. Pickett, Simon Tucker, Sarah M. Schoonmaker, and Abbie B. Burt as assistants. On December 23, 1856, the people of Brockport assembled in the college chapel for the purpose of dedicating to the cause of education the new Brockport Collegiate Institute, just completed. The dedicatory address was delivered by President Andrews, of the Rochester University; and Mr. Whitney, on the part of the trustees, stated that the main building was four stories high, divided into one hundred and eighty-two rooms, fifty by sixty feet area, with two wings, each forty by seventy feet area, giving a continuous length of two hundred feet, with the cost of all, including the grounds, of thirty thousand dollars. The school flourished under Mr. Burbank, and became one of the most popular in the State, though he failed to make it a success financially; and on April 9, 1861, he asked the board of trustees to release him from his contract, which, however, was refused. On June 7, 1861, he transferred his rights and interests to P. J. Williams, A.M., of Marion College Institute, assisted by Professor Malcolm McVicar, Mr. Spencer, and Miss Dornberg. Much trouble was experienced in meeting the payments of interest on the mortgage, which, in 1862, had to be raised by subscription. In consequence of this embarrassment, Professor Williams resigned January 14, 1863, and Professor McVicar was employed, on condition that he should be released from paying the interest on the indebtedness. At the end of the year he also resigned, and Professor Morehouse engaged, which, however, was rescinded, and Professor McVicar reinstated, with the agreement that rents and tuition should be raised. But embarrassments continued to exist, foreclosures were commenced, and there seemed to be no resource left whereby the institution could be maintained. A department had been established in connection with the institute devoted expressly to the training of teachers for common schools, which had become popular; and as an act had passed the legislature, April 16, 1866, authorizing the location of four more normal schools, application was made by the board of trustees for the location of one in Brockport, in connection with the academic department. Application was also made by other localities. It was required that suitable buildings should be furnished and deeded to the State before the school would be established. In this locality Geneseo and Brockport became the contestants. The former offered to erect buildings worth fifty thousand dollars and deed to the State. Brockport voted to raise fifty thousand dollars to purchase the institute buildings and erect additions, making the whole worth one hundred and ten thousand dollars, and deed to the State, reserving, however, a portion as an academic department.

NORMAL SCHOOL.

The contest was fierce in Albany, but finally decided in favor of Brockport, and confirmed by act of legislature in March, 1867. On the 21st of March, the same year, the last meeting of the board of trustees of the institute was held, at which all right, title, and interests of the board were transferred to the village, and thence to the State. On the 29th of the same month Hon. Victor M. Rice, State superintendent of public instruction, appointed a local board to manage the affairs of the school, as follows: Rochester, M. B. Anderson; Brockport, Jerome Fuller, Thomas Cornes, William H. Seymour, A. F. Brainerd, B. E. Huntley, Daniel Holmes, J. A. Latta, Timothy Frye, J. D. Decker, and Joseph Tozier; Clarkson, Elijah Criswell. Jerome Fuller was chosen president, Daniel Holmes secretary, and J. D. Decker treasurer. The normal school was formally opened April 17, 1867, with the subjoined faculty installed: Malcolm McVicar, A.M., principal; Oliver Avery, A.M., professor of natural sciences; Mrs. H. E. G. Arey, preceptress; Misses Helen Roby, Lucy A. Mead, Sarah Efner, Martha Starks, and Mrs. F. C. Alling, department teachers; Charles D. McLean, L.L.B., professor of mathematics; William J. Milne, professor of academic department; Misses Lucina J. Grant, Sarah M. Haskell, Jennie M. Thompson, C. Minerva Chriswell, and Libbie S. Richmond, assistant teachers. On the 29th of June, 1868, Professor McVicar resigned, and was succeeded by Professor C. D. McLean as principal, with Mrs. W. C. Sylla as preceptress, with fourteen assistants, including the academic department. In 1867, \$4034.03 was received from the State for the normal department, and \$650 from tuition in the academic. In 1868, \$14,734.21 were received for the former, and \$4797.60 for the latter. In 1870 the total receipts were \$20,209.79; in 1871, \$29,943.64; in 1872, \$26,585.18; in 1873, \$21,200.50; in 1874, \$20,027.71; and in 1875, \$20,829.25. The number of pupils in the normal department in 1867 was one hundred and forty; in 1868, one hundred and fifty-nine; whole number in both departments, four hundred and fifteen. In 1869, in the normal, two hundred and fifty-four, with twenty graduates. In 1873 the whole number in attendance was nine hundred and eighty-three, of which three hundred and forty-six were in the normal. In 1874, total number, eight hundred and seventy-one; in the normal, two hundred and ninety-one; and in 1875 the total number was eight hundred and eighty-six, and three hundred and twenty-five in the normal. Total number of graduates up to this time, one hundred and nineteen. In 1872 a special appropriation of three thousand dollars was made by the State. The value of the buildings and grounds was then estimated at one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars; the furniture at five thousand seven hundred and ninety-five dollars; and the library and apparatus at ten thousand eight hundred and nineteen dollars.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF BROCKPORT.

The first society of this church was organized December 10, 1827, by the Rev. John Copeland, in the academy, which then occupied the site of the present Baptist church. Previous to its organization religious services in connection with the circuit had been held in a private house, then in a hotel, but after that event, and until the construction of their first church edifice a year later, at the academy. Among the first members were Luke Webster, Silas Hardy and Mrs. Hardy, Barney Mead and Mrs. Mead, Caleb Kingsbury, Prime B. Hill, and Marietta Smith, the latter the only original member now living. The first pastor was John Copeland, one of the fathers of the old Genesee conference. The original board of trustees were Silas Hardy, Henry Ketcham, Henry Jones, Richmond Tuttle, Hasting R. Bender, and Samuel Kingsbury; the first stewards, Luke Webster, Peletiah Rogers, Barnhart Mead, and Silas Hardy; and the first class-leaders, John Hewett, Caleb Kingsbury, and Silas Hardy. Loring Grant was presiding elder; Barney Mead the first local preacher. Their first church building was erected in 1828. This was the first church edifice of any denomination ever erected in Brockport. It was a brick structure, located on the north side of Market street east of the post-office, constructed under the supervision of Richmond Tuttle, at a cost of three thousand dollars, and dedicated in January, 1829, by Rev. Abner Chase.

