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v



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# PIONEER HISTORY

—OF—

## CAMDEN,

ONEIDA COUNTY, NEW YORK.

*Elizabeth J. Baker,  
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Mrs. E. H. Corcoran.*

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TO THE  
SONS AND DAUGH-  
TERS OF CAMDEN, NEW YORK,  
PRESENT AND ABSENT, AND TO THE  
DESCENDANTS OF FORMER RESIDENTS, THIS  
RECORD OF ITS SETTLEMENT AND OF THE TRIALS  
AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THEIR ANCESTORS IS RESPECT-  
FULLY COMMENDED WITH THE HOPE THAT IT  
MAY MEET AN APPRECIATIVE WEL-  
COME FROM ALL, AND  
STRENGTHEN THEIR  
LOVE FOR THE  
OLD TOWN.

---

“Believe us, we count ourselves in nothing else so happy, as in our history remembering our good friends.”—*Shakespeare*.



## INTRODUCTION.

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THE object of this volume is to record the early settlement of the town of Camden, and bring the same to the knowledge of its readers. No doubt many have questioned, like ourselves, why they selected this part of the country? When it was first settled? By whom? and just where did this or that one reside in those early days? We seek to answer these questions, and many others—to tell you something of the trials that beset these pioneers, to show that their lives were not “downy beds of ease” and pleasure, but full of earnest toil and endeavor, privation, and often times suffering. It is well to know how the foundation of our now beautiful village and town was laid, that we may the better appreciate it—how it has grown from the primitive forest of pines to its present state of improvement—with what persistent labor they wrought to clear ground for their habitations, to the end that we may the more fully understand how great is the debt of gratitude we owe to the early builders of our community. We assume no superiority of authorship, nor shall it be our effort to embellish these pages with flowery descriptions; but a plainly related history of each family as we have gathered facts relative to it, will be our pleasure. This required years of patient labor. We have met with many encouragements, and but very little that tended to dishearten, and have found a more than ordinary interest manifest in the minds of all to whom we have turned for information and aid in our work. And now, kind readers, remember, we are sensible of defects, but court no criticism. With Dr. Arnold, “We can not see how the public mind can help bearing anything we have the honest courage to publish.”

It is our earnest hope that the labor will not have been in vain—that this book will not fail to interest its readers, and that it will lead them to feel a deeper pride in, and love for, the dear old town of Camden.



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GEORGE SCRIBA.

---

THE name of George Scriba occurs in nearly all of the deeds which have come under our notice as conveying land to very many of the early men in this locality, and it may interest some, as it did us, to see a portrait of the man, and learn a bit of his career. He was born in Holland in 1752, and came to America probably, when so many of his countrymen were seeking homes and fortunes here. In 1793 Mr. Scriba came to Constantia, and established himself a home on the picturesque shores of Lake Oneida, the locality then called Rotterdam. Mr. Scriba came there a man of wealth—estimated to have been worth from



George Scriba's Residence.

\$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000. He invested largely in new, uncultivated territory, owning much of Oneida Co. Rotterdam was a place of larger business importance than Syracuse at the time. He was prominently interested in all measures for the advancement of the locality, giving liberally to the establishment of the Episcopal Church, its building and equipment, and also a plot of ground for a burial place. The church was built in 1829, and still stands in fairly good condition, and is one of the children of Old Trinity, New York. The residence of Mr. Scriba was built in 1794, and the illustration is a very good

one, though time has made inroads upon its beauty—is of Dutch colonial style in structure, two stories high in front, sloping from the ridge to a half story in height at the rear. We entered a door at the west end of the house, leading into a fairly wide hall, running through the entire length of the house to an outside door opposite.

In this hall, of the ancient furnishings, was a grandfather's clock, In the center of the house, at the front, is the door, where no doubt many a welcome guest has entered in the years of Mr. Scriba's prosperity and ownership. It opens into a wide hall, which extends through the center of the house and joins the other longer hall. Large square rooms open out of this on either side, in which are old-fashioned fire-places, with capacity for a good sized log. We could imagine the Scribas, Roosevelts, Staats, and many another kindred spirit assembled about these cheerful firesides, smoking, as is the Dutchman's wont, and oft-times enjoying the beer, brewed by the thrifty burghers. Into the western of these two front rooms we were ushered by Miss King of Constantia, who kindly accompanied us to the spot, and introduced us to Mrs. Louisa, widow of Frederic, who was a son of

George Scriba, the subject of our sketch. Mrs. Scriba is a most interesting lady, though advanced in life to 86 years, somewhat infirm in body, but strong in intellect. She exhibited several family relics, curious and of value. Among them was some of the Scriba silver, heavy and substantial, the spoons engraved, on medallions, with the initials "C. S.;" portraits in miniature wrought in wax from one of which the accompanying copy was taken.



George Scriba

A pair of Dresden vases are standing on the mantel, which Mrs. Scriba told us were considerably over one hundred years old. On this same mantel is a marvelous allegorical representation of the grave of Washington. It is executed in wax, colored.

On the base of the monument which supports a lofty column, ornamented by Masonic devices, appear the various emblems and trophies of war. In front stands the American eagle holding a wreath of laurel. On the left of the monument is Minerva, the Goddess of Wisdom and of War, in the attitude of sorrow, leaning upon a shield, and weeping at the remembrance of uncommon greatness departed. Near her, Ceres, the Goddess of Plenty, pours from her cornucopia the riches of the earth, and an Indian struck with admiration and grief rests upon his bow. At the foot of the monument is seen an infant whose moistened eyes bespeak no common loss. On the right, America, represented by a female clothed in mourning, holds the annals of the country, the sacred and everlasting record of the high achievements of him whose loss she deplores. Near her appears the beautiful figure of Charity, and a seraph admiring the mysteries of redeeming love, emblematic of the hero's moral and Christian virtues. Above, an angel commissioned from the skies to conduct the sublime spirit to the heavenly abode, is seen flying towards the earth, holding in one hand a torch just extinguished, indicative of the close of life, and in the other an unfading garland, expressive of immortal fame. At the foot of the monument is lying a skull, near which stands a flower stalk, with the flower broken off, and falling on the small skull, denoting death. At the extreme left of the picture stands a vase with initials, "G. W. Raufchner, 1800."

It is likely the smaller portraits of the Scriba family were wrought by the same artist. They were hung in 1805, where they have ever since remained. An old piano, manufactured by Wm. N. Bebee of Vernon, stands in the room, and Mrs. Scriba, feeble though she is, told us that but a few days before our visit she had sat at the instrument and played over some of the tunes she loved, which had cheered and gladdened her heart, making her feel younger. There were candelabra which would contain three candles each. This was considered a princely abode in its day, and no doubt its portals swung wide to admit visitors who came to enjoy the genial hospitality of the host and hostess. Mr. Scriba carried on a busy traffic with the Indians, who found a loyal friend in him, and he often entertained these strangers within the

broad halls, giving food and rest to their wearied bodies, East of the house is a spacious elm tree, planted there years ago by the son, Frederic William Scriba. The brick used in the fire-places and chimneys were imported from Holland. George Scriba died August 14, 1836, aged 84 years. He is buried at Constantia, in the enclosure contributed by him for burial purposes. An unpretentious stone marks his grave.

---

[From the Camden Journal February 1873.

### LAY OF LONG AGO.

---

BY W. H. C. HOSMER.

---

In the good old days of pioneer ways,  
 How full of fun were we,  
 When neighbors all obeyed the call  
 To meet at the "logging bee;"  
 When flax was spun, and every one  
 In stout tow cloth was drest,  
 And the spinning wheel, with its humming zeal,  
 Was music that pleased the best.

Log houses stood where the grand old wood  
 On their roofs of bark threw shade,  
 And loud was mirth round the spacious hearth,  
 When the roaring fire was made;  
 When Christmas came, the best of game,  
 Smoked on the settler's board,  
 And streaming hot, from the iron pot,  
 The golden mush outpoured.

The hardy girls, with their sun-burnt curls,  
 Were brides for stalwart grooms,  
 Whose coats, home-made, of butternut shade,  
 Were wove in rustic looms;  
 Brown came the loaves, in our land of groves,  
 From oven out of doors,  
 And well I ween, with rushes green,  
 Were scoured the rough oak floors.

In clearings rude dwelt a brotherhood  
 Of bold, united men,  
 Who slew the bear, in his dangerous lair,  
 The wolf in his brambly den;

Our land they made long dark with shade,  
Bears traces of their power,  
For towns upsprang, where their axes rang,  
And the church upreared its tower.

Though tired with toil, to tame the soil,  
From morn till evening close,  
Neuralgic moans and dyspeptic groans  
Disturbed not their repose;  
Of iron mould, were these men of old,  
And honored they should be,  
So we seek to tell, how they did so well,  
In our "Pioneer History."

---

### THE OPINION OF THE HISTORIANS OF THOSE COMING HERE.

Col. Elmore's Regiment of 1776 was raised under authority of the Continental Congress, to serve for one year from April 1776. Col. Samuel Elmore had served in Hinman's Regiment in the Northern Department in 1775, and again as Lieutenant of Wooster Provisional Regiment in the winter of 1775 and 1776. Elmore and most of the company officers recruited their men in Connecticut, to some extent from the Regiment that served in the North. Some of the officers belonged to New York, and a few from Massachusetts. They took the field July, 1776, under Schuyler, and on August 25 marched from Albany to Tryon County, now part of Oneida, and the rest of their time were garrisoned at Fort Stanwix.

They broke up in the spring of 1777. On the muster roll, as they stood January 13 to 15, we find these names: Aaron Matthews, Beriah Pond, Barnabas Pond, Benj. Curtiss, Joel Dunbar, Bartholomew Pond; in Col. Huntington's Company, Daniel Park; in another Company, Samuel Woods, Jesse Penfield, David Brown, Levi Munson; the last four were in the Connecticut records; Jonah Sandford and Jesse Curtiss. Most of these men emigrated to this vicinity in less than 20 years after they were discharged from the army. It is barely possible when garrisoned at Fort Stanwix they were among the foraging parties that were sent out in different directions, and many of them liked the lay of the land. They were young men when at Fort Stanwix.



When they settled here they were men with families. Most of the settlers were from Connecticut, and at that time the desirable farms of their native State were taken up, and they wished to seek a new country and home; and here the woods and cheap lands were inviting the tide of emigration.

There might have been an Horace Greeley, not by name, but of the same ambitions, who said, "Young man, go West," for in 1805 there was a great pouring in here from Connecticut. A few years found them with comfortable homes and well-cleared farms from the primeval forest.

There have been a number of cannon-balls found in this vicinity, and it has been a quandary how they got here, as in some places it would have been impossible to have dragged the heavy old cannon through the rough and wild woods, and especially without any particular object to do so. On inquiry we find that the early settlers used to go to Salt Point, now Syracuse, and get loads of salt, and in order to make it useful they would take an iron kettle, and put in a chunk of salt, and then a large cannon-ball, and keep rolling it around until the salt was pulverized. Some of the balls that have been found in this section were probably used for this purpose, and their being out of shape was by the rust from the salt, and lying so long imbedded in the ground, or against a rock.



# PIONEER HISTORY OF CAMDEN.

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## CHAPTER I.

THE town of Camden, in the north-western corner of Oneida County, containing about 31,438 acres, lies close to the boundary line of Oswego County. The town of Florence lies north-east, while Annsville forms the eastern boundary. Little River divides it on the south from Vienna. The west branch of Fish Creek and Mad River are the principal streams; they unite just below the village, and empty into Oneida Lake. These streams have both been utilized extensively for manufacturing purposes. Throughout the village the land is nearly level, but undulating in the open country, especially so in the northern and western parts. The soil is a sandy loam in some places, gravelly and stony in others; there are also stone quarries which furnish good building material. Camden has been rightly called the queen village of Oneida County, for seldom can be found a more beautiful place than our village presents, with its magnificent shade trees and comfortable homes, with the well-kept lawns surrounding them, in many cases, the pride of the owner's heart. As early as 1794, five years before the town of Camden existed as a town, while yet it was a part of the "Mother of townships," Mexico people came here in search of desirable places to locate. The land was heavily timbered, and it was a laborious task to clear even a small portion, where they could build a home, and still harder to prepare it for the grain and other necessities which they must raise to sustain life. But the tall pines gave them plenty of material for their rude homes. From one monarch of the forest we are told twelve logs were cut. Where the village stands to-day the pioneers found only a fine forest, which echoed long and loud with the sound of the pioneer's ax, ere houses were built, and they were surrounded with plenty. But they brought strong arms and brave hearts with them, and with undaunted efforts worked hard to provide homes for themselves

and families, and gained good farm lands, which in many cases have descended to the third and fourth generation, which sons and grandsons have each improved, until large orchards, wide corn-fields, and acres of waving grain tell us what has been accomplished during the last century in our beautiful town. The usual route over which our fathers came into this locality was a trail, which led up from Rome through Taberg, thence turning to the west, near the place where later the Smith Johnson house was built, through to the corner, where the brick school-house stands on the plank road, then on to Preston Hill, and then descending to the valley, through which the river flowed. Relatives and friends who remained in the homes, from which the more venturesome ones had emigrated, were led to believe this was a land flowing with milk and honey, and the good things of life were only waiting to be gathered. But sore was their disappointment when they reached their destination, and found while nature had beautifully showered her gifts over the land, the harvest could only be theirs by hard labor and many privations. But people continued to come—whole families—and soon the settlement was of sufficient importance to become a town. Referring to the "Annals of Oneida County," by Pomeroy Jones, we find "the town of Mexico was divided, March 5th, 1799, and a new town erected from its territory, called Camden, including all of the seventh, and part of the eighth township of Scriba's Patent." Why it was given the name of Camden has never been fully determined. Many reasons have been given, one being that it was taken from the Indian name. The Oneida tribe called it "He-stä-yung-twä," meaning, lost. Perhaps our forefathers had reason to select such a name, feeling lost indeed, leaving nearly all traces of civilization so far behind them. Soon, however, it must have lost its significance, if it ever had any for them, as homes sprang up, and neighbors became more plentiful.

Some are of the opinion it was named for the Earl of Camden, "on account of his liberal policy; during the Revolutionary War his name became very popular in the United States, and many towns and villages, and several counties, bore his name." The late Mr. Wager, Oneida County historian, is of a very different

opinion. In response to an inquiry if he believed the town to have been named for him, he says, "I have not the slightest idea it was ever named for the Earl of Camden, although he was a friend to the American cause in the Revolution, for this reason: The feeling was so bitter towards the British government, that for several years afterwards they would not designedly give a name to a town or a county that was borne or had been by a lord or anyone else, who belonged to England. Now I am quite sure it was named after Camden in New Jersey, for this reason, John W. Bloomfield came from New Jersey, not far from Camden, and settled at Taberg. All of the towns of Annsville, Florence, Camden and Vienna were a part of the town of Mexico. Mr. Bloomfield was an agent for Mr. Scriba, the patentee of 500,000 acres of land in Oswego County, and then living in Constantia. Mr. Bloomfield's uncle had been Congressman, and Governor of New Jersey, and J. W. Bloomfield was a man of wealth and influence, and his word was law and gospel in that region, when Camden was named. I have no doubt but Mr. Bloomfield was influential in naming it after the city in his native State, more especially as Annsville was named Ann after his wife, showing he had power in that section." In the new history of "Our County and its People," edited by Mr. Wager, we find "in 1793-4 the Roosevelt purchase, or Scriba's Patent, was subdivided into twenty-four townships or great lots. Mr. Scriba gave a name to each township, but after the reorganization, only one, Florence, in this County, retained the name given it by him. Township No. 5 included the west part of Camden, and was named Linley. Township No. 8 included the east part of Camden, and part of Annsville, and was named Bloomfield, after the late John W. Bloomfield."

Samuel Royce was one of the pioneers of Clinton, Oneida County. He was born April 20th, 1759. His native place was Plymouth, Connecticut. He married the daughter of Eli Wilson. He came to Camden as early as 1794, and purchased 5,000 acres of land of John Murray for the consideration of £4,000. It was part of the original Roosevelt purchase, while this part of New York State was in Herkimer County. It extended from the

green, northward. He settled at the head of what is now Main Street, on a portion of land included in his purchase, where the residence of E. H. Conant now stands. He built a log house, and here the first town meeting on record in the town of Camden was held in the year 1799. At this meeting the following persons



Primitive Log House.

were elected to the office affixed to their names: John W. Bloomfield, Esq., Supervisor. Samuel Royce, Esq., Town Clerk. John Humiston, Henry Williams, Levi Matthews, Assessors. Benjamin Barnes, Abner Matthews, Ephraim Wright, Commissioners of Highways. Samuel Jarvis, Isaac Cook, Collectors. Noah Tuttle, Jesse Curtiss, Poor Masters. Whiten Barnes, Daniel Park, Ephraim Church, Overseers of Highways. John Humaston, Levi Matthews, Aaron Matthews, Commissioners of Schools. Chammont Taylor, Gideon Northrup, Ezra Barnes, Fence Viewers. Jesse Curtiss, Pound Master.

Voted—That swine be allowed to go at large.

Voted—That the fence viewers be allowed seventy-five cents a day for each day they shall be employed.

Voted—That the house of William Butler be a work house for idle and indolent persons.

Voted—That Marshal Merriam should be exonerated from paying a note of five dollars for giving a tavern license.

Voted—That the next town meeting be held at the house of Samuel Royce.

From the records of the first town meeting, it will readily be seen how necessary it became to make provisions for all classes of people, and to make laws to govern the same. The indolent and lazy, as well as the more thrifty ones, had come here to dwell. We find on the records for many years, extra town meetings were called in the autumn to make provision and raise money to maintain the needy through the winter. But we doubt not the people gave generously, as in another place we find they voted against building a county house for the poor.

In the year 1800, Camden had 384 inhabitants, and it was quite necessary to provide some accommodation for new comers. The first money received after the excise law took effect was recorded March 21st, 1800:

"Received of John W. Bloomfield, Supervisor, the sum of \$5.00, being the amount of excise paid by Timothy W. Wood, for the year 1799.

A true copy,

Jesse Curtiss, Overseer of the Poor,  
Samuel Royce, Town Clerk.

The Board of Commissioners of Excise for the town of Camden, hereby resolve, that Levi Matthews is of good moral character, and of sufficient ability to keep an inn or tavern, and that he has accommodations to entertain travelers, and that an inn or tavern is absolutely necessary at the place where the said Matthews now lives, for the actual accommodation of travelers.

A true copy, attested,

John W. Bloomfield,  
John Hathaway,  
Matthew Brown,  
Commissioners of Excise."

June 19th, 1800.

In 1801, the third and last town meeting which was held at the house of Samuel Royce, convened. But little business was transacted at this meeting.

Voted—That the town will build a pound, and that the supervisor be directed to add to the assessment for it.

Voted—That a committee shall be appointed to ascertain the place to build said pound.

Jesse Curtiss,  
Zophar Barnes,  
Ambrose Jones,

Committee for the above mentioned purpose.

The next meeting shall be held at the house of Bartholomew Pond. Meeting dismissed.

Several locations were brought before the meeting, but we have no definite location until 1829, when we find this recorded:

"Paid Seth Dunbar \$30.00 for building a pound, and ten dollars for the site."

It was situated on the north-east corner of the lot, on Mexico Street, now owned by Churchill and Tibbits, next to the road. It was made of framed timbers like a house, covered with boards, but had no roof. A pound master was elected every year at town meeting, with the other town officers. Cattle and swine found straying into other people's property were driven to the pound, and held for the damage they had done, and the cost of feeding them. This law did not work as harmoniously as desired, consequently it fell into disuse, and after 1845 or 1846, when necessary, the rear yards of the hotels were used for the purpose, until the law was finally passed prohibiting cattle from running at large, when the use of a pound was no longer necessary.

We find one law in the book of old town records, in regard to granting licenses, dated June 20th, 1800, which would be well, had the town officers adhered to it up to the present time.

"We, John W. Bloomfield, Joshua Hathaway, Matthew Brown, Junior, Commissioners of Excise for the town of Camden, in the County of Oneida, do solemnly swear in the presence of Almighty God, that we will not on any account or pretense whatsoever, grant any license to any person within said town of Camden, for the purpose of keeping an inn or tavern, but only in such cases as appear absolutely necessary for the benefit of travelers, and we will in all things, while so acting as commissioners of excise, do



our duty according to the best of our judgment and ability, without favor or partiality, agreeable to law.

John W. Bloomfield,  
Joshua Hathaway,  
Matthew Brown, Jun.,  
Commissioners of Excise.

Sworn before me, John W. Bloomfield,

Joshua Hathaway,  
Justice of the Peace.

In 1802 we find "That many of the inhabitants were of a good moral character, and of sufficient ability to keep an inn or tavern, and that they have accommodations for entertaining travelers." An inn or tavern was most necessary at almost every residence, as in those early days they were far apart. In 1805, by an act passed February 16th, the town of Florence was taken from Camden, and on April 3rd, 1807, Camden was again divided, and the town of Orange formed later, called Bengal, and at the present day bearing the name of Vienna. The town grew rapidly. In 1800 it had 384 inhabitants, and in 1810, after the towns of Florence and Vienna had been taken from its territory, the population had increased to 1,132. Samuel Royce, at whose house the first town meeting was held, was a surveyor, as well as a large land owner. He remained but a few years in Camden, returning to Clinton, after this town was fully established. J. W. Bloomfield, whose name is so closely identified with our early town history, was the first white settler of Annsville. He was the son of Jonathan Bloomfield and Elizabeth Wood, and was of English parentage. His grandfather, Thomas Bloomfield, came to this country in 1660 with his four sons, and settled in Woodbridge, New Jersey, having named that town after his native place in England. John W. Bloomfield came into this section of the State in the spring of 1789. His journey was made on horseback from Burlington, New Jersey, via. Schenectady, Fort Schuyler, Whitesboro to Fort Stanwix. He lived a number of years at Constantia, and was largely interested in the furnaces and iron business in this part of the State. Although his home was elsewhere, he certainly did much towards laying the founda-

tion of our beautiful town. He was closely and prominently identified with the business and landed interests of George Scriba and other early proprietors and leading men of the country, and was the confidential friend of business men, who relied upon his integrity, judgment and advice as to their property interests in this locality. Mr. Bloomfield moved from Taberg to Rome, about 1812, where he lived for many years. His death occurred in 1849, at the advanced age of 84 years. For a number of years the town meetings were held in the Congregational Church and the old Academy; they were the only buildings commodious enough for the purpose, until the town hall was built in 1838.



## CHAPTER II.

THE means of our primitive settlers did not allow them to indulge in costly mode of travel. They were conveyed from their eastern homes to this locality with oxen, and occasionally a horse attached as leader. We find the pioneers of the Seventh were very persevering, and possessed of heroic and indomitable energy. They chose this locality for this reason, the land was more level than in the old Nutmeg State, or Massachusetts.

This settlement, from the earliest accounts, includes many interesting incidents of a local character. To investigate the circumstances connected with this settlement it was found necessary to examine all records, both of the church and town. The Seventh comprises the Second District in Camden Township. It was here they first intended to have the village; as late as 1820 it was far more thickly settled. In order that the present generation can get a good idea of the place in early times, you will want to commence with your imagination at the top of the hill this side of Orson Woods, one and a fourth mile from the village, and the beginning of this district. On the left side of the highway as you are going towards the west, there used to be a long wood-colored house built and occupied by Noah Preston; he was one of the oldest inhabitants, and possessed qualities of industry and perseverance.

Noah Preston was born February 23, 1763. He came to Camden from Harwinton, Connecticut, about the year 1800. Their large family of ten children were born in Connecticut. Their names were Warren, Rositter, Wm. Riley, Honor, Cyprian, Olive, Sabra, Lyman, John Stiler and Chandler. Warren Preston settled on the farm, and built the house now owned by G. Roberts, which was the property of Wilbert Upson for a long time. Rossetter married Oril Curtiss, who built and owned the farm now the home of E. A. Watkins. R. Preston lived on this farm twenty-two years, he sold it in 1866, and moved to Rockford, Ill., where he died Sept. 13, 1876, aged 89. His wife died March 28, 1880, aged 82. James Gamble and son, F. S. Gamble

and family, and daughter, Mrs. Geo. Young, are the only descendants living in Camden. Lyman Preston lived east of his father's on the same side of the road. Chandler lived near the Mix Hill, but his last days were spent in Volney, Oswego Co., N. Y. He died October 27, 1891. Wm. Riley married Sarah Ann Smith May 19, 1812. He owned property in different parts of the village.

In the Mexico Street Cemetery we find the graves of Noah Preston and wife, the pioneers. Mr. Preston died April 4th, 1835, aged 72; Honor, his wife, died November 22, 1847, aged 82; their son William died August 4th, 1834, aged 44; Olive died October 17, 1815, aged 19; Cyprian died May 26, 1819, aged 25; these three children are buried beside their father and mother.

Passing on to the next farm, at an early date came Silas Blakeslee from the land of steady habits prior to 1804, and bought a tract of land and built his house opposite the old pine tree above the "Wood's Home." He was a brother of Enos Blakeslee; his children were Reuben, Asa, Woodard, Lucius or Lewis. Lewis became an Episcopal clergyman in New York City. This farm was transferred to A. Dennison. Mrs. Blakeslee went by the name of Aunt Prudy; when the farm was sold she went to Mrs. Dennison and asked for a hop vine she had got into a productive growth. Mrs. Dennison was not willing to part with it. Aunt Prudy gave vent to her disappointment and anger by a prediction that it would not bear hops while they owned it, and her prophecy proved true; it grew in a prolific manner, but no hops did it bear until Mr. Woods bought the farm, and it was under different cultivation.

The earliest records we can find of the next place, now the home of Francis Park, was the coming of Ashbel Upson in 1807, who bought land in lot No. 20, the farm of the late deacon Lent Upson. This place he leased or bought; there is no record to show when. He returned to Plymouth, Conn., and came here with his family the last of November, 1808, with two yoke of oxen and three horses, with a family of eight children—two daughters did not come, as there were ten children in the family. Their names were Patty, who married Mr. Sutton of New Jersey; Alma, married Dr. Huntly; Polly married A. Dennison; Nancy married

Pliny Darrow; Canda married Davies Sperry in 1812, and after his death married Luther Miller in 1826; Eleanor married Pliny Alden in 1812; Nellie married Ashbel Orton of Williamstown, where there are descendants still living. Their sons were Erastus, Lent and Ashbel, who was only five years old on coming here. Mr. Upson in coming so late in the fall found eight or ten inches of snow. It was hard pulling with wheels. They finally reached their destination and located on the place now occupied by Francis Park. There was a log house that he had already built, and he added a frame part the following year, and kept a tavern. Later he moved on his farm on Lot No. 20, and it was kept in the Upson family until sold by Lent to Woodard Perkins in 1865.

The Upson family were among the first to organize the Congregational Church. Ashbel Upson, Sen., was made deacon, and there was always a Deacon Upson in the church until the death of Lent in 1870. Deacon Ashbel and his brother Jesse, who was next younger, were in the Revolutionary War; Jesse came here with his brother; he was 6 feet 6 inches high, the tallest Upson of that family. No one seems to know where he died or where he was buried. Ashbel served two years under Capt. Wilcox and Col. Baldwin; he was with the company that helped to fortify West Point in 1777, by a chain drawn across the river at that point to prevent the enemy from going up to Albany. But the fort and river chain were taken by the British, but abandoned after the surrender of Bargoigne. These reminiscences were very interesting for him to tell to his children. He enlisted at Plymouth, Conn. Mrs. Upson's maiden name was Mary, the only daughter of Levi Munson. She survived her husband 26 years, and drew a pension until her death, March 3rd, 1857, aged 91. Mr. Upson died June 31, 1831, aged 71. Erastus Upson was the first to start in the tin business in Camden; he commenced on the Seventh, nearly opposite their home. In 1820 he moved his business into the village. He married Cynthia Ballard, March 28, 1811. Ashbel Upson, Jr., married Betsey Barnes; first went to housekeeping in a house he built that stood where Oliver Howard now lives. In 1838 he bought on

the Florence Hill road, and moved there with his three children. More will be said about him in that locality.

Lent Upson married Maria, daughter of Garner Preston, of Harwinton, Conn. There were ten children, nine lived to maturity. In 1865 he moved into the village, and gave up farm life. Four of the children are living: Miles Upson of Oneida, Mrs. Eliza Preston in Illinois, Spencer of Minneapolis, the father of Arthur Wheelock Upson, the young poet Maria, who married Samuel Scoville of Camden.

Widow Dean, the mother of Mrs. Erastus Upson, lived in a house on the Florence road above the Park place. After the death of Mr. Ballard she married the second time, Joseph Phelps, and after his death she married, in 1819, Judge Dean of Westmoreland for his second wife. Mr. Dean was an agent and interpreter for the Indians. Mrs. Dean was present at the burning of Cherry Valley by the Indians, November 11, 1775. Sherman Barnes owned the Park place after Mr. Upson; then it was deeded, about 1816, to John Humaston. April, 1821, it was bought by John Dunsbaugh, who came from Clermont, Columbia County. He married Concurrence Landon.

### JACOB PARKS.

Jacob Parks, who had married their adopted daughter, came with them. This place has been in the Parks family ever since. It was kept as a tavern for a long time. John Dunsbaugh died November 18, 1843, aged 72. His wife died later in Columbia County. Jacob Parks did not live many years after coming here. He died in 1827, aged 44 years. His wife survived him 60 years, and made her home with her son Francis. She was a pensioner of the war of 1812, and a most estimable woman in every respect. She died February 27, 1888, aged 98. Three children living of the 12 born to them, Mrs. J. Hyde of Indiana, Mrs. H. Hammond of Iowa, Francis Park of Camden, and his descendants are the only ones living here. Dunsbaugh's Tavern was a very popular place for the weary traveler, and back in the thirties was made famous by a wolf hunt. In 1837 or 1838

a wolf was prowling around Annsville, and finally came near the property of Anthony Empey's in the town of Florence, and killed 20 sheep. This aroused the neighborhood. There was no way to get rid of them but to kill them. A large party gathered together and followed the creature to Camden without getting a chance to shoot. Each man tries to aim well, for if he misses, the animal may in his fright spring upon him. All are excited, and there is danger of shooting one another. The animal after reaching the



Mrs. Concurrence Parks

pine woods back of the school house on the Seventh, led his pursuers through a long strip of woods into Amboy. By this time the first of the party were completely exhausted, and called for recruits. They finally headed this ferocious animal at Amboy, and he made a return trip through the pines to the Seventh. By this time a large party came from Camden village, and J. D. Cavalry was among them. They finally surrounded Mr. Wolf, and every way he turned there was a gun pointed at him. J. D. Cavalry was the hero of the day. His shot hit the mark. The wolf was brought over in front of Daunsbaugh's tavern with great shouts



from the crowd. It proved to be a very large black wolf. After the party got pretty full of "fire water," which was only 25 cents a gallon in pioneer days, they procured a sled and put four poles, one on each corner, and then a platform on them, then the wolf was laid out high and dry, with J. D. Cavalry to guard it. Then they started for the village. I suppose it was equal to any Fourth of July. The only difference, one was celebrating the conquering of the British, and the other the capture of the wolf.

The wolf was given back to Annsville. It was on exhibition in a farmer's barn for some time, and then it was bought by some one in Utica, and put in the hands of a taxidermist. That was the last they heard of it.

Francis Park remembers when the stage stopped at their house to change horses, at one time ex-President Martin Van Buren was passenger, en route for Oswego.

#### SEVENTH TOWNSHIP CEMETERY.

We find at the County Clerk's Office this cemetery was recorded August 12, 1826, in Book 42, page 163. November 15, 1823,



Cemetery on the Seventh.

it was given in a quit claim deed by David Smith and Hannah his wife, of the first part, for the sum of twenty dollars, to Daniel

Northrup, Benjamin Curtiss and William Plumb, of the second part, in lot No. 36, for a burying ground, and should be kept for the purpose mentioned in good repair, with a fence around it. They have lived up to their agreement. It is the oldest in town that is kept in good condition. This place is hallowed by the remains of many good and brave men, Revolutionary patriots that were among our earliest settlers, and of the war of 1812, and other prominent men; and sacred to the memory of faithful women who helped to battle with life in our primitive forests. We have been told that this ground of one acre is more than full and there is nothing to mark the graves of many, and no record is to be found. There are 187 stones, with the field stones as counted, in the burying ground, September 1896. This is the inscription on the stone of the oldest burial:

"In memory of Samuel Potter, who died August the 21st, 1806, in the 87th year of his age.

Farewell my friends and children all,  
I am out of sight and out of call,  
I pray, my friends take timely care,  
Of a deaf son who is my heir.

One stone in particular attracts attention as you enter the gate; that of Dr. Joel Rathburn, a soldier of 1812. The inscription is as follows:

"In memory of Dr. Joel Rathburn who died August 23rd, 1820, aged 41 years. As a physician he was able and skillful, possessing during 18 years of extensive practice the deserved confidence of the community. He was an active and liberal patron of religious institutions, and a friend of order and a peace-maker. Being among the early settlers of Camden, he contributed much to its prosperity. Of the truth of the Christian revelation, he was firmly persuaded, and left the world in the expectation of sharing its joy. In life, respected and beloved; and in death, not less lamented. By this event the poor have lost a benefactor. But the tears of his widow and orphans attest how kindly he fulfilled the office of a father and a husband."

Now let us linger a while here, just beyond, at the left. This will tell of the past that is linked with the life of to-day. Here is

a little field-stone, simply marked "L. M., Æ. 77." Here rests a great grandfather of a great many living in our midst at the present day. He responded quickly, with others, at the fight of Lexington, and it is a noteworthy fact the life of the one that sleeps here will show most conclusively the spirit of the man in defence of his country.

#### LEVI MUNSON.

Levi Munson, with others, marched from Connecticut towns for the relief of Boston, April, 1775. He was from Wallingford, but went as clerk from Branford, and was six days in service. September 1st, 1775, he enlisted in the Quebec expedition under Col. Benedict Arnold of New Haven, Conn., with Capt. Oliver Hanchett of Suffield. September 25, 1775, Mr. Munson with seventeen others, surrendered with Col. Ethan Allen, near Montreal, and was taken to Halifax. Very soon after they were sent to England. While there, Ethan Allen rejected an offer made by the king, which caused them to be handcuffed and thrust into a dark hole 22 by 20 feet, in Pendennis Castle, and they were confined there for a month, then they were transported back to Halifax, June 21, 1776. Mr. Munson was given up by his family as one dead, but through the kindness of one of the ship's crew he wrote a letter home as well as he could in his weak state, and the little ray of light they had on ship-board. Not long after their arrival at Halifax, he was among the exchanged prisoners, and made haste home to his family. As soon as health would permit he re-enlisted in the Continental army, and was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant January 1st, 1777. He resigned September 8th, 1780. The last time he enlisted, his youngest son, Levi, who was old enough to go, went as his father's assistant, and four other sons also entered the army.