In the spring of 1875 successful measures were inaugurated for the construction of a more commodious and imposing edifice. The old structure and lot were sold to John A. Latta for three thousand dollars; a subscription of ten thousand dollars was raised; a lot on the corner of Main and Erie streets purchased for four thousand five hundred dollars; plans and specifications procured of Warner & Cutler, architects, of Rochester; and the contract of building awarded to Mr. Wilkinson, of Honeoye Falls, for eleven thousand dollars. It is now in process of construction,—a magnificent brick structure, costing, with lot and furnishing, seventeen thousand five hundred dollars.

Meanwhile, on the last Sunday in May, 1875, the last religious services were held in the old church, which, with its sacred memories of over forty y

forever deserted, and since then the services have been conducted in the Free-Will Baptist church. On August 8, 1876, the ceremonies of laying the corner-stone of their new structure occurred, under the direction of Dr. Dennis, the present pastor, who placed the box with the records beneath the stone. Addresses were also made by Rev. A. D. Wilbur and Rev. T. J. Leak, of Rochester. The present board of trustees are Hiram Miner, Elijah E. Chiswell, Edgar A. Spring, Robert Fellows, William Bradford, Gurden Richards, and George B. Lewis.

There have been thirty pastors of the church, as follows, viz.: John Copeland, Joseph Atwell, Chester V. Adgate, Richard Wright, Manly Tooker, William H. Goodwin, Edward Bannister, Gideon D. Perry, H. R. Smith, Chauncey G. Baker, Joseph T. Arnold, Samuel C. Church, Philo E. Brown, Amos Hard, S. D. W. Chase, Henry Hiscock, Seymour A. Baker, E. M. Buck, William S. Tuttle, William Kendall, Isaac Kingsley, B. T. Roberts, E. A. Rice, Peter Stover, J. N. Simkins, J. B. Wentworth, John A. Copeland, J. H. Rogers, J. C. Hitchcock, and John Dennis. The present membership of the church is one hundred and sixty-five.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BROCKPORT

was organized April 28, 1828, in an old school-house which stood on the corner of Main and Holley streets. It first bore the name of the "Baptist Conference in Brockport," but on the 12th of June following was reorganized as a regular Baptist church by a council of delegates, convened for the purpose, from the churches of Sweden, Ogden, Parma, Murray, Wheatland, and Greece. On August 9, of the same year, the first pastor, Elder J. R. Dodge, was called, to date from June 22. In 1830 a church building was erected on the same lot, and a few feet back of the old school-house, in which the church continued to hold services. It was built of brick, forty-five by sixty feet in size, with basement above ground, and surmounted by a square frame belfry, all at a cost of about three thousand dollars. It stood on a hill back from and elevated above the street, on the site of an old burial-ground. Its first reported membership was fifty-eight in 1829, and its highest one hundred and ninety-five in 1834. On the 10th day of March, 1839, nearly eleven years after its first formation, through a serious defection, this church was dissolved. During its short life it had four pastors—J. R. Dodge, 1828 to 1830; Henry Davis, 1830 to 1833; Daniel Eldridge, 1833 to 1835; and Benjamin Putnam, 1835 to 1837.

THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF BROCKPORT

was first organized as a Baptist conference from the members of the disbanded church, on the same day of its dissolution, March 10, 1839. On September 1, 1841, this conference, with a membership of thirty-two, was reorganized as the "Second Baptist Church of Brockport," by a council of delegates from the churches of Sweden, Albion, Rochester, Parma, Holley, Ogden, Byron, and Stafford. It purchased the church building of the former church, and in 1842 employed its first pastor, Rev. I. Clark. On November 26 of the same year it adopted the first resolution against the use of intoxicating liquors. It attained its highest membership, two hundred and fifty-four, in 1852. In 1857 a number of members were dismissed to organize a new church in Hamlin, and the special care of the institution of learning restored to the Baptist denomination. In 1863 the old edifice was taken down, the hill leveled, and the present edifice, forty-five by one hundred and nine feet in size, was erected at a cost of about ten thousand dollars. Meanwhile, worship was conducted in the Free-Will Baptist church. On September 23, 1864, the corner-stone was laid, in which were deposited records of the Baptist, Presbyterian, and Methodist churches, of the Collegiate Institute, and the village; a list of volunteers from Sweden; copies of the *Republic*, *Watchman and Advertiser*; of the *New York Chronicle and Examiner*; the *Pathfinder*; photograph of the old church, and a Confederate one-dollar bill and shiplaster. The services were conducted by Rev. Mr. Walden, B. R. Swick, and others. The pastors were, in regular order, I. Clark, W. Metcalf, C. N. Chandler, W. H. Douglass, J. H. Walden, E. C. Mitchell, E. Nisbet, P. J. Williams, F. F. Emerson, E. Mills, and A. M. Prentice, the present pastor, called in 1874. The present deacons are S. Huntley, M.D., John Smith, and A. N. Braman, M.D., and the present membership two hundred and eighteen. A Sabbath-school has been connected with the church since its formation, now embracing two hundred pupils, with M. Starks, superintendent, Prof. F. B. Palmer, vice-superintendent, and George A. Barrier, treasurer, and a well-selected library of three hundred volumes, with George A. Barrier, librarian.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BROCKPORT

was first organized, August 16, 1827, as the First Congregational Society of Brockport, at the old brick school-house, then the usual place of worship. Peletiah and Silas Judson were chosen to preside, and themselves, with R. R. Joshua Field, Frederick Wilkie, and Ralph W. Gould, were duly elected