Lent went as a drummer in Capt. Stephen Potter's Company from Brantford, June 16th, 1777, afterwards he was a fifer in Capt. Elisha Ely's Company, January 21, 1778.

Orange was a drummer in the same company from January 20, 1778, to March 1, 1780.

Almond enlisted in Ely's Company March 6, 1777. Discharged



March 3, 1782. He was a pensioner in 1818, and a resident of Pennsylvania.

Ephraim was in Col. Mosley's Regiment, Capt. James Stoddard's Company; enlisted July 8, 1778. He was a pensioner in Litchfield County, Conn., in 1832.

The oldest son, Lent, while in the army was in company with four or five others carrying supplies on horses. They were captured by a band of Indians from Lake Superior region. Their horses were taken from them, and they were obliged to walk. Overcome by fatigue, one after another would fall by the way, and in every case they received a blow on the head from a tomahawk, and were left where they fell. Only two lived to get through, and Lent was one of them. After reaching their destination the Indians cut their hair short, painted their faces, and dressed them in Indian fashion. They were bound every night, and slept between two Indians, and were never allowed to speak to each other. They were now in the unsettled West, the Indians' hunting grounds, for this tribe were great hunters. By Lent's good conduct they soon had confidence enough to allow him to be alone while hunting. On one of these expeditions he chanced to meet a fur dealer, who occasionally came among them to buy their furs. He told him his history, and through him learned something of his whereabouts, and what direction to take to find a white settlement, should he decide to attempt an escape. He decided very soon, and traveled nights, and secreted himself through the day. On one occasion, while lying in a hollow log, some of the party passed him near enough to hear what they said. He soon came to the river, and fortunately found a boat, he was soon on the other side, and near the settlement he was searching for. In looking back he saw some of the tribe in close pursuit. He told his story to a lady, and she hid him in her attic until the Indians left the village. He was given suitable clothes, and after washing the paint off, and having a good rest, his thoughts turned towards home, and after expressing his utmost gratitude to these true friends in need, who had also furnished him money to defray his expenses to his home in Wallingford, Conn., he soon arrived there, and was received with great joy.

The mother had mourned for him, supposing he was killed in some battle. His exhausted state, and the excitement of once more seeing the dear ones, proved too much for him, and he soon passed away. The rest of the sons lived until the close of the war. Mrs. Levi Munson remained on the farm with the four youngest children, an only daughter and three sons, Abel, Augustus and Elisha. They sold their farm in Connecticut, and moved to Green County, N. Y. They remained there until their children had homes of their own, and they were too old to care for themselves. About the year 1814 they came to Camden, and were kindly cared for in the home of their daughter, Mrs. Ashbel Upson, Sen., and spent the remainder of their days there.

Mr. Levi Munson was born in 1739, and died in 1816, aged 77. Mrs. Munson was born in 1743, and died in 1827, aged 84. In our American Histories we have read of patriotic fathers, but little knew that one was buried in this cemetery, with other brave men, as Woods, Penfield, Curtiss, Upson, Barnes and Brown.

The patriotic wife and mother whose remains repose here by her husband, also deserves a record of heroic self-sacrifice on the altar of her country.

After passing Daunsbaugh's tavern, there is a corner to the right. By the old survey book, we find this road was laid out from the Salmon River road (now Oswego) to Florence, July 23, 1801. Entered on the old town book 1832.

#### ELDAD SMITH.

The earliest settler on this road was Eldad Smith. He came in 1799, and bought land in Lot No. 9 of Ogden & Murray, land owners of New York City. He made a clearing in the woods, and built a log house. He returned to his home in Litchfield, Connecticut, and the next spring he started with his family for their new home. They came with oxen and a lumber wagon, bringing bedding, provisions, and such household furniture as was absolutely necessary; also three cows, which furnished milk for their use on the way, as well as afterwards. They arrived at their destination June 9th, 1800,

being on the road 21 days. Then began their new life in the wilderness, with plenty of hard work before them.. The little patch of cleared land had to be prepared and planted, and then the work of clearing the land continued. The cares of the house were very hard with so little to do with. There were cooking, mending, spinning and knitting, and the care of the children. The oldest one, named Hiram, was but seven years old. They built a small barn before the cold winter came. The cattle fed upon twigs of trees which had been cut down, and they were in good condition in the spring. Pigs and sheep were added to their stock, and more land was cleared, and the work increased.

Early in the spring of 1813 a malignant fever, which became epidemic, appeared in this neighborhood. The disease entered this household; the father died after six days' illness, and Jonathan, a son 16 years old, died in five days after being taken ill; the other members of the family recovered. Then the cares fell upon this grief-stricken mother, and Hiram, who was now nineteen years old. The next year Hiram bought a piece of land adjoining that which his father bought, and in 1815 married Anna, daughter of Serajah Comstock, of Williamstown, but for a time a resident of the town of Camden. The other members of the family moved to Michigan. Hiram Smith had five children that lived to maturity, only two living at present, Mrs. Crouch of this village, and Lewis Smith of West Camden. Hiram Smith died July 20, 1860, aged 67; Anna Smith, his wife, died February 7, 1859, aged 65. Eldad Smith's place is now owned by Robert Sparrow, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Sparrow, who emigrated to America from Shropshire, England, in 1832, with eleven children.

#### ERIE CASTLE.

The next farm this side, in Lot No. 23, owned now by John Smith, Erie Castle, came prior to 1814 from Plymouth, Conn. His wife's maiden name was Polly Ford. She died in 1815. Erie Castle died July 15, 1842, aged 63. He is buried beside his wife on the Seventh. They were grandparents of Jay Castle, late of Camden, now of Williamstown. The road leading from this farm across to the Florence Hill road was surveyed May, 1821.

## BENJAMIN FENTON.

James Hamilton came from Scotland and bought this place in 1834, and sold to John Watkins in 1844. Mr. Hamilton moved to Buffalo. About one mile west of this last place Benjamin Fenton lived in 1831. He came from Connecticut. His oldest daughter, Roxy, married Wm. Shepherd in Connecticut, and came here some time after the family. Mr. Shepherd died in 1894. His wife died 1886. Three children survive them, G. R. Shepherd, grocery merchant, and two daughters. Polly married Levi Parsons. He died in 1885, aged 77 years. His wife resides with her married daughter in Ashburnham, Mass.; one daughter in Camden, two sons in the West. George Fenton lived in West Camden, and Sherman remained at the old home. The other four children were Lucius, Sarah, William and Mrs. John Whaley.

Wolves had been prowling around this neighborhood for some time. One night George Fenton, returning home quite late, after spending the evening with a certain young lady, had quite an experience. As he neared home he heard the howling of wolves. He was this side of his father's where there was a long strip of woods, when he heard a wolf howl in the distance at his right, then a reply from one nearer to him at his left. He gave a great sigh, and says, boots, you and I must be lively, as he heard the howling of the wolves, and they seemed to be getting nearer. On reaching home he found his father and the rest of the family up. They had heard the wolves, and were sure he was torn to pieces, but with great joy they heard his footsteps coming down the hill with great speed. This story was told at school the next morning by his sister, and told to the writer by one of his schoolmates now a person that has grandchildren to tell stories to. That same night Hiram Smith had thirty sheep killed, and also others in that neighborhood. On investigation, they found two wolves had made their home with seven young ones on Cropper Hill. They were making dreadful havoc among the sheep in that vicinity. A number of men from the town of Florence and Camden drove them out of their den, and they went towards Annsville without getting a shot at them. Anns-

ville settlers turned out and surrounded, and killed the seven young wolves.

#### ELEAZER STEARNS.

Eleazer Stearns married Aurelia Castle, near Bristol, Conn., prior to 1790, and soon after they removed to Easton, Washington County. Eleazer Stearns was a revolutionary soldier, and died at Easton. About the year 1818 his widow came to Camden with all but two of her children. Aurelia and Minerva remained East, and married David and James Burch. Mrs. Stearns first settled about one mile east of Mr. Fenton's. Lola married and lived near the home; Isaac married Erie Castle's daughter, and lived in West Camden, on property now owned and occupied by H. H. Gifford; Phebe married a Mr. De Long, and lived in Fulton; Eliza married Elijah Gaylord; Caroline married Morgan Rich of Sand Banks; Mrs. Stearns married Benj. Curtiss. She died January 28, 1857, aged 86. James Rowell, son of Martin Rowell, married Lola Stearns; he was in the war of 1812; he was brother to Caleb, Zera, David, Truman.

To come back to Oswego road, after crossing the bridge: The first place on the left was the property of David and Stephen Kinnie. They came here in 1814, and built a small tannery in connection with a shoe shop. One was the tanner, and the other the shoemaker. They were brothers to Amos Kinnie. They tanned a few hides for their own manufacture. Their home was on the corner of the Mix road. Daniel Northrup, who married Sabra Preston, was also a shoemaker, and occupied this place. He went from house to house, and made up their winter stock. On the opposite corner, on the left, Abram Perkins kept a tavern.

#### ABRAM PERKINS

Emigrated here with his father, Elijah Perkins, in 1803, from New Haven, Conn. Of the family of six children, only two came with Elijah Perkins and wife; Abram, the oldest, and Woodard the youngest, a boy of five years. Abram was married and had one child, Lydia, who was three years old (known as Aunt Lydia Sperry). They built a log house near Florence Hill, but soon after moved where his father lived, now

called the Nisbet Place. His father, Elijah Perkins, was born the 28th day of January, 1755, and died March 24th, 1833. Lydia his wife was born the 16th day of November, 1754, and died at her youngest son Woodard's in 1849, aged 90. In 1812 Abram

Perkins bought of Whiting Barnes a lot on the Seventh, corner of the Mix road, and built the first hotel in Camden. His wife's name was Huldah Pratt; they had four children, Lydia, Gaius, Hannah and Mark. At this time there were a good many Indians wandering through the country, who had a great love for whisky. They would stop at the tavern and get a drink if they could. When Gaius was a boy about thirteen or fourteen, he had charge of the bar-room if his father was away. He had been told not to let the Indians have any strong drink, as it made them ugly. One day his father was away, and he and his mother were alone, when three Indians put in an appearance, and the first thing they wanted was whisky. Gaius was not afraid, and told them they could not have any. One burly fellow stepped up and said they would, and took out their usual weapon, a long knife, and stepped towards the boy, and he backed up, and the Indian followed him until he was to the back side of the room. The Indian raised his knife and stuck it into a board above the boy's head. As he did not flinch, the Indian says, "Laughing boy, no coward," and soon these unwelcome visitors went away. Gaius Perkins lived in Camden all his life. He was a carpenter by trade. He lived in the village several years before his death. He married Caroline, daughter of Street Barnes; she died in 1880. There were three children, only one living, Mrs. D. P. Peck, and her daughter, Mrs. W. Peck and little family are the only descendants here of the Perkins family. Mark Perkins settled in Utica, and died there at the age of 69. Woodard Perkins settled on his father's place, and married Esther Northrup. He lived many years in the village, and where he will have distinct notice in that locality.

#### ISAAC WHEELER.

On the right hand side of the street as you cross the bridge, once stood a house, the home of Isaac Wheeler, who moved here in 1831 from Wolcott Hill. There were eight children, Daniel,



Charles, Samuel, Isaac, Joseph, Occamen, Russell and Betsey, who married Reuben Root. Daniel married Sophrona Byam, and moved to Pennsylvania; Charles married Mary Ann Wood; she died November 8, 1840, aged 32, leaving four children. For his second wife he married Emeline Mix; she died December 3, 1882, aged 73; Charles Wheeler died February 16, 1886, aged 83; Joseph married Amanda Harrington. They both died in the West, at the home of their only child, Russell Wheeler. The next from the Wheeler place was Alva Rogers, who married Hannah, daughter of Abram Perkins. A portion of this house is standing. Mr. Rogers had a carpenter and joiner shop close by. Near the Rogers home Joel Gilbert had a blacksmith shop. In 1828 it was owned by Nelson Simmons about four years. Further notice of the latter in the village.

#### DR. JOEL RATHBURN.

The next place was the home of Dr. Joel Rathburn. He married Philomela Alden of Williamstown. Their bridal trip was



Residence of Dr. Joel Rathburn.

made on horseback, and Mrs. Rathbun had a narrow escape from being drowned in crossing the creek below the village. Levant, their oldest child was born in 1803; Alden, the next, in 1803.

There were five more children, Lysander, Philander, Joel Phila and Dorlisca. Early in the year 1820 Mr. Rathburn went to Sugar Grove, Pennsylvania, to purchase land for his sons, and took cold, and lived but a short time after. He had an office near his home; he was a prominent physician. He left a widow and several children. Alden Rathburn kept the old homestead, and married Rosannah Dunbar in 1831. Six children were born to them, three living in Camden; Henry is on the old place, which has been in the family about ninety-seven years. Mr. A. Rathburn died in 1888; his wife in 1877.

#### SAMUEL T. WOODS.

Samuel T. Woods, a captain in the war of 1812, lived nearly opposite the Rathburn house; he married Aurelia Dunbar. A little incident shows the interest Capt. Woods had in his men, at Sackett's Harbor, and their love for him never waned. Capt. Woods' company was not brought to action, as the struggle was virtually over when they reached the seat of war, although peace had not been declared. There was nothing for them to do, and Mr. Wood, knowing how much they were needed at home—and a dreaded disease having broken out among them, and men were dying off—Mr. Wood did not wait for them to be disbanded and mustered out, but took the responsibility upon himself, and sent them home, contrary to all military rules, thereby rendering himself liable to military discipline, and to court martial, and perhaps a worse fate, if caught, which would undoubtedly have been carried to the full extent of the military severity, were it not for friends that helped him in his time of need. It was said he was driven over the country under a pile of straw, and though hotly pursued, he escaped capture and the dreaded severity of a court martial. He was honored and respected by all. He was an industrious and hard-working man, dying at the early age of 32, in 1824.

Turn back to the Mix road. As early as 1802 there was a brewery near the pines—now the railroad crossing. The water was brought in pump-logs from the springs on the hills. Soon after the first temperance movement, this was abolished.



## NOAH TUTTLE.

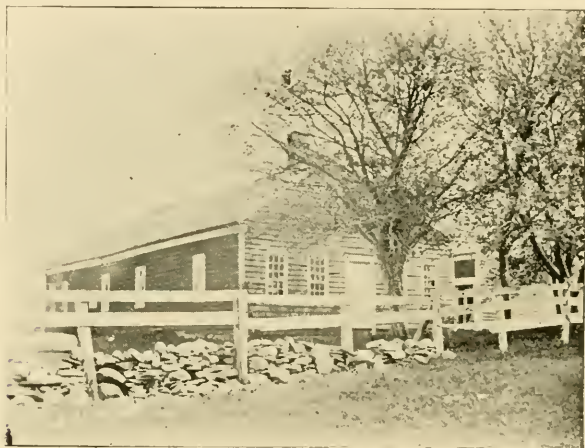
Noah Tuttle lived about one mile west of the corner of the Oswego and Mix Road. He married Thankful Royce in Connecticut—Andrew, born 1772; Elizabeth, 1775; Laura, 1777; Andrew, the oldest, was married, and in company with his father came to Camden in the fall of 1797. Daniel was the first white male child born in Camden, April 22, 1798. Noah Tuttle lived in Clinton about two years, after leaving Connecticut, before coming to Camden. Names of the children born in Connecticut—Andrew, born 1772; Elizabeth, 1775; Laura, 1777; Phineas, 1779; Oramon, 1782; Noah, 1784, and died 1794; Chloe, 1787; Nehemiah, 1790; Chauncey, 1792; Noah P., 1795, and died 1797; Daniel, 1798; and Orvis ——. The father of this large family died June 21, 1821, aged 77 years. Mrs. Tuttle married for her second husband Gideon Northrup. She lived to a good old age, and there are people now who remember her. She was a sister of Samuel Royce, the first town clerk of Camden, and they were the only ones of that family that came here.

Mrs. Tuttle, early one morning, came to the door of Mrs. Thomas Stone with a bed-spread which she had spun and woven, saying to Mrs. Stone she would like her to have it; to which Mrs. Stone replied, "I do not need it." "But you must have it," said Mrs. Tuttle. "I do not want any chairs, tables or bedstead, but I want an order." It then dawned upon Mrs. Stone what she did want; therefore she took the spread and repeated the conversation to her husband. He asked her if she would like it. She said she did not care for it, "but you see what she wants; it is to pay for her coffin." And he immediately gave her an order. The spread has always been in Mrs. Stone's possession. Mr. Stone died before Mrs. Tuttle. At her death her grandson went to Mrs. Stone with the order, and it was sent to Martin Stevens for her coffin. Mrs. Tuttle died March 11, 1846, aged 94 years.

## AMOS DAVENPORT MIX.

Amos Davenport Mix, who built this house came to Camden from Wolcott, Connecticut, about 1799. He had been a

great traveler; had been around the world, and at that time it was a great undertaking. He visited where the sun shone but two hours a day. He was very aristocratic, and did not lay aside his knee-buckles in his forest home. He was a tailor by trade, and many a garment he cut after coming here for the housewives to make up home-made suits for their family. In emigrating here he thought he could get away from the noise and bustle of the city, and lead a quiet life in the wilderness. He bought of Jesse Curtiss this place, where he lived the rest of his



Residence of Amos Davenport Mix.

life. From the Oswego road they went by marked trees, and were obliged to go on horseback or walk. To see the open fields and good roads, one can hardly realize it now. The reason he bought upon the hill was because the prospects at that time were that the village would be near by. Mr. Mix being a Connecticut man, had the same taste that is so characteristic there, in having homes on high elevations, so as to command a fine view of the country and the busy scenes of life. In clearing the land the father and sons chopped wood until their hands would bleed. How many of our boys of the present day are fitted for pioneer life? Amos Davenport Mix helped to keep up the religious services in that vicinity by reading the scriptures, and leading the meetings, and doing all other work for the good cause he

could. At that time distilleries were numerous, and whisky plenty; he was the first to throw away his decanter at the time of the reform. Mr. Mix had very few words on business; he always meant to be straightforward in all his dealings. One little incident is told of him that seems quite amusing. He went on horseback to pay a bill, which he knew was overcharged. This was the substance of the conversation: "Good morning, Sir—my bill, Sir—too much, Sir—good day, Sir—get up, Sir"—and rode away. The same expressions were used on his second call. The third time his debtor came down to a fair price, so he greeted him. "Good morning, Sir—my bill, Sir—all right, Sir—here's your money, Sir—good day, Sir—get up, Sir." He was so polite he used Sir to man or beast. Amos D. Mix, Sen., died September 6, 1846, aged 79. Urzula Cook, his wife, died September 17, 1862, aged 81. There were nine children, the descendants of only one in Camden village, Mrs. Helen Barnes and family; she was the daughter of Alfred Mix. He lived on the old place for many years. His last days were spent in the village with his daughter. Mr. Alfred Mix died September 23, 1894; his wife died September 17, 1885.



Residence of Amos Mix, Jr.

This is the home of Amos Mix, Jr.; he married Abigail Bryan in 1827. He was a very industrious farmer. There are none of his descendants in Camden now. His daughter, Mrs. Albert Barnes, and her son, moved to Syracuse in the fall of 1896. Mr.

Amos Mix died October 11, 1876, aged 72. His wife survived him eleven years, dying in 1883, aged 75. Warren Mix died in San Francisco. Adeline married J. Burnham of West Camden. There are two sons living in their old home now. John Mix married Orissa Ransom. He was a very prosperous business man. We find in the first volume of the Camden paper, in 1842, this advertisement: "Milk pans—first quality—warranted by the dozen or hundred. Please call at the old tin store, J. F. & W. Mix. May 4."

John F. Mix was identified with the Congregational Church for many years, and contributed largely to its support. His only child, George, died February 8th, 1871, aged 26, which was a great blow to his afflicted parents, from which they never fully recovered. Mr. Mix died December, 1894, aged 80 years. Mrs. Mix is living at the present day.

Bond \$800. To Amos Mix from Jesse Curtiss. Know all men by these presents, that Jesse Curtiss in Mexico, in the County of Oneida, firmly bound to Amos Mix to the sum of 800 dollars, &c., and sealed with my seal, dated this 9th day of January, in the year of 1799. The condition of this obligation is such that if the Jesse Curtiss shall and do convey unto the above named Amos Mix, his heirs, attorney or administrators, by a good and sufficient warranty deed on or before the first day of February, "one thousand eight hundred," one hundred acres of land of the westerly side of Lot No. 49 in the Township No. 7 in Scriba Patent, beginning at the north easterly corner of No. 49, then eastward on the line of the beach fence between Northrup and the said Jesse Land, and so on.

Thus this obligation to be void, to remain in full force of virtue. Jesse Curtiss.

Sealed and delivered in presence of Arthur Breese.

### CHAPTER III.

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#### THE SEVENTH RELIGIOUS SOCIETY.

THE beginning of a settlement generally begins the history of religious societies, and our forefathers labored for the right; for their own good as well as for their posterity. In relation to the history of this society, it will be difficult to give anything accurate, as no records can be found. We conclude the first religious services were held in some private house, as was customary in primitive days. In 1799 a building was erected, and as these pioneers had a care for schools as well as a house for worship, their building, called the Academy, was made for the convenience of both. It was a commodious structure, and divided by a swing partition, a gallery at one end, and a huge fire-place at the other. The partition was kept down, and the gallery was then closed through the week, and was raised on Sunday, which gave a seating capacity to a large congregation. Meetings were held every Sunday, and were well attended. From what little we can glean in regard to this society, there was no regular pastor; they were supplied by missionaries, or from some other society. There were men of education among these pioneers, with their strict principles in regard to the observance of the Lord's day, that conducted these meetings. Amos Davenport Mix, and others, took turns in reading good practical sermons, and the scriptures, and leading in singing the Psalms of David. In 1800, twelve united with this society, and in 1803 eleven more, and twenty-three organized into a church called "The Second Congregational Church of Camden." The first Congregational Church was organized at Paris, Oneida County, N. Y., in 1798. This society was the first to organize in the present town of Camden. The services were held regularly until they united with the First Congregational Church, Oct. 23, 1815. An amusing story is told concerning the strife between these two societies. George Scriba made an offer of land to the one that built the



first church. There was one appointed from each society to go to Utica and have the papers made out and recorded. The one from the Seventh started out on horseback very secretly, and thought he would spend the night with his brother in a neighboring town to Utica, and go to the County Clerk's Office in the morning. The one from the village heard of it, and started late on horseback, and rode all night, and went into Utica with great speed in the morning, and had the papers all made out before the other one arrived from his brother's. When urgent business is on hand it is not best to make visits by the way.

The land that Scriba gave through his agent, John Murray, was what was called the Priest Lot, above the railroad station on Mexico Street, and comprised 134 acres and 9-100 of an acre. Later we find the following persons received into the Second Church: Irene Cropper, Catherine Lane, Mary Hungerford, June 16, 1813; December 20, 1813, received Elizabeth Woods, Cynthia Upson, Mary Upson, Rachel Hungerford; Bethena, wife of deacon A. Curtiss admitted March, 1815.

#### DISTRICT NO. 2.

In relation to our primitive settlers, they were careful that the younger part of their families should not be destitute of instruction in the common branches, like reading, spelling and writing. It would be gratifying to have the proceedings of our early settlers on this subject before us. But such as they were, they are lost. Among the first that taught prior to 1810 were Erastus Upson and Cynthia Ballard, whom he married. Mr. Upson had charge of this school after he married. In 1812 this pioneer academy and church was destroyed by fire, caught from a spark from the fire-place, that got on to the broom that stood near by. They rebuilt in 1813, and one of the early teachers, ten years later, was Simon Davies, later a merchant in Florence village; another was Diadama Humaston, who married Abio Ripley. In 1854 the building was in a sad condition, and they voted to rebuild it, which is the present building. This school has been well sustained, and is as flourishing as most common schools are in this vicinity.

## SAMUEL POTTER.

Samuel Potter was one of the early settlers in this locality; he built just above Joel Rathburn. In connection with his home was a building for a store; Linus Sandford had charge of it. Samuel Potter was born 1739; died 1806. His sister Eunice married Salmon Humaston, and another sister was Zophar Barnes, Jr.'s., wife. He also had a brother named Daniel, and one Zenas. His was the first burial that has a head stone to mark his grave in town; buried August 1806.

Jesse Penfield lived on the corner opposite the school-house; his blacksmith shop stood near by. He was here but a few years. On the corner north of the school-house stood a little house, in which lived a little old woman familiarly known as "Old Granny Chunk." Her maiden name was Smith.

## SALMON HUMASTON.

Salmon Humaston, in 1800, owned the place now occupied by John Seubert, and a little later bought and lived just above Gran-ny Chunk's. Here he had a carpenter and joiner shop. All traces of the two houses on this corner are gone. Salmon Humaston died in 1836, Eunice his wife in 1832; they were the parents of Norris and Diadama; Norris died in 1871; his wife in 1885. There are none of the descendants living; they are all buried side by side on the Seventh.

## JESSE CURTISS.

Jesse Curtiss came here previous to the arrival of Judge H. Williams. His family did not come until some time after. They were from Litchfield County, Conn. There were four sons, Jesse Curtiss of Clinton, Ambrose, Elihu and Elisha of Camden. Mr. Curtiss was a great land owner. He was in the Revolutionary War, and held several prominent offices. On the stones in Mexico Street Cemetery is inscribed: "Maj. Jesse Curtiss died May 28, 1821, aged 88." Sarah, his wife, died January 19, 1818, aged 81. Deacon Ambrose Curtiss built a log house, and afterwards the frame building known as the Sartwell place, this side of the crossing. His first wife was Lucy Doolittle, half sister of Elisaph; she died May 29, 1815, aged 43. He married for his

second wife Bethena, the widow of Garner Preston, who was the mother of Mrs. Lent Upson. Ambrose Curtiss, Sen., died March 6, 1842, aged 72. There were nine children by the first marriage: Charles, Hastings, Ambrose and Hall; five daughters, Oril, who married Rosetter Preston; Mabel, married Thompson Scoville; Amelia, married George Parks; Lucy, married George White, and moved to Pennsylvania; Sophrona, married John Gamble, and lives in West Camden. Charles Curtiss married Sabrina Rice, sister of Seth, and settled just over the line in the southern part of Florence—it was then Camden. He was a soldier of 1812. He moved down to the Seventh after his brothers and sisters had married, and his father was alone, he remained there until after his father's death. In 1847 he exchanged places with Samuel Sartwell of West Camden, and remained there until his death in 1854; his wife survived him twenty-five years; she died in 1879. There were five children, only two living now. The only descendants in town are Mrs. Harry Goodyear and grand-daughter, Miss Bertha Wood. Hasting Curtiss moved to Central Square about 1820. He was one of the most enterprising men of the county. He held many important offices of both town and county, and when the town of Hastings was formed from Constantia, in 1825, it was named for him. He was the father of the late Hasting F. Curtiss of this village. Hasting F. Curtiss was born in Hastings, New York, in 1830. In early childhood he lost his parents, and came to Camden, and lived with his uncle Ambrose. He married Britannia, daughter of his uncle. He was a prosperous business man in Camden for seventeen years. The latter part of his life was spent in New York City. He died in Camden January, 1896; his wife died in 1894. Ambrose Curtiss, Jr., was born in Camden four years after his father moved here. He married Polly, daughter of Erastus Sandford, December 29, 1825. Ambrose Curtiss built a home above the railroad crossing, and lived there forty-six years; he was a carpenter and joiner by trade. He moved into the village in 1849; he was first a merchant, and subsequently a banker. Ambrose Curtiss was born March 26, 1803, and died November



7, 1880. Polly L. Sandford, his wife, was born at Hartford, Conn., January 18, 1804, and died December 16, 1863. Byron Curtiss, the only son, and only one living here, carries on the mercantile business that was established by his father. Hall Curtiss was a farmer, and a permanent resident here; died in Camden December 31, 1893. Five children were born to them, Mrs. P. Howland, his daughter is the only descendant in town. His widow lives in western New York. One of the descendants of the Curtiss family has seen a Bible in Clinton once the property of Jesse Curtiss, published in Geneva by John Crespin in 1568. It has been in the family since 1636. Curtiss was taken from the name Tustiss.

Just across the track, on the right, Thompson Scoville built a small tannery, and a shoemaker's shop connected with it. The wing part of his house towards the east, was the old distillery that stood near Mix Hill. Norris Humaston lived on the opposite corner, and had a carpenter and joiner shop.

Abel Munson came to Camden from Windham, Green County, N. Y., in 1809. He lived in a house on a knoll, just above N.



Mrs. William Bird.

Humaston's; the barn was burned three or four years ago. In 1820 he moved to West Camden. Mrs. Wm. Bird, his daughter,

now living, was born on the Seventh, December 1, 1809, and is now the oldest person living born in Camden. There were four sons, Selden, Leverett, Loren and Merritt. More will be said about this family in the settlement of West Camden.

### ZOPHAR BARNES.

In 1797, Manning and Street, two sons of Zophar Barnes of New London, Conn., came here and bought wood land in the north half of the township No. 7 of Scriba's Patent. They built a frame house, and made a small clearing, and then returned to Connecticut for their father and mother and the rest of the family. They were all settled here in 1798, only Whiting, he was already married, and emigrated later. Zophar Barnes' children's names were Whiting, Manning, Street, Lyman, Zophar and Pliny. They had great difficulty in reaching their new home, being obliged to cut their way through the woods. The original frame building which was their home, was standing until 1896, when it was torn down. In 1801 Mr. Barnes was one of the commissioners of the highway in the town of Camden, before the present towns of Florence and Vienna, and the western portion of Annsville were set off from its territory. To fulfill the duties of this office required considerable traveling over the rough roads of the town. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes were great favorites with the young and old, and went by the names of "Uncle Zophar" and "Aunt Mary." According to the custom of the times, or the need of dishes, they would have a large dish in the middle of the table, and each one help themselves. Often this couple would have a bowl of bread and milk, and each a spoon, and sit down together for a good chat, and eat out of the same bowl. Zophar Barnes married Mary E. Barnes of Plymouth, Conn. Zophar Barnes was born at Plymouth in 1759, and died in Camden in 1842. Mary E. Barnes was born at Plymouth in 1764, and died in Camden in 1820. Manning Barnes settled in West Camden in 1802. Street Barnes was born in 1782, and was sixteen years of age when he came to Camden. He married Lovina Cowl, sister of Seth Dunbar's wife, and settled on the place now occupied by Horace Peck. There were three children, Caroline, Betsey and

Mareus. Mareus H. Barnes died in the West. Pliny Barnes married Rebecca, daughter of Martin Cook, Sen. He settled above the Humaston place, and lived and died on the farm, within a few rods of where he was born, in December, 1800. Pliny Barnes was an upright and respectable citizen. He held several important town offices with the greatest satisfaction to the community—four children, living—Edwin and Wallace, Mary and Emma. Pliny Barnes died on February 4, 1868, aged 67; Rebecca, his wife, died March 8, 1882, aged 75. Zophar married a Miss Potter, and lived in West Camden. Lyman died many years ago. This whole family are buried side by side on the Seventh, as you enter the gate at your left. Zophar, the father, was a Revolutionary soldier, but we have been unable to find his records.

#### SHEPHERD MARVIN.

Mr. Pliny Darrow built a house and owned the farm familiarly known as the Marvin Farm. Several tenants lived here before Mr. Marvin bought it, in 1838. He moved on the place in 1840, and lived there for a number of years, then he bought property in the village in 1847, where he spent the last of his days. He was long known in the community as a good citizen and an every-day Christian. His life's pilgrimage was over August 6, 1872, in his 80th year. His wife, Mary Putnam, died December, 1882. Their sons, Cortland and James, died early in the sixties, in Arkansas. George died at Texarkana, Texas. Henry, the oldest child, died in Grinnell, Iowa, January 7, 1897, and his faithful and patient wife followed him very soon; she died the 24th of the same month. Her maiden name was Hannah Park. Henry Marvin moved to Iowa in 1853. The three daughters of Shepherd Marvin are living—Mrs. L. J. Aldrich of Camden, Mrs. Jay Hildreth of Boston, Mrs. E. Edgett of Newark, N. Y. Ransom Marvin, brother of Shepherd lived near the crossing, they were natives of Alsted, N. H. This is the last farm on the Oswego road, in this district, going west.

There is a great similarity in the lay of the land of the Seventh and our village, with the exception of our natural terrace on the south-west bank of Mad River.

We will now return to the road that comes out by the railroad crossing on the Seventh. As you go to the left, the first farm you approach was once the home of Joseph Hungerford, who came here in 1800 from Waterbury, Conn. The house he built was burned, and the one now standing was built in 1867. The place is better known as the Loren Cummings place. Mr. Hungerford died in 1835, aged 74; Eunice, his wife, died in 1833, aged 75. They are both buried in the cemetery on the Seventh.

David Brown built the house now owned by Lyman Curtiss; he was a Revolutionary soldier. He is buried on the Seventh. His daughter married Rufus Kinnie, who lived near by; she was left a widow, and married a Mr. Higgins for her second husband. In her old age she went by the name of Aunt Marilla Higgins.

#### NICHOLAS WOODS.

Nicholas Woods came to this country at the same time that Gen. Wolf set sail from England with 8,000 men, in February, 1759. Mr. Woods came to aid in the French and Indian war. He was garrisoned at Oswego, and was killed and scalped by the Indians. He was the father of

#### SAMUEL WOODS

Our pioneer, who came to this place with his oldest son in 1804, and worked one season, then returned to Waterbury, Conn., where he had left his family, and in 1805, made the return journey here with six children. When they arrived here they were building the first bridge across the creek, now the pond at Mexico Street crossing. They laid down some timber from trees cut close by, so he could get his team across, consisting of one yoke of oxen, and a horse in front. After crossing, they were obliged to cut their way, as there was only a footpath where Mexico Street is now, up as far as B. Osborn's. The original road was farther south. It took them from sunset until midnight to go one mile, and then they struck and followed the old road. He first settled on lot No. 19, Seventh township, now owned by Charles Carlton. From there, the following year, he moved on the south half of Lot 33. That is on this Curtiss road, near the crossing on the Seventh.

He lived there until he died in 1837. This house has been modernized since Mr. Woods built it. He was a revolutionary patriot in 1775, and was in the 5th Connecticut Regiment under Col. Waterbury. Elizabeth, his wife, died the 27th of July, and



Samuel Woods' House.

he the 29th in 1837. They left the world together in the sweet hope of sharing the glorious rest of the righteous. His sons were Thomas, Samuel and Junius Woods, or "Uncle Junia," as he was more familiarly called. His daughters were Betsey, Nancy, Polly and Sally. The living descendants of Samuel T. Woods are Mrs. Marion B. Park, mother of E. B. Park, and her family. His grandson S. T. W. Scoville, and grand-daughter Mrs. B. T. Hinckley. Junius Woods moved from the place now owned by Curtiss Stephenson on Lot No. 33, and bought of Mr. Dennisor in 1843, and lived in the old house until he built on the opposite side of the road, a place now owned and occupied by Orson Woods, and lived there until his death, March 23, 1865, aged 69. His wife survived him but one year; her maiden name was Deidamia Cook; she died March 6, 1866, aged 66. Their children were Mrs. N. M. Elden, Samuel T., Mrs. Francis Park, Orson C., and Junius E. Woods of Camden, Henry S. Woods of Rock Falls, Illinois, and Mrs. E. H. Stevens of Syracuse, N. Y. One of the descendants, Mrs. M. B. Park. Great grandfather

Nicholas Woods was in the French and Indian war. Her grandfather, Samuel T. Woods, Sen., was in the Revolutionary War. Her father, Samuel T. Woods, in the war of 1812, and her husband, Short Parks, was shot in the civil war in 1864, at Laurel Hill, May 9.

This indenture is owned by Orson Woods, one that was given to his grandfather on his first coming to Camden, by John W. Bloomfield:

"This Indenture, made the 27th day of July, in the year one thousand eight hundred and five, between George Scriba of the City of New York, a merchant, by John W. Bloomfield, his attorney, duly authorized of the first part, and Samuel Woods of Camden, in the County of Oneida, and State of New York, of the second part, witnesseth: That the said party of the second part doth covenant to pay the said party of the first part, his executors, administrators or assigns, the just and full sum of two hundred and twenty-two dollars and seventy-five cents lawful money of the United States of America, in manner following, to wit, on or before the first day of May, which will be in the year eighteen hundred and ten, with lawful interest from and after the first day of May, in the year eighteen hundred and seven, to be then paid annually. And the said party of the second part doth further covenant, that the said party of the second part, or his assignees, shall and will within the space of twelve calendar months from the date hereof, remove to and actually reside upon that certain piece of land known and distinguished by the south half of Lot No. seventy-one, part of that certain township or tract of land Number Nineteen, surveyed by Benjamin Wright in the year 1795, situated in Scriba Patent, in the County of Oneida, and State of New York, and containing seventy-eight acres and a quarter of an acre, &c. It was signed,

J. W. Bloomfield,  
Samuel Woods.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of  
Maria Bullus.

In the old survey book of the town we find the public highway



was surveyed from Samuel Woods' due east between Joseph Hungerford and Zophar Barnes' land, and came out on the main road by Ambrose Curtiss'. This was an alteration the old road made null and void.

Camden, July 16th, 1817.

Lyman Matthews,  
Surveyor.

### BENJAMIN CURTISS.

Benjamin, son of Samuel Curtiss, of Plymouth, Conn., with his wife, Content Pond, and their children, came to Camden very early in the present century. We find in the history of old Plymouth, Conn., that Benjamin and Samuel Curtiss were taxpayers there in 1794. In 1804 he bought of David Smith lot No. 31, consisting of two hundred and twenty acres of wild land. Here this couple of pioneer settlers established their home, and spent the remainder of their lives. As the sons came to manhood, and were ready to settle in homes of their own, the father secured to each of the four sons a portion of the original farm, thus forming a small settlement among themselves. In time however, three of the sons sold out and located elsewhere. Of a numerous family, the only one to remain in Camden was Ibri, the son, to whom all the remaining land was finally deeded. In 1810 Ibri married



Ibri Curtiss Residence.

Nancy, daughter of Samuel Woods, our pioneer patriot. They were married by Rev. Simon Waterman, a missionary from Connecticut. Ibri and Nancy Woods Curtiss remained on the old

homestead during their lives, and here reared a family of seven children. The four oldest children have passed away. This home is still owned and occupied by the youngest three members of the family. A part of the original place, which has always been in the possession of the family from the time of the purchase in 1804, is the farm of the late Linus Curtiss, now owned and occupied by his son Heman. It was here that the first house in this vicinity was built, a small frame building still standing, but moved aside to give place to a more modern one. Ibri Curtiss' children: Alvro Nelson, who married Clarissa Marsh for his first wife, and after her death married Harriet Spencer; Philomela, married Alfred Mix; Polly Sandford, married Samuel Sartwell; Linus, married Nancy Upson. Nancy, Charlotte and Elizabeth Woods, and William Wallace, live in the old homestead.

In the old survey book we find the road leading to West Camden was laid out in 1817, beginning in the middle of the highway between Joel Curtiss' and Ibri Curtiss', and running so as to come out on the south-east corner of Manning Barnes' land, and intersect the State road between there and Miles Spencer's. Now we have gone a little beyond the district on the Seventh. To give an idea of the Seventh and the village, about 1820, we will give a little description:

On the Seventh there was one store, three taverns, one doctor's office, two blacksmith shops, one tin store, four carpenter and joiner shops, two small tanneries with shoe shops attached, beside the homes we have already described. In the village, this side of the bridge, at the lower end of Main Street, on the east side, first was a store and post office, only four houses up as far as the park. There was a harness shop on the corner of Main and North Park Streets, and a blacksmith shop where now stands the Nelson House. Mrs. J. Smith's house was being built, and also the Priest Smith house at the head of Main Street. The large elm tree that stands there was a little twig. On the west side from the Hildreth House to B. D. Stone's residence it was woods, a few buildings beyond.



## CHAPTER IV.

### PLANK ROAD.

We will term the street running from Salmon River to Rome, the "Plank Road," for convenience, though it was not made of plank until 1847. "In seventeen hundred ninety-nine, the nineteenth day of June, was surveyed a highway four rods wide, beginning at a beech sapling, standing on the south line of Lot No. 20, thence eastward from the south-west corner of lot No. 20; thence south to the bridge over Fish Creek (Seventh township); thence south to the west line of Lot 50; thence south to a

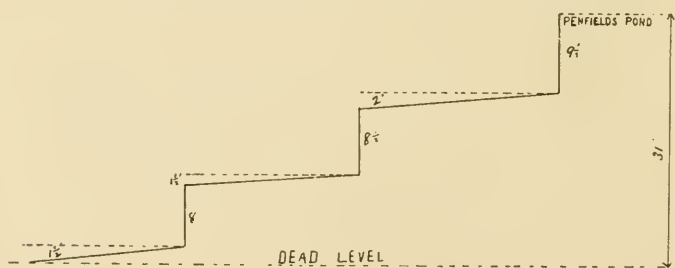


Falls on Fish Creek.

stake standing ten chains and eighteen links south of Samuel Royce's well (E. H. Conant's); thence south to the bridge across Fish Creek (foot of Main Street); thence across the bridge in a southerly course to Abner Matthews' well (corner of Blakeslee Road, opposite brick school house district 5); thence in a southerly direction to the bridge over the Little River (so called). In 1800 was assessed five hundred and twenty days' work on sixty-eight inhabitants, which days were all worked out. The work

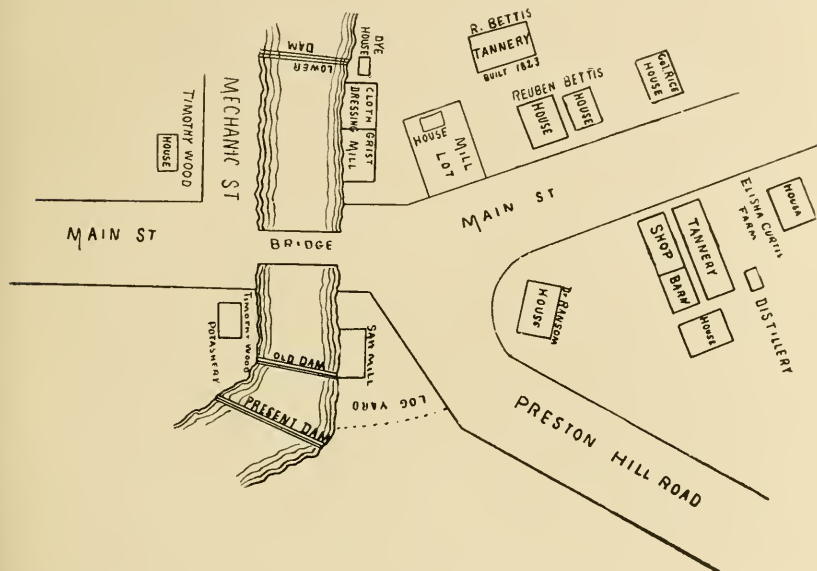
on the road this year was building one bridge one hundred feet in length, opening, widening, clearing, leveling and crosswaying the same. The state of the roads in general are in as good repair as is common for so new a place, but the full sum that we are allowed to call on the Board of Supervisors for, could be very profitably expended on the same. We further state that the bridge over the west branch of Fish Creek did at the breaking up of the winter past, go away, and the inhabitants did undertake to build the same by subscription, but could not obtain a sufficiency to effect its finish; that together with other necessary improvements in various parts of the town, beyond what the assessment of the present year will accomplish, will probably cost one hundred and fifty dollars." These copies give the date of survey of the highway, and building of a permanent bridge at the foot of Main Street over Fish Creek. The street had been but an Indian trail from Fort Stanwix, designated by marked trees, the usual mode of pointing the way through new tracts, from place to place.

We have no doubt but that the superior facilities which Fish Creek afforded for manufacturing purposes, was the chief cause of business men locating here. Picturesque indeed must the spot have been before the ax of the woodsman disturbed its natural loveliness. The stream has a fall of thirty-one feet. We have to



thank Mr. W. G. Percival for the accompanying sketch. Before the ingenuity of man had stayed its rapid flow by building dams, it must have dashed with much impetuosity along its pebbly course, seeking its level in the peaceful valley below the present Forest Park. Those who first settled Camden were men of strong character, active in body and mind, seeking a locality where land was

cheap, and could be had in large tracts; willing to toil and endure, to the end, that they might build up for themselves and their families permanent homes. We give a plan of the ground, be-



ginning below the bridge, at the left as we go in a southerly course to the Thompson Rice house. The long building close to the stream, gave space for two separate branches of business—the end toward the street being used by Israel Stoddard and Heman Byington as a grist mill. Reese Lobb was their miller for several years, and lived in the mill-house close by, a structure built for two families, the operatives of the grist mill and fulling factory. In 1821 an old school list gives the names of Francis, Floyd, and Daniel Lobb, as pupils of Miss Elima Putnam, later Mrs. Richard Empey. Mr. Lucius Goodyear has memories of play hours with the Lobb children when they fished in the stream below the mill with pin hooks. The east end of the building was used for cloth fulling, carding, &c. The business was carried on by Isaac Wheeler, who owned his interest in it, and the building in part. The structure was erected under the supervision of Mr. Honuel Gifford, a carpenter, whose services were frequently called for. These were the pioneer business interests

of the kind in Camden, but exact dates can not be ascertained, much to our regret. Previous to the establishment of any business whatever in this locality, parties came to the new town prospecting, with a view to the building and equipping for manufacture of cotton cloth. This particular location was chosen, and arrangements made for its purchase; but later a matter of fifty dollars stood in the way of the consummation of such plans, and Camden lost the enterprise that has been one of the leading industries of our near-by city, the New York Mills Cotton Co., for so many years. An old deed of 1813 is from Isaac and Cynthia Fitch of one-fourth of an acre in one plot, and twenty-one rods in another, to Phineas Tuttle and Heman Byington. We find these same names on the old First Church list as early as 1810 and 1812. To the same parties—Byington and Tuttle—James Sanford and Daniel Northrup deeded land in 1814 in this same locality, but the particular spot we do not know. Further down the stream, a short distance from the fulling mill, stood the dye house used in connection with the cloth-dressing business. Back from the street, a little to the south of the fulling mill, in 1823, Mr. Reuben Bettis built a tannery, about where the office of the Camden Knitting Company now stands. He came to Camden from Westmoreland in 1822, was a practical tanner, and conducted a thrifty business for many years. Directly below the mill house, which was located a little south of the fulling mill near the street, Mr. Bettis built a house for his use in 1823, and placed a row of young maples along the street-front of his land. These now stand with a growth of toward seventy years, monuments to the good taste, good sense and spirit of improvement which Mr. Bettis possessed. A few years later he sold land to Calvin Wimple upon which to build a house. (This house was built by Joel B. Smith.) Mrs. Adaline Wood was a daughter of Calvin Wimple, and is in the memory of many living at present. This house subsequently became the home of the late P. H. Costello for many years—now the property of the Camden Knitting Company. Mr. Andrew C. Bettis built a house below this. The Reuben Bettis house was moved by the Costellos to where it now stands on the west side

of the highway near the brook, and owned by Charles McCarthy. Byron Phelps its occupant.

We have had access to many deeds and documents, giving names of those who have owned interests in both real estate and water-power, but fail to find occupation, or location of all of them. We will give the names and such other items as we have gleaned. Perhaps some reader can fix them more definitely than we have been able to. We have brought the time down to 1822, when Mr. Bettis came to begin his pursuit of tanning leather. In 1823 Timothy Wood sold water privilege to Reuben Bettis. In 1832 Calvin Wimple sold some property to Reuben Bettis. In 1839 Orson Norton sold to Merritt Munson. In 1839 Erastus Upson had interests there. William R. Preston also transferred property to Reuben Bettis. In an old issue of the "Camden Gazette," Vol I., No. 2, we find the following:

"CamdenTannery.—Munson Paddock & Co., at their tannery, have on hand a good assortment of bridle, harness, upper and sole leather, which they will sell low for cash. Leather store in the Red Building, south end of the bridge. April 1st, 1842."

In 1846 John A. Bettis and Orange Dayton sell property to Andrew C. Bettis and Daniel Shaw. In 1847 Bettis and Shaw sell to George Smith. In 1848 P. H. Costello, his brother John, and P. C. Costello, bought the tannery property of George Smith, and commenced business in October of the same year in a small way. They were energetic, practical men, giving their personal attention to the work, and in time established a name, fame, and market for their product, which continues to the present. The style of the firm was "John Costello & Co." till 1850, when Mr. John Costello died, and it was then changed to P. & P. Costello. The firm remained unchanged till the business was discontinued in 1884. In 1870 they purchased the "Bay State Tannery" property of Dwight Morss, Williamstown, Oswego County, and operated it till 1880, when the bark supply became exhausted, and they sought another region where hemlock growth was more plentiful. They purchased a large tract of forest land in Pennsylvania, and built a tannery at Costello, named for the men of the firm. At this time Alfred and John,



sons of P. H. Costello, were made partners in the business, which was profitably conducted by the firm of A. Costello & Co. till 1893, when it passed into the possession of the United States Leather Company, by whom it is continued under the original brand—P. & P. Costello, Camden, N. Y.

It was a sorry blow to Camden's business interests when the tanning industry ceased. Many operatives were out of employment, and sought other fields for labor; several families followed the Costellos to their new settlement. It was regretted by all; socially, that the community must relinquish its pleasant association with them; financially, that a business contributing so materially to the tradesmen's success, must be transferred to another locality. But changes and reverses must be, and Camden has had a full share. In the year 1886, September 20, the Camden Knitting Company, then composed of W. J. Frisbie and W. H. Stansfield, both Camden young men, and C. F. Kendall of Boston, who had for some time been associated with them, purchased the entire property of the Costellos, fitted up the old tannery proper, built a new office and a large brick mill near the highway (where the shed for hide storage formerly stood while the Costellos did tanning), and otherwise enlarged and improved the facilities for their manufactures. In 1893 a destructive fire occurred, which completely destroyed the old tannery, and the new buildings barely escaped. Rallying from their loss, the Knitting Company began with the opening of spring to clear away the debris, preparatory to erecting another equally commodious building. They still occupy the site, engaged in manufacturing principally ladies' and children's ribbed underwear, employing about two hundred people.

In a house situated below the Reuben Bettis place, William Riley Preston lived in those early days. He joined the church by letter from the church in Harwinton, Conn., in 1810. He married, May 19, 1812, Miss Sarah Ann, daughter of Capt. John Smith, sister of Newell and Garrett Smith, early residents of the town. He followed the tanners' trade for a number of years. Several children were born to them, viz.: Catlin, William, Andrew J., Cyprian and George. Helen, the eldest daughter, was the

first wife of Martin Stevens; Sarah, the second daughter, married John Dixon of Ripley, N. Y.; Frances, third daughter died in young girlhood, at ten years of age. William R. Preston was a brother of Rossiter Preston. The daughter Helen has been mentioned by old residents as being very attractive and pretty, a favorite with all in her day. Her death was mourned by many associates. The young men, left fatherless in 1834, went out into the world to gain a livelihood, and have made fortunes for themselves rarely attained by any but those with perseverance and application. No doubt if their stories were told, it would be an incentive to other young men to push on to success. Wm. Riley was a son of Noah and Honor Preston, and died August 4, 1834, aged 44 years, and was buried in the Mexico Street Cemetery. No further particulars are at hand concerning the family, though effort has been made to obtain more.

On the rise of ground, east side of the highway, still lived Col. Aaron Seth Rice. This house was probably built and owned by Phineas Tuttle, as mention is made of him in the deed, interested prior to its possession by David Osborne and Hubbard Tuthill in 1817. Mr. Rice and family came from Herkimer in 1815. He was born in Connecticut in 1755. In 1800 he married Mrs. Sarah A. Dayton. Two children were born to them, Harriet and Thompson, aged respectively nine and seven years at the time of their coming to Camden. Mr. Rice was a tanner by trade, and was employed with Mr. Hubbard Tuthill for many years in that business. Subsequently his health failing him, he became unable to actively attend to his duties. So serious were his infirmities that he was obliged to use canes the remainder of his life. Mr. Rice was a soldier of the Revolution, which gave him his title of Colonel. His army equipments are still preserved in the possession of Mrs. Joel House, his grand-daughter. When Mr. and Mrs. Rice first came to Camden there were but three frame houses standing, those of Elihu Curtiss, Sala Sanford and Phineas Tuttle. Mr. Rice died in 1838, aged 83 years. His interment was in the old cemetery on Mexico Street, and for many years a stone marked the spot, but when the ground was cleared of debris, underbrush, mown, and otherwise improved,

the tablet with his name was removed, and no one can locate it. In the years following, during Mr. Rice's decrepitude, he made the trade of shoemaking his occupation.

The quiet life of Mrs. Rice was one for all to emulate. A patient, faithful wife and mother, a kind neighbor and friend. She united with the First Church of Christ October 18, 1815, and continued her membership there till the division of its members in 1868, when she joined the number who went out to form the Presbyterian Church. The daughter, Harriet Rice, married Merritt Munson, July 4, 1828, and died 1868, aged 62 years. Of those present at the wedding, Mr. John A. Bettis of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, alone survives. Thompson Rice, their son, married Cordelia Phelps, who died in Camden, April 29, 1869, aged 57 years. He removed to Sauquoit after a second marriage, and the mother whose home was with him went there also. She attained the ripe age of 91 years, when she laid aside the burdens of life December 4, 1875. Her remains are buried in Camden. Her home in Sauquoit extended over a period of about five years. The warm friendship which existed between Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Tuthill was of the enduring type, a wonder to those that knew them; for it is rarely that a close friendship as theirs is of a life's duration, each sharing the other's joys and sorrows. She rests near Mrs. Hubbard Tuthill, in the ground below the village. Of the descendants of Aaron and Sarah Rice are the children of Thompson, their son, only Edward Rice resides at North Bay. Elizabeth (Mrs. Joel House) in Camden, and Eugene in Camden. A. Thompson died November, 1883, aged 75 years.

On the west side of the highway, nearly opposite the Rice house, stands back towards the railroad, the residence built in remote years by Hubbard Tuthill. He was married at Herkimer, N. Y., November 7, 1807, and in 1809 he, with Hannah his wife, came to reside in Camden. They were people of much excellence of character, and a desirable acquisition to the church and community. Mr. Tuthill's trade was that of a tanner, and this he plied for many years. The tannery building proper stood near the highway; next it and connected with it, the bark mill,



beyond that to the west his dwelling. *ell* continued the manufacture of leather till about 1848 or 1850, when the site became the possession of P. & P. Costello. Mr. Tuthill was elected to offices of trust. In 1823 he was justice of the peace. About 1848 Mr. Tuthill purchased the house opposite the cemetery, at the top of the hill, of Riley Scoville, which remained his home till he died. Mr. and Mrs. Tuthill had no family; Mrs. Tuthill was a life-long, consistent member of the M. E. Church—their career blessed in doing good to others. Mr. Tuthill had one brother in Camden, Baldwin Tuthill, and after the death of her husband, Mrs. Tuthill made her home with Mrs. Baldwin Tuthill, also widowed. A young lady who was about Mrs. Cyrus Stoddard's age—Huldah Sliter—lived with Mr. and Mrs. H. Tuthill. Hubbard Tuthill was born 1782, and died 1861, aged 79 years. Hanrah Tuthill was born July 4, 1788, and died 1871, aged 83 years, and both are buried in Forest Park Cemetery.

As early as 1799 Lemuel Corey dwelt in a log house on the site opposite the cemetery, at the top of the hill, south of the village, towards Vienna. But little can be gleaned of him or his, except that from an old deed we know he lived there. In the year 1803 there was a revival of religion in the community, when Mr. Corey and his family were converted, and united with the early church. Zadoc Corey, a son, was one of those who turned from his sinful ways, and became an exhorter, leading many to the truth. We can not learn whether he died here, or removed to some other locality. At least after about 1809 no further mention is found of him, or any of the name, in deeds, books of account, church record, or other documents, so it is safe to conclude that the family pushed on to newer fields to try their fortunes. Many names of the earlier settlers disappear from our records after a few years, and are found again in business circles, in other and adjoining towns. As the land was surveyed, new, and perhaps greater inducements were offered to settlers, which they availed themselves of. We find the name of Ebenezer Corey as having bought land of George Scriba in 1800.

## LANEY HOUSE—ELISHA CURTISS.

Following Lemuel Corey, Elisha Curtiss owned and occupied the place, prior to 1804. He was a son of Jesse Curtiss, who came to Camden from Clinton, Oneida Co. Mr. Curtiss was a man of prominent business interests, largely connected with the early prosperity and development of the town. We find him in the church an earnest worker, and in all ways contributing to the advancement and success of its best aims. He married Miss Anna Northrup, a daughter of Gideon Northrup, and by this union were born to them five children—Eli, Friend, George, Sally and Hannah. Sally died young, while the home was yet on the hill. This home was first of logs, but after a few years a better frame dwelling was constructed. He had dealings with many of the town people, in produce and lumber, as an ancient account book now owned by a relative in descent from Mrs. Curtiss shows (Mrs. Eaton). In this book we find mention of the Sage Parke place as belonging to "my son Eli." He also kept a sort of livery, as there are charges for a "horse and buggy to go to Rome, Williamstown, and other points." A very fine horse mentioned as the "Leopard Horse," was owned by him, and on State occasions, such as "General Trainings," was hired by the prominent military officials, and ridden with pomp and pride. This fine creature has been frequently mentioned by those who remember those gala days. He also was local agent for the book "Light on Masonry," by Morgan. It was sold at \$1.50, and had a considerable sale in this town. Several copies are yet extant. We give below an extract from a letter relative to their departure from Camden to make a home in Pine Grove, Pa.:

"May 15, 1832.

Dear Friends—Agreeable to a promise I made, I will now write a few lines informing you of my health, which is better than it was when I left Camden. We started from Humaston's the next noon after you left us, and got to New London about three o'clock that day, and Friend started that night for Cicero, but Pa and I staid there until Friday afternoon, waiting for a boat. We got aboard of one with Mr. Selden's folks up by uncle Manning's. They were moving to Chautauqua. We had a very good boat,

but it went so much faster than the one that Friend was in, that we reached Syracuse first, and saw no more of them till we got to Buffalo. We had very good luck all the way, and got to Buffalo the next Wednesday morning, where we stayed till nine o'clock at evening, then four of us took a steamboat, and in the morning arrived at Portland; then took a wagon and went eight miles up to Chautauqua Lake, took a boat there at three in the afternoon, and reached Jamestown at six. Friend went that night to Eli's, and in the morning he and uncle Munson came for us in a wagon. We came to Pine Grove towards night, and took tea at uncle Munson's. From there we went to uncle Merritt's, then to Eli's, and found Ma and Wealthy there. They keep house in the house that Eli left. I reached here Friday, and Saturday took the school close to Eli's, for four months, at a dollar a week, commencing Monday."

We have given a portion of Miss Curtiss' letter to show the reader the course taken by those who pushed on from Camden into Pennsylvania, and to account for the Elisha Curtiss family when they disappeared from Camden records.

#### EZEKIEL SCOVILLE,

The next owner and occupant of this farm was born at Harwinton, Conn., January 17, 1773. He was the third son of Ezekiel and Rachel Scoville of that place. He married Sabra Dunbar, and in 1828 moved to Camden, locating soon after on the place lately occupied by Elisha Curtiss. Here they lived and reared a family of ten children, viz.: Russell, Fanny, John, Joel, Linus, Nelson, Sarah, Riley, Sydney and Wadser. Mr. Scoville was a farmer by occupation, and found much pleasure in clearing the farm. It is as fine a place to-day as any in the town. During Mr. Scoville's life he commenced building a structure for a cider-brandy distillery, which his neighbor, Hubbard Tuthill chose to call the "devil's teakettle." After his death, Riley, his son, and the widow, Mrs. Scoville, conducted the farm, building the upright of the house now standing, using the old frame of the distillery and the original house as a wing at the rear. The distillery they had no use for as a "teakettle." Ezekiel Scoville was

born in 1773, and died April 2, 1834, aged 61. Sabra Scoville was born in 1784, and died June 2, 1858, aged 74. They were buried in Forest Park Cemetery.

About 1858 Orrin Steele purchased this property of Hubbard Tuthill. He with his wife Sarah came from Herkimer County, N. Y., and for some years lived in the locality known as the "Oak Opening," but later came to Camden village and located on this place. Of their children, Irene married John Casterton; Thaddeus lives in the West; Aurelia married A. G. Wood, and is deceased, ; , Orrin Steele died and in October, 1881, Mrs. Sarah Steele followed him, aged 71 years.

#### P. W. LANEY.

Philetus W. Laney next occupied this place. He was born in Lee in 1811; Eunice Bloomfield Segur was born in Taberg in 1812, and they were married in Taberg in 1837. Resided in Lee a short time, then removed to Taberg, where they made their home till 1866, when they removed to Camden. They had seven children, four sons and three daughters. Three sons died while in youth, and the oldest of the four remaining children, Marion R., married Seth Beckwith in 1860, and went to Lima, Livingston County, N. Y., where she now resides, a widow, with one daughter. Edward P. married Miss Louisa Beckwith of East Avon, Livingston County, N. Y., in 1892, and resides on the old homestead at present. Julia T. married Alexander Miller of Canastota, in 1875, and she died there in April, 1891, her husband dying in August of the same year, leaving their only child, a son, an orphan. E. Anna, the youngest in the family, married Dr. A. H. Smith of Camden in 1879. They have resided in Camden since their marriage, Dr. Smith being one of our prominent physicians at present. Mr. Laney was a practical farmer and skillful surveyor. He commenced to practice his trade when 19 years old, and continued it till late in life, the most of his work being done in this and adjoining towns. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church, an honest, upright, useful man in the community, and sincerely missed at his death. Philetus W. Laney

died in Camden in 1893, aged 82 years; Eunice B. Laney died in Camden in 1894, aged 82 years. They rest in Forest Park Cemetery.

In former years a small house, painted red, stood on the west side of the street, opposite the cemetery. Of the date of its erection, or by whom, we are unable to obtain any information. In the early days of his married life Mr. Lorenzo Wetmore lived there, and Mary, now Mrs. Rufus Tuthill, was born there. Later, Laban Allen was an occupant. We give the information we have found of him or his. A son of Laban Allen, ill with consumption, went to California, hoping to regain his health, but failing in this, he longed for the comfort of home. The journey overland in those days, was, to a healthy man, long and fatiguing, and to an invalid, especially so; but he was given strength to endure the journey, and reach home alive. The joy of it was almost overpowering to him, and it is told that as he came to the lower hotel on the way to his home, many had congregated to meet the traveler, and that he had scarcely strength left to greet them, but tears of gratitude and thankfulness were in his eyes. He lived but a few days after his return, dying September 8, 1857, at the age of 51 years.

Inscription on grave stone: "Lucy, wife of Laban Allen, died in Camden, September 1860, aged 74 years."

There is also record of one Laban Allen born in Jefferson County, N. Y., in 1830. He came to Camden when a young man, and December 23 married Harriet, daughter of the late Marenus Scoville. In 1854 he removed to Rockford, Mich. His wife and a daughter, Chloe, survived him. Perhaps he was a son of the elder Laban Allen.

## CHAPTER V.

### CEMETERY, 1840.

THE community had increased rapidly in population, the capacity of the long-used burial places was exhausted, and it became necessary that another spot should be chosen to contain their dead. Accordingly the site of the present ground was purchased in 1840. We copy from the book of records of the Camden Cemetery Association the following respecting it, which may be interesting to many:

"On the twenty-fourth day of March, A. D., 1840, a number of the inhabitants of Camden, Oneida County, entered into a contract with Mrs. Clarissa Ransom for the purchase of the cemetery ground, and received subscriptions for the payment of the same, at the price of one hundred dollars per acre. On the tenth day of December, 1840, Mrs. Clarissa Ransom, by A. W. Ransom, gave her receipt in full for the sum of two hundred and eighty-three dollars, for two acres and eighty-three hundredths of an acre, and with the promise to convey the same to the trustees as soon as they could be appointed by law."

The legislature of the State of New York passed an act during its session in 1844 to incorporate the Cemetery Association of the town of Camden in the County of Oneida, and the following named gentlemen were by said act constituted the first Trustees, viz.: Iri Pond, Hiram J. Miner, James Abrams, George Trowbridge, Ammi Hinckley, Lyman Curtiss, Truman Spencer.

On the twenty-eighth day of April, 1845, Mrs. Clarissa Ransom and her husband Libbeus Ransom, gave their warranty deed of the premises to the said Trustees above named, which is recorded in Book 121 of Deeds, &c. Soon after the purchase of this land, and before the act of incorporation could be passed, a portion of the land was surveyed into lots or plots of twenty by ten feet, drawn for and awarded to each of the original subscribers, and a certificate or deed was given by the President and



Secretary of the Board of Trustees for the same. By a resolution of the Board of Trustees a portion of the ground on the east side was reserved for the burial of such persons as were unable to buy a lot or plot, free of charge. After the ground was purchased and the purchase money had been paid, and ground suitably fenced, it was ascertained that the number of lots or plots which had been sold at two dollars and fifty cents each, had not raised sufficient funds to erect posts on the corner of each lot, to designate the bounds of the same, and a further sum of seventy-five cents was assessed on each lot for that purpose. The original subscribers had their deeds of conveyance of their lots for the sum of \$3.75 each, and subsequent purchasers are taxed for each lot on the first and eighth tier the sum of four dollars; and all lots on the remaining tiers the sum of five dollars for each lot.

By order of the Trustees.

No record appears of burials between the date of purchase and February 1845, but we glean from headstones the following names of those who were laid to rest. In 1840 Mr. Conet Scoville's was the first interment in the new Cemetery. Others as follows:

In 1840.

Lois, wife of Capt. John Smith; Joanna, wife of E. Doolittle; Anna, wife of Joseph Scoville; Mary Ann, wife of Charles Wheeler; Benjamin Phelps; Jane Crouch; Mrs. Honuel Gifford; Antoinette Crouch.

In 1841.

Son of W. and Polly Williams; Clarinda, wife of Ranney Phelps.

In 1842.

Linus Sanford; Lucy Doten; Lois, wife of Eliakim Stoddard; child of A. J. Stone; child of Andrew Wilson; Emily Wright.

In 1843.

Deborah Doten; child of Rev. Mr. Barton, drowned; deacon Uriah Hill; Helen Sperry; Ann Wright; child of Mr. Hinckley; Rufus Baldwin.

In 1844.

John Wilson; Russell Scoville; Joseph Piney; Mary, wife of Don Gatchell.

The following is as correct a list of bodies taken from older burying grounds, and reinterred here, as we can get.

Joseph, son of Thompson Scoville; Rhoda, wife of Uriah Hill, 1833; James Sweet; five of Timothy Woods' family, who died between the years 1805 and 1835; Sophronia, wife of Milo Pond, 1832; Louis Wright, 1833; Elvira, wife of Solon Cook, 1823; Charlotte, daughter of Solon Cook, 1816; Clarissa, daughter of Solon Cook, 1821; Mary, daughter of Betsey and S. Cook, 1825; Sophia, daughter of Betsey and S. Cook, 1826; Ezra Curtiss, 1825; John Delos, 1829; Ezekiel Scoville, 1834; Samuel, son of T. D. Penfield; Delight, wife of Dr. Kerr.

From February, 1845, to March 15, 1871, Mr. William Shepard was a faithful sexton, having kept a correct record of all burials. July 2nd, 1852, covering a period of seven years, he foots up the number of burials in its entirety as 300 at that date in the new ground; but records the names of but 240, so we suppose in the period which elapsed between 1840 and 1845 there were 60 burials which at the time could have been readily counted. At this date we can only make note of those burials as the graves are marked by headstones. No doubt there were several unmarked. Mr Shepard's record numbers 1904 bodies interred by him. Beginning with the May meeting of 1845, it was resolved that "the sexton should report all burials in the Potters Field, and the Secretary shall cause the same to be recorded in a book provided for that purpose." Not far from this time a hearse was purchased.

In 1856 it was "Resolved, that the Trustees shall procure and keep two suitable palls for use of the Association. In this same year appears the mention of a hearse house, but no record is found of the purchase of a hearse; yet we know one was in use before this date. Mr. Shepard was authorized to make all necessary repairs to the fence around the Cemetery, and shingle and paint the hearse house, and front fence." It does not appear when the hearse house was built.