trustees. In 1828, in the old brick school-house, the first Congregational church was organized by Rev. A. Sedgwick and Rev. Josiah Pierson. Soon after, it united with the Rochester presbytery, on the "accommodation plan." Rev. Joseph Myers was its first minister. In 1834 the first elders were chosen,—Moses Nash, Simeon Benedict, Jacob Sutphin, Silas Judson, R. W. Gould, and Calvin McQuestin. In March, 1841, the church voted for the Congregational mode. This led to difficulty, to settle which they dissolved the society, and reorganized strictly Presbyterian. In March, 1857, they withdrew from the presbytery, and remained so for about eight years, or until 1864, when they re-united with it, and have not since changed. The pastors succeeding Mr. Myers were Rev. Wm. James, D.D., Mr. Byington, Dr. Hunter, B. B. Stockton, Ebenezer Mead, Hugh Mair, D.D., A. W. Coles, Joseph Kimball, J. H. Moran, Horatio Brown, George A. Rawson, D. H. Palmer, and D. R. Eddy, present pastor. The present officers are—three trustees, G. B. Whiteside, O. B. Avery, and D. G. Snyder; nine elders, G. B. Whiteside, Jacob Sutphin, Isaac Johnson, I. J. Whitney, Edgar Benedict, Heman Barlow, Horace Belden, H. W. Gardner, Jos. A. Tozier; deacon, Byron Ketchum; and G. B. Whiteside, clerk; and one hundred and sixty-five members. The first church edifice occupied by the society was completed in 1830. It was erected upon the site of the present structure, and was built of brick, forty-six by sixty-two feet in size, and at a cost of about eight thousand dollars. Previous to its completion, services were held in the old brick school-house. In 1852 and 1853 the old church building was taken down, and the present structure, fifty by seventy-two feet in size, was erected, at a cost of twelve thousand dollars. Of the original members of the society but three are living, Geo. F. Barnett, Davis Carpenter, and Wm. H. Seymour; and of the church but two, Robert Love, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Mrs. Tryphena Dewey, of Byron. Soon after the organization of the church a Sabbath-school was formed by the pastor, with Robert Love as the first superintendent. It now embraces about twenty teachers and one hundred and sixty pupils, of which H. P. Norton is superintendent, B. C. Ketchum assistant superintendent, and E. T. Lamb secretary. It has a library, instituted about thirty years ago, and now comprising about one hundred and fifty volumes.

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH OF BROCKPORT (EPISCOPAL)

was organized September 20, 1838. The signers of the certificate of incorporation were Elias B. Holmes, Jerome Fuller, and Samuel H. Davis. The first rector was Rev. Tapping R. Chipman, and the first officers, Samuel H. Davis and Roswell Smith, wardens, and Ansel Chappel, Jerome Fuller, Adolphus B. Bennett, Elias B. Holmes, Stephen D. Baldwin, Wm. Downs, Peter Sweat, and Seth L. King, vestrymen. Jerome Fuller was the first delegate from this church to the first meeting of the diocese of western New York, at which Rev. De Lancey was elected bishop. For several years church services were held in various halls in the village; subsequently, the Free-Will Baptist church building was leased and occupied until the construction of the present church edifice, in 1855 and 1856, forty-two by seventy-two feet in size, and at a cost, exclusive of grounds, of six thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven dollars and five cents. The new structure was consecrated to the worship of God in July, 1856, by the Right Rev. Wm. H. De Lancey, D.D., bishop of western New York. The rectors of the church, and their date of service since its organization, were, Rev. T. R. Chipman, 1838; Rev. Mr. Todd, 1842; W. H. Barris, 1852 to 1856; T. B. Fairchild, 1856 to 1857; Wm. H. Brooks, D.D., 1858 to 1860; Wm. B. Otis, 1860, temporarily; Wm. B. Edson, 1860 to 1866; R. C. Wall, 1867; E. S. Wilson, 1868 to 1872; and C. T. Seibt, 1872 to the present, and now officiating. The present officers are—Wardens, Ezra H. Graves and Augustus F. Brainard; and Vestrymen, Isaac Palmer, Daniel Holmes, Sidney Spaulding, George H. Allen, Eastman Colby, Dayton S. Morgan, John H. Kingsbury, and Ezra N. Hill; and the present membership is about seventy-five.

THE EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION OF BROCKPORT (GERMAN)

was organized early in 1871, by Rev. A. Klein, sent as missionary by the New York conference to the Brockport mission, just established, and incorporated, according to the laws of the State, September 19 of the same year. It was formed from the Evangelical Reformed Lutheran church of Brockport, then embracing six members, under charge of John G. Riezinger, pastor. The old church building on Monroe street, near the college, was deeded to the new association, enlarged at a cost of fifteen hundred dollars, and dedicated September 26, 1871, by Rev. M. Pfizinger. The first members were John, Frederick, Mary, and Eliza Zeller, Chas. and Philabena Chick, Peter and Sophia Meinhardt, Conrad and Elizabeth Guenther, Michael and Sophia Colborne, Henry and Catherine Heuer, Peter and Susannah Maul, Rudolph Long, and Mary Hoffman. The first officers were—class-leader, Chas. Chick; exhorter, John Zeller; stewards, Frederick Zeller and Peter Meinhardt; and trustees, Conrad Guenther, John Zeller, and Michael Col-

borne. The first pastor was Rev. A. Klein, who served three years, succeeded by J. Grenzbach one year, and D. Fisher, present pastor, now in his second year. The present officers are—class-leader, Chas. Hadler; exhorter, John Zeller; stewards, Fred. Zeller and Peter Maul; and trustees, Chas. Hadler, Henry Heuer, and Michael Hoffman; and the present membership fifty. A Sabbath-school was organized in conjunction with the church at the same time by Rev. A. Klein, embracing five teachers and about twenty pupils, under charge of Rev. A. Klein, superintendent, Conrad Guenther, vice-superintendent, John Zeller, secretary, and Henry Guenther, treasurer. It now has seven teachers and about fifty pupils, with John Zeller, superintendent, David Hutman, vice-superintendent, Theodore Keeble, secretary, and Peter Meinhardt, treasurer. Its library has now one hundred and fifty volumes; Chas. Chick was the first, and Jacob Stucky the last librarian.

THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF BROCKPORT

was organized about the year 1858. It was formed by a division of the Methodist Episcopal church. Since the original structure in which the Methodist society held services, their first church building, was sold to J. A. Latta, the Free Methodists have conducted their services in its second story, which was refitted for that purpose. John W. Reddy is its present pastor, also presiding elder of this district. The present stewards are Frank Cowan, Michael Vetter, and W. D. Martin; and the class-leader, Mrs. Mary E. Latta. Connected with the church is a Sabbath-school of about thirty-five pupils and five teachers, with Frank Cowan superintendent.

THE FIRST FREE-WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF BROCKPORT

was organized on the eighth day of May, 1844, in the village of Brockport, by a council of ministers and delegates convened for that purpose, and composed as follows, viz., Elder James Bignall, moderator, Elder Eli Hannibal, assistant-moderator, and Elder Stephen Bathricks, secretary; with the delegates, Orrin Dunning and A. Alden, from Byron, John Holly and Daniel Ross, from Clarendon, John Blossom, John Henry, and Job Estes, from Clarkson, Jonathan Henry and Johnson Serris, from Parma, John P. Curtis, from Gaines, Hiram Gilman, from Ridgeway, Jared Hall, from Parma and Ogden, and H. A. Blackmar, from Alabama and Elba. Opening prayer given by Elder E. F. Crane, installation sermon delivered by Elder D. L. M. Rollin, and the right hand of fellowship extended by Elder H. A. Blackmar to the following members, viz., Ezra F. Crane, Thomas, Sallie, and Harriet Bascom, Amasa and Juliet Spring, Samuel and William Smith, Eli F. and Eliza Young, Anson and Catharine Durand, Rufus, Eliza, and Louise Childs, Curtis and Betsey Hale, Jared and Amanda Bromley, Francis and Sarah Wells, Hannah Parks, Anna Hisrott, Caroline Lambert, Eunice Crawford, Martha Crook, Betsey Criswell, and Betsey Gardner. Services were held at the place of organization until the construction of a church edifice the same year, which was completed early the year following, and consecrated to divine worship on February 13, 1845, by Elder D. L. M. Rollin, assisted by Elder Whitcomb. It was erected by the Free-Will Baptist Mission of New York State, to which it still belongs. The first clerk was Rufus Childs, and the first deacons, chosen December 6, 1845, were Samuel Smith, Amasa Spring, and Eli Watkins. The first pastor was Elder E. F. Crane, who served until February 7, 1846; and on March 7, 1846, Elder Rollin; July 1, 1848, Elder Crane again; and on November 2, 1850, Elder W. Dick, the last pastor before the church disbanded, which occurred shortly after the election of Deacon Amasa Spring, treasurer, and D. Ross, auditor.

A reorganization of the church was effected in 1854, under the direction of a council of ministers, comprising Rev. D. G. Holmes, of Walworth, Rev. H. Blackmar, of Rochester, Rev. H. Gilman, of Parma, and Rev. F. W. Straight, with D. S. Holmes as moderator, and F. W. Straight as clerk. Services were conducted by Messrs. Blackmar and Holmes. After reorganization, W. S. Fairbanks and J. Lowry were appointed deacons, J. W. Barker, clerk; and on February 2, 1856, D. Morehouse, treasurer, and J. P. Curtis, Thomas Bascom, and Daniel Morehouse, business committee. The first pastor was Rev. F. W. Straight, succeeded on June 7, 1856, by A. M. Richardson; on March 29, 1857, by Elder Morton; and on April 3, 1858, by Rev. Mr. Blanchard, who officiated until October 6, 1858, at which time the church a second time dissolved, and has never been resuscitated since. The last trustees, appointed December 16, 1857, were Hiram Mor-daff, Curtis Hale, Daniel Morehouse, J. P. Curtis, Daniel Pease, and Joseph Crook; the last deacons, appointed April 3, 1858, were J. P. Curtis and Alonzo Norton;

and the last clerk, Alonzo Smith. A prosperous Sabbath-school was organized, and flourished in connection with the church, but with it passed out of existence, and has never been restored. J. P. Curtis was superintendent, and also Aaron Mills.

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN, OF BROCKPORT (ROMAN CATHOLIC).