In 1860 more space was needed for interments, and the Trustees were authorized to purchase added land for such purpose.



CEMETERY GROUNDS.



In 1869 we copy: "Whereas the Trustees of the Camden Cemetery Association have purchased the undivided half of ten acres and eighty-eight hundredths acres of land of Alva Raymond for additional cemetery ground, therefore, Resolved, That the President draw from the Treasurer on order the sum of five hundred and seventy-one dollars to pay for said land, and any incidental expenses." This passed into the hands of the Association in 1872. In this new part a remarkable instance occurred in the burial of Conet Scoville, the first body placed in the new part. The lots or plots were made larger in the new addition; convenient walks and drives arranged throughout. It was also improved back to the bank, but no lots laid out in that part. This year it was resolved to introduce running water into the cemetery, which was accordingly accomplished. A spring was found on the farm of P. W. Laney, contiguous to the ground, and soon a fine fountain graced the entrance, much appreciated by all. Not far from this date the old hearse house was moved, and used as a frame to the present receiving-vault—a much needed convenience. In 1897 the beautiful tract of wood-land known to us as "Forest Park," was secured by the Association, a pleasant drive made through it, which continues to be a source of great pleasure to the community. At the present writing, September 1896, as nearly as can be determined, there are the remains of 2,300 resting in this burial plot. The Roman Catholics purchased territory contiguous to the Protestant Cemetery, not far from 1876, and at this time about 45 bodies repose there.

We have, through the kindness of Mr. George Shepard and Mr. Robert Robertson (the present sexton) had access to records covering all but five years of the time intervening between 1845 and 1896. Mr. Horace McIntyre and Mr. Erastus Sanford were sextons during the five years, but no records can be found, though effort has been made to do so.

#### ISRAEL STODDARD.

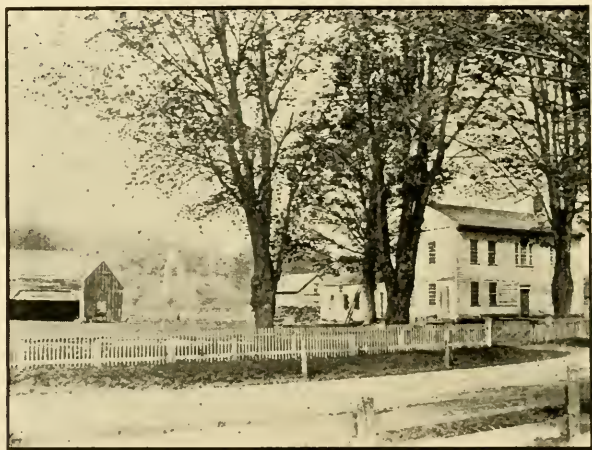
Judge Israel Stoddard was born in Watertown, Conn., in 1776. He is numbered among the "Pioneers of Camden," and was connected largely with its early business interests. A man of great



Israel Stoddard.

capability, intellectuality, of strong character, and much executive force. He soon became a considerable land holder, as many old documents prove. He came for a prospecting tour from Connecticut on horseback, the usual mode of traveling in those days, in 1798, and stopped over night with his old friend Henry Williams, who then lived where the Julius Cook house now is.

That structure was of logs. He fully intended pushing on further into the wilderness, but Mr. Williams called his attention to the farm (then somewhat under improvement) now owned and occupied by Israel Stoddard, Jr., then owned by Ezra Devereux. This he purchased, and the transaction determined his settlement in Camden. The following winter he returned to Connecticut, and married Miss Polly Wilson (a sister of Sylvanus, Sr., and Eli Wilson of Harwinton, Conn.), in the spring of 1799, coming again to Camden with his bride to take up his permanent residence here. He lived on this farm till 1802, when he sold to John Wilson, Sr., and in 1805 bought nearer town the farm now known as the "Judge Stoddard place," about a mile south of the village. In the very early years of this century he was actively engaged in milling interests with Rufus Byington,



Judge Stoddard's Place.

in the locality described in another article. In the war of 1812 he marched with a company of militia from Camden to Sackett's Harbor. They were there about three weeks without seeing active service. Camp fever and dysentery prevailed among the soldiers, and many died. The barracks were on low, damp ground. The officer in command was appealed to in behalf of the poor fellows, by Mr. Stoddard, asking that they be allowed to move their quarters to higher ground, a little back from their



present camp ground. His reply was, "We have plenty of hemlock boards for boxes, and men left to bury those who die, and dirt to cover them." An unfeeling officer! The Camden soldiery had left many cares behind; their farms needed their attention, and they were restless—anxious to go home and attend to their interests. Mr. Stoddard well understood this fact, and his sympathies were with his men. So sitting on his horse with much military dignity he addressed them, "Boys, it is an honor to serve in defence of your country. You came expecting to do duty, leaving wives, homes, children. I know there is a longing to see them. Cares call you loudly to return to them. I can not blame you for wanting to go. If you should go, don't let me see you." The boys, seeing a twinkle in their leader's eye, as he turned and rode away, interpreted it as they chose, and ere long they were on the march homeward. Peace was soon declared, and nothing further was heard of their desertion. We very much regret that an official list of those who went from Camden in the war of 1812, can not be found. Mr. Stoddard was a man of strong sympathies for those in distress, and his many deeds of kindness are often referred to. His love for children was another manly characteristic.

In 1820 Mrs. Polly Stoddard died, aged 45 years, leaving no children. Some time after, Mr. Stoddard married Miss Mary Wilson, a cousin of his former wife, and the mother of all his children—a lady of much beauty of character. Israel Stoddard died April 4, 1859, aged 83 years. His wife survived him till May 22, 1869, when, at the age of 70 years, she, too, followed him to her reward. A long, useful life was spent in the community, and their memory lives after them. We see in the exemplary lives of their sons and daughters, the emulation of the good example their parents instilled into their youthful minds. Their children were: Cyrus L., married Charlotte Sperry; Samuel Hicox, deceased; Huldah B., Judson; Joanna P., deceased, married Lansing McConnell; Martha P., deceased, married Mr. Baker; Wells A. married Elizabeth Cook; Israel E. married Caroline Wood; Lucintha C., married Thomas D. Penfield; Mary W.; John N.

## HICOX STODDARD.

On the east side of the highway, about where the Roman Catholic Cemetery now is, was the house at present standing on the west side of the highway, known as the Hicox Stoddard house. Perhaps no house in town has traveled as far intact as this same. It was built about 1802 on the site where stands Israel Stoddard, Jr.'s, or a little below the present home, by John Wilson. This, Judge Stoddard moved from 3 miles south of the village, to the site below the Protestant Cemetery, about 1854, where it was a tenement, occupied by Mr. Houghton for some years, and later by David Dick, Miss Delia Dick's father. In 1876 it was again moved to its present location. The two large maples form the gateway which are a feature of the accompanying illustration. On the east side of the highway, Cyrus Stoddard



John Wilson House.

and his wife make their home in the commodious house erected by Judge Israel Stoddard in 1843. This establishment was as fine a farm home as Camden possessed in those days, and has lost none of its attractiveness at this present writing. They have reared a family of three sons, Clark of Washington, D. C., Atwood in the West, and Alfred of Camden. On the west side of the street, further on, stands the house built by Sage Parke.

## SAGE PARKE

Was born at East Haddam, Conn., June 7th, 1783, and the parish records show him to have been baptized there. He was the third child of Daniel and Esther Parke, and came to Camden with his parents in 1794, when but 11 years of age. November 1, 1803, he married Almira Preston, daughter of Caleb Preston, and soon after built the house now designated as the McNute house, about a mile and a quarter below the village. He was a soldier of the war of 1812. In 1821 he removed to Amboy, Oswego County, and the house then passed into the possession of Eli, son of Elihu Curtiss. Was engaged in the milling interests of the town for many years. In 1830 or '31 he was elected to the Supervisorship of the town, serving acceptably, and was otherwise chosen to represent it from time to time. He died at the residence of his son-in-law, September, 1848, aged 65 years. Sage and Elmira Parke are both buried in Amboy. In 1848 we find it advertised by one W. Clark as follows: "House and lot for sale. The subscriber offers for sale the house and lot situated about one mile from the village of Camden, on the Rome and Oswego Plank Road, between the residences of Judge and Eliakim Stoddard. The lot contains about one acre of land in a high state of cultivation. There is a good dwelling, wood-house and barn on the lot, all of which are in good repair, and sufficiently large to accommodate one or more families. Terms easy." A few years later, David McNute occupied it, and continued to do so until about 1870, when it passed into the hands of several different ones in the course of a few short years. It is at present owned by Albert Patterson.

## EDWARD PHELPS.

In the house known as the Eliakim Stoddard home, on the west side of the highway, next below Sage Parke place, is the home of Edward Phelps, who is the eldest son of Ranney and Clarinda Phelps, and who was born April 7, 1840. His first wife was Emile Hosmer. Two children were born to them, Leroy of McConnellsville, and a daughter living in the State of Michigan. After marriage, and until after the death of Mrs. Phelps, Mr. Phelps resided West, interested in the manufacture of hardware. Again returning East, in 1891, he married Miss Cora Dyer of



Annsville, N. Y. Mr. Phelps is interested in the industry of corn packing.

#### ELIAKIM STODDARD.

Eliakim Stoddard first came from Watertown, Conn., to this locality. He was born in 1773. His earliest connexion with the country hereabouts was in the town of Vienna, where he was a land owner in Bengal and Orange, and was the first Supervisor of Vienna in 1799. He was closely interested with Judge Israel Stoddard, his brother, in real estate, their names appearing in many deeds and documents pertaining to lands in various localities. He married in 1801 Miss Lois Matthews, daughter of deacon Abner Matthews. They commenced life by establishing themselves in a home built on the site of the present Douglas Hubbard home, and remained here a period of five years, when he sold to Gershom Holdridge, in 1806, and returned to Vienna. The winter of 1803 or 1804 was one of intense severity, and a great depth of snow covered the earth. Land had been but little cleared, and grass to cut for winter supplies was not plenty. Mr. Stoddard kept a cow, and to afford her a fresh nip of food he drew browse of hemlock from the near-by forest. Regularly there came a deer to share bossy's dainties, and throughout the winter these daily visits were made. Mr. and Mrs. Stoddard's kindly interest in the animal suggested supplies for it, which were placed in its way, and which it ate with evident relish and contentment. It seemed to be alone, the depth of snow making it impossible for the little creature to travel in search of others of its kind, so it sought the company of the cow, and shared its cheer. With the return of spring it disappeared, either having been slain by the huntsman, or gone in search of company of its own sort. Miss Lois Matthews was born in Claremont, Cheshire County, New Hampshire, April 23, 1781, and when twenty years of age was married to Mr. Stoddard. Mr. Stoddard was a man of much religious thought and practice, and a circuit preacher for many years. It is said of him by one of his descendants, that he had married over a thousand couples. In those early years ministers of the gospel were not as numerous as now, and no

doubt many swains and lassies awaited his visits with impatience. His grand-daughter, Mrs. Martin Cook, remembers to have heard him tell of one thankful party who gave him for a marriage fee a load of fence rails, and another a half bushel of beans. The usual fee for marriages was one dollar. After some years, probably about 1816, Mr. Stoddard took up his residence in Camden permanently, locating about one mile and a quarter south of the village, just below the Sage Parke place. The house was built by Seth Dunbar for Mr. Stoddard, on the site of the late George Stoddard's home. Now the building stands one door north, and is occupied and owned by Edward Phelps, eldest son of the late Ranney Phelps, having been moved there in 1861. About this time he became a leader in the M. E. Church. To them were born eight children, as follows: Philomela married Mr. Searles; Cynthia; Polly married Levi Matthews; Ann married T. D. Penfield; Israel married Maria Peck; Flora; Eliakim; George married Rebecca Owen, 1852.

Mr. Stoddard had veneration for black cats, evincing a belief in the old time tradition that with them comes good luck to the persons to whom they appear, and he never allowed them to come to harm, when he could prevent it. Before us is an ancient warrant appointing Mr. Stoddard to be "Drum Major of the 68th Regiment, 13th Brigade and 13th Division of Infantry of the Militia of the State of New York, under command of Col. Ira Byington, 1841." This dates back to the days of "General Training." Their children were quite gifted intellectually. Flora was an artist of merit, also a teacher; Eliakim was a lawyer of prominence in Utica; Ann married T. D. Penfield, his first wife, and was noted for her kindness to the poor, for her affectionate disposition and her unspotted character. Her life was filled with kind deeds. Mrs. Morse was gifted in the art of letter-writing, and also composed some fine poems. Rev. Eliakim Stoddard died February 28, 1860, aged 87; Lois Stoddard died December 12, 1842, aged 61. They lie in Forest Park Cemetery.

#### DANIEL PARKE.

We find upon searching records kept by Daniel Parke, at an early date, that he came into this country about 1795. We copy

as follows: "A memorandum of coming from Chatham, Conn., to Fort Stanwix. Left Chatham October 2nd, 1794, and reached Fort Stanwix October 24, 1794; came by water; cold snow storm; building my house; moved into my log hut November 13, 1794. Fine warm weather follows, and much rain till after Christmas, then comes snow and cold. Made plenty of maple molasses last of December." His family resided a few months in Lee, Oneida County, during which time Mr. Parke attended Baron Steuben's funeral, in November, 1794. He had been with Washington's army during the memorable winter at Valley Forge, and was a personal acquaintance of Mr. Parke's. It is remembered by his descendants that when Fannie, his daughter (born September, 1795) was six weeks old, they came to Camden. The oldest book of records in the Town Clerk's Office contains the following:

"Mexico, May 28, 1796.

This book was bought for the use of this town, for which the town stands indebted to me 28s. Daniel Parke."

Mr. Parke first located about a mile and a half below the village of Camden, on the territory called "the flats" in those days, and later known as the Plank Road. His house was a rude one built of logs at first, but he built a better one, a frame dwelling, with the approach of summer. He came alone and superintended the construction of a habitation, then returned for his family to Lee. For several years he kept a public house. We copy from the first book of town records the following:

"Resolved, That Daniel Parke, of the Town of Camden, is of good moral character, and of sufficient ability to keep an inn or tavern, and that he has accommodations to entertain travelers, and that an inn or tavern is necessary at the place where the said Daniel Parke now lives, for the accommodation of travelers.

Camden, 20th of May, 1802.

———, ———, Trustees of same."

This house stood with the eaves toward the street in those days, and a veranda built across the entire front. There were posts supporting it, and we have a description of the holiday appearance of this early hostelry when arrayed for the following Fourth of July celebration.

From the pen of C. A. Thompson: "The first Fourth of July celebration, I think, was in the summer of 1804 or 1805. The inhabitants determined to celebrate the day in a manner and style fitting the occasion. But at that time there was no cannon to be had nearer than Whitesboro, so a committee was appointed, of whom Capt. John Wilson was one, to go and procure a cannon for the occasion. Nothing more fleet-footed than a yoke of oxen could be found for the journey, so Mr. Wilson, equal to the emergency, yoked his team and started. It took three days to accomplish the task, but the cannon was on hand in time, and loudly proclaimed the sentiments of the new colony. The celebration took place on the "Flats," and at the residence of Daniel Parke, father of the late Geo. S. Parke, where old and young participated heartily in the festivities. Among the speakers, Judge Israel Stoddard, in his earnest and eloquent strains, caused shouts of applause, and anon, the tears to flow, as he reverted to the infant settlements, and the fact of their separation from the homes of their childhood and friends in the New England States. The celebration wound up with an old-time ball. The cannon was returned in the same manner as brought, and three dollars per day paid for its use." Thus, in those primitive days, did our forefathers find time for enjoyment; and no doubt if now and then a day was given to pleasure, it was a keener delight than if occasions were more frequent. For this important celebration of the nation's independence, the columns of the veranda before mentioned were wound with vines of evergreen. A raised platform was erected for the speaker, choice edibles, and a quantity of them were prepared for the event, and a goodly crowd partook. A fine military parade took place on grounds near by, a band of martial music enlivening the scene, and cheer after cheer was given for host Parke as the throng dispersed.

Mr. and Mrs. Parke were both devout church members, as appears in the records of the old parish church of Chatham; and in the early history of the first church in Camden we find their names prominent on the pages of its history. His name also appears in the records of town matters, as one actively interested in its progress, assisting in its official matters wisely and well.

He had large landed possessions, and was associated in milling industries on Mexico Street, as ancient deeds indisputably prove. From land records at the Chatham Town Clerk's Office, we find he had considerable real estate, which he disposed of prior to his removal to Camden, some of it mentioned as land willed him by Mary Bevin. Thus we feel positive that he came with means at his disposal. He was a soldier in the War of the Revolution, seeing more than four years of service. He responded to the Lexington call for troops, and immediately following that, enlisted to serve a longer term. He was in the army with that portion which spent the winter of suffering at Valley Forge. The results of his exposure during those dreadful months caused decrepitude, which brought him a pension. His regiment was sent to the relief of Fort Stanwix, and it is not unlikely that this locality and its desirability may have been revealed to him during that period. The accompanying sketch is of a powder-horn



Daniel Parke's Powder Horn.

carried by him during his service in the War of the Revolution, and is remarkable for the etchings of the plan of the fortifications, which are discernible upon it. Inscription on powder horn: "Daniel Parke, His Horn. Roxbury—1776." It is owned by Charles Parke. He owned a large farm and other real estate at the time of his death, having been successful in financial transactions. He passed away at his home, with his son George, Oct. 8, 1836, at the ripe age of 86 years. It is remembered by descendants that he bought the first covered carriage in town—on two wheels. Of Mrs. Daniel Parke we quote her obituary notice, which speaks volumes for her, printed in the "Utica Recorder" of May, 1818:

"Died, in Camden, on the 24th inst., Mrs. Esther Parke, con-



sort of Mr. Daniel Parke, aged 57 years. The deceased was among the first settlers of the town, and introduced into life a numerous and respectable family, who are now reaping the benefit of her instructions and example. She performed the relative duties with more than ordinary fidelity. As a wife she was amiable and condescending; as a mother, tender and indulgent, and obliging as a neighbor. To the poor she was generous and compassionate. These natural qualities were sanctified by religion. Her only hope of acceptance with God was founded upon the righteousness of Christ. This was her consolation under the ravages of a long and painful malady, inspiring unqualified submission, and in the decisive hour, enabling her to resign her weary spirit to her Savior, in the confident hope of a better world. 'The memory of the just is blessed.' The memory of her kindness to the poor and distressed is yet treasured by descendants of some who were recipients of her kindly feeling for them, and we know of the spirit of sympathy inherited from her by her children. They have come within our own lives. Truly, 'The good she did lives after her.' "

Both are buried in the old cemetery near the Parke farm, on the road leading from the "Old Plank" to the Taberg road; and near them lie the remains of their children, Marshall, Hannah, Fannie and Clarissa, with their husbands.

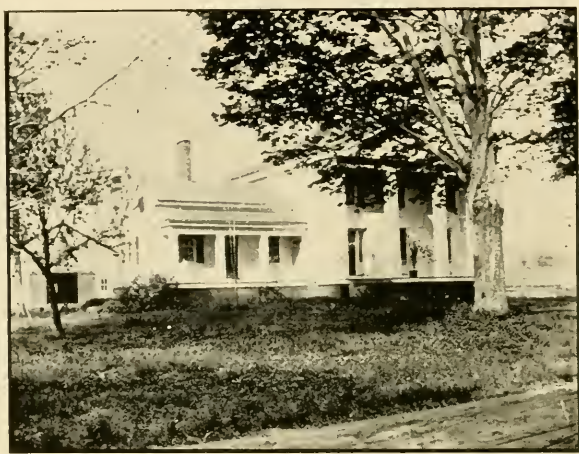
Daniel Parke was born in Chatham, Conn., April 6, 1753; Esther Ranney was born in Chatham, Conn., January 8, 1751. They were married April 14, 1779.

Children born and baptized in parish church, Chatham, Conn.—Polly Parke, born February 27, 1780; Clarissa Parke, born August 10, 1781; Sage Parke born June 7, 1783; Sally Parke, born December 4, 1785; Johnson Parke born May 30, 1788; Ranney Parke born March 10, 1790; Elisha Parke, born March 21, 1793; Fanny Parke, born September 10, 1795.

Born in Camden—Hannah Parke, born July 27, 1796; Marshall Parke, born March 1, 1798; George Parke, born July 12, 1800, died an infant; Esther Parke, born August 27, 1802; George Parke, born November 27, 1804.

Daniel Parke died October 8, 1836. Esther Parke died May 24, 1818.

Daniel Parke married a second time Mrs. Catharine Hulburt of Holland Patent, who survived him till 1840. There were no children by the second marriage. After Daniel Parkes' death, his son George occupied the farm from 1836 to his death, having lived on the homestead a period of seventy-nine years. George Parke was the youngest child of Daniel and Esther Parke, and



Daniel Parke Place.

was born in Camden in 1804. In December, 1828, he married Amelia, daughter of Ambrose Curtiss, Sen. Together they commenced life in the home of Mr. Parkes' birth, and to them were born six children, Lafayette, Daniel, Clarissa, Esther, Theresa and Ranney. Lafayette married Miss Lydia A. Buskirk of Camden; Daniel married Miss Sabra Towner of Camden; Clarissa married John Halstead of Blossvale; Esther married George Cook of Camden; Theresa, unmarried, died 1885; Ranney married Gertrude Godfrey (both are dead); Amelia Parke died in 1883, aged 75 years; George Parke died in 1883, aged 79 years. The old home is still owned by the heirs of George Parke. Of the descendants of George and Amelia Parke are Charles Parke, son of Lafayette, William, son of Daniel, Walter and John Cook, sons of Esther, living in Camden.

#### CALEB ROWELL.

On the east side of the street, directly opposite the Daniel



Parke place, stands the house occupied by the late Caleb Rowell, built for his use in 1853. Caleb Rowell was a son of Martin Rowell, and was born in 1796. He married first Clarissa Gamble, who died June 2, 1836, aged 28 years. In 1837 he married for his second wife Fannie, eighth child of Daniel and Esther Parke. They resided for some years just north of the village, on Oswego Street, selling in 1854 to James Frisbie, and making their abode in the before-mentioned house, down the Plank Road, one and a half miles south from the village. Here they lived for many years. Mrs. Rowell died in 1875, aged 80 years. After her decease, living in the house a few years, Mr. Rowell finally went to pass his remaining years in the home and care of Pliny Phelps and family. He died in 1883, aged 87 years. Both are buried in the cemetery on Four Mile Square.

#### SYLVANUS WILSON.

Sylvanus Wilson, Sen., was born in Harwinton, Conn., in 1769, and married Miss Chloe Hall not far from 1795, also born in Harwinton, Conn., in 1771. They came to Camden in 1806. No house was standing on the farm then, and they slept in their ox cart while constructing a log habitation in which to live. It is quite probable the cart was arranged like the "prairie schooners" with a cover of canvas or cotton cloth on a frame, as many of the emigrant wagons of that period were so equipped. The marked trees guided them on their way from Rome to Camden; and here, the west side of the road, the first farm below the Daniel Parke place, he built, settled and lived the remainder of his life. The farm is at present owned by Mr. Kobler. As the land upon which he located was unimproved, he immediately bent to the task of clearing and making "glad the waste places." The first crops of grain raised by him had to be taken to Rome or Utica to be ground. As years passed by, and success followed perseverance and industry, he built a frame house more commodious and convenient, which must have been very pretentious for the times, as to-day it remains one of the finest farm houses in town. Their children were: Chloe, born 1785; Sylvanus, 1787; Laura, 1792; Polly, 1802; Eliza, 1804; Horace,

1808; Maria, 1811. Chloe married Noah Wadhams; Sylvanus married Beulah Doolittle; Laura married David Johnson; Polly, unmarried; Eliza married Watson Spencer; Horace married Abigail Hamlin; Maria married Amos Preston.

Early after his arrival here we find his name upon the roll of members of the First Church, prominent in good works, and in the book of town records his name also appears as one interested in the affairs of the community. They were buried in the cemetery on Mexico Street. Sylvanus Wilson died March 17, 1833, aged 64 years; Chloe Hall Wilson died March 9, 1827, aged 56 years.

### MARTIN TYLER.

On the east side of the street, near the corner of the road called "Four Mile Square," stood a house. The date of its erection we can not learn from any available source, yet there it stood within the memory of many living to-day. Dr. Joshua Ransom lived there for a time, a tenant, and Martin Tyler also occupied it. Mr. Tyler was an ax-maker by trade, there previous to 1810, and had a shop near the house. He also did blacksmithing. Those whose memories reach furthest back recall the family, and the season of affliction through which they passed, when nearly all the members were stricken with typhus fever, and nurses had to be procured from the village for their relief. But notwithstanding nursing and care, several of the family died. Time erases the knowledge of its early history, and we regret that it can not be recalled. In its day it was a good-looking house. It eventually came into the possession of Horace Wilson, son of Sylvanus, Sen., and the remains of it torn away between 1855 and 1865.

### HORACE WILSON.

Horace Wilsen, born 1808, was the youngest son of Sylvanus, Sen., and Chloe Wilson, and spent his life on the farm where he resided at the time of his death. He married Abigail, daughter of John Hamlin, in Lee, Oneida County, N. Y., one of a family of twelve children. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson left one son, Samuel,

who resides in Rome, Oneida County, and an adopted daughter, Mrs. Charles E. Orr of Camden. Mrs. Wilson died May 15, 1876, aged 65 years.

#### SYLVANUS WILSON, JR.

Sylvanus Wilson, Jr., born in Harwinton, Conn., in 1787, came to Camden, Oneida County, in 1806. In 1824 he married Miss Beulah Doolittle, whom he met while she was paying a visit to her sister, Mrs. Reuben Bettis, then one of Camden's residents. Mr. Wilson is well remembered by many of the present generation. He was a man of upright habits, firm religious principles, active in good works in church and community, a gentleman who had the respect of all. Early in his married life he resided on the east side of the highway, a little to the north of his later residence (the Hendley home). In the year 1840 he built the larger, more convenient structure, now standing, and sold the old house to Israel Stoddard (Eliakim Stoddard's son), who moved it to use as a wing on the house in which he then lived on Blakeslee road. Of his descendants, but one remains in Camden, Mary, wife of Israel Butler, whose residence is on Third Street.

#### JEHIEL HIGGINS.

Jehiel Higgins was born in 1774. He married Rachel Rebecca Hungerford, and they came from Connecticut to Camden about 1800. He located himself on the farm south of the Wilsons, and built a house, where he resided till his death, which is still standing on the east side of the street, the present home of Miles Keeler. He was a practical mason by trade, and found in the new country ample use for his trowel. Many a capacious brick oven and huge chimney were fashioned by his hand. He also built the brick house for Isaac Allen, later the Benj. Phelps homestead. He had an ear for music, and a voice which led the singing in the M. E. Church for years. Mr. Higgins was a favorite with the young people, being in sympathy with their youthful sports, often joining in them to the wild delight of the youngsters. Prior to the establishment of the M. E. Church he was a subscriber to the support of the gospel in the Congregational society. The children of Rachel and Jehiel Higgins were

Alvin, who married Maria Castle Bennett, living in Canada; Chloe, who married Marshall Parke; Dorcas married Seymour Scoville; Ethel married Clarissa Johnson; Franklin; Garrett; Hiram married Elizabeth Rankin; Sylvester married Louisa Kinne. Rachel Higgins died February 11, 1831, aged 76 years. After her death, Mr. Higgins again married the widow of Rufus



Jehiel Higgins' Residence.

Kinne, and it was her daughter Louisa that Sylvester Higgins married. Jehiel Higgins died September, 1850, aged 76 years. Sylvester, the youngest son, continued on the farm a few years, when he went to the Far West, seeking other fields of labor for a livelihood. The farm was then purchased by

#### MINER BUELL.

Miner and Melinda Buell came from an ancient and honorable line of ancestors. In 1831 they came to Camden, and located on Wolcott Hill, where they resided a few years, then removed to Taberg Street, and settled in the house at the top of the hill, beyond Cobb Brook. Later they removed to the farm on the Plank Road vacated by Sylvester Higgins. We give an extract from an answer to an inquiry for the purposes of our work, furnished us by their son, Benjamin Buell: "My first Camden ancestor was Miner Buell. He was born in Lebanon, Conn., December 28,

1788. His father, Isaac Buell, was a soldier of the Revolution. He was born in Litchfield, Conn., removed to Goshen, and later in life to Lee, Oneida County; was a son of Oliver Buell of Litchfield, Goshen and Lee. Oliver was the son of John Buell of Lebanon, Conn.; John was the child of John Buell of Killingworth, Lebanon and Litchfield, and John, the son of Samuel Buell of Windsor and Killingworth, Conn.; and Samuel was the first child of William Buell of Chesterton, Huntingtongshire, England; born in Chesterton in 1610, came to America in 1630, settled first at Dorchester, and later at Windsor, where he died November 23, 1631." It is seen from following the Buell chart, that Mr. and Mrs. Buell were related—about fifth cousins. Isaac Buell, father of Miner Buell, served five years in the War of the Revolution, as artificer; later, detailed for express duty four months; and later was paymaster, and was disabled finally in New Jersey. He was a pensioner. Was married at Lebanon, Conn., January 22, 1784, to Prudence Sprague, by the Rev. Zebulon Ely. Prudence was born in 1759, and died in 1802. So Miner Buell was a son of Isaac and Prudence Buell, and came to Camden to reside in 1831. Both Mr. and Mrs. Buell were people of gentle, quiet dignity, and amiable dispositions. The home was near the old brick school house—the nearest point for the school water supply, and it made excuse for the pupils to pay a little call to Mrs. Buell, when going for a pail of water, which was a joy to the young children, and of frequent occurrence. They were kindly cared for by their daughter, Miss Jane Buell, till their life closed. Their children were: William Buell, who married Emily Andrews; James M. married Elvira Gruman; Sarah Maria married Josiah Wright, M. D.; Isaac married Mary Andrews; Jane married Curtiss Higley; Benj. N. married Fannie Peck first, Mrs. Cornelia Johnson second. Descendants living in Camden at present date: Benjamin N. Buell; Miner Buell died in Camden January 15, 1863, aged 75 years; Melinda Buell died in Camden in 1869, aged 84 years. The place is at present owned and occupied by Miles L. Keeler.



## MILES L. KEELER.

Miles L. Keeler came to this place to dwell in 1871. He was born in Florence, N. Y., November 14, 1837. Married Louisa W., daughter of Daniel Peck, March 8, 1871. Mrs. Keeler died April 25, 1889; March 31, 1890, he married Miss Sophia, daughter of Pliny Phelps. By the first union were born: Lena J., December 9, 1878; Mabel A., March 20, 1881; died January 7, 1883; and Altai J., July 4, 1886. By the second marriage, Henry Phelps Keeler, March 14, 1892. Mr. Keeler is an enterprising business man, carrying on the occupation of farming. He has held offices of public importance, and is a man of much integrity.



## BRICK SCHOOL-HOUSE DISTRICT, NO. 5, 1816—1890.

The old red school-house stood on the east side of the street, a few rods north of the present building. It was constructed in 1814. A lease of the ground on which it was built was given by the elder Sylvanus Wilson, to continue while the structure remained upon it. The brick used were made by Solon Cook, the clay taken from a bed back of the Oliver Cook farm. The building was erected by Jehiel Higgins and Jesse Penfield, and considered quite a pretentious structure in the days of its early history. Mr. Bela Blakesley, in his memories of boyhood days says: "I was born in 1807, and when seven years of age first went

to school. My teacher was Thomas French, and the school-house was of logs, which was near the present building. Afterwards my teacher was a woman, who lived and taught in the house." As far back as the early remembrance of the writer goes, a well, and a cluster of trees near it, existed below the old brick school-house, which would indicate a habitation having been there at some remote period. On the list of names of those found in the old contract made by George Scriba with them, occurs the name of Thomas Comstock, and he later removed to Williamstown. His descendants remember to have heard that he lived near the old school-house, and it is reasonable to believe this was the spot where his house stood—the one used for school purposes till the newer one of brick was built. In this newer one we have evidence of the first teacher having been Ezra S. Parke. An old "Reward of Merit" executed by him with a pen, and awarded to Miss Dorcas Higgins, March 25, 1815, was shown a few years since by Seymour Scoville, who subsequently became the husband of the said Miss Higgins, daughter of Jehiel Higgins. Similar certificates of studiousness were bestowed on Albro and Albert Phelps in ensuing years, executed in like manner, probably by the same teacher. Mr. Pliny Phelps was born in 1816, and when five or six years of age attended school to Betsey Peck, who married Solon Cook; and a few years later, Uriah Hill taught there. The earliest school list found was that of 1830, when Albro Phelps taught. He was then twenty-two years of age, and received forty-four dollars for four months' instruction—the winter term. The following summer Sally Waring (Mrs. Dow, and later she became the second Mrs. Hosea Hall) taught, and was paid seven shillings a week, her full pay amounting to fourteen dollars. In 1832 Isaac Crawford taught the winter term, receiving eleven dollars a month, the full term being four months. We copy a few words from some old papers, showing the orthography of some of the Trustees. "Emily Sanford was paid eighteen dollars for five months work. Paid Louisa Wood seven dollars for summer. Paid Samuel Dowst 39 dollars for three months' tuition. Same year Sarah Preston taught fifteen weeks at a dollar a week, for which there is a bill in the hands of the



colector, and 89 sents for fewel." Yet some fine spellers were turned out from among the number of students. Sixty scholars was the usual number in attendance about the time from 1835 to 1845, as old lists show. Sophronia Mix, daughter of Amos Mix, taught in 1848, the summer term ending September 19, and her list shows fifty names. Now, the number is very small in attendance. Mr. George Trowbridge was the Superintendent this year, and expresses much satisfaction that the school has progressed so finely. Sally Archer and Frances A. Burr were teachers also about those years. In 1849 there were 33 scholars. August 10 "there is no school, as there is a funeral in the school-house," but it does not develop whose it was. Ariadne Barnes had a school of fifty pupils in those far-away days. We can not refrain from giving one of the lists found: Francis Dennison, Helen Dennison, Lucy Jane Dennison, Augusta Dennison, Albert Dennison, Urbane Dennison, Mary Cook, Amos Cook, Julia Cook, Theresa Cook, Martha Cook, Lucy E. Cook, Francis Cook, Henry Cook, Harriet Cook, Esther Cook, Clarissa Alcott, Esther Parke, Theresa Parke, Daniel Parke, Ellen Preston, Taylor Preston, George Preston, Mary E. Preston, Elnira Higgins, Amy Higgins, Philura Scoville, Goodwin Scoville, Ruth Scoville, Francis Dibble, Ira Dibble, Charlotte Thompson, James Thompson, Andrew Barnes, Elizabeth Phelps, Edward Phelps, Seth Phelps, Lois M. Stoddard, Daniel Dunton, Ira Dibble, Electa Spencer, Warren Spencer, Augusta Wilson, Samuel Wilson, Maria Smith, Francis Hamlin, Daniel Parke, Solon Smith, Janette Cleveland, Ann Dunton, Andrew Spencer, Henry Spencer.

In 1887 the old house was condemned as unsafe, and pulled down, and the land on which it stood reverted to Mr. Hendley, the present owner of the Sylvanus Wilson farm. The land on which the present one stands was purchased after the demolition of the old building. The first new house was burned in 1838, but soon another was built on the same site. The present situation of the school building is a great improvement upon the old one. Ample space is allowed for a play ground; but with the older one the street-drive was the only

spot for ball playing, and sports boys so like to indulge in. Young shade trees have been placed about the house, which in time will beautify and make more agreeable the attendance at school. The number of students is greatly reduced, so that perhaps a dozen children is the average daily attendance. Very few families remain in the district bearing the "pioneer" names.

## CHAPTER VI.

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### ABNER MATTHEWS.

ABNER Matthews was a native of Connecticut, but moved to the State of New Hampshire when the country was new. He was twice married, first to Sarah Warner. There were four children by this marriage: Mamara, Lucretia, Sarah and Thomas. The second wife was Eunice Tuttle. By this union there were eight children: Lois, who died in babyhood; Levi, Abner, Roswell, Eunice, Chloe, Lois and David. We give an account of their lives yet further, as related by Mrs. Eliakim Stoddard, who was Lois Matthews, one of Abner Matthews' daughters: "My parents were comfortable farmers, and lived in New Hampshire till I was twelve years old, surrounded with all the necessary blessings of life, having settled four of their children around them, expecting to spend the remainder of their days on that happy soil. But there was a sound from the West, from New York State; there was a land where we could have riches without labor, and pleasure without pain. My brothers would no longer be content, when they learned of this better land. They went to seek this pleasant place, and pitched their tent in the town of Trenton, Herkimer Co., N. Y. After many entreaties and encouraging prospects set before him, my father, in about two years, took all he possessed and bade farewell to the land of our nativity with many sighs and tears. After a long and tedious journey we arrived at our destined place. But Oh! the scene—a howling wilderness, a log hut, instead of a well-built house. I can not describe the feelings of our hearts at that time; but the thought of being once more settled with their children was balm to father's and mother's spirits, even though they were deprived of the comforts which their years required. After a time, becoming inured to the change, and prosperity beginning to gladden the home, a feeling of contentment with our lot came to us. In about four years our title to the land was disputed, and

we were ejected, and again thrown upon the world without a home. After much trouble, and loss, a part of us arrived in Camden, Oneida County, N. Y. Two brothers and a sister, Chloe, had gone to Canada. Eunice married, and went to Denmark, N. Y., and the oldest brother went to the lake. My parents, after sacrificing all they had, and worn down by age, were left with only myself and a wild boy of fifteen, with very little of this world's goods. In this situation we lived till I was twenty years of age; and on the sixth day of April, 1801, I was married to Eliakim Stoddard, and moved one mile from home, resolved never to forsake them so long as they should live."

Abner Matthews came to Camden from Trenton, Herkimer Co., N. Y., in 1797, locating on the spot across the Blakesley road from the present brick school-house in district No. 5. The house has long since disappeared, but a barn is still in existence, standing a little north of said school-house, which once belonged to Abner Matthews. We find him a deacon in the first church in 1802, and the names of both Mr. and Mrs. Matthews on the early list of its members. The earnest Christian life of the daughter Lois (Mrs. Eliakim Stoddard) attests to the influence of the training she received from them in her youth, and a pleasant memory lives in the hearts of her grandchildren, who yet remember the beauty of her character. Buried in Vienna, Oneida County, N. Y.

#### JUDGE HENRY WILLIAMS.

Judge Henry Williams bought land of George Scriba in 1797, recorded in 1801, and an old deed loaned us by Mr. Rodney Cook shows it to have been the place now known as the Julius Cook farm, situated near the crossings of the R. W. & O. and L. V. R. R., over the highway, two and a half miles south of Camden village. Then the road did not take the course it now does, and the dwelling stood nearer the highway as it then was. Later, when a different course was surveyed, a lane or drive was made, leading to the residence. Trees were planted, and an avenue of maples was one of the objects of admiration for years, and is at this present. It is told that the first child born in Camden was

that of Henry Williams, when he dwelt here, and on that day a wild storm of wind and rain broke over the locality, threatening to demolish everything in its course. The roof of the house was taken away partially, and the contents and occupants deluged and frightened nearly wild. However, when the calm followed, kind neighbors took them in and cared for them till matters could be adjusted, and a new roof put over them. In 1802 he sold to Mr. Martin Cook, and removed to Williamstown, Oswego Co., N. Y., which locality took his name, known by it to this day. It is likely that previous to 1797, Mr. Williams lived in town, as there is record of his having had business interests there. The dates above given are from old deeds.

#### OLIVER COOK.

Two brothers, Maj. Aaron and Nathaniel Cook, because of the persecutions of King Charles I., of England, came to America in 1629 or 1630, that they might enjoy liberty of thought and worship. They first settled in Dorchester, Mass., but five or six years later went up to Windsor, Conn. It is in descent from Nathaniel that Oliver came, the line running Nathaniel, John, Theophilus, Samuel, Oliver, Martin, Solon, Melzar—the last named furnishing the sketches of his family. In Windsor, Conn., October 3, 1750, was born Oliver Cook. At Harwinton, Conn., February 17, 1768, he was married to Miss Submit (Mitta) Cogsdell, when about 18 years of age. When independence was declared by the American people, he was 26 years of age, full of patriotic fire, and in sympathy with the act. When the call came for aid in securing their rights and independence, he responded, and saw active military service in the War of the Revolution, serving with loyalty to the cause to its close. He enlisted from Litchfield, Litchfield County, Conn. To Oliver and Submit Cook were born six children, the baptisms of these being performed by Parson Perry of Harwinton, Conn., to which town Mr. and Mrs. Cook removed after the War of the Revolution. Martin was born March 3, 1772; Polly (Mary) married Samuel Brooker of Harwinton; Chloe married Stephen Scoville of Camden; Ursula married Amos Mix of Camden; Anna married Jo-

seph Scoville of Harwinton, later of Camden, N. Y.; Esther married Amos Soper of Rome, N. Y.

Early in the spring of 1799 Martin and his brother-in-law, Joseph Scoville, urged on, especially by Martin's wife, who was tired of the hilly, rocky soil, and forbidding prospects of bleak Harwinton, with shouldered knapsacks and axes, took their way on foot through the then almost wilderness, to "Camden Flats," made the necessary purchase of farms, about two miles south of the village, and immediately set to work felling timber, and clearing the soil for the purpose of planting corn, on which to subsist their families the next year. They felled and burnt over about five acres, which they planted. Its cultivation required their attention to keep the weeds and rank briars which quickly sprang up, subdued, and later in the season, to drive away or kill the squirrels, coons and bears that were a constant menace. They harvested a good crop, and after carefully housing it in large cribs made of logs, and covered with bark, they retraced their steps to the old Connecticut home, where they passed the winter in anticipation and preparation for moving to the "Far West" of their dreams as soon as the weather would permit it in the spring of 1800. The family consisted of Oliver, aged 50, Submit, his wife, aged 48, Martin, aged 28, and three daughters, aged from 17 to 24 years. Beside these, doubtless, Joseph Scoville and his wife Anna, nee Cook, were of the party. Clarissa Rossiter, wife of Martin, Solon in his fifth year, Dotlia in her third year, and Didama 5 months; in all 13 souls. They had a one-horse rig, a yoke of cattle, and a strong, two wheeled cart, with the necessary domestic animals, and fowls, and food, for the journey. On arriving at Albany they found the Hudson River high and dangerous, but by ferry, crossed safely though not without hazard. There were no villages of importance after passing Schenectady, but they found a small hamlet at Whitesboro, at Fort Stanwix, and at Taberg, all about of a size, but elsewhere a backwoods wilderness, with here and there a log hut and small clearing. From Taberg, instead of going via the State road and East Florence, they followed an Indian trail, and were obliged to ford the streams, still swollen and cold from the recently melted and still melting snow; but after suffering great



hardships, on the second day from Taberg, and three weeks from Harwinton, wayworn and weary, they arrived at the Mecca of their hopes, where they entered upon the toilsome employment of putting up log buildings and clearing the land, and leading a life of self-dependence, under God, and mostly, as one family, until the 30th of December, 1838, when the Revolutionary soldier and patriot, surrounded by relatives and friends, and respected by all who knew him, laid down the burdens of life and passed out into the invisible, aged 88 years. He was buried in the old cemetery on Mexico Street, on the bank of the mill-pond, to await the resurrection of the just. His relict, Submit, under great infirmities, lingered eight years longer, until July 20, 1846, when she, too, passed away, at the ripe age of 94, and with reverent, tender care, was laid at rest beside her slumbering spouse, lamented by a great throng of descendants and friends.

#### MARTIN COOK.

Martin Cook, the first child and only son of Oliver and Submit (nee Cogsdell) Cook, at the age of 28, moved from Harwinton, Litchfield County, Conn., to Camden, Oneida County, N. Y., in the spring of 1800. (Vide sketch of Oliver Cook.) He was born in Litchfield, Conn., March 3, 1772. There was no better farm in the town of Camden than the one he purchased the previous year of Judge Henry Williams. It contained hill land for pasture, flats for tillage, and creek intervalles for both mow and grazing. It was all heavily timbered with primeval forest, mostly hard wood, but interspersed with immense white pines, hemlocks and spruce. The location for home and out-buildings was unexcelled, it was even "beautiful for situation," looking towards the morning, from the brow of a low-lying hill that ascended gradually, to the west line of the farm. An ever-living spring of cool, soft water, bubbling from the soil a few rods back of the house, furnished an abundance of water for both house and stock. There used to be another spring just north of the barn, and still another at the south side of the house lot, at the foot of the declivity, also many more at the base of the bluff, where the plain breaks down to the intervalle levels. The arduous and trying labor of clearing the land, although the prostrated limber was burnt where it fell, nearly ruined the physical

stamina of the owner, having produced a permanent rheumatic condition of his hip-joints, that precluded his ever performing any severe or heavy manual labor, after he was 35 or 40 years of age. On pleasant days, with the support of two canes, he walked about the farm, the writer often meeting him on the road leading to the creek, and once he even walked over to Solon's, about three-fourths of a mile, and took dinner, but was carried home. He always kept a horse for his own driving, and in an odd little wagon, that he brought from Connecticut, often drove to the village, generally with apples or other goodies that boys like, in his pockets. Said boys were always on hand to fetch the "Camden Gazette," or to do any other errand he might chance to want done. When about 60 years old he set out an apple orchard, and afterward grafted the trees, whose natural fruit was not desirable. One of his neighbors spying him engaged in directing the tree setting, went over and asked him why he was such a fool as to set out an orchard, for others to eat its fruit, as he would be dead long before it could come into bearing. "Uncle Martin" reminded him that much of all our labor is done for posterity, and continued his enterprise. His orchard became the best in that part of the town, and he lived to enjoy its fruit. The Indian trail from the east, which, in their immigration, they followed in from Taberg, ran along between the house and the road, over which the Indians often passed, and frequently called for food. This was a house from whose door no one was ever sent hungry away. One day a party of them from the north-west stopped and asked for meat. It so chanced there was none on hand except smoked hams, one of which was offered. The applicant eyed it with disgust, and with the remark, "Me no want black nigger meat," this copper colored "lord of the soil" withdrew to his company, and they soon disappeared on the south-eastward trail. One bright spring day while entertaining a Connecticut visitor in a walk on the bank of the creek that then bounded his farm, about forty rods below the present bridge, they discovered a large fish basking in the sunlight, which the visitor stayed and watched while his host went to his barn half a mile away, and got a pitchfork, with which they speared the fish, and found it to be a salmon of more than thirty pounds weight. Martin was a

Whig and Congregationalist. His family consisted of six sons and five daughters, viz.; Solon Cook, born September 30, 1795. He married Elvira Byington April 3, 1815, who died May 4, 1822. For second wife he married Elizabeth Peck, October 25, 1824, who died September 12, 1885, and Solon died July 2, 1876. Dotha, born in Harwinton, December 15, 1797, married Augustus Byington, who died in 1823. In 1825 she married John Julia, who deceased in Camden in 1868, aged 70 years, and Dotha fell asleep and was laid by his side in 1870. Didama was also a Harwinton girl, born December 4, 1799. She married Junius Wood, and died March 6, 1866. Orson was born July 19, 1802. He married Sarah Doolittle February 28, 1827. In 1832 he moved to Ripley, Chautauqua County, N. Y., and from there, in 1845, went to Wisconsin, then to Freeport, Ill. His wife, Sarah D., was born September 17, 1805, and died January 14, 1872. Orson died in July, 1880, and both were buried at Freeport, Ill. Lucintha was born July 13, 1804, married Isaac Northrop, and died September 3, 1856. Rebecca was born October 1, 1806, married Pliny Barnes, and died March 8, 1882. Oliver Wolcott was born January 8, 1809, married Sarah Winne, who was born in Schenectady, N. Y., May 1, 1807, and died in Camden May 22, 1871. Mr. Wolcott died February 22, 1870. Thomas was born March 1, 1811, married Mary Warring. They moved to Richland in 1855. Thomas died March 17, 1872, and his wife June 6, 1881. They are both interred at Richland, Mich. Norris was born July 27, 1813, married Syrena A. Warring of Annsville, N. Y., January 19, 1834. He went to California in the winter of 1848-9 in an old sailing vessel around Cape Horn, was six months on the voyage, the last trip the rotten old ship made. After six years he returned in the spring of 1855. October 19th, the same year he removed with his family to Richland, Mich. After three years he went again to California, and stayed about five years. During the war he returned to Richland, bought a place in the village of Climax, Mich., where he died November 27, 1879. Syrena A., his wife, was born April 27, 1817, died June 5, 1892, and was buried at Climax beside her husband. Julius was born November 10, 1815, married Sally Elden February 22, 1838, who was born January 6, 1814, and died August

25, 1895, and was interred by the side of her husband, who died January 24, 1892. Olive was born January 6, 1818, married Alfred Barnes in January, 1836.

Between Martin and "Aunt Clara," his wife, there were no "family jars," and, apparently, no differences of opinion. Theirs was a model, pioneer household. They grew and manufactured



Mrs. Martin Cook.



Martin Cook.

their own wool and flax, and were sufficient unto themselves in all temporal things, even making their own corn brooms, flax ropes and tallow dips. The rope walk, the methods of rotting, breaking, swingling, hatchling, carding and spinning flax, were primitive, and would seem odd in our days, but they were efficient and successful. They were good citizens, good parents, and the writer can testify that he found them gracious and kind grandparents. Martin died March 20, 1855, and "Aunt Clara" August 28, 1848. They were entombed in the then "new cemetery," about half way down from the road, on the eastern side.

## JULIUS COOK.

Our book would be incomplete without mention of Julius, son of Martin Cook. Who that knew him but remember the kindly voice, the genial countenance, the hearty salutation, the words of manly sympathy, the ever-ready help in time of need? These were the characteristics of this Christian man. He was the ninth child of Martin and Anna Cook, born November 10, 1815. His birthplace was Camden, and he spent his life in our midst, on the



farm where he first saw the light, for the greater part of his life. In February, 1838, he married a most estimable woman, Miss Sally, daughter of John Elden. To them was born three children that reached maturity: Lucy, who married Henry Dwight Wood; Theresa M., who married Daniel Potter Barnes, June 11, 1868. (In January, 1874, Mr. Barnes died in the Far West, of consumption. After some years Mrs. Barnes married James H. Meagley of Toledo, Ohio. They reside at present at Minneapolis, Minn.) Their son Rodney married Miss Maggie Hawkes, and resides in Camden, a well known and highly respected citizen. The virtues of Mrs. Julius Cook can not be too



highly spoken of. Gentle and amiable, she was admired and beloved by those who knew her. There seemed never a hasty word, an unkind act, or an unjust judgment. Ever refined and sweet in her manner, she won all hearts. They spent the de-



Birthplace and Home of Julius Cook.

clining years of their lives with Mrs. Wood, in this village. Mr. Cook was a member of the military band in old training days, and in later years played the fife with similar musical organizations. In politics he was a Whig in earlier times, and later a Republican. Through the courtesy of Rodney Cook, son of Julius Cook, we are able to copy his military discharge, from the original document:

"This May certify that Julius Cook has had the office of drum Major for the space of 4 years, and don duty according to the law in the 68th Regiment, 13th Brigade and 13th Division of Infantry of the militia of the State of New York, and is hereby Onerably dis charged from military duty. Dated Camden September 7th, 1841.

T. S. Byington, Col. 68 Reg't."

Julius Cook born 1815, died January 24, 1892; Sally Cook born 1814, died August 25, 1895. They rest side by side in Forest Park Cemetery, and await the resurrection of the just. Surely crowns are prepared for such as these, set with jewels of



rarest worth. Mr. Rodney Cook has two children, James and Florence.

### OLIVER WOLCOTT COOK.

Oliver Wolcott Cook was the seventh child of Martin and Clara Cook, born January 8, 1809. He married Sarah, daughter of David Winne, who was born in Schenectady, N. Y., May 1, 1807. They resided all their married lives on the farm of Martin Cook. The site of their early home is marked only by a well and an old barn used in connection with the house. It was on the east side of the Plank road, a short distance north from the crossings of the R. W. & O. and Lehigh Valley R. R.'s. In later years Mr. Cook built a new house, the one at present standing, a few steps north of the older structure. (It is now owned by the heirs of the late Dr. H. H. Woodruff.) Their children were Clarissa, Melissa, Henry, Francis and William. Clarissa married James Mitchell; Melissa, George Lingham, who was a railroad engineer; Henry was also an engineer, and died in Texas. He married Miss Ann, daughter of Homer Abbott; Francis married Dewitt Wilson—his second wife, and died March 23, 1875, at 35 years of age. William is an engineer, and married Miss Anna, daughter of the late John Wiles. O. W. Cook died February 22, 1870, aged 62 years; Sarah W. Cook died May 22, 1871, aged 64 years. Buried in Forest Park Cemetery.

### ERASTUS DEVEREUX.

We have deeds for our information which indicate that Erastus Devereux lived on the street running west from the Benjamin Phelps homestead, occupying the place now owned by Wm. Robinson, as early as 1812. He was the father of Ezra Devereux, and old residents remember other children, but not their names. In 1817 Erastus Devereux removed to the place now owned by Mr. Pliny Phelps, his dwelling standing a few rods to the north of Mr. Phelps' present home, the old well still in existence. This farm of 24 acres was a part of a larger tract owned by John Wilson, of whom he purchased it. In after years, about 1833, Ezra Devereux, who had lived a few years on the place now occupied by George Cook, purchased the remaining interest of John Wilson in this farm, and removed there, so the

Devereux owned all the land west of the highway from Martin Cook's to Benjamin Phelps'—a fine farm. In the years that follow, Erastus seems to have sold his interest to Ezra and Zephaniah Devereux, and after a time the property was sold on a mortgage, and passed out of their possession. The old house that was the home of Erastus Devereux is now a portion of the horse-barn used by Mr. Pliny Phelps. John Wilson lived in the house now owned by Judge Stoddard's heirs, which has been previously mentioned, which stood a little south of Israel Stoddard, Jr.'s, present home. Erastus Devereux was a brick-maker by occupation, and one of the earliest to mould and make them ready for the use of the new settlers. He is remembered by old residents as one of a jovial nature. We fail to find the name of any of the family on record after about 1834, and because of it, we are led to believe that they went out from this section into some other, after the sale of their farm.

The present owner of the farm is Israel E., seventh child of Israel and Mary Stoddard, born June 1, 1831. He grew to young manhood, and at the age of twenty-three, in 1854, married Miss Caroline J., daughter of the late George Wood of this village. A year previous to his marriage, he had built the house now standing on the site of the John Wilson house. To them was born one child, William Israel, February 9, 1857. He is a prominent business man in this village, well known by all. Mr. and Mrs. Israel Stoddard are people of much geniality, kindness and hospitality. Children find their home a joy in vacation days, when both Mr. and Mrs. Stoddard deem no sacrifice too great if they give pleasure to the little ones. Business ceases, and time is devoted to their happiness. Mr. Stoddard has followed the pursuit of farming for a few years, doing a thrifty business in corn packing. William Israel, son and only child of Israel E. and Caroline Stoddard, was born February 9, 1857. In 1883, April 5, he married Clare A., eldest child of Edwin A. and Caroline Peck Harvey. For a time he remained on the home farm, but soon came to the village to reside, and subsequently purchased the grocery and drug business of E. A. Harvey, which he successfully conducts at present. They have one child, Hul-dah, aged 12 years.

## PLINY PHELPS.

Mr. Pliny Phelps is the fourth son of Benjamin Phelps. In 1846 he bought the lower portion of the Devereaux farm. In 1847 he married Miss Nancy Phelps. In 1849 he built the home which they at present occupy. Mr. Phelps was born in 1816, and is now at the advanced age of 81 years. His occupation has been farming, with somewhat of lumber interests, throughout his life. He has also been an intelligent student of the political affairs of his country, and a staunch Republican, loyal to his party at all times. He was elected to the office of Supervisor in 1860, and Commissioner of Highway in 1858-59 and '60, discharging his duties acceptably to his townsmen. His children are Byron, who married Miss Ellen Hendley; William married Sarah Lamphere; Delia married Charles Paddock; Sophia married M. L. Keeler, and Jennie, who married Elinor Yager, the present owner of the home. William resides in Taberg, the others are residents of Camden. Both Mr. and Mrs. Phelps are living, and reside with their daughter, Mrs. Yager, on the homestead, three miles south of Camden village.

At this point we will retrace our way back to the street just south of the Daniel Parke place. There in early times was a highway, surveyed in 1803, which took a north-westerly course over the hills, intersecting the Preston Hill Street, just west of the present William Barnes place. On this street were several habitations, the sites discernible at present, and springs or wells are yet found which gave supplies of water in those far-away days. Among those who made homes there were a Mr. Filkins a Mr. Carr, and Israel Butler, Sen. The two former pioneers moved on to Williamstown a few years later, and became identified with Williamstown interests. The names are perpetuated by younger generations, still living there.

"Camden, May 13, 1819.

This may certify that the road leading from the place formerly occupied by Lyman Matthews (deceased) to the intersection of the road near Daniel Parkes, is disannulled, and no longer a publick highway.

John Segur,  
Joel Rathbun,  
Com. Highways."

The course of this street is still to be seen, and perhaps some of the corduroy road is yet to be found. A few years later, the present highway, leaving the Plank Road just north of Daniel Parkes' place, was surveyed, and declared public in 1808. We can only find the name of Eliab Dunbar as an early settler on this street, and his residence there was not long, as we find him subsequently nearer town. In later years, perhaps 1835 or 1840, a family of Dennisons lived about half way between the Plank Road and Preston Hill Street. No other resident appears till we reach the corner of these streets. Here we turn our course to the left, going eastward. Directly on the corner lived first

### MILES SPENCER.

He came here very early, when nothing had been done to improve and cultivate the land, and settled in this lonely place. His near neighbors were Joel Dunbar and Eliab his son. In 1811 his wife and a daughter aged 16 years died, as we find such entries in Rev. Leavenworth's book of records. He was a subscriber to the support of the First Church here, and figured somewhat in early town interests.

We will relate an exciting bear story in connection with Mr. Spencer's residence in this isolated region. One night in early autumn, a hog was taken from its enclosure; and was traced by unmistakable evidences of blood and tracks to a point not far away, near a brook that crosses the highway near William Robinson's present home, then Erastus Devereux'. Here it was found, partially devoured, undoubtedly by a bear. Mr. Spencer at once set about devising means of securing his foe. Having but little faith in his own ability as a trapper or marksman, he repaired to Captain John Wilson's, in whose family lived an aged man skilled in all the arts of primitive warfare. He opined that the creature would return the following night for a meal from the remainder of the carcass. Mr. Davis (for this was the old man's name) was crippled and infirm, but had the enthusiasm of youth, and discussed the situation till he was so fired with zeal, that he said if the neighbors would go with him, and remain near to assist him if necessary, he was sure he could kill him. The evening came, and the whole community were agitated and ready to lend assistance. Mr. Davis was taken to

the place, looked it over carefully, considered the situation well, and finally took his position where he thought he could command a view of the spot. He was seated in a rocking chair, for his weight of years were heavy upon him. A trusty gun was brought with him. Two neighbors were not far away, with a lantern to use when occasion came. Not long had they to wait. The old man hearing a noise directly behind him, felt that his game was approaching, and taking aim, fired. The aids in waiting came immediately to him to learn particulars, and examine into results. They found a trail of blood, which they followed for some rods, where a huge bear was found, dead. The old man was somewhat overcome with fright at the appearance of his prey at a point so unexpected to him, but his satisfaction was very apparent, and the night's adventure was the theme of conversation for many an evening's gathering thereafter.

In 1822, or thereabouts, Miles Spencer's name appears identified with West Camden interests. He married for second wife a Miss Matthews, sister of Lyman Matthews. He died July 22, 1834, aged 66 years, in West Camden, and is buried in the Seventh burying ground.

#### ELI WILSON.

The next occupant of this farm was Eli, brother of Sylvanus Wilson, Sen., and Polly Wilson, wife of Judge Israel Stoddard. He came from Harwinton, Litchfield County, Conn. He married Miss Julia Candee, and together they came to Camden young married people, and located on the above mentioned farm in 1818. He was an active business man, earnest in all good endeavors, prominent in church work, a trustee of First Church in 1819. In 1828 he occupied pew 21 in the old church, and had a seat in the gallery, slip No. 3. In 1829 he led the singing in the M. E. Church. Their children were: Julia, George, Levi, Pomeroy; Sarah married Royce, son of Parsons Allen; Margaret and Candee. Perhaps there were others, but we have no record. We copy the following:

"Know all men by these presents, That I, Eli Wilson of Camden, Oneida County, New York, bind myself in the penal sum of one thousand dollars to execute a good warranty deed to Curtiss Johnson, of the farm on which I now live, meaning to convey all

the land included in the old deed from Miles Spencer to Israel Stoddard, reference being had to the same on or before the first of April (1834) next, and possession given at that time. Done at Camden this 12th day of December, 1833.

Witness my hand and seal,

Eli Wilson."

For about a year longer Mr. Wilson lived in what was known as the Tyler house, near Horace Wilson's, and the year following went west to reside. His death occurred at Farmington, Fulton County, Ill., in 1875, in his eighty-sixth year.



CURTISS JOHNSON.

Following Eli Wilson, Stephen Curtiss Johnson came on to this farm. He was a son of Solomon and Olive Curtiss Johnson, who were married in Stratford, Conn., in 1782. Curtiss was born there August 31, 1786, and lived in his native State till sixteen years of age, when the family removed to Clinton, N. Y., in 1802. About 1810 he married Miss Lois Heacock, and they continued their residence at Clinton till 1834, when Mr. Johnson purchased the farm two miles from Camden village, of Eli Wilson, containing one hundred acres. He added many improve-



ments, clearing and cultivating the ground, setting fruit trees, shrubs, and otherwise enhancing its value. He was blessed with a mind of more than ordinary strength and activity, which he much improved by study. Was a practical botanist, and well understood the habits of the plants and vegetables he so delighted to cultivate—was a deep, original, intelligent and independent thinker, arriving at logical conclusions. Was reared among the Presbyterians, and baptized in that faith, kind in heart and disposition, an indulgent husband and father, a good neighbor and friend. Mr. Johnson evinced fine taste in selecting shrubs and trees, choosing with an eye to beauty and quality. At the time he sold his place, many choice fruit trees, plum, cherry, apple and pear, were growing luxuriantly, which afforded in after years plentiful supplies for use. A famous barberry bush grew in the garden, covering much space. There were many shrubs of a decorative character about the place, which in after years came to adorn the yard of the Jamieson cottage at the head of Main Street, being much admired for their beauty by Lady Jamieson. The children born to Curtiss and Lois Johnson were Emerson, Esotus, Marion, who married Dr. Josiah Wright; Sarah married Frank Snow; Robert married Mary Gould; and Lois married William Wilson of Herkimer. Mrs. C. F. Kendall, daughter of Sarah, (Mrs. F. Snow), is the only descendant living in Camden at present. The next proprietor of this place was

#### ELAM BURTON.

In 1839 Elam Burton bought the farm of Curtiss Johnson. Mr. Burton, in 1835, married Mary, daughter of Jesse Fish, Esq., of Williamstown, Oswego County. Mr. Burton formerly resided in Floyd, Oneida County, but came to Camden about 1835. For a few years they resided elsewhere, but came to this farm as before stated in 1839. He was an enterprising business man, and conducted the farming interests with ability and profit; was a man of sound judgment, and was frequently called upon for advice in weighty matters. In 1869 he sold his farm to Marvel Hall, and removed to Williamstown, where his sons were all engaged in various pursuits. He resided there till his death, in 1875. Of his family, Delos and George still remain in Williamstown; Alfred H. lives in Rome; Jesse in the West; Jane married

Chas. Wombough, and her home is Hornellsville, N. Y. With her Mrs. Burton made her home after her husband's death, till she laid aside life's cares in February, 1895. Both Mr. and Mrs. Burton were interred in Forest Park Cemetery. Mr. Hall owned this farm till his death, which occurred June 1, 1890, and it afterward became the property of Matthew Wakefield, who repaired the house somewhat, and at present resides there.

#### WILLIAM ROBINSON.

The farm lying between Benjamin Phelps' and Miles Spencer's had for its first owner, Andrew Palms. No facts relative to him are obtainable. From his time Zephaniah Smith, Darius Jewell, Ezra Devereux, Samuel Clark, J. C. Jones, have lived there, but we are unable to gather anything further of them or their families. The present occupant is William Robinson, who has lived there for many years. He is a son of John and Catharine Hennis Robinson, who came from Schoharie County previous to 1840. Their other children were Nancy (Mrs. Pliny Phelps), Catharine (Mrs. James Jones), Caleb, John, Jr., who died some years since; (Sophronia (Mrs. George Spencer), Ammi and Betsey (Mrs. Wilkinson). John Robinson, Sen., was killed at Lynche's Mills in 1841, one mile east of Rome, by driving off the abutment of a bridge which had been washed away by the high water. His remains were interred in McConnellsville. Mrs. Robinson survived him many years, passing away at the age of 67. She was buried in Forest Park Cemetery.

#### BENJAMIN PHELPS.

Benjamin Phelps can justly be called a "pioneer" settler of the town of Camden, having come here about the year 1800. We do not know the circumstances which directed him hither, but suppose some one from the place where he lived preceded him here, and returning, represented this locality as a desirable one in which to locate. He was born in old "Simsbury," now North Canton, Connecticut, December 14, 1782. At the age of four years his father died, and Benjamin went to live with an uncle at Torrington, Conn. Benjamin's American ancestor was George Phelps, who came from Tewksbury, England, in 1630. In 1635 his was one of the forty families who removed from

Dorchester, Mass., to Windsor, Conn., and established a church and settlement, so Benjamin descended from Puritan stock. He seemed to have inherited something of their spirit of independence and adventure, to have had the courage to come to this almost unexplored country. He came in company with Joseph Scoville, and began clearing land in the locality of the home of the late Ranney Phelps. He worked in Camden during the summer and returned to Connecticut to teach school during the winter months. This he did for three successive years. His interests here becoming considerable, he afterwards remained to attend to them. He could not get a good title to the land upon which he first settled, so, after toiling there some two or three years he gave it up, and settled on the road toward Hillsboro from the Plank Road, back about three-fourths of a mile. Here in 1803 or 1804 he built a log house, and in 1805 he married Miss



First Home of Benjamin Phelps.

Sally, daughter of Daniel and Esther Parke, and took her to this humble home. Here they established themselves in housekeeping, and no doubt their happiness could scarcely be measured. In this home four children were born to them—a daughter, Clarissa, who died in infancy; Albion and Albert, twins, and Ranney. The twin boys were objects of wonder and curiosity in the community. They were so tiny that to care for them they placed each on a pillow—too diminutive to handle in any other way. These youngsters grew to be heavy men, and each weighed

something over two hundred pounds. It was related by Mrs. Phelps that when they were little babes there came to the door for food, an Indian and squaw. Upon seeing the infants, they at once became interested, and asked if they might take them in



Mrs. Benjamin Phelps.

their arms. She assented, and they took them, on their pillows, talking in their own language for some time concerning them. Whatever they said about them, she did not know, but it was a discussion that ended satisfactorily, for they so signified when they went away. For several years thereafter, in their journeyings this way, to the trading posts further east, they called to see the twins. On one occasion Mrs. Phelps showed them little Ranney. They said he was nice, but they thought the twins were best.

Benjamin Phelps was one of those drafted during the war of 1812, and sent to the defense of Sackett's Harbor. During his absence a terrific storm of wind and rain broke over this locality, tearing parts of the dwelling loose, and filling Mrs. Phelps with fear for the safety of herself and little ones. She gathered them about her, taking refuge under a crude but very useful

loom; feeling that if the house should fall, its staunch timbers would protect them from harm. This loom was an important implement in the home of the Phelps family, for with it the mother wove the cloth of linen for the summer, and of woolen for their winter wear. After Mr. Phelps' return from Sackett's Harbor, probably in 1813 or '14, he built a frame dwelling a few rods to the front of the log house, nearer the street. The site was on a rise of ground; the building was considered very good in its day, but only the cellar excavation is there now to show where



Second Home of Benjamin Phelps.

it stood. In this house were born Pliny, Benjamin, Seth and Edwin. Of the eight children born to Benjamin and Sally Phelps, but two are now living; Pliny of this town, aged eighty-one, and Edwin of Baltimore, Md., aged about sixty-nine. Albro died at the age of 45, Albert at 80, Ranney at 80, and Benjamin and Seth in young manhood, Clarissa in infancy.