The first mass celebrated in Brockport was in the year 1848, by Rev. William O'Reilly, in the village hall. The first mass celebrated in this vicinity was by Rev. Bernard O'Reilly, at the house of William Skidmore, on which occasion Mr. Skidmore was baptized and received into the Catholic communion; he then lived at Sweden Centre. The Rev. Bernard O'Reilly had charge of Saint Patrick's church, Rochester. The Rev. William O'Reilly was appointed pastor of several villages, among them Brockport. The first committee were Casper Walter, William Skidmore, and James O'Neil. On July 19, 1851, a lot for a church building was purchased for three hundred and seventy-five dollars. Shortly after, the foundation was laid, under the direction of Rev. Michael Walsh, who lived at Scottsville, and had charge of Brockport, where he came once a month to celebrate mass. The Rev. Thomas Walsh took charge of this place in the latter part of 1851, and the surrounding country, embracing Bergen, Holley and Spencerport. In 1852 he married twelve couples and baptized twenty-five persons. The first recorded marriage was made on January 24, 1852, when Henry Kane was united to Mary Walsh; and the first baptism was solemnized June 20, 1852, when Mary, daughter of John McKeon, was baptized. In August of 1854, Rev. John Donnelly took charge of the mission. During his pastorate he collected funds, and caused the walls of the church to be built and the building inclosed. In December, 1855, Rev. M. Laughlin was appointed, who remained only till June, 1856. At that time Rev. Edward McGonan was sent by Bishop Lemon to take charge of Brockport, Holley, Bergen, and Spencerport. Under the supervision of this able and zealous clergyman, the church was completed and consecrated. In several months after Father McGonan's pastorate, the church was solemnly dedicated by Bishop Lemon, of Buffalo. In the afternoon of the same day, the same Right Rev. gentleman consecrated the cemetery purchased by Rev. McGonan a few weeks previously. On March 17, 1861, Rev. McGonan performed his last baptism here, and the Rev. Terence Keenan, of Hornellsville, was transferred to Brockport, March 28, 1861. About the 15th of March, 1863, he was transferred to Waterloo, a considerable station on the *old road*. On the 22d of March, 1863, Rev. Michael Creeden, of Auburn, New York, took possession of the mission, who remained only until October 1, 1863. On October 8, following, Rev. Richard J. Story, the present incumbent, was appointed, being transferred from Hornellsville to this place. His appointment was but temporary, yet his pastorate has proved to be one of the longest not only of any Catholic pastor, but of any clergyman that has preached at Brockport. On May 9, 1864, Rev. Father Story was reappointed to Hornellsville, which for special reasons he declined. On July 16, 1866, he was appointed to the church of the Immaculate Conception, at Rochester, which for special reasons he also declined. In 1870 the church and pastoral residence were enlarged, at an expense of some six thousand dollars. In the month of September, 1873, a large house and spacious grounds were purchased for a convent and parochial school. On January 10, 1876, the school was opened in a large school-house erected during the years 1874-75, under the supervision of Sisters Ursula, Louise, and Agatha. The school attendance averages one hundred and forty. There are about one thousand souls in the parish of the N. B. V. church, and an average Sunday attendance of five hundred. The present trustees are the Right Rev. B. J. McQuaid, J. M. McManus, Rev. Richard J. Story, Casper Walter, and John Welch.

THE YOUNG MEN'S CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION

was organized in December, 1874, with about forty-five members. Its first officers were Rev. R. J. Story, president; E. Harrison, first vice-president; C. J. Lester, second vice-president; J. C. Collins, corresponding secretary; J. Egan, financial secretary; James Cotter, treasurer; James Larkin, warden; and F. Hilibrandt assistant warden. Its present officers are E. Harrison, president; C. J. Lester, vice-president; J. C. Collins, secretary; James Larkin, financial secretary; James Cotter, treasurer; D. Alberts, warden; and Philip Hoffman, assistant warden. In January, 1876, at the time of the last election of officers, it was changed from a Catholic to a regular literary association. It now has fifty members.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.



Chauncey S. White



Cornelia S. White

CHAUNCEY S. WHITE (SWEDEN).

Chauncey S. White, whose portrait adorns this page, and now one of the most prominent and highly esteemed farmers of Sweden and the country around, was born in Madison county, New York, May 30, 1814. He is of the sturdy New England stock, possessing in a remarkable degree the industry and rigid moral characteristics of that people. His father, John White, was born in Pelham, Massachusetts, in 1784, and married October 20, 1812. At an early day he moved to Madison county, in this State, at that time a comparatively new country, where for several years he cultivated the soil, did much to advance the improvements of the country, and was foremost in establishing the foundations of society upon a sound moral basis. But, like very many of that day, he was attracted to the cheaper lands and newer country of western New York, then rapidly filling up, and in 1821 he removed with his family to Sweden, and located on the farm where his son Chauncey S. White now resides. Here, by his industry and good judgment, he became widely known as a successful farmer and a leading man in the community. He prepared and soon carved out one of the finest and most productive farms in the town, transformed a wilderness of forest into a garden, and by example and constant effort did much to advance the best interests of society. After the consummation of a great work begun in hardship, he died August 21, 1866, mourned by many friends, a sincere Christian, and an honest man. Chauncey S. White was the oldest of four children, and has lived almost from infancy and grown up with the community of which he is an important member. A man of strong convictions and high personal worth, none now living in the town, perhaps, has done more to improve the moral and religious character of its people, both by example and effort, and certainly but very few ever attained so high a place in their confidence and esteem. Unusually well favored with this world's goods, both by inheritance and the rewards of his own industry, he has surrounded himself, in his declining years, with every comfort and luxury he could desire, and has been enabled to do much, in a solid sense, to advance church

and charitable interests. Careful and correct in his business matters, he is liberal in his dealings, and to his debtors very indulgent, as shown in the large number of loans he has made among his neighbors; the first instance has yet to occur where he has ever pressed the payment of an obligation when due, to another's inconvenience. Mr. White succeeded to his father's estate in Sweden, which has constantly improved under his industry and careful management, while he is now justly regarded as one of the most capable and successful farmers in the town. In politics he is a Republican, but not a rigid partisan. By the inherent traits of his character he would naturally gravitate to that political organization, that was the most bitter foe to human slavery. He has been twice elected supervisor of the town,—in 1859-60. No place-hunter or office-seeker, in any sense, he takes part in politics only from conviction and duty. At the outbreak of the great war of the rebellion no man was more determined in his duty or patriotic in his efforts. With a liberal hand he contributed from his substance, and by every possible means in his power he labored to strengthen the arm of the government in its great life-struggle. In the numberless needs that sprang into existence during that terrible tempest of war, no appeal was made in vain, no effort unexpended, or duty left undone where it was in his power to aid, and he was ever the zealous patriot to his country and a friend of its defenders. Finally, in a community noted for high character and moral excellence, Mr. White has been foremost in every movement for reform and social improvement, or in any effort contributing to the welfare of his fellow-men. He has no sisters, and but one brother, Leverett White, who resides in Michigan. He was married in Sweden on October 5, 1837, to a daughter of Elder Peter Sutphen, whose portrait accompanies her husband's on this page. An estimable lady of the most exalted Christian character, she has long been a zealous member of the Presbyterian church, and an aid and counsel to her husband in every good work. Blessed with large means, and without children, they have had greater opportunities for aiding their fellow-beings, in helping those in need, in acts of charity, and advancing the interests of their church, which have been performed in no stinted manner. Her

father, Peter Sutphen, was born of pious Dutch parents, April 20, 1791, at North Branch, New Jersey, who removed with their infant son to Otsego county, New York, where he spent his childhood. On November 30, 1815, he married Martha McKinnan, a lady of Scotch parentage, born in New York, with whom he lived for nearly fifty-one years. In 1816 he purchased a farm in Sweden, and in the year following he removed to it with his family. Here he has been held in the highest estimation, not only as a very devoted Christian, but as the noblest and purest of men. As has been said of him, "Ever industrious in his habits, few men of his class read more, or understood better what they read, than he; and, with a mind well stored, and with conversational powers of no ordinary degree, he was ever a welcome guest in social circle as well as the more grave assembly; and who that ever knew Peter Sutphen, with his warm, generous, confiding heart, can forget in a lifetime his manner of greeting a friend, grasping the hand extended to him with both his own, and pressing it with an affection that made one *feel* there was a *heart* in the salutation?" He became converted, and made a public profession of faith on July 13, 1834, and on March 1, 1835, he was ordained a ruling elder in the Presbyterian church of Sweden, which he filled till his death, which occurred on November 1, 1865. He was attacked with apoplexy while attending the semi-annual meeting of his presbytery at North Bergen, on the 13th of June previous. He raised four children, two of whom survived him,—Mrs. White, and Ten Eyck,—the latter now living in New Brunswick, New Jersey. His son, Rev. Joseph W. Sutphen, died on heathen grounds, while engaged in the work of foreign missions.

FREDERICK P. ROOT.

Frederick P. Root was born October 13, 1814, in the town of Charlton, Saratoga county, New York, to which place his parents had removed in 1811 from Hebron, Tolland county, Connecticut. In the spring of 1818 the family removed to Sweden, Monroe County, at that time the town of Murray, Genesee county, and settled on the place now owned by the subject of this sketch. Although many settlements had been made in this town several years previous, but little opening had been made in this locality, which was then almost an entire wilderness. His father purchased one hundred acres, nearly all a dense forest, which he cleared and brought under cultivation, and afterwards added one hundred acres to it. The only educational advantages of those days were those afforded by the new country common schools. These Frederick attended in the winter months—working on the farm in the summer—until he was seventeen years of age, when the failing health of his father, followed a year later, in 1833, by his death, threw upon him the care and management of the business. But his thirst for study and knowledge was unabated, and his evenings and every spare hour were devoted to it and to reading useful books, never allowing any time for play and amusement. In music, for which he had a natural talent, he became proficient by careful application, and taught it with success, but never neglecting the interests of his father's estate. He was the oldest of eight children, whose interests in the estate he bought out as fast as they became of age, to which he has since, by industry and careful management, made considerable additions. When twenty-three years of age he married Marian E. Phelps, of Hebron, Connecticut, in whose industry and frugality he found an efficient aid to success. Mr. Root has been a constant and unceasing worker, and now, after forty-five years of an active business life, he is hale and healthy, while every other member of his father's family has long since passed from the scenes of mortal life. Industry, economy, and integrity were the first and last lessons of his boyhood. They have been the guide of his life, which is attested by the success he has met with in business, and the high respect and love of his neighbors. Although Mr. Root has been called to several positions of trust, and taken a proper interest in political matters, the whole ambition of his life and motive spring of every effort has been to be a good farmer. Every other movement was secondary to this. In politics a sincere Republican, and an inveterate foe to human slavery in every form, no man was more patriotic, or contributed material aid and moral support to the republic, in its late struggle for life, with more liberality; and the brilliant record of Sweden owes not a little to his efforts for the maintenance of free government. Mr. Root has been five years supervisor of the town, and five years assistant assessor of internal revenue, besides other nominations,—once for State senator,—always at the call of his neighbors, for he was no place-seeker. But few men have devoted more constant study to the principles of farming, or done more to develop it as a science, in pursuit of which all his large wealth has been attained. His views on this subject are regarded authoritative, and for many years he has been a special contributor to agricultural journals, and repeatedly president of

agricultural societies and farmers' clubs in western New York. Twenty years ago he erected the magnificent farm buildings on the old homestead represented in this work, at a cost of twelve thousand dollars, which is one of the most attractive houses in the town. With a knowledge of mechanics, in 1843 he invented and patented a grain separator and cleaner, which was extensively used, and some years after a wheel cultivator, which was largely used by the farmers. Of sound judgment, high character and integrity, and uncompromising morality, Hon. F. P. Root has been one of the most substantial men of Monroe County, and a powerful aid in developing the resources of his town, building up and advancing the best interests of society,—a man of broad charity, generous liberality, and manly honor.

LUTHER GORDON (BROCKPORT).

In every department of life there are heroes whose vast achievements become monuments of the possibilities of man. They are not confined to any profession, but are found in every trade, business, or wherever the genius of success, which measures heroism, is unfettered in life and action. While those sterling virtues, sobriety, perseverance, and energy, will carve success in every enterprise, it is not often that a career so triumphant in every effort is presented as that of Luther Gordon, now one of the most solid and wealthy business men of Brockport. His parents were both of the sturdy New England stock. John Gordon, his father, was a native of Cavendish, Vermont, and his mother, formerly Harmony Woodworth, of Connecticut. In the early part of 1809, John Gordon visited Rochester with a view of purchasing a farm that included the site of the Powers block and a large part of the city, but regarding the price—four dollars per acre—too dear for the quality, he, in company with the Gary brothers, pushed on in the wilderness, and made one of the first settlements in Allegany county. On June 12 of the same year he and Wm. Gary felled the first tree ever cut in the town of Rushford. He died there February 12, 1841.