In 1832 Benjamin Phelps purchased of Isaac Allen the brick house yet standing on the corner of the Hillsboro and Plank Road highway, now owned by Mr. Douglass Hubbard, about three miles south of Camden village. Perhaps it may interest some reader to learn something of the earlier history of this old tavern stand. Having records at hand, dates are correct. George Scriba, or his agent, sold to Eliakim Stoddard and Lois his wife, in 1802, for the sum of 180 dollars, sixty acres of land. In 1806 Eliakim Stoddard conveyed to Gershom Holdridge, for the sum of eight hundred dollars, the same sixty acres. In 1811



Gershom Holdridge sold to Isaac Allen for 1,400 dollars about 80 acres in this same locality, he having added twenty acres to the original farm. In 1832 Benjamin Phelps purchased the original farm and its additions, till the farm in its entirety numbered 240 acres. Soon after Mr. Allen came to occupy the place. He built the house now standing. The clay used in making the brick was drawn from a bed east of the house, across the R. W. & O. R. R., to the spot where now is the garden on the place—the corner near the street. A kiln was built, the clay made into form, and burned on the premises, and used in constructing the house. Erastus Devereux made the brick. Jehiel Higgins built the house, not far from 1812 or 1813. It was originally a story and a half in height, well constructed, with solid brick walls nearly two feet in thickness. Mr. Allen conducted the new house as an inn or tavern. Teaming and staging over this route was considerable at this date, though perhaps not as great as in later years after the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825, when much merchandise was carried from New London to northern points by wagons. In purchasing of Mr. Allen, Mr. Phelps still continued the place as an inn. He was a man of musical tastes, and for the times in which he lived and received his education, and the means at his command, developed considerable talent. He had a clear tenor voice, played the bass viol in church, and when occasion required, the violin for dancing parties at his hostelry. He was a genial host, and a few are yet living who remember occasions of real enjoyment at this place. "Honey suppers" were frequent here, and the young swains and lassies congregated for dancing parties, their refreshment being warm biscuit and honey, which was supplied from Mr. Phelps own apiary. The "ball room" of the house was across the entire north end of the second story, and about 16 feet wide. In later years, Albert and Albro furnished the music for dancing. We much regret that no picture can be found of Albro Phelps, but the four sons, Albert, Pliny, Ranney and Edwin we give—Albert's taken by artist Gebbie, who came to Camden in about 1855, and was Mr. Phelps first, last, and only picture taken—a daguerreotype. Benjamin Phelps was born in Simsbury, Conn., December 14, 1782. Sally Parke was born in Chatham, Conn., December 4, 1785. Married in Camden, N. Y., October 21, 1805.





Albert Phelps.



Ranney Phelps.



Pliny Phelps



Edwin Phelps.

Children—Clarissa Phelps born August 27, 1806; Albro and Albert, twins, born February 4, 1808; Albro died in 1852; Albert died in 1888; Ranney, born September 11, 1811; Pliny, born January 21, 1816; Benjamin, Jr., born February 19, 1818; died in 1847; Seth, born May 18, 1823; Edwin, born May 27, 1829.

Benjamin Phelps died in Camden, N. Y., September 29, 1840, aged 58; Sally Parke Phelps died July 4, 1847, aged 62. Rev. Ezra Squier preached Benjamin Phelps' funeral sermon, and Rev. John Barton that of Mrs. Phelps. Both are buried in Forest Park Cemetery.

Copied from an old Camden paper.

"Died—about the 1st of Nov., 1847, of consumption, in Camp of Travelers, from the United States, 180 miles from Santa Fe, on his way to Chihuahua, N. M., where he was intending to spend the winter, for the benefit of his health, Benjamin Phelps, Jr., aged 29 years, formerly of Camden, N. Y. Of the particulars of his death his friends have not been fully informed."

In 1848 Albert married Miss Martha Fish, daughter of Jesse Fish, Esq., of Williamstown, Oswego County, N. Y. About 1850 he remodeled the house, building it to two stories in height, and they repaired to the pleasures of a private home. Raising the walls, a new roof, fresh paint, blinds, fence, flag walk to front door, all served to make it an attractive farm-house. Add to these improvements flowers, shrubs, vines and trees, and you have a picture of the place as it appeared 45 years ago. The wing on the south side of the house was the bar-room in its tavern days. Near this was the watering place, a pent-stock with water from a spring some rods to the west of the house. The wing now stands across the street—the wing of Mr. Clarence Hubbard's new house. The old house stands not quite parallel with the street in its present course. Years ago, the old survey caused the highway to run to the right of the ravine, below the Newton Phelps house, and Mr. Allen built his house on a line with it, but in 1817 the course was changed to pass through the ravine, so the house is not quite parallel. (At this time the street was brought to the west, where it at present crosses the Little River, the old crossing having been about where the Lehigh Valley Road crosses now. Daniel Parke built the first bridge



HOME OF ALBERT PHELPS, 1850.

over the river at this point.) The grand old grove below the house, which many remember, has of recent years been a prey to the woodman's ax, and nothing is left but the site and the memory of its beauty. It is a pleasure to dwell upon the scenes that cluster around the old place, but the hand of time will soon lay low all that remains of it. Decay marks every object for its own sooner or later, and in a few years the old "Phelps Tavern," and those who have owned it, will be not even a memory, and only these pages will be left to tell the tale. This will be as true of many other old homes and people of whom this book will speak. Too many important items have already been lost in the passing of the years.

To Albert and Martha Phelps were born four children: Emma, who married W. J. Frisbie, and resides in Camden; Benjamin, who died in 1832 at the age of 30 years; Charles A., who married Harriet Mattoon, and Albert C., who married Ida M. Penfield, both prominent merchants in the town. In April, 1880, Mrs. Albert Phelps died, aged 60 years; in May, 1888, Albert Phelps died, aged 80 years. Buried in Forest Park Cemetery. Their son, Benjamin, was also interred here, in the family lot.

The children of W. J. and Emma S. Frisbie are George Albert Frisbie of Utica, who married Alice I. Owen in 1896, and Ruth Lucile Frisbie.

Charles A. Phelps has two children, Howard Mattoon and Ransom. Albert Case Phelps has one son, Leon Fish Phelps.



## CHAPTER VII.

### JOSEPH SCOVILLE.

Joseph T. Scoville was born in Harwinton, Conn., and came to Camden not far from 1799 or 1800. He was a son of Ezekiel and Rachel Scoville of Harwinton, and was one of four brothers that located here, viz.: Ezekiel, Stephen, Conet, Joseph. He came with Benjamin Phelps, Sen., and their labors were of the same nature, clearing and improving forest land to make homes. He returned to Connecticut, and the spring following brought his wife with him, who was Anna, sister of Martin Cook. He had prepared a crude home, and here they commenced life in earnest. To them were born seven children, Chloe, Harry, Seymour, Marcus, Ann Eliza, Thompson, Ezekiel, Thompson, who died at 18 or 20 years of age, and Polly. Chloe married Jehiel Higgins; Ann Eliza married John Wilson, Sen., Seymour married Deceas Higgins; Polly married Austin Raymond; Ezekiel lived here, and cared for the father a few years, when he went East, locating there, where he still resides. Then John Wilson came in 1852 or 1853, and they cared for Mr. Scoville till his death, the farm coming into the possession of Mrs. Wilson, Joseph Scoville's daughter. Joseph Scoville died April 26, 1853, aged 76 years. Ann Scoville died March 14, 1840, aged 62 years. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson resided here till about 1869 or 1870, when they removed to Camden village, where they spent their remaining days. Three children were born to them: Francis, died in 1894; Herbert E., died 1893; and Philomá, the late Mrs. B. A. Curtiss, died in April, 1897. Lillian, (Mrs. B. Van De Walker), and Harold, children. John Wilson, 3d, died October 25, 1874; Ann E. Wilson died February 7, 1875, aged 63 years. Buried in Forest Park Cemetery. After Mr. Wilson came Roswell Paddock with his family to occupy this place. He built and conducted a corn-packing business for some years, but later they removed to Warsaw, N. Y., and from thence to Buffalo. After he left the farm it came to belong to Newton, son of Ranney Phelps. The old house burned, and Mr. Phelps built the present house of brick

## WAR OF 1812.

During the war of 1812 troops marched through here on their way from Rome to Sackett's Harbor to guard the northern boundaries. Much of the artillery and ammunition was drawn through by this route with oxen. Messrs. Harry Halsted and Joseph T. Scoville were employed by the Government for that purpose. On Mr. Scoville's farm, just on the spot where the Paddock corn canning establishment stood, Col. John Brown with his regiment, while en route to northern destinations, made their rendezvous. They spent a day and night in the vicinity, depending upon the resident farmers for supplies of food, taking in addition to what was willingly given them, whatever they found that would contribute towards appeasing their appetite. Poultry was freely taken. One raid they made was not successful. Benjamin Phelps kept a good many bees, and the soldiery thought to have a taste of honey. This was when Mr. Phelps lived on the Hillsboro road, a mile away from camp. The soldiers accordingly visited the bees' home, which was resented very sharply by the occupants, and they followed in hot pursuit, the military gentlemen beating a hasty and disorderly retreat, leaving some of their equipments in their wake. After the bees had returned to their hives, and peace was restored, the soldiers went over the course of their flight and gathered up their equipage, which had been scattered in their flight. An old canteen of very primitive construction was for long years shown as a relic of the "bee adventure." With this the descriptive trip down the Plank road ceases.

"Application will be made to the Legislature of this State at its next session for an Act of Incorporation of a company for the construction of a Plank Road from the mouth of Salmon River, Oswego County, through Pulaski, to Rome, Oneida County, December 21, 1846." This was accordingly carried into effect, and the Plank Road materialized. It was a great treat to ride over it while new, but when the plank grew old, or warped a little, it was a "rough and rugged way." With the completion of the railroad it came to neglect and final discontinuance as a plank road. We are now at the Little River, the boundary between Camden and Vienna. Retracing our steps a few rods



we find a road running back into the forest for a mile or so to the west, and at its terminus there was in bygone days a saw mill built upon Little River by Pliny Phelps. There were two or three habitations, of rude construction, but all are in ruins now. This was called "Mosquitoboro." Returning over the same course we cross the plank road, and find ourselves on the way to Phelpsville, or perhaps known to some as "Slab City." We shall however adopt the former appellation, because we like it better. In the approach we pass under the Lehigh Valley railroad, and cross the bridge over Fish Creek, going east.

Oneida County histories have mentioned the fact, that in the earliest settlement of this part of the town, a woman and child were drowned in Mad River, and that the funeral was taking place in Judge Israel Stoddard's house when he returned from his Connecticut trip in the spring of 1798 or 1799. The drowning was the first tragic occurrence in the settlement, and all were deeply concerned in the loss; for their numbers were few, and a brotherly feeling was in the hearts of the neighbors, who felt deeply for the stricken husband. Mrs. Amaziah Carrier, Mrs. Bacon and Mrs. Carrier's child crossed Fish Creek in a dug-out—a log, with the center taken from it, which formed a rude contrivance in which early settlers managed to make their way over streams. They lived in a little house that stood in what afterwards became the orchard of Joseph T. Scoville's farm. This was back from the plank road a few rods, and the cellar site remained for a great many years. Near this spot, very close to the Lehigh Valley railroad, under a tree, is a spring of living water, from which they derived their supply. The spot where they crossed is at the bend of the stream, north of the bridge, over the highway to Phelpsville. These diligent women had gone over to the opposite bank for cowslips, had filled their baskets, and were returning home when the accident occurred. Mr. Carrier hearing their screams for help, reached the spot in time to rescue Mrs. Bacon, but his wife and child perished in the waters. These were the first deaths in town, and the funeral was being held in Mr. Stoddard's house when he lived in the place he first purchased when visiting Judge Williams. They were buried in the now obsolete cemetery on the Blakeslee road.

We find in old deeds that Fish Creek did not become a name for this stream until after the town had been settled some years, Mad River having been applied to it earliest.

## CHAPTER VIII.

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### PHELPSVILLE.—RANNEY PHELPS.

The fourth child of Benjamin and Sally Phelps was born September 18, 1811. He grew to manhood, and for many years followed the vocation of supplying with dry goods and notions those who lived along the various routes over which he traveled. These were through several counties in the State, and in those days, when it was not so easy to take the cars and reach a business center for shopping, the convenience was very great to have goods brought to the doors. Mr. Phelps was a man of wonderful memory, and it was a treat to hear him relate his experiences in his peculiar happy manner. He was a most interesting storyteller. January 13, 1839, he married Miss Clarinda Malay, who was born January 2, 1817, and to them was born one child, a son, Edward, April 7, 1840. In 1841 Mrs. Phelps died at the age of 24 years and six months. January 19, 1842, Mr. Phelps again married, the second wife being Miss Sophia, daughter of Orramon Tuttle. To them were born four sons, Seth, who married Frances, daughter of the late Edwin Shepard; Newton, who married Miss Emma Yager of Vienna; Tracy, who died in 1868, at the age of 20 years and 10 months; and George, who married Miss Emma Stevenson, and is the present owner of the homestead. Seth died in 1883, of consumption, at the age of 41 years. His wife and a son and daughter reside at Bay City, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Phelps lived to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. Their early married life was spent in a crude habitation of logs, near the site of the later home built by Mr. Phelps.

Ranney Phelps died September 4, 1892, aged 80 years and 11 months; Sophia Phelps died December 6, 1895, aged 75 years and four months. All are buried in Forest Park Cemetery.

Phelps ville is about three and a half miles south of Camden village, situated a half mile east of the plank road. At this point Fish Creek flows with rapid current, affording excellent power for manufacturing purposes. The course of the stream is almost

directly from east to west for a good many rods, when it bends in a southerly direction where it crosses the highway. Here, just a step south of the bridge, Little River unites its waters with Fish Creek, and it flows on for a considerable distance in quiet beauty. This is a picturesque spot, and should not escape the eye of artists. Benjamin Phelps, as before mentioned, first began his labors here, and concentrated his energies to the clearing and improvement of the land. When he first settled here, he found the wigwams of the red man. The stream abounded in fish, salmon being plentiful. Game of all kinds found homes in the dense forest, and basket-timber grew in great quantities. Everything they needed or desired for their use was provided. The tale of his early experiences had been so often told his sons, that it was impressed strongly upon their minds, and they remembered these facts long after the father had passed away. He explained their manner of preparing meals. Their stoves were made of stones placed in a circle, leaving a space in the center, and were built to a height of perhaps eighteen inches. In this center space was put the fuel, which was burned to coals. Over these coals their food was cooked, and Mr. Phelps was sometimes invited to share a meal with them. He said the food was well cooked, and appetizing. In recent years, Mr. George Phelps, his grandson, who owns the locality, had occasion to excavate along the bank of the stream in the vicinity where the wigwams were said to have been. His shovel unearthed a bed of stone, and something in their position led him to investigate, when he discovered that they were arranged as he had heard them described, and knew he had proof of the old-time fireside tales of his grandsire. Near by he found bits of clay vessels of primitive type, which he preserves, and exhibits with pride. They indicate well-shaped receptacles for food. Back, on higher ground, he has found other implements used by the red men—arrow-heads, flints, &c., forming a part of the collection. They were found from one to two feet beneath the surface. The elder Mr. Phelps' experience with the Indians was of a very peaceable nature, he never having had cause to fear them. For many, many years, the Indians from the Oneida Reservation continued to visit this locality.

usually appearing about the "Indian Summer" season, to gather basket supplies. The streams being dammed along their course, fish have become very scarce; the forests having been cut away, game finds no hiding place, and the Indian finds no further attractions. Perhaps it was twenty-five years ago when the last encampment was made here by them. They came unannounced, and built their wigwams just at the turn of the plank road and highway to Phelpsville. They built of saplings and bark, and stayed on into the winter, banking their house with snow for warmth. The fires were in the center of the wigwam, and the smoke dense, though the top had an aperture through which much of it passed. The squaws braided baskets, which they sold to farmers and residents about the town, taking supplies of meat, vegetables and produce of all kinds in payment. The Indians were hired by the neighboring residents to cut their winter's fuel, and unless unbalanced by fire-water, were faithful workers. There were several Indians by the name of Powlus, who came periodically. One bitter cold night in December, 1862 or 1863, Mr. Albert Phelps' family were aroused by a cry of great distress about one o'clock in the night. Providing himself with a lantern, Mr. Phelps sallied out following the direction from which the sound proceeded. The cry was voluminous, and it was not difficult to locate it. He found a young Indian evidently recovering from a fit of drunkenness; he had been to town with some of his comrades, had drank to helplessness, and his companions becoming tired of their burden, buried him in the snow by the wayside, leaving him to grow sober, which he did at this unseemly hour of the night. Mr. Phelps feeling it unsafe to leave a human being exposed to the extreme cold, harnessed his horse and took the fellow to his wigwam, leaving him to the further care of his friends. In a few days he appeared with his ax over his shoulder, signifying a willingness to chop wood to pay Mr. Phelps for his kindness to him when he was "bad drunk."

When Mr. Benjamin Phelps began his labors in this particular locality, it was thought the highway would take its course through his land, but in subsequent surveys it passed, as we now know it, from Rome to Oswego. After toiling here for two or

three years, he succeeded in clearing a sufficiently large space on which he planted corn. It grew rapidly in the new fertile soil, and his heart was glad, for he thought he saw a gleam of hope, a slight return for all his labor. But the creatures of the forest had an eye on that same piece of corn; their expectations of a different nature—appeasing the appetite, not replenishing the treasury. One fine morning as he was making a tour of his small clearing in late summer, his crop of corn coming to maturity, he found it almost destroyed. Investigating, he found unmistakable evidences of the invaders being bears. He was not long in procuring a trap, which he baited temptingly, and soon caught one of the foes to all his bright anticipations, and with his trusty gun laid him low. Bear steak was generously sent to the neighbors far and near. About 1804 he left this locality. Following his residence there, in the years that succeeded, till about 1839, Elisha Ransom, Richard and John Rosa, Orraman Tittle, Horace Wilson, Alva Hazen, William Winne, Eliakim Stoddard—all had claims in this vicinity. In 1841 Mr. Ranney Phelps has property in this place willed him by his father, and erects a saw and shingle mill. In the course of events, Mr. Benjamin Phelps seems to have repossessed himself of the property here, and by will bequeathed it



Home of Ranney Phelps.

to Ranney, Pliny and Albert. However, it was divided; Ranney lived there the remainder of his life, at first in a log house, and later building a commodious frame-house, now standing. Pliny Phelps also built a shingle-mill and operated it for some years, then sold to Fordyce Dunton, who continued the business for a



period, going to Albany to dispose of his products in the '40s. He left for a business trip, expecting to return soon, but nothing has been known of him since. His fate has remained a mystery. Lyman Parks subsequently purchased the mill and water privilege, fitted in machinery for manufacturing bowls, rolling-pins, clothes-pins, mop-sticks, &c., and did a flourishing business till his death, May 13, 1872, aged 85 years. He was a remarkable penman, executing the Lord's Prayer, with his name, date and age, in a circle the size of a six pence, perfectly legible, with only ordinary spectacles to assist his eyesight. He was the father of Henry Parks, who still resides near the railroad crossing at Fhelpsville. He also had a daughter, Julia, who resided there till her death, a lady of keen intelligence. In 1841 Pliny Phelps built a saw-mill on the north side of the stream, also a shingle-mill. There were two cider-mills, one on each side of the creek,



Old Bridge leading to Distillery.

and in the season of cider-making business was very lively. The presses turned out many a barrel of pure sweet cider, the neighboring children finding it free to all who could drink, being daily visitors. There was a generous attendance always when a sweet apple cheese was ready to press, and they thought it a "nectar fit for the gods." On the north side of the stream was a cider-brandy distillery. This was under the supervision of Pliny Phelps also built a shingle-mill and operated it for some years, to the manufacture of whisky—Woods and Bochner, proprietors. Government officials closely watched operations here, but failed



to discover anything crooked in the business. Others have occupied the building from time to time for different purposes. About 1855 this little settlement contained eleven dwellings, two saw-mills, two shingle-mills, two cider-mills, one ashery, a



Old Distillery.

wooden-ware factory, a plaster-mill, and a grocery. It was a flag station, and there was a branch track for cars to be loaded with the manufactures of the place. A saw-mill on the north side of the stream, and the homes of Henry Parks and George, youngest son of Ranney Phelps, are all that is left of this once busy, thrifty, humming little borough. We insert an illustration of interest, the bridge of the N. Y. C. R. (originally R. W. & O. R. R.) over Fish Creek at this point.



R. W. & O. Railroad Bridge.

## PHILANDER SMITH.

Following the highway on crossing the R. W. & O. R. R., just beyond the home of Henry Parks, we find a comfortable house built in recent years by Pliny Phelps for his son William. A little further on, to the left of the highway, is the farm and home of Philander Smith. He was born in Camden, May 3, 1816, and a son of Reuben Smith. Philander married Angeline Cook, who was born in Camden June 1, 1817. They were married by the Rev. E. W. R. Allen, April 15, 1840. Mr. Reuben Smith lived about where the home of Mr. A. G. Olmstead now is, in a small habitation, and where Philander was born. The village was then in the heart of a pine forest, and in the shade of these giants of the woodland he made his play-ground. No doubt, in his tender years, the music of the gentle breeze through the boughs was like a sweet lullaby to his childish dreams. Desiring to train his children in the pursuits of agriculture, in 1821 Reuben Smith removed to a farm on Preston Hill. There Philander lived till his marriage, or till about 1840, when he purchased the farm of 49 acres of William Winne, where they spent the remainder of their days. Eight children were born to them, but three surviving childhood: Solon Smith, who occupies the homestead; Betsey, Mrs. Charles W. Wilson of New York Mills, and Maria; Mrs. John Deck of Camden; Philander Smith died January 15, 1875, aged 59 years; Angeline E. Smith died April 10, 1872, aged 55 years.

## SOLON COOK.

(Contributed by M. P. B. Cook.)

Solon Cook was born in Harwinton, Conn., September 30, 1795, being the first child of Martin and Clarissa, nee Rossiter Cook. In the immigration of his grandfather, Oliver and family (see sketch of Oliver Cook) and other relatives, he was brought to Camden, N. Y., in the early spring of 1800, a boy in his fifth year. He clearly remembered some incidents of the journey, the tiresome walking, the flooding Hudson, the nightly camping, the wild scenery along the Mohawk, the rough roads, Schenectady, Whitesboro, near Fort Schuyler (now Utica), Fort Stanwix (now Rome), and Taberg, and the difficult way and slow progress from there to Camden. He used to relate the in-

cident of their learning, when somewhere near Oriskany, that they had passed within about half a mile of a house where a person was very sick with smallpox. They were much alarmed. A halt was called, and as a preventive, a stiff dram of New England rum was administered to each. He soon began to feel very sick. The trees and everything else were in a whirl, then the ground, several times, seemed to come up and hit him in the face, then he collapsed, and his mother laid him away in the wagon. He never had but three months schooling, and that was in a log school-house on the side hill by the road leading from the Park place to the Hillsboro road. His boy life was full of toil of the hardest kind. In striking brick in the yard near the Pelton Hollow, when 14 years of age, he permanently injured his right shoulder, so it was an inch lower than the left, and at times was very painful. He was never a sportsman, but could shoot a rifle well, and often on a rainy day caught a string of trout in the Fish Creek ripples, when the stream was unvexed by dams, and its waters from source to mouth were unpolluted by civilization. Solon Cook was a soldier of the war of 1812, serving as private in Capt. John Smith's Co., N. Y. Militia, enlisting from Camden, N. Y.

On the third of April, 1815, he married Elvira Byington, who was born March 28, 1797, and died May 4, 1822. Their children were: Charlotte, born July 7, 1816, and died July 17, 1816; Angeline E., born June 1, 1817, and died April 10, 1872; Chrissa, born March 7, 1820, and died July 15, 1821; Angeline Elvira married Philander Smith April 15, 1840, to whom she bore four children, Maria, Bessie, Solon and William. For his second wife Solon married Elizabeth Peck, October 25, 1824, who bore him seven children, as follows, viz.: Mary, born August 31, 1825, and died September 9, 1825; Sophia, born August 4, 1826, and died October 26, 1826; Elizabeth, born October 25, 1827, was married to Quincy Barber May 24, 1848, who died June 2, 1895. Children were born to them as follows: Francis Asbury, born July 25, 1849, and died August 13, 1849; Mary E. born May 18, 1853; Alice born February 25, 1865, she was married to Edwin Irving Robinson December 16, 1884; Maria J. born February 19, 1830, married Anson Sperry October 31, 1854, died July 1, 1867, and was interred at Peterboro, Ont. Melzar P. B. born

October 29, 1832, married Hattie Cornelia Sperry at Naugatuck, Conn., September 9, 1857. Their children are Frederic Augustus, born November 4, 1858; Cora Frances, born June 25, 1862, who was married to W. W. Storrs June 20, 1883. Martin R., born May 18, 1834, married Lois M. Stoddard November 3, 1858. Their children are Inez Maria, born April 30, 1862, died May 11, 1862; Florence E., born August 13, 1863, married James Saxe Ferguson, June 5, 1890; Fanny L., born October 22, 1867, married Fredrick J. McComb, October 14, 1891; George G., born August 25, 1838, married Esther C. Park, November 10, 1859, who was born September 15, 1841, and died June 10, 1871. Their children are Walter P., born January 30, 1861, who married Cora Alvord, January 4, 1893; John H., born July 21, 1866, married Mary E. Streeter, December 13, 1894. For second wife, George married Hannah J. Nisbet, November 20, 1872, who was born at Lee Center, October 15, 1838. To them was born one daughter, Lillian C., March 4, 1874. In the early part of the nineteenth century there were five settlers on the Solon Cook farm, and within a radius of half a mile, twenty-five. His first purchase of land was of Peter Smith, May 23, 1827. His second, of Peter D. Wood, March 23, 1830. His third of Henry Huntington of Rome, and his wife Catharine, September, 1830. His fourth, of Roswell S. Wilson, March 20, 1834. Among other names were Rosas, Congdons, Houghtons, Kelsy, Winne, Draper, Ketchum, Mills, Campbell; then there was Saul or Sel. Peck, who married in his old age the widow Morey, and both died in Mexico, N. Y. This settlement was called "Salisbury," and the road, the "Salisbury road." On Solon's farm five wells were sunk, four of which were sixty feet, or more, deep, and they furnished but a scanty supply of water. The lack of water was the impelling motive that caused the early settlers to sell out, the trout brook running diagonally across the farm, not being considered healthily potable, and not being within convenient reach of but two houses. This condition forced also the purchase of the west end of the farm, where was a twenty foot well of always cold water in abundance, where he located and built, instead of eastward, nearer the middle of the farm, as he originally intended. The five small houses had narrowly bounded clearings around them, and two apple orchards had

been set, but Solon, having helped clear his father's land, knew how to clear his own. The west end was heavily timbered with mighty hemlocks that extended up the brook, the foliage of which darkened the ground at noonday. On the rest of the farm was a heavy growth of hard wood. The timber was felled in windrows or great heaps. The hard wood would nearly all burn at the first firing, but to get rid of the hemlock was the tug of war. The great trunks were cut into lengths of ten or twelve feet, and rolled into great piles. These piles would dry out gradually, and being repeatedly fired, spring and fall for a number of years, would finally disappear. The house (now occupied by G. G.) was built in 1835 by Honuel Gifford, aided by his sons, and O. W. Cook, and an apprentice, Charles Dodge by name. The saw mill on the trout brook was built in 1839 by the same party, after which there was no day too wet to run the mill, and no day too dry and fine for farm work, so even the boys found but little time for shooting squirrels or catching fish.

Where unseen music floods the air,  
Of insect notes and trills of birds,  
All happy minstrels playing there,  
On str ngs, or flutes, or bugles rare,  
Mingling their praises without words.

When Solon moved into Salisbury there was no bridge across the creek, but a ford entering the stream on the north side, above the gravel knoll, came out below the present bridge on the south side, and a fallen tree reaching from bank to bank, made a dry foot-passage possible; however, it was a spooky place after dark. Solon had helped his father butcher one day, late in the autumn, and returning home after dark with a liberal supply of fresh meat on his shoulder, after he began to climb the hill on the south side, he heard stealthy footsteps in the thick bushes to the west, approaching and nearing the path ahead of him. His first thought was "wolves," of which some recently had been prowling about. He threw his fresh meat as far as possible down towards them, thinking it would delay them, and took flight at his highest speed for home. On going back in the morning he found the meat untouched, and the tracks of a few sheep that had broken from their inclosure, and were coming up from the then swamp to the path, on their return. Politically, Solon was



a Whig and Republican, but had no political aspirations; however, in about 1847, without his consent or knowledge, his party made him an assessor, the duties of which office he acceptably performed. Religiously, he was born a Congregationalist, but having been very thoroughly converted at a Methodist camp meeting, about the time of his second marriage, in 1824, he united with the M. E. Church, and became successively, class-leader, trustee and steward. The last office he held some fifty years, or until his death.

Our father's name stood forth a tower of strength;

A synonym for righteousness and truth,—

\* \* \* \* \*

By prayerful study of God's equal ways,

He was endowed with thoughts transcending far

The limping rules of courts, that jurists praise,

Which oftentimes, if honored, lead to war.

He stood erect as in Heaven's holy sight,

Nor bent toward policy from what was right.

But time passed swiftly, and as swiftly told

Life's transient years. Our things most valued, fail.

We did not realize that he was old,—

While walking with us,—neither saw the sail,

Filled with an off-shore breeze and ship all manned,

To bear him gently to the silent land.

Over his passing soul we had no power;

Beyond that sunless time he could not stay,

And seemed to think most blessed the parting hour;

But now each morning light, each evening gray,

We emulate his life, and strive and pray,

With him, at last, to share heaven's glorious day.

George G. writes: "You know the care of the church was his very life; it was his meat and drink; yes, the height of his ambition. My very being says to-day, Thank God for such a father." Elizabeth Cook, nee Peck, his second wife, was a Yankee school-ma'am, a grand-daughter of Jos. Peck of New Haven, Conn., and moved with her father, Henry Peck and family, to Camden, early in the century, and taught several seasons previous to her marriage. She became a member of the old Union Congregational Presbyterian Church, but in about 1835-6, changed her church relations to the M. E. Church, for the reason, as she said, that she didn't like to hear the children say, "I want to go to Ma's



church, or I'll go to Pa's church to-day." She thought all the family ought to belong to and attend the same church. She was a woman of superior intellect, good memory, well informed, unusually well-versed in the Bible, and could repeat much of it. She was deeply pious, and sincerely devoted to Sunday School work and the prosperity of the church. She often led in public prayer, and also at the family altar. Would to God that there were many more mothers like her! She was born November 8, 1794, died September 12, 1845, and was laid to rest by the side of her husband, who died July 2, 1876, and was buried in Camden. The poem given here is from the pen of Mr. Melzar P. B. Cook, son of the subject of the preceding article:

### OUR ANCESTORS.

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BY M. P. B. COOK.

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May the names of our Ancestors, noble and great,  
In the annals of Freedom, Religion and State,  
To their children and kin so profoundly endeared,  
Be everywhere honored, remembered, revered.

They sacrificed all that of earth men hold dear;  
The land of their birth and the "ingle side" cheer,  
Where as children they played, and as lover and maid,  
Vowed troth o'er the graves where their kindred were laid.

Undaunted to go to a wilderness region,  
Where perils appallingly lurked by the legion,  
But where worship was free 'neath the sky or the tree,  
Where no bigot might spy and no tyrant could see.

The solitudes threatened with all kinds of dangers,  
The safety and life of the valiant-souled strangers,  
Though regardless of all, they labored and moiled,  
And trusted in God while they worshipped and toiled.

They conquered the savage, the forest and soil,  
With their resolute hearts and their unceasing toil,  
Not knowing the work that Jehovah had planned,  
To found a vast empire,—our own beloved land.

They were diamonds unpolished, and might have been rude,  
But when valor had vanquished and foes were subdued,  
Built school-houses, colleges, churches and steeples,  
For the glory of God and the good of the peoples.

Thus all their great deeds which they valued as small,  
Prove a heritage rich in grand blessings for all,  
Who honor true virtue,—the noble and bold,  
Above life itself,—even higher than gold.

Let their names then be honored, their fame spread abroad,  
Till their luster illumines like to visions of God;  
Till all nations and realms, like our country are free,  
From river to ocean,—from ocean to sea.

### BENJAMIN N. BUELL.

Benjamin N. Buell was the youngest child of Miner and Melinda Buell, and was born in Lee, Oneida County, August 27, 1827, coming to Camden with his father in the autumn of 1831, when but four years of age. In 1855 he married Miss Fannie, daughter of Eleazer Peck, and soon after purchased the home he now occupies, of Nathan Cook, father of the late Abiram Cook. The house was probably built by Thomas and Norris Cook, sons of Martin Cook. To Mr. and Mrs. Buell were born two daughters—Julia, who married Frank Paddock, residing in Dakota, and Jennie, who married Rev. S. D. Robinson of Whitesboro, N. Y. Mrs. Fannie Buell died April 10, 1894. Mr. Buell subsequently married Mrs. Cornelia Johnson, wife of the late Sylvester Johnson, and they still reside on the place. Mr. Buell is an enterprising business man, alive to the progressiveness of the times.

Immediately following the Buell place, on the same side of the street, west, somewhat nearer the stream, in early years, lived a family by the name of Congden. It is all we know of them. Across the stream from there, and on through the woods, at the right of the highway, going westward, in remote years, lived a family by the name of Pelton. We have found in some old record the name of Daniel Pelton, all of that name to be found, and he may have been the man. For years that particular spot was called "Pelton's Hollow." From this point out to the plank road, on the right, was the Sylvanus Wilson farm, and on the left Oliver Cook's. Then proceeding north a few rods we find another street, running eastward, and intersecting the Taberg road. This we will call the Blakeslee road, to designate it, and turn from the Plank Road by the present brick school-house. The first place, already mentioned, was occupied by Abner Matthews, who lived on the corner, at the turn.

## OLD CEMETERY.

The remorseless enemy—death—followed silently after the new comers, and but a few months elapsed ere he manifested his presence in their midst, and removed from their number a mother and child. These were the Mrs. Carrier and little one drowned in the torrent below Joseph Scoville's. Accordingly, down this Blakeslee road, a few rods below the brick school-house, going eastward, at the left as we pass, was the place selected for interments, near a small ravine. Not a suggestion of a grave is to be seen at present; everything having been obliterated. There were, as recently as 1855, some brown stones of the ancient style, yet standing, with inscriptions, but these are all gone. Nothing marks the place. We remember the old cemetery well. There were two large black cherry trees standing in the corner of the rail fence, that spread their long arms out as far as possible, as though in defence of the slumbering dead. There were 20 or 25 graves scattered about over a quarter of an acre of ground. This was not incorporated as a cemetery, and was a part of the Sylvanus Wilson farm. There were several deep pits from which the bodies of dear ones had been removed by friends to safer places, likely as early as 1838, and a few years later a day was named for the final removal of all remains that friends cared to preserve—this was as late as 1855 or 1856. Perhaps a dozen or more yet repose there in dreamless slumber, forgotten and unknown. It used to be a resort for the students at the near-by school, to repair to at the noon hour during summer, and sit under the sheltering branches of the noble old trees, to take the lunch brought in pails or baskets by the pupils for mid-day refreshment. For some years following its obliteration, the stones taken from graves were lying in the crooks of the rail fence, but these are gone now. Long years after its demolition a young man was ploughing in this locality, preparing the soil for seed, when the hind legs of one of his horses settled into a deep hole. Being wholly ignorant of its early use, he blamed the innocent woodchuck for digging the land, but later, in mentioning the circumstance to a neighbor, was enlightened somewhat in regard to it; and naturally concluded that his horse had settled into an old grave. As early as

1799 Mrs. Carrier and child were interred here. Next a child of Reuben Blakeslee, an infant child of Benjamin Phelps in 1806, a child of Eliasaph Barker in 1808, Mrs. Daniel Parke in 1818, a Mrs. Jackson—Elzina, daughter of Jehiel Higgins, Rhoda, wife of Uriah Hill, a child of Ranny Phelps, were in later years buried there. Mrs. Parke, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Hill and other bodies were reinterred in later cemeteries. We give an illustra-



Site of First Cemetery.

tion showing the spot where the cemetery was located. George, son of Daniel and Esther Parke, aged 4 years, and Daniel, son of Sage and Almira Parke, aged 9 years, were also removed from here to the Parke Cemetery.

#### ISRAEL STODDARD, 2nd.

The next place, at right of the highway, going east, is the old home of Israel and Maria Stoddard. Israel Stoddard, 2d, was the eldest son of Rev. Eliakim and Lois Matthews Stoddard. He was born in the town of Vienna, July 1, 1813. As a boy he was always a dutiful and obedient son. He delighted in manly sports in a manly way, was always first at school, first in his class, and first in the field. Always led, in the place of following in the wake of his associates. In early manhood, as Major in the militia, then organized and drilling regularly, he was honored and beloved, as well as respected in his public as well as in his private life. As a citizen, he represented the best class—reliable. He received his religious education under the tutor-

ship of his father, Rev. Eliakim Stoddard, and in early boyhood became a devoted Christian, and in all the departments of church work, as class-leader, steward, trustee and Sabbath School superintendent, he was enabled to accomplish much good; was uniformly zealous and faithful wherever found in all the walks of life, and enjoyed the confidence of all who knew him. In the year 1836, October 5, he married Polly Maria Peck, the eldest of twelve children of Eleazar and Hannah Park Peck. She was born in Camden July 20, 1816. They commenced housekeeping and lived for two years on the old Stoddard homestead. In the spring of 1831 he came in possession of what was known as the Gates farm, which was their home for many years. Two children were born to them; Lois Maria was born August 19th, 1837, and Joanna Demilt, born July 21st, 1846. The home was a delight to all who entered there, love and charity abiding. At the age of 13 years Polly Maria Peck was converted, and united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was a most efficient member for 57 years. As a wife, a mother, a friend, and especially as a Christian she had few equals. She possessed that amiableness of temper, that sympathetic benevolence, that winning address, and that consistency of character which commanded the respect of all. The eldest daughter, Lois M., was married in Camden, N. Y., to Martin R. Cook, November 3, 1858. They now reside in Denver, Colorado. Joannah D. married Oren H. Kniffen, December 22, 1869, in Camden; they also reside in Denver, Colorado. P. Maria Stoddard died in Camden June 1, 1886, and Israel Stoddard, 2d, died in Lockport, N. Y., August 7, 1890. Both interred in Forest Park Cemetery.

#### ENOS BLAKESLEE.

The next farm in succession, to the east, on the north side of the highway, was purchased from George Scriba by Ichabod Brown in 1801. He followed the tide of emigration westward, and located in Camden. But little can be learned of him other than this, that he came from Connecticut, and was a soldier in the War of the Revolution. In 1805 Enos Blakeslee bought the farm of Ichabod Brown. Enos Blakeslee married Sarah Northrup in the year 1785, at Harwinton, Litchfield County,



Conn. He came with the regulation ox cart. Mr. Blakeslee was a surveyor by occupation, and found much in his line to employ his time after coming to this new home. We find his name frequently in the early book of town surveys. In 1810 he erected the house which is at present standing, the home of the



Home of Enos Blakeslee.

heirs of Benjamin Blakeslee. When Mr. Blakeslee first came to the ownership of this farm, but a half acre of land had been cleared, where the house stands. The barn on the place was built in 1824. The house is the same in exterior form and appearance as of yore, having had new siding, windows, and paint only. Their children were: Reuben, Daniel, Marilla, Scriba, Mary, Cynthia and Bela, all born in Connecticut but Bela. Reuben and Cynthia located in Pennsylvania, Scriba and Mary in Michigan, and Daniel, Marilla and Bela in Camden. Bela and Marilla occupied the old home of their father.

Enos Blakeslee, born in Harwinton, Conn., 1756; Sara Northrup, born in Harwinton, Conn., 1762. Enos Blakeslee died August, 1842, aged 86 years; Sarah Blakeslee died August, 1848, aged 86 years. Buried in Four Mile Square Cemetery.

After passing the Blakeslee farm we cross the bridge over Fish Creek, and between this and the Taberg road lived in days ago, Austin Raymond, who married Polly Scoville, daughter of Joseph Scoville. There was a family of twelve children. All went west in 1854, and the land Mr. Raymond owned became a part of the Smith Johnson farm. At their decease, both Mr. and



Mrs. Raymond were brought back to Camden for interment. Their children were: Henry, who married Matilda West; Lyman; Luzon; Thompson; Maria, who married Mr. Everton; Louisa; Chloe, who married Edward Pierce.

Here we find we have reached the Taberg road, and will retrace our way to the point opposite Daniel Parke's.

#### FOUR MILE SQUARE.

Turning eastward, we find ourselves on a street which for need of a better name we will term "Four Mile Square," as many have already come to know it by that name. Leaving Camden village driving to the Daniel Parke place, across this street to Taberg road, and thence by Taberg road north to Camden village, is a distance of about four miles; hence the term "Four Mile Square."



Parke Cemetery.

We find in the old book of town records: "Road across from Taberg road to Daniel Parkes' re-established in 1814." At the left, or on north side of highway, is what we call the Parke Cemetery, because it was a part of the Parke farm, and Daniel Parke and so many of his family rest here. Many residents from Taberg Street were buried here in early times. It was set apart for this use about 1820, and is a town charge. Several bodies removed from the ancient "God's Acre" on Blakeslee road, were re-interred here, which will account for earlier inscriptions. It is well kept.

## HONUEL GIFFORD

Was born in the town of Smithfield, N. Y., October 14, 1794. At the age of 19 he married Miss Polly Gowdy. At 20 years of age he enlisted in the war of 1812, and served to its close, leaving his wife with a young son, Alexander, but a few weeks old. Mr. Gifford was an experienced and capable carpenter, and constructed many buildings still standing, among them the Miner store, house of Cyrus Stoddard, Nelson house, Joseph Smith's house, the present M. E. Church, 1852, John Stuart house, 3rd Street, Penfield house, corner Union and Third Streets. To Mr. and Mrs. Gifford were born four children, Alexander, William, Elihu and Julia. On an old stone marking her grave, in an ancient cemetery in Florence, two miles north of West Camden, we find the follow-



Home of Honuel Gifford.

ing: "To the memory of Polly, wife of H. H. Gifford, who died in 1813, aged 27 years." Later he married Laura Dodge, and to them were born Polly, Betsey, James, Frank, Alpina, Louisa, Jonas, Alexis and Armenius. Laura Dodge Gifford died May 12, 1840, and is buried in Forest Park Cemetery. In 1835 he removed from the village to a new house he had erected on land purchased from John Dean on Four Mile Square. He married

a third wife, Miss Rebecca Hunt. In a few years he went to reside in the Isaac Barnes house on Taberg Street, probably between 1835 and 1840. Mr. Gifford was influential in public affairs, and a strong staunch member of the Wesleyan Church. In 1857 Mr. and Mrs. Gifford removed to North East Pennsylvania, where they died, and are buried there. He was 88 years of age at his death. His life was filled with good deeds.

### JOHN DEAN.

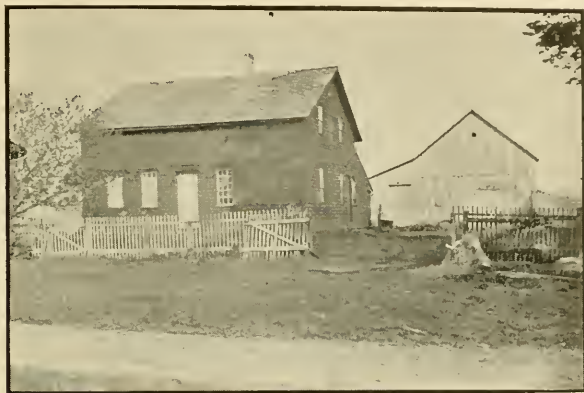
John, son of Daniel and Anna Dean, was born in Waterbury, Conn., July 5, 1780. He came to Camden while yet a youth, and lived with his parents on Wolcott Hill. In 1805 he married Miss Betsey, daughter of Samuel Woods. They resided for some years after their marriage, or about 1832, in the home purchased of Tillottson Barnes on Taberg road. Not far from 1837 he exchanged farms with Honuel Gifford, coming on to Four Mile Square to reside. Their children were Polly C., wife of Benjamin Ruscoe; Daniel J., who married Polly Clark; Israel M., married Margaret Winne.

John Dean died November 18, 1862, aged 82 years; Betsey Dean died August 12, 1850, aged 67 years. Interred in Parke cemetery on Four Mile Square.

Israel M. Dean was born in Camden in 1820. In 18— he married Margaret, daughter of David Winne, born in Camden in 1823. They lived for some years on the John Dean homestead, perhaps till 1855, when they removed to the Oliver Cook house on the Plank Road, where they remained for some years, when they came to the village, where they spent the remainder of their life. To them were born six children: John, Israel E., who died in 1866, of consumption, at 19 years of age; Leva; Minnie, who died in 1880, aged 17 years; Frances, who married Mr. James Raymond, and resides in Camden; Sarah, who with the sister Leva live in Camden. Margaret Dean died August 30, 1877, aged 54 years; Israel M. Dean died June 27, 1880, aged 60 years. Buried in Parke Cemetery.

## EZRA PARKE.

Harvey Parke built the house on the left of the highway, next beyond the cemetery, going east. It was erected not far from 1815. He married a Miss Brownson. Ezra Parke bought the home of him soon after its completion.



Home of Harvey Parke.

Dr. Ezra Parke was a son of John Parke of Chatham, Conn. John Parke and Daniel Parke were brothers, sons of Joseph Parke. Mr. Ezra Parke was born in Chatham, Conn. Coming to Camden he early identified himself with intellectual pursuits. In 1815 he taught school in the brick school-house, greatly interesting the scholars in their studies. In spelling he was especially gifted, and many a good speller was turned out from this school. Among those who excelled were Ethel Higgins, Uriah Hill, and Albert and Albro Phelps, who came to feel it was almost a disgrace to mis-spell a word. Rewards for good scholarship are still in existence, bestowed upon the deserving, by their zealous tutor, Ezra Parke, and bear specimens of the excellence of his penmanship upon their fly-leaves. In 1821 Mr. Parke married Miss Rhoda Sperry, a sister of Clarke Sperry. They resided here for a few years only, when in 1823, he removed to Michigan. In this family of John Parke were Harvey Parke, Ezra, Lucintha (Mrs. Lyman Curtiss), and Cleantha (Mrs. Williams Storm). Harvey Parke was a civil engineer. They were people of culture and refinement, favorites in society and business circles, or wherever found. Much regret was ex-

pressed when the left Camden. Mrs. Ezra Parke died in 1846, of erysipelas, and four weeks later, July 1846, Mr. Parke too passed away.

### URIAH HILL.

Following Mr Parke came Uriah Hill to occupy the farm, who was a son of Uri and Chloe (Hale) Hill, and was born in Connecticut in 1796. He came with his father's family to Camden in 1804. In March, 1824, he married Miss Rhoda Baldwin Tibbalds of Durham, Greene Co., N. Y., and together they commenced life in the house built by Harvey Parke on Four Mile Square. Their children were: Ginerva, Byron A., Henry Smith and Uri Hill, Jr. (Ginerva married Leroy H. Wetmore of this town. In 1850 they removed to the State of Illinois, where they spent the remainder of their days. Three daughters were born to them, all married, two residing in California, and one in Greece, her husband being of that nationality. Their labors are of a missionary character in that far-away land.) Byron Almon Hill (through whose favor we give these items) was born January 3, 1827. He married Miss Amanda Leigh (Lee) August 10, 1852. They have four sons and three daughters. All, from the great-grandfather Uri down to the youngest of Uriah's children, had and have a living faith in the Son of God, and are active workers in the Methodist Church. Henry Smith Hill was born October 6, 1828. His home is in Peoria, Illinois, is engaged in an important job printing business, and is Secretary of the Peoria Board of Trade. Uri Hill, Jr., was born August 10, 1830. In July, 1857, he married Miss Renett, daughter of Amos and Maria (Wilson) Preston, of Illinois, a former Camden family. They have three children, and reside in San Diego, California.

Uriah Hill was a man of much energy, and lent a helping hand in many commendable ways. He was called "Colonel Hill," having been appointed to that official position in the State Militia, serving his full time. In 1835 he was elected to the deaconship in the Congregational Church, together with Lyman Tuttle, and is often mentioned as "Deacon Hill." His career was one of usefulness in the community. He was tutor in the brick school-house several winter terms before and after his marriage. Being an instructor of more than ordinary merit, intellectually



fitted to train young minds on high and noble lines, he was not content to stop with knowledge to be obtained from books alone, but daily led the pupils to understand the full import of integrity of character, truthfulness, honor, principle, everything which would the better fit them to take their places among men. About 1820 Mr. Hill purchased of Martin Tyler the building used by him as a blacksmith shop, and continued to run the business at the old stand, on the corner opposite the Daniel Parke place (or nearly so) for about ten years, then removed it to his residence lot on Four Mile Square. In the old brick school-house Uriah Hill and Albert Phelps, of their own accord, removed the old puncheon seats, and replaced them with smoothly-dressed pine boards made permanent against the brick walls, the edge only forming a back to the high seat which extended across three sides of the school-room. This was the writing-form, or desk. To change position they must throw their feet over the seat, and they were turned around for spelling. The puncheon seats were made of a log split in halves, with the face smoothly planed, and mounted on legs. Mrs. Hill died April 5, 1833, of brain fever, aged 29 years, and her remains placed in the old cemetery near the school-house, on the Blakesley road. Mr. Hill survived his wife ten years, when in June, 1843, he passed away in the prime of a useful life, aged 46 years. He was buried in the new cemetery, "Forest Park," and the body of his wife, Rhoda, reinterred beside him. In 1851 the guardians of Uriah Hill's estate sold the farm of sixty-four acres to Mr. George Stoddard, who occupied it till 1856. The children of Uriah all removed to the West, and made homes there.

#### GEORGE STODDARD

Was the next owner of this place after Uriah Hill. He was a son of Rev. Eliakim Stoddard, and was born September 6, 1827. In 1852 he married Miss Rebecca Owen, and their residence after marriage was here. They remained upon this place for five years thereafter, removing to Fulton, Oswego County, N. Y., where they were interested in Falley Seminary. After about five years they returned to Camden, coming to live in the home of his father. In 1861 he moved the old house to a spot somewhat north of its previous site, and built a more modern home for



himself, the one at present occupied by Mrs. Stoddard. His business for many years previous to his death was that of corn-packing. They were both zealous members of the M. E. Church, keenly interested in all that pertained to its welfare. No children were born to them. George Stoddard died January 26, 1894, aged 70 years. Mrs. Stoddard was a daughter of David and Hannah Owen, and lived at Steuben, Oneida County, N. Y. They were married in 1821. Were of Scotch descent, and of sterling character and worth.

The next place beyond the Uriah Hill home was originally a part of the Honuel Gifford farm, which was sold off to John Caswell, who built the first habitation upon this site, of logs. After a few years, Thurston Palmer purchased the farm, and began the erection of the present frame house. He removed to some other locality before its completion, and his brother finished the building. We do not know how long the house was occupied by its several owners, but give the names of those who have lived here from time to time. First John Caswell, Thurston Palmer, his brother, Walter Clarke, A. Wakefield, Byron Earlls. Dr. Louis Bauer bought in 1861 of Byron Earll, and occupied it till 1887 when he sold to Lewis Brewer, who is yet the owner and occupant. At the foot of the hill was once a saw-mill, the first ever built in town, by Timothy W. Wood. It was on Fish Creek. The dam caused water to set back and overflow land belonging to Daniel Parke, to its detriment, so it was discontinued, but not till after a legal struggle, making it necessary to give it up.

#### SELAH PECK.

But very little can be learned of Selah Peck, yet his descendants were a numerous company. It is in the memory of the oldest of those living to-day, that he was a resident when they came here, and lived very early in a log house between the bridge over the creek, and Taberg road on Four Mile Square. He married a Miss Wilcox for his first wife. The children were: Eleazer, Sophia, Harriet, Caroline, Amy and Van Rensselaer. Eleazer married Hannah Parke, daughter of Daniel Parke; Harriet married Isam Simons; Caroline married Mr. Hitchcock; Sophia married Mr. White. Selah Peck was a basket-maker by trade,

and furnished the early settlers with these useful and needful articles. The rigors of a new country were severe, and Mrs. Peck not having a hardy constitution, succumbed after a few years of endurance. Mr. Peck married a second time, but we can not learn further. He made his home with his grand-son Daniel for some years, then with Harriet (Mrs. Simons), who took him to her home in Michigan, where he died. He participated in the general trainings, being a snare drummer. Selah Peck died in Calhoun County, Michigan, August 4, 1858, and is buried there. He came from Connecticut to Camden. Reuben, Lyman and Bonaparte Peck are descendants of Selah Peck.

On the space between the stream and Taberg Street lived



Bridge over Fish Creek.

Darius Wiard, though just where is difficult to tell. Probably at the corner of Four Mile Square and Taberg Street. We find his name as early as 1809, together with Hannah, his wife, and the names of Minerva, and Hannah, a child. In 1813 they lost a son Rollin of typhus fever. Mr. Wiard was a worker in wood, making cutters, sleighs and pieces of furniture. Of the latter, Mrs. Cyrus Stoddard has a Bureau, and perhaps other articles. A child, Mary Wiard, was baptized by Rev. Levenworth, in 1812. Nothing further can be learned of the family, so we conclude they moved to some other region.

## CHAPTER IX.

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### PRESTON HILL.

We find, in an old survey bill, this record of Preston Hill Street: "The road, as originally laid out, running south through Camden village, crossing Fish Creek at the lower end of the village, bearing to the right over what is now known as Preston Hill Street, to a well on Lyman Matthews' place, which would be about one mile from the village; then running south-east to what is now known as the George Parks place, then south to Little River, a tributary of Fish Creek, which forms the boundary line between Camden and Vienna."

### DR. JOSHUA RANSOM.

The old house across the bridge, where Main St. runs into Preston Hill St. on the right, and Cemetery St. on the left, was formerly owned and occupied by Dr. Joshua Ransom for many years. Joshua Ransom with his wife, Lois Rathborne, Ransom, came from England, and settled in Colchester, Conn. Later they came to Springfield, Otsego County, this State. The sons, Drs. Joshua and Whitman Ransom, came to Camden about the year 1807 or 1808. Dr. Joshua Ransom, the subject of this sketch, followed his father's profession. He first came to Utica, looking for a place to locate; from there to Rome, and at the latter place was advised to come to Camden. He found it, as others had, a desirable place to make a home. He returned to Springfield and married Clarissa Warner, bringing his bride with him, coming from Rome with an ox team, which also conveyed his household goods. They made their home in a little red house on the Plank road, where their first child was born, but soon after bought the property across the bridge, of Capt. Tuthill, who had commenced to build the house, but sold it in an unfinished state. When

completed it was the finest house in town, with a large well-kept lawn surrounding it, and a broad walk leading from the gate to



Home of Dr. Joshua Ransom.

the hospitable door of the main entrance. Many and beautiful were the flowers which bordered the walk on either side. In this house three more children were born, and all eventually married and settled in Camden. Clarissa became the wife of the late Dr. Torbert; Orissa the wife of the late John F. Mix; Louisa the second wife of Dr. Torbert, after the death of her sister, which occurred November 23, 1840, aged 31 years; Mary married Mr. Alfred Chamberlain, settled in Camden, but eventually moved to Richfield Springs; Alphonso married Miss Lillias Jamieson. None of the descendants of Dr. Joshua Ransom, excepting a daughter, Mrs. J. F. Mix, and a grand-daughter of Clarissa, Mrs. C. S. Wetmore, are residing in Camden at the present day. Louisa Ransom Torbert died August 22, 1895, aged 76 years. Mrs. Mix told the writer she well remembered hearing her mother speak of hearing the report of cannon very distinctly from Sackett's Harbor during the war of 1812. Often through this trying period to wives and mothers, deserters passed through the town, mostly Indians, lazy and shiftless. Upon seeing them approach, Mrs. Ransom would place all of the edibles she had in the yard for them, go inside and fasten doors and windows, remaining in great fear, until they had departed, al-

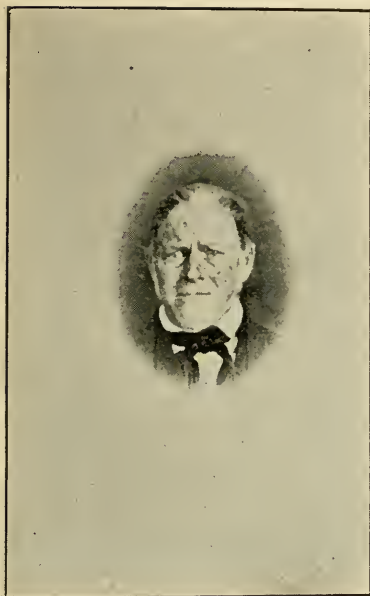
ways taking the remains of the feast with them, if she had provided more than satisfied their hunger. Dr. Joshua Ransom died March 13, 1834, aged 52 years. He was buried with Masonic honors, one of the earliest Masonic funerals in the town. His wife died August 8th, 1855, aged 69 years. They rest in Forest Park Cemetery.

### JONAH SANFORD.

But at a much earlier period, before the road was surveyed, when it was merely a trail, only followed by marked trees, several families bought land in this locality, and soon the dense forests echoed with the sound of the woodman's ax; clearings were quickly made, and houses built. Jonah Sanford, a soldier of the Revolution, was one of the first to make his home on Preston Hill. He, together with his son, Giles, and Lyman Matthews, bought fifty or sixty acres of land each, from John Murray, and William Ogden, land agents. At Plymouth, Conn., Jonah Sanford married Mary Dunbar, his second cousin; eight children were born to them, Ira, Giles, Sala, Linus, Jeremiah, Jonas, Ephraim and Chloe. Jonah Sanford and family left Plymouth and came to Clinton, Oneida County, about 1791. His wife died while they resided in Clinton. She sleeps beneath the Congregational Church, which was erected some years later over her resting place. Jonah Sanford married for his second wife Miss West of Rome, Oneida County, and moved to Camden about 1800. He built a log house on the opposite side of the road, from the home now occupied by Harlan Sanford, but a little farther on. Finding he could not gain a clear deed to the land, he later built a frame house on the same side of the road as the Sanford homestead, which was afterwards moved to the village by his son Linus, for a justice's office. It stood just north of T. D. Penfield's residence for many years. It was another old landmark destroyed by fire, which had served for many different purposes. Jonah Sanford died on the farm now owned by his descendants, November 15, 1824, aged 75 years, and rests in the old cemetery on Mexico Street. His second wife died in Rome, and is buried there.



## GILES SANFORD.



Giles Sanford.



Mrs. Giles Sanford.

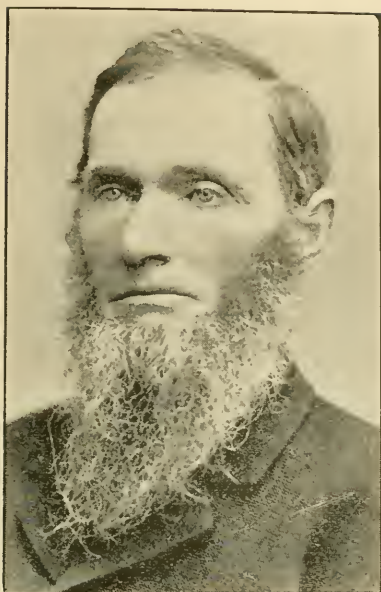
Giles Sanford was a young man, just starting out in life. He built a house for himself where the more modern Sanford house now stands. These first houses were built of strong planks standing endways. At twenty-seven years of age he was married to his second cousin, Rebecca Dunbar, January 5, 1804, by Esq. Timothy Wood. He brought his bride to the new house which he had built in the depths of the forest. It was a lonely place, wolves howled around the door at night, and the few cattle they possessed had to be protected by strong enclosures. Like all primitive houses, the main feature was the large open fireplace which occupied one entire side of the living room. At night the fire was banked with ashes, and in the morning raked open for its several uses through the day. Being hospitable people, the latch-string nearly always hung outside of the door, and the less fortunate ones, for there were many, had only to pull it and enter, to find food and warmth.

One night Mr. Giles Sanford hearing some disturbance, arose, and found several Indians about to roll themselves in their



blankets in front of the fire; they were cold and in need of rest; and, like the lawless beings they were, had pulled the latch-string and entered. Mr. Sanford retired to his bed, but in the morning, before the household was awake, the Indians were off with the freedom of their race. The visits of these wandering natives were the greatest trials of the women of these early days; they were often called upon to provide food for them, when it was hard to obtain sufficient for their own growing families. Nearly always peaceable, they would noislessly enter a house, watch with curious eyes the movements of the family, partake of whatever was given them to eat, never hesitating to make known their wants, and when the spirit moved them, depart, leaving the mistress of the house quite positive she had not entertained "angels unawares."

In 1808 a company of twelve men went to New Jersey to work upon the turnpike; Giles and Ephraim Sanford were of the number. The wife of Giles Sanford was left from June to October alone, with two small children, and the farm and cattle to care for. Money was scarce, the crops not yet ready for the harvest: it seemed a necessity to provide something for the long cold winter, which would surely come in this new country; so with strong arms, but with sinking hearts, when they thought of the perils and hardships the loved ones must encounter, they took their knapsacks on their backs and started, walking all the way. In November of that same year, the third child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Giles Sanford, who is well remembered by us all as aunt Nancy Wetmore. During this month a most terrific wind storm passed over this locality, uprooting huge trees of the forest, and doing great damage to crops, which was most discouraging. One of the children of Giles Sanford remembers hearing his father speak of seeing ice in the middle of Main Street the first of June. Eleven children were born to Giles and Rebecca Sanford: Orrin, Mary, Nancy, Emily, a child who died in infancy, Joel, Angelina, Louisa, Charlotte, Fortune C. and Leander. A young man when he came to Camden, Giles Sanford lived all of the rest of his life on the farm which he first purchased, and which later belonged to his son Fortune. He and his wife were spared to each other 51 years, before they were separated by death. Giles Sanford died Jan. 21, 1855, aged 78 years.



FORTUNE C. SANFORD.

Of the eleven children all are dead but Fortune, to whom we are indebted for this authentic account of his ancestors. Fortune C. Sanford was married to Mary Crawford September 20, 1846, bringing his wife to his father's home. In 1830 the primitive house had given place to a more pretentious frame building, and later an entire new front was built, leaving but little of the old structure standing. Here they have lived more years than is usually allotted to man, enjoying a calm, peaceful life, surrounded by those dearest to them on earth, and beloved by all who know them. On this farm three generations have lived, and the fourth is growing up, to eventually take their places. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Sanford. Belle, who married Harlan Sanford, and lives on the original farm, caring for her father and mother; John C. Sanford and one child, who died very young; Fortune Sanford and wife celebrated their golden wedding September 30, 1896. Since writing the history of the Sanford family, Fortune C. Sanford

was taken away from this earth. His death occurred March 12, 1897. He was a most consistent member of the Congregational Church, and active in all work pertaining to its welfare.

#### ESQUIRE LINUS SANFORD.

Esquire Linus Sanford, son of Jonah, was born in Plymouth, Conn., January 16th, 1782. His first wife was Polly Woods, daughter of Samuel Woods, Sen., by whom he had two sons, Samuel T. W., who became a prominent physician, and William W., engaged in the mercantile business. The house owned by Linus Sanford, and where he lived and died, stands just south of B. D. Stone's residence, now owned by him. It has been modernized during the last few years. Mrs. Sanford died May 18, 1818. He married for his second wife Rhoda Alcott of Connecticut. Three children were born to them, all died in infancy, but Eliza P., who for a number of years taught school in our town; she was one of the earliest teachers in the Union School. She married Joseph Sparrow, June 24, 1862, and went to Verona, N. Y., to reside. The name of Esquire Linus Sanford is closely identified with the best interests of the early town history. He held the office of justice of the peace for many years. also taught school in the old Academy. He departed this life May 29, 1842. His second wife died May 11, 1881.

#### SALA SANFORD.

Sala Sanford, son of Jonah, built and owned the house which stood on the corner of Main and Union Streets. It was moved many years ago to the upper end of Third Street, to make room for the more pretentious house built by Mrs. B. Tuthill, and now owned and occupied by Wells Stoddard. Sala Sanford married Peggy——and had nine children, Edward, Mary, Emily, Smith, Catherine, George, James and Margaret. Sala Sanford was injured in the war of 1812, but recovered. He died in Illinois at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Byington, March 15, 1866, in the 82nd year of his age. His wife died November 15, 1862, aged 73 years.

#### LEANDER U. SANFORD.

Leander U. Sanford was born March 27, 1825; married Tirzah Higgins May 1, 1855. He bought the property and built

the house on the corner of Third Street and Miner Avenue, now occupied by Mr. Becker. Two children were born to them, Elmer and Clara. While a young man just starting in business for himself, Elmer was snatched away by death, October 31, 1835, aged 24 years, deeply mourned by all his associates and friends. Clara went West, married, and made her home there. Leander V. Sanford died July 13, 1862, aged 37 years.

#### LYMAN MATTHEWS.

About the time Jonah Sanford built his home, in 1803, Lyman Matthews built the old Matthews homestead, which is still standing, opposite the William Barnes house. The well is on this place, which is spoken of in the survey bill. But little can be gathered concerning his early youth, or the place of his birth,



Lyman Matthews' House.

as he was removed by death at an early date, and there is no one living who remembers him; but we copy something concerning his father and mother, found in a paper printed a number of years ago. "When Noah Tuttle came to Camden to reside, a saw mill had been built, and a man named Williams, and Aaron Matthews, the old surveyor, and wife, were already here. Mrs. Matthews was the only white woman in Camden during the winter, after the arrival of the first settlers who came in 1795 or 1796." The writer well remembers hearing her mother say,

when her grandfather was obliged to go to Rome with his grain, and his wife would have to remain alone, she would put on snow shoes, and walk with him to Taberg to remain with the nearest white family. For many years a little old looking glass, about six by eight inches, with a frame made of common wood, stained by time, and put together with wooden pegs, was in the writer's family, and she was told it was the first mirror ever brought into Camden. Mrs. Matthews, it is also said, was the first white woman who came up the trail through Taberg to Camden.

Lyman Matthews, son of Aaron, was a surveyor, and surveyed much of the surrounding country. In 1803-4 he taught the first school in the town of Vienna. He married Polly, daughter of Jared Olcott, descended from Thomas Olcott, who came from England to America in 1635, and settled in Hartford, Conn. Joseph Olcott, son of Thomas, married Elizabeth Marsh; they had twelve children, the oldest of these was the father of Polly Alcott Matthews, who was a soldier of the Revolution, and for a time, one of the life guards of Gen. Washington. He also rendered efficient service in the war of 1812. The latter part of his life was spent in Jefferson County, near Watertown, N. Y., where his death occurred July 23, 1846. By the kindness of the Watertown Life Guards, he was buried with military honors. Lyman Matthews and Polly Olcott were married in Windsor, Conn., and made their home in Camden. They had seven children: Aaron, Delia, Chauncey, Mary Ann, Lyman and Sylvia. The husband and father died September 6, 1817, aged 35 years. Aaron Matthews, the oldest son, succeeded his father as surveyor. Many of the older inhabitants of the town remember attending school taught by him, in different districts. He married Sarah Hibbard, and had five children: Sophia, Lyman, Thaddeus, Willie and Sarah, the latter but an infant when her mother died. Soon after the death of his wife, Mr. Matthews' health failing, he took his children to Falls Church, Virginia, to reside. Being a Union man, when the war of the rebellion broke out, it became unsafe for one having such strong sympathies with the North to remain in that section of the country. With his second wife and children he left his Southern home in the night, quietly, and went to reside in Minnesota. Three children



were born after his second marriage. His death occurred in 1876. Lyman and Thaddeus, the sons, reside in Montana; Sophie and Sarah in Minnesota; Willie, the youngest son by his first wife, is dead.

Delia, the oldest daughter of Lyman Matthews, was married to Leonard L. Budd, in Rochester, where they lived at the time of the cholera epidemic of 1832. He built some of the first grist-mills of that city. He took a contract to build two mills in Canada, which he finished but a short time before his death. Mrs. Budd, in her bereavement, came direct to Camden, bringing four sons with her. Albert, who went to Kalamazoo, married and settled there, and died. William and his family live near Chicago; Byron Matthews Budd died in Camden, December 22, 1847, aged 17 years, and Clinton L. Budd married Marion, daughter of the late George Wood. He went to Michigan to reside, where his death occurred in the winter of 1897. Mrs. Budd died in Kalamazoo, where she resided, having married for her second husband John Glover of that place. Mary Ann Matthews, born August 22, 1813, married Albro Phelps September 8, 1842. He was born February 4, 1808. They lived in a little red house which stood just north of the house he built two years later. Six children were born to them.