His son, Luther Gordon, the subject of this sketch, was the second of five children. He was born at Rushford, Allegany county, February 8, 1822; consequently at his father's death was nineteen years of age, when he struck out boldly for himself, formed a partnership with Henry White, and leased a furnace belonging to Saml. White. Seven weeks after he bought the whole interest, and began the construction of a much larger building of his own, to accommodate a more extensive and constantly increasing business, which, eight months later, was completed and in full operation. After seven months' occupancy he sold the whole business to Mr. White, and bound himself never to reopen in that business in Rushford. Meanwhile, he had invented the well-known "Genesee plow," which became very popular, and is still manufactured at the same works, and used extensively. Between the following April and December he erected and filled with goods two stores at Rushford, and for fourteen years conducted a large business in general merchandise. Besides this, and covering a period of nearly sixteen years, he dealt largely in stock, buying and driving to eastern markets in the summer, and in the lumber trade in the winter. He made it an infallible rule to sell his own stock, mostly sheep and cattle, never depending on agents, and never to approach the bar for a drink of liquor or a cigar, neither of which he ever used, and throughout that whole business never met with the slightest loss. In 1856 he began the lumber business in Brockport by purchasing all the interest in the firm of Boswell, Walker & Hood, except the latter, and five years later bought that also. In 1858 he built the fine residence where he now resides, sold his stores and stock in Rushford to Geo. Colborne & Bro., and in 1859 removed his family to their new home in Brockport. In 1860, in connection with Geo. S. Weaver, of Albany, New York, he leased a large saw-mill of W. L. P. Little, at East Saginaw, Michigan, and manufactured and shipped lumber to Brockport and various other points. Two years later he bought a half-interest, and after four years' ownership sold it to the Flint and Marquette Railroad Company. In the summer of 1872 he and his brother, W. L. Gordon, built a large saw-mill at Sterling, Michigan, which is doing a very extensive business, manufacturing lumber from their own tract of nearly seven thousand acres of pine timber-land, which he and Geo. S. Weaver had commenced buying in 1866, and shipping immense quantities to all the Eastern markets. In 1863 the National Bank association was organized in Brockport, and Mr. Luther Gordon, who owns a controlling interest, was made president, which office he has held ever since; and in 1873 and '74 the magnificent structure it now occupies was erected. He also built a saw-mill in 1867, on the Allegany river, four miles above Olean. It manufactures mainly hemlock and hard wood lumber. For several years, in the early part of Mr. Gordon's lumber trade, he dealt largely in Rochester, selling a great portion of his lumber to the agents of Anson Brown. Three years ago,

in 1873, he sold his lumber business in Brockport to Elias Garrison and Charles Benedict, and three months later, with his brother, James Gordon, repurchased it. It is now conducted by Luther Gordon, brother, and son.

Mr. Gordon was married April 24, 1848, in Allegany county, to Miss Florilla Cooley, of Attica, Wyoming county, a very estimable lady, to whose wise counsel and aid he ascribes, in a great measure, his unexampled success in life. She died in Brockport, on the 18th of February, 1869. Mr. Gordon has raised but one child, his son, Geo. C. Gordon, who is now in partnership with him, and an active, capable business man.

Mr. Luther Gordon is pre-eminently a self-made man. Beginning life at eighteen, with his natural resources for his capital, and the limited education afforded by the ordinary district school of a new country, he has worked himself up step by step to a point attained by but very few in a generation. With a grasp of perception that could comprehend the intricate details of a variety of vast business interests, and a masterly management of all, he has conquered success in every movement of his life, and stands forth to-day an illustrious example to young men of the capabilities of character and manhood.

J. D. DECKER

was born in Hamptonburg, Orange county, New York, June 17, 1836. His father was a German, and his mother of Welsh ancestry. His grandfather, Johannes Decker, early espoused the cause of the colonists, and, joining the colonial army, served gallantly during that arduous struggle for independence. Like the greater portion of the prominent public men of this period, the subject of our sketch obtained the rudiments of his education at the district school. His studies were afterwards continued at the parsonage of Dr. Arbuckle, an eminent divine, residing at Blooming Grove. From the tutelage of Dr. Arbuckle he entered the select school of Hon. Robert Denniston, a former controller of the State, where he received his preparatory education. He entered Yale College, and pursued his studies with that energy that has marked his subsequent career, and graduated in the class of 1855. At the close of his college days he had decided to enter the legal profession, and in the same year, 1855, came to Brockport, and commenced the study of the law in the office of Holmes & Palmer. In 1858 he was admitted to the bar in the city of Auburn, and began practice in Brockport, which he continued with great success until 1865, when he purchased the banking interest of Mr. Holmes. He managed this business until 1873, when he disposed of it to Raines & Knox, and resumed the practice of law. Mr. Decker has a lucrative practice, and his unflinching determination and indomitable will, coupled with integrity and fine talents, have placed him among the leading members of the bar in western New York. He is ever foremost in matters concerning

the public welfare, and was very instrumental in securing the location of the State normal school, of which he has been treasurer since its organization. He has also officiated as member of the local board of managers. Upon the formation of the Republican party he espoused its cause, and has since remained a zealous and uncompromising advocate of its principles. He is held in high esteem in political as well as social and business circles, and in 1873 received by acclamation the nomination of his party for the office of State senator, and, though receiving a very complimentary vote, was defeated by Hon. Jarvis Lord. In July, 1876, he was appointed collector of internal revenue for the twenty-eighth district, comprising the counties of Monroe, Orleans, Ontario, Yates, Livingston, Chemung, and Allegany.

On the 13th of June, 1860, Mr. Decker united in marriage with Emily, daughter of Isaac Palmer, and their family consists of four children,—two sons and two daughters.

THOMAS CORNES (BROCKPORT).

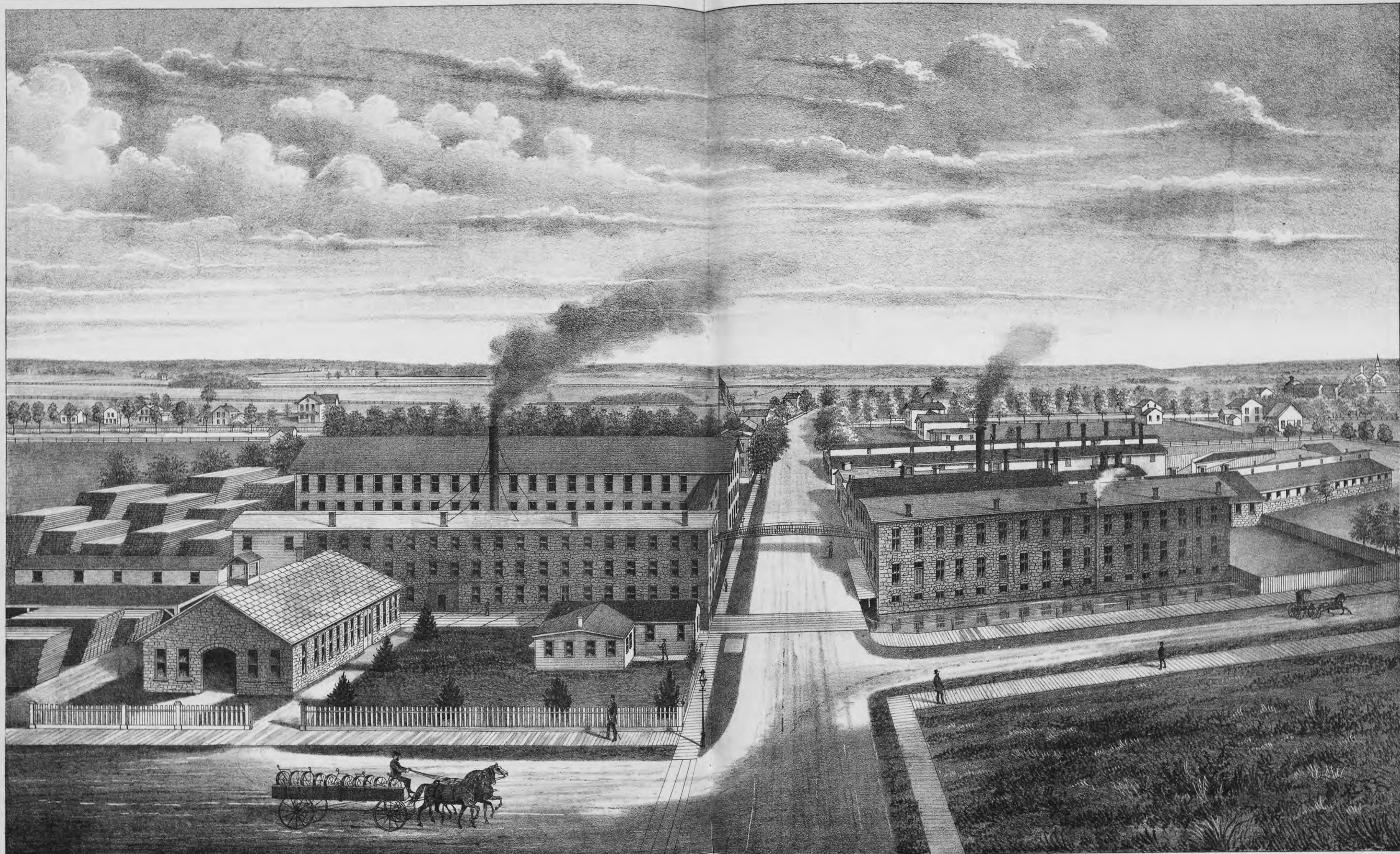
Thomas Cornes was born in the county of Kent, England, on July 10, 1813. He was the third of eight children, and emigrated with his father, when ten years of age, to Morrisville, Madison county, New York. On March 20, 1833, he married his first wife, Sarah Coleman, of Morrisville, by whom he had five children, and in May, 1834, he removed to Brockport, where he arrived on the 15th, and settled with his family in the same house he now occupies. On December 30, 1848, he met with a severe loss in the death of his wife. Of his five children four are now living, three in Brockport and one in Buffalo. Mr. Cornes was married again April 15, 1851. He had one child by his second wife, a daughter, who died in infancy, and on December 28, 1874, his wife also died. Mr. Cornes has always been a very prominent man in Brockport, and has been a powerful ally in support of every movement for the interest of his village. In politics he is a Democrat of the Jeffersonian type, and in that party has probably been the leading man in this part of the county. In 1851-52 he was canal collector of Brockport, and during the war of the rebellion, which he sustained with zeal and spirit, he was three times elected supervisor, when his party was in the minority. He has frequently been chosen delegate to State conventions by his party, which he ably represented. He was probably the most effective man in securing the normal school to Brockport. He has followed the butcher business ever since he came, except from 1864 to 1870, and established a distillery in 1838, which he conducted a short time, selling out in 1840. He has been very successful in business and amassed a large fortune, though in 1867 he lost thirty thousand dollars' worth of property by fire. He now owns one hundred and seventy acres east of the village, fifty of which is in the corporation, which is well stocked, and a very valuable property.



RES. OF L. T. UNDERHILL, BROCKPORT, N. Y.



RES. OF FRANK F. CAPEN, SWEDEN, MONROE CO., N. Y.



THE JOHNSTON HARVESTER CO., BROCKPORT, N. Y.



RES. OF SANFORD GOFF, BROCKPORT, N. Y.



RES. OF WM. H. SEYMOUR, BROCKPORT, N. Y.



F. P. ROOT.



MRS. F. P. ROOT.



RES. OF F. P. ROOT, SWEDEN, MONROE CO., NEW YORK.



RES. OF THOMAS CORNES, BROCKPORT, N. Y.



RES. OF D. S. MORGAN, BROCKPORT, N. Y.



MRS. LUTHER GORDON



LUTHER GORDON.



RES. OF LUTHER GORDON, BROCKPORT, NEW YORK.



BLOCK OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK,
ERECTED BY LUTHER GORDON 1873 & 1874, BROCKPORT, N. Y.



J. D. DECKER.



"DECKER'S BLOCK", ERECTED BY J. D. DECKER,