Sarah, born September 3, 1843, and whose untimely death occurred July 14, 1873, aged 30 years, was the oldest of six children, who were left orphans, when she was but sixteen years of age. She remained in the home and took upon herself the burden of caring for them, and was faithful unto death, supplying a mother's care for her younger brothers and sisters so well their great loss was hardly realized. She was a most conscientious and devout member of Trinity Church. Her life was one of self-denial, living only for others, and when she was called to her eternal home, she went willingly, quite ready to lay down the burden which had been almost too much for her young life. We cannot doubt a "crown of life" was awaiting her, and that she heard the loving words of our Savior saying, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of thy Lord."

Theron Phelps, born December 27, 1845, was married to Miss Belle Wiles October 17th, 1871. She was born November



4th, 1850. They have one son, Clinton F. Phelps, born March 31, 1878. They have always resided in the old home. Caroline E. Phelps was born September 14, 1847, married Eugene H. Conant November 4, 1874. They settled in Camden; three children were born—Harold, born August 4, 1877; Alice, born November 14, 1879; Mary, born September 17, 1884. Eugene H. Conant was born June 12, 1847. Chauncey Matthews Phelps was born February 23, 1849, married Miss Celinda Bryant December 7, 1875. She was born September 22, 1848. They resided in Camden; had three children, Mabel, born October 24, 1876; Arthur, born September 15, 1880, and Carrie, born May 2, 1882. Chauncey M. Phelps was an honorable citizen of the town, respected by all. He was elected Supervisor in 1884-85. His health failing, he went to California in March of the following year, where his death occurred May 20, 1886, aged 37 years. His loss was deeply mourned by friends and relations, and the community at large. Mary was born May 18, 1851, was married December 18, 1872, to John Dexter, who was born October 10, 1851. They had one son and four daughters, Belle was born November 6, 1874; Frank, August 28, 1877; Pauline, January 29, 1880; Mary, January 14, 1884, and Carrie March 24, 1886. John M. Dexter died April 4, 1895, aged 44. Albro Byron Phelps was born August 2, 1853, married to Pauline M. Soper, June 13, 1878. She was born January 22, 1855. They had one son, Herbert, born August 31, 1880, died September 30, 1881. The children of Mary Ann Matthews Phelps all settled in Camden. Albro Phelps died October 3, 1853, aged 45 years; Mary Ann, his wife, died May 18, 1860, aged 47 years. Whenever the name of Chauncey Matthews is mentioned by those who knew him, it is with love and respect for his memory. Possessing a noble mind with all that combines to make a lovable character, he early in life became a favorite with all acquaintances. A bright scholar in his younger days, he taught school when he reached manhood, in order to enable him to pursue his medical studies. He went to Rochester and when he became a practising physician, settled in Maumee City, Ohio. He married Caroline ———, and had one son, Chauncey. He became a most skillful physician. We copy a portion of the obituary taken from an old

paper: "Died, at his residence in Maumee City, on the 27th of February, 1847, Chauncey Matthews, M. D., in the 36th year of his age. His disease was malignant erysipelas, contracted while engaged in the professional attendance upon the sick and dying. The disease was prevailing in an epidemic form, and such was his fidelity and untiring efforts for the welfare of those committed to his care, that his constitution at length gave way, rendering him, not only predisposed to an attack, but from the exhausted state of his system, precluded all hopes of his recovery from the commencement. \* \* \* His life, from his youth up, was exemplary, and marked with sterling integrity. \* \* \* The melancholy tidings fall heavily upon his aged heart-stricken mother, and a numerous circle of mourning relatives." Although the remains were not brought here for interment, as was the custom of those days, the funeral sermon was appointed to be preached the first Sunday in April, in the afternoon, at the Episcopal Church, by the Rev. A. P. Smith. Aner Matthews was in the Santa Fe trade, and died while yet a young man, of cholera, at Fort Independence, Missouri; Lyman died in Minnesota a few years ago; Sylvia married Archibald Armstrong of Rome, N. Y., and had one son, Chauncey. The older Lyman Matthews' name occurs on the book of old town records from 1804 up to the time of his death. He was Town Clerk for many years, also elected to many offices of trust. He joined the Masonic Lodge of Camden in 1816, having been a Master Mason. He died in 1817, when but 35 years of age, and sleeps in the cemetery on the Seventh. His widow married for her second husband, a neighbor, Samuel Howd. Two children were born, Abigail and Hannah, who are well remembered by the older portion of the community. Abigail was an active member of of the Episcopal Church, and worked with untiring energy for the establishment of the church in Camden. She also taught school for several years. They both went to Minnesota, and married, where Abigail died. Hannah had a son and daughter, and went with her family to Montana, where her death occurred. The union of Polly Matthews with Samuel Howd did not prove a happy one; they separated, Mrs. Matthews finding a home with her children, and the farm passing into other hands. Mrs. Matthews died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Budd, in Cam-

den, February 23, 1851, aged 66 years. She sleeps in Forest Park Cemetery.

#### ISAAC NORTHRUP.

Isaac, son of Gideon Northrup, was born November 16, 1799, in Camden. When he reached manhood, and decided to make a home for himself, he bought fifty-two acres of land of Jesse Curtiss of Clinton, and built a house nearly opposite the Lyman Matthews place. The house was burned many years ago, and a new one erected on the site, now occupied by William Barnes. He married Lucinthia Cook, and settled in his new home. Here eight children were born—Hannah, born January 5, 1827; Mary, June 5, 1831; Amanda, April 14, 1833; Lucinthia, April 7, 1835; Thomas I., March 3, 1837; John J., April 3, 1839; Henry C., October 4, 1844; Orson C., February 8, 1874. Lucinthia married N. W. Eaton, Oct. 8, 1857; she is the only one living in Camden. One son and two grandchildren are the only descendants. Mr. and Mrs. Eaton have lived all of their married lives in the house they first occupied at the foot of Mt. Parnassus.

Isaac Northrup died March 14, 1854; his wife following him two years later, Sept. 3, 1856. They rest in Forest Park Cemetery.

#### ZENA CURTISS.

A road formerly ran west past the old Matthews place called "Old Mexico St.," where several families lived at an early date. It has fallen into disuse now, and the houses gone to decay. Zenas Curtiss made his home here about 1800. But little can be learned of his early history; he had one son, the late Jeremiah Curtiss. After the death of Zenas Curtiss the widow married Commodore Rodgers, and moved to Pennsylvania, leaving no descendants of the second marriage in this part of the country.

Another settler on this street was Samuel Howd, the ancestor of the different Howd families in Camden and vicinity. He was the father of six children by his first wife, Samuel, Simeon, Curtiss, Benjamin, Flora and Eunice. He married for his second wife Polly Matthews; two more children were born. He eventually went to Minnesota to reside with one of his daughters, and died there.

## JOEL DUNBAR.

John Dunbar was one of Plymouth's early settlers; he married Temperance Hall, and from these ancestors Capt. Joel Dunbar was descended, being one of fifteen children. On his tombstone in the old Mexico St. Cemetery, we find his death occurred Dec. 31, 1827, aged 75 years. "Father to Eliab, Seth, Nancy, Rebecca, Jerusha, Margery, Temperance; brother of Moses, Aaron, David and Jonathan." He married Rebecca, daughter of Abel Curtiss. She died Jan. 24, 1831, aged 69 years. They settled on Old Mexico St., near the corner of Dunbar St. We find in 1794, Capt. Joel Dunbar was a taxpayer in Plymouth, Conn. He was a drummer in the 8th Continental regiment, under Capt. Phineas Porter. Nov. 25, 1775, he enlisted the second time in Capt. Smith's Co. April 17, 1776, was in Col. Elsmore's regiment at German Flats. The name of Dunbar, until a comparatively recent date, has been closely connected with the history of Camden.

## PRESTON HILL SCHOOL HOUSE.

We next come to Preston Hill School-house. Joel Blakesley, an old resident for many years in this locality, in writing up old



Preston Hill School House.

reminiscences, says: "Preston Hill School-house was built in 1818; it turned out some of the best spellers in the township; among them were Chauncey Matthews and his sister Mary Ann,

and also the writer. We could spell down, not only the village school, but the Mexico St. school also. I still have the old Webster spelling book used in those early days." To spell the longest and hardest words correctly was considered a great accomplishment, and more attention was paid to this than any other study. Spelling down was the favorite amusement, as well as being instructive. The original building has from time to time been repaired, and at the present time is well preserved, and has always been up to the standard for a country school.

#### CALEB PRESTON.

On the left of the road nearly opposite the school-house, stood the home of one of the families for which Preston Hill was named. In the year 1810 Caleb Preston and his wife Amy, with three sons, came to Camden and settled on Preston Hill, where Caleb died, Feb. 27, 1813, aged 67 years. His wife survived him four years, dying June 1, 1817, aged 73 years. They were not



Mrs. Caleb Preston.

spared many years after reaching their new home, but passed away before they saw the wilderness give place to the farm lands which rewarded the labors of their children. Caleb, the oldest



son, was born in Wallingford, Conn., Sept 10, 1772. He married Sybil Ledyard in Plymouth, Conn. They came to Camden and made their home with their father and mother, where they lived beyond the allotted time of man's existence.

Time has almost obliterated the old place, leaving nothing but a few stones and a slight depression to mark the site of the house. The remains of the old well are to be seen, which was a short distance from the house. The following is recorded in the old book of town records.

"By the request of Caleb Preston, this 21st day of April, 1818, register : Amanda Preston, born Sept. 29, 1796; Merrit Preston, born Jan. 21, 1797; Eliasaph Preston, born March 29, 1798; Phebe Preston, born July 4, 1799; Ruth Preston, born April 13, 1802; Lucius Preston, born October 14, 1805; Sarah Preston, born April 11, 1810; Clarissa Preston, born Dec. 30, 1813."

Caleb Preston was a good sensible man, and a great Methodist exhorter; when not preaching he always attended church. Sunday morning the oxen were attached to a lumber wagon, with an old Dutch harness, with straps as wide as a man's hand, and chains for tugs. Two splint-bottomed chairs were placed in the wagon, and he and his wife each occupied one, while the hired man, Billy Bass, sat on the only seat the vehicle could boast of, driving them in as dignified a manner as he would the finest equipage. He was an Englishman, small and weazen-faced, but he knew what belonged to an English coachman.

Caleb Preston was a strong abolitionist; he would go to the different school-houses, or any place where there was an opportunity, preaching the gospel, and speaking against slavery. He had a powerful voice, and he spoke in such stentorian tones that a little grandson who heard him preach for the first time, thought he would wake the dead. He was so bitterly opposed to slavery that he withdrew from the Methodist church in 1842, and helped to found the Wesleyan Abolition church. He was decidedly opposed to having his picture taken, fearing he might cause someone to break the second commandment, and living in an age, before the kodak and snap-shots were in vogue, he could live up to the spirit of his convictions. At the age of 88 years his granddaughter Sybil persuaded him to sit for one, but the



next day, in a spirit of remorse, he said he would give two thousand dollars if he had not consented. Through the kindness



Caleb Preston.

of relatives we have been able to secure one. She comforted him with the assurance she would not make an "idol" of it. Caleb Preston lived to the ripe age of 96 years, and entered into rest May 28, 1867. His wife died April 18, 1851, aged 76 years. They sleep in Forest Park Cemetery. Amanda Preston married Abram Eliphalet Johnson; died in Camden Sept. 1865; Ruth married Samuel Leffingwell, and moved to Wisconsin; Sarah married James Whaley, went to Michigan to reside; Clarissa, born in Camden, married David Coe, settled in Camden, and died here, Dec. 28, 1856, aged 42. Merrit was a Methodist minister, and a member of the Genesee Conference some years, then went West. Eliasaph lived in Pompey, and died in Penn Yan. Lucius married Miss Robinson, and went to Wisconsin.

#### ABNER PRESTON.

Abner Preston, brother to Caleb, and who came to Camden at the same time, was born in Connecticut, in 1781. He purchased land and made his home where the house recently oc-

cupied by George Wilkinson stood, which was destroyed by fire. He had four children, Amos, Charity, Dorcas, and Julien. It is said the latter was a somnambulist, also a great lover of cheese. While a young boy, his mother during the summer had made some especially fine ones, which he was very anxious to taste; but no amount of persuasion could induce her to cut one, until the proper time had arrived. One night she was awakened by the strong odor of cheese; she arose to investigate, and found her son in night clothes sitting in front of the large fire-place. He had raked open the fire, and placed a whole cheese in front of it, where it was melting, and covering the hearth with the appetizing substance. Needless to say his appetite for cheese was gratified, as long as that one lasted, if not longer. A more modern house has been erected on the site of the original one destroyed by fire. Abner Preston died Nov. 24, 1833, aged 52 years. Hannah, his wife died ——.

#### URI HILL.

Uri Hill was born in Connecticut about 1770. He married Chloe Hale. They came to Camden from Connecticut in 1804, and bought woodland and made a clearing about one and a half miles from the village, known to later generations as the Marvel Hall farm. They had great difficulty in reaching their destination, and were obliged to cut a road in many places through brush and logs. They had four children—Almon, born in 1792; Uriah, born in 1796; Chloe, born in 1799; Polly, born in 1805. Mrs. Hill was a kind, motherly woman, a comfort to those in affliction, and one who spent many hours at the bedside of the sick and suffering; a type of womanhood, common in all newly settled countries, where neighbors are dependent upon each other in a great measure. She earned enough money by weaving to buy fruit trees for the orchard. But the farm was given up after a few years, and the family moved to Hillsborough. Uri Hill was a shoemaker by trade, and used to go from house to house "whipping the cat," or in a more modern way of expressing it, he would go wherever he was needed, and make boots and shoes for the family.

Bears were very troublesome in those early days, and it was a perplexing question how to dispose of them. It was most dis-

couraging to the farmer to find his cornfields devastated through the night, and the culprits too cunning to be caught in the traps set for them. It was Uri Hill and some of his companions, who conceived a novel device to rid the neighborhood of an animal who had wrought great havoc. Knowing how fond bears were of anything sweet, they mixed molasses and whisky together, thinking the former would suit the taste so well, he would not mind the latter, and would become so intoxicated, it would be an easy matter to dispose of him. Considering the quantity rather more than was necessary for the purpose, each tasted it, and found it so excellent, they tasted it again, and repeating it once too often, they awoke in the morning to find the cornfield destroyed, and the bear in full possession of his senses.

Reuben Smith purchased the farm, and lived there until he was quite advanced in life, when he bought the property in the village on the corner of Second and Washington Streets.

#### NATHANIEL WETMORE.

The next house was a little farther east of the Uri Hill place. The house succumbed to the ravishes of time years ago, but the barn still stands. Here Nathaniel Wetmore and wife Abiah settled in the early days. Their family consisted of four children—Lorenzo, William, Philo and Leroy. Nathaniel Wetmore died March 6, 1831, aged 52; the death of his wife occurred Feb. 11, 1844, aged 62. They came from Connecticut to their home in the new country.

#### LORENZO WETMORE.

Lorenzo Wetmore married Nancy, daughter of Giles Sanford, in 1827. Both were born and lived all of their lives in Camden. During the year 1850 they bought land and built a house, where later Third St. was laid out, just above the site eventually selected for the Union School building. At that time, it was only a field, surrounded by a rail-fence, and reached by a small foot-path. They had four children—Henry, who made his home in Detroit, Mich.; Giles, who married Charlotte Curtiss, and settled in Camden; he built a fine brick residence on Church St., now occupied by his only son, Charles. Giles Wetmore was a prominent business man, and built and occupied the store on the west side of Main St., where he engaged in the drug business. He eventually sold the property to A. C. and C. A. Phelps.

Mila married the late Charles H. Ray, settling in Camden. Mr. Ray was engaged in the manufacture of chairs. He was a musician of considerable merit, and always prominent in musical circles; he was a member of the Camden Band for many years. His death occurred Aug. 4, 1887, aged 57 years. His wife survives him. Mary married George Elden, whose death occurred while yet a young man. She later married Mr. R. Tuthill; they live in the old home, which has been modernized to a considerable extent. Lorenzo Wetmore was a mason, and was in company for many years with Mr. E. J. Nelson. During this period they laid the foundations and fashioned the walls of nearly all of the buildings erected in Camden. Honored and respected citizens they labored side by side, until the infirmities of age overtook them, and they rested from toil, waiting for the Master's call, which came the same day to each. "In death they were not divided." Lorenzo Wetmore was born Sept. 24, 1808; died June 6, 1888, aged 79 years. Nancy Sanford Wetmore was born Nov. 1808, and died Feb. 9, 1891, aged 82 years. William Wetmore married Polly, daughter of Reuben Smith; they had four children—William, died July 10, 1882, aged 75 years; Polly, died Dec. 20, 1888, aged 77 years. Their son Wolcott died June 1, 1892, in his 54th year; Philo married Ruth Ann Scoville for his second wife, and moved to Illinois; Leroy married Uri Hill's daughter for his first wife, and Cornelia, daughter of Ephraim Sanford for his second wife; they also moved West.

#### LEMUEL STEADMAN.

A little way beyond the home of Nathaniel Wetmore a road leads off to the right. Here, on what is known to later generations as the Anderson farm, Lemuel Steadman, the pioneer father of the family, settled. He married Eunice Smith at Hartford, Conn., and emigrated to Camden, Feb. 13, 1805, coming as nearly all other early settlers had come, with an ox team. Their first years in this locality were spent in a log house, with a stack chimney. Lemuel Steadman enlisted when only 18 years of age, and served in the war of the Revolution nine months, lacking three days. He was in New York when the British came upon them, three hundred in number, only thirty lived to tell the harrowing tale. His health was never good after this terrible ordeal.

Lyman Steadman and his wife Elizabeth Wilson, came from Connecticut in 1812, and settled on the same farm his father occupied. The first living child was Ann Eliza, then Mary, who married Mr. John Myers, and lived in Camden until her death, Jan. 30, 1892. Children—Lyman, Cyrus, Martha, Benson, all living but Mary and Lyman. Mrs. Chapin the daughter of Mary, the only descendant now living in Camden. Lyman Steadman, Sen., died 1849, aged 62 years. His wife survived him until 1883; she drew a pension, as her husband was in the war of 1812. Mary, wife of John Myers, died January 30, 1892.

#### ELIASAPH BARKER.

Following the main road east, on Preston Hill, we next come to the place known as the Ireland farm. Here Eliasaph Barker located as early as 1800. He was born Jan. 4, 1779, in Plymouth, Conn., coming to Camden in 1799. Six years later, he married Clarissa, second daughter of Daniel Parks. In this house four children were born—Lanson Levant, Cyrus Sydney, Volney Park, Clarissa Esther. Eliasaph Barker was a man of great Christian zeal, and was a leader of the Preston Hill class, when the Methodist society was largely represented in that locality, about 1829. Always present at every service, it is said that a horse he used to drive to and from the place of meeting, one day was harnessed, and tied at Mr. Barker's door. He probably thought it was time to attend the meeting, and he must surely be there, he freed himself from his fastening and trotted leisurely towards the place of worship, where he was found under the shed some time later, in his usual place, waiting until the time came for him, to return home. One of the sons, Sydney Barker, was book-keeper for J. D. Caverly, until his health failed, and he later died with consumption. Volney Park Barker married Cornelia Bailey, went West to live, and died in Cincinnati. Clarissa Esther Barker married William Ireland, went to New London to begin their married life; they remained there six weeks and she was then called to the old home to care for her parents. With the exception of this period of six weeks, she lived all of the years allotted to her, from infancy to old age, in the home of her childhood, where her eyes first saw the light of day, spending but a few hours away from it at any given time, until death claimed her.



William Ireland came from Cambridgeshire, England, in 1832. He was a member of the Church of England, having been confirmed in Ely Cathedral, near the home of his youth. Three children were born to them—Frances Clarissa, Almeda Caroline, and Elizabeth Bates, the latter dying while yet the sky was colored with the rosy hue of youth. Almeda, the second daughter, married John Sanford, and lives on the old homestead. Frances, the oldest daughter, continues to reside there. The rear part of the house is the original one built by Eliasaph Barker, the front having been added in 1824. Eliasaph Barker died Oct. 16, 1857; Clarissa his wife died July 15, 1857. William Ireland died Sept. 13, 1886. His wife died May 23, 1876.

#### SETH DUNBAR.

Following the road east, the next house we see, which has been very materially altered, is the one owned and occupied by



Mr. Seth Dunbar.



Mrs. Seth Dunbar.

the late Benj. Drought. Seth Dunbar came to Camden with his father. He was married to Jerusha Cows in Plymouth, Conn., bringing his wife and one child with him, a daughter, Aurelia, a babe of seven months. Here he made his home, he returned to Plymouth for a time, and when he again came to Camden he cleared enough land to raise a little grain, which had to be taken to Ridge Mills in Rome to be ground. He took three pecks of wheat on his back, walking to and from Rome, going and re-



turning in two days. In this new country four more children were born—Horace, Rosanna, Edwin and Louisa. Later he sold his land on Preston Hill, and purchased the property on Dunbar St., so called from the number of families of that name, in that locality. His home is now occupied by Mr. James Grinnel. Seth Dunbar was a cabinet maker, and made all of the coffins used in the town prior to 1825, with nails. The woodshed was his workshop, while his wife was weaving cloth in the kitchen. Seth Dunbar died Oct. 26, 1850, aged 73 years. His wife died June 30, 1852, aged 73 years.

#### ANDREW CRAIG.

The first house west of the school-house was built in 1815, by David Blakesley, whose first home was on the River Road. After residing here for a number of years, he sold to Rily Scovel, who



Andrew Craig's House.

occupied for a time; then it was purchased by Andrew Craig, the subject of this sketch. He came to America from Scotland in 1828, at the age of 18 years. He remained here three years, then went back to his former home, and soon returned bringing with him his father and mother, a brother and two sisters. He married Elizabeth Brown, of Scotch descent, whose home was near Utica. They bought the property on Preston Hill 43 years ago; nine children were born—Archibald, David, Robert, James, John, Jeanette, Jane, Elizabeth and Andrew. David has recently

built a substantial brick house, a very short distance from the old home, and has taken his mother to live with himself and wife. Robert lives on the old Sanford homestead, and Andrew resides in the village. They are the only ones living. Andrew Craig, Sen., was a poet, but his gift was undeveloped until late in life. After his first production was published, he was called upon to compose and recite his poems on all memorable occasions. An ardent admirer of his own Scottish poet, Robert Burns, he read and re-read his poems until it almost seemed as if he derived inspiration from them. Possessed of a kind genial nature, he breathed it through all of his writings. Having but a limited education, he wrote with a simple eloquence on a great variety of subjects, and when called upon to compose a poem for Arbor Day, Burns' birthday, or any other special occasion, he always willingly produced one most fitting, and read or recited it with the fascinating Scotch accent, which had always clung to him. Many of his poems were published in the local papers, but in 1879 he published them complete in book form. His first poem, "A Mouse," was composed while at work piling wood in the cellar of the Congregational church. He discovered a nest of mice, which reminded him of Burns' poem, "To a Mouse." He was not alone in his admiration of Robert Burns, but found many congenial friends who were interested in his works. Monday, Jan. 26, 1874 (Sunday being the 25th), the anniversary of Burns' birthday, was celebrated for the first time in Camden, at Durr's Hall, in the lower part of the village; John Craig, Esq., was made president of the evening's entertainment, and "Uncle Andrew" Craig was toast-master. He composed and recited an original poem, "Now We've Met as Scotchmen Should." Mr. Samuel Alexander, also a Scotchman, read an original poem; Mr. Robert Robertson sang a song, assisted by S. Alexander, "John Anderson my Jo, John." They also sang, "Green Grow the Rushes, Oh."

The Glee Club, consisting of C. R. Bessee, C. H. Ray, and James Durrent, all prominent musicians of the town, accompanied by Mrs. Bessee, sang very acceptably. At this meeting a regular organization was formed, which continued to celebrate the anniversary of Burns' birthday for several years in a most

enjoyable manner. "Uncle Andrew" Craig, being one, if not the most prominent member, and always contributing largely to the pleasure of the occasion with an original poem. After his death these anniversaries were observed for a time, but something was lacking, "Uncle Andrew's" place could not be filled, and he was sorely missed. In the course of time the enthusiasm subsided, and the organization died a natural death. Many of Mr. Craig's poems were of a religious nature; one "The Restful Sabbath," is a veritable sermon. The last three verses reveal the deeper nature of the writer, and convinces one he feels before he gives expression to the words:

"But God, whose very name is love,  
In wisdom has seen best,  
That man can all his wants supply,  
And on the Sabbath rest.

There's not one moment of our lives  
But we can trace His care,  
Then let us lift our voice to Him  
In humble grateful prayer.

O, God, accept our humble thanks  
For blessings thou has given,  
And may we prize the Sabbath day,  
An emblem true of Heaven."

In the poem "My Boyhood Days," he shows a patriotic spirit, superior to many native-born Americans:

' Oh, noble flag. Oh, glorious flag,  
I bow beneath thy shrine,  
Although I love my place of birth,  
My heart is wholly thine.

And should a foe invade our soil  
Whoe'er that foe may be,  
I'll bring my fortune and my life,  
And tender all for thee.

And should I fall beneath those stripes,  
Oh, be my place of rest  
Upon the field that freemen won,  
With free soil on my breast.

And if I do not gain a grave  
Upon a soil that's free,  
I wish that I might calm repose  
'Neath the unfettered sea.

Long may thou wave, star spangled flag,  
The banner of the free,  
Thou wavest above a glorious land,  
And floatest on every sea.

Though I was born on Scotia's Isel,  
That flag I do adore;  
Oh! may that flag in triumph wave  
Till time shall be no more."

Many of his poems are of a humorous character, pleasing to all, and revealing a brotherly love, full of contentment in the station which he occupied, and happy with his friends. He was called away from this earth July 16, 1880, aged 69 years, leaving a wife to mourn the loss of a dear companion and husband.

### ENOS JOHNSON.

The next house, in later days called the Pierce house, was the site of the early home of Enos Johnson, the son of Joseph Johnson, who with two brothers, William and Obadiah, were among the early settlers of Canterbury, Conn., in 1690, and who were the ancestors of the different families of the name of Johnson in this locality. Joseph Johnson was a Revolutionary soldier. His son, Enos Johnson, came to Camden about 1800, and made his home just west of the Andrew Craig house, but on the opposite side of the road. His first home was made of logs, which, later, as the necessities of life became more plentiful, was replaced by a frame house. The third house has been built on the site of the log house. He was born in March, 1777. He married Patience Curtiss in Connecticut, they had 13 children, eight lived and grew up. Merrit, born in 1800, married Emily Scranton, lived and died in Pennsylvania. Anna married Curtiss Howd, lived and died at Onondaga Hill, N. Y.; Nancy married Burret Norton, also resided at Onondaga Hill, had thirteen children. Hiram died of consumption at his father's home, and sleeps in the old Mexico Street Cemetery. Hannah, born in Camden in 1816, married Wesley Wilson. Their children, Caliste, Polly and Clara Amanda, live in Camden; Alvin married Elizabeth Daunton, and went to Iowa; Mary Abigail married Adam Fancher, lived in Rome, but died in Pennsylvania; Joseph married Isabella Wright, and died in Hillsborough; Enos Johnson, the father, was a carpenter by trade. A twig from a tree injured

one eye, and from this cause, he soon lost the sight of both; he was blind thirty-eight years. He died July 8, 1864, aged 87 years. Mrs. Johnson was a consistent member of Trinity Church of Camden, and always attended divine service, when her health would permit. She died April 30, 1865, aged 88 years. Joseph Johnson and his wife Mary came from Connecticut together, with a son, Ansel, to live with their son Enos in Camden. Ansel was born in Connecticut in 1782; he married Susan Leonard of Taunton, Mass., in 1811, and settled on the place later occupied by Robert McIntosh, near Hillsborough. In 1832 he moved to Blossvale, and died there in 1840. Their children were—Alvira, born in 1812, married Isaac Hall of Amboy, lived and died there. Frank Hall and Mrs. Susan Mann of this village are their descendants. William went to Geneva; Mary Ann married William Martin, and went to Pennsylvania. Alvin died; Andrew, who was a physician, died in 1854, in Blossvale, and Frances, born in 1825, is now living near Blossvale. The mother died at the same place in 1848, and is buried there. Joseph died in Camden, and rests in the old Mexico Street Cemetery.

#### JESSE BLAKE.

Following Preston Hill Street west, we come to the place where a father and three sons settled at an early date. Jesse Blake and wife with three sons came to Camden soon after 1804. He built the house occupied by the late James Jones. The wing



Jesse Blake's House.

of the house is the original home. Mr. Blake was a very strong Methodist, and in this house prayer meetings were held, and many



converted. A little stream runs just west of the house, and here he built a small tannery, and kept a store in one part of his dwelling, where the boots and shoes he made were for sale. When the would-be purchaser had no money, he would sell a cow to the tanner, with which he bought the necessary articles. Jesse Blake's family consisted of himself and wife, three sons and a daughter. Frederick married Emily, daughter of Ephraim Sanford, and built the house just opposite his father's, which is still standing, and but little changed. Lewis married Mary, daughter of Giles Sanford, and built the house west of his father's, now owned by John Keizer, where they lived and died. Seth Blake married Hannah Wood, sister to the late George Wood, and built on the east side of his father's. From the settlement of these families in this locality, the street from Preston Hill school-house to the Ephraim Sanford place was called Blake Street. The daughter married Norman Blakesley, and made her home in the West. Jesse Blake lived to the ripe age of 82 years, when he departed this life April 10, 1857. His wife soon followed him, dying December 18, 1858, aged 84 years. Seth Blake died April 6, 1877, aged 76 years. Hannah, his wife, died February 2, 1876, aged 74 years. Mary Sanford Blake, wife of Lewis Blake, died March 4, 1834, aged 29 years. He married for his second wife, her sister Angelina Sanford, who survived him. Lewis Blake departed this life July 28, 1846, aged 43 years. Angelina Blake married her brother-in-law, A. J. Stone, who married Louise Sanford, who died early in life, at the age of 30 years, July 30, 1847. After his marriage to Mrs. Blake, he resided with her on the farm owned by her first husband, Lewis Blake.

#### ANDREW J. STONE.

Mr. Stone was born in Litchfield, Conn., and came to Camden in 1840, accompanied by Mr. James Merriman, who married Charlotte Sanford also a daughter of Giles Sanford. Mr. Merriman died July 10, 1857, aged 42 years. Andrew J. Stone was a carpenter by trade; he built the house on the corner of Second and Union Streets, one part of which he occupied, and Mr. Merriman the other. The house was later sold to Anson Strong, who lived there for a term of years, until his death, and where



his wife continued to reside the remainder of her life. Later, A. J. Stone sold the property on Blake Street, and returned to the village; he occupied one part of Mrs. Thomas Stone's house, which stood back of the Congregational Church, but has been moved to the south side of Union Street, between Main and Second Streets. Eventually he bought the McCall house, which is occupied by A. Gunther, on the corner of Miner Avenue and Third Street, where he resided until his death. Angelina Blake Stone died May 28, 1857, aged 57 years. After her death, Mr. Stone married Charlotte Sanford Merriman. In 1854 he entered into partnership with Daniel P. and Samuel Cox, in the sash and blind factory, but at the time of his death had retired from business. Andrew J. Stone died January 5, 1892, aged 76 years. His wife, Charlotte Merriman, survived him but a few days, departing this life January 10, 1892, aged 70 years. He left no family, his children dying in infancy and early childhood.

#### JAMES JONES.

The home of Jesse Blake eventually passed into the possession of the late James Jones, who came to Camden from Constantia, in 1852. He married Catherine Robinson in 1884. They lived for many years, loved and respected by all who knew them. Five children were born to them—Josephine of Springfield, Mass.; Isabella and Almon of Agawan, Mass.; Emma and William, still living in the old home, the only descendants residing in Camden. James Jones died in 1889, his wife surviving him until 1896. Just across the road, on the west side of the little brook, almost opposite the tannery built by Jesse Blake, totally obliterated by the finger of time, stands a little old wood-colored house, almost black with age, and falling to the ground, unable to bear its own weight.

#### LEWIS PRESTON.

It was built by Caleb Preston for his son Lewis, who occupied it for a few years, then located in the West, and it was rented to a widow woman with two sons, Billy and Ephraim Bass, the former being the man of all work for Caleb Preston. It was a very primitive building, having been put together with

wooden pins instead of nails. Here the widow lived with her two sons many years. A great lover of flowers, she was seldom seen without a bunch of the old-fashioned and sweet-smelling



Lewis Preston's House.

blossoms, and the ground around her little cottage was a mass of brightness. No descendants living in Camden. Mrs. Bass died April 16, 1867, aged 93 years.

#### RIAL BRACE.

On the left side, a road leads to Howd's Mills. The original road ran in a little different way, but before there was any road, while yet the beautiful forest trees stood towering toward the sky, Rial Brace came from Torrenton, Conn., with his wife, about 1805. They settled on the corner near Preston Hill. One son and four daughters were born to them. But one living in Camden, Mrs. James Lambie, and one daughter in Iowa. Rial Brace died May 4, 1859, aged 78. His wife died——— They rest in Forest Park Cemetery.

#### EBENEZER SPENCER.

Farther on this road, Ebenezer Spencer settled in 1830. He bought 67 acres of land, and built a log house; he spent one summer in his forest home, but becoming very homesick, went back to Connecticut, and sold his interest in this section to his

brother Ephraim, who, with wife and children, started the following spring for their new home. They came to Albany in wagons, one conveyance for the family, and another for their household goods. From Albany they continued their journey on the Erie Canal, and arrived at New London, where they were conveyed overland to their forest home. The land was still in its natural state, no clearings had been made, and even at the date of their home-making in this locality, Mr. Spencer often saw bears in the dense thickets. But time has wrought wondrous changes here as elsewhere, broad corn-fields may be seen to-day repaying the husbandman a hundred fold for the labor of his hand. Ephraim Spencer married Cornelia Woodin, whose home was in West Stockbridge, Mass. Eleven children were born to them: George, Elias, Sally, Emily, Jane, William, Angelina, Henry, Warren, Electa and Andrew. Ten are living, but only one, Elias, is now in Camden, who was seven years old when he came to this town with his father. He lives near the place where his father's log house stood, where many happy childhood days were spent, and where he has passed from manhood to old age. Ephraim Spencer died April 25, 1853, aged 60 years. His wife died ————. Elias Spencer married Patience, daughter of Reuben Smith. She died February 9, 1884.

Returning to the main road on the left, until recently a small



Uri Hill House.

unpainted house stood, with the well in front, and shaded on the farther side with old gnarled apple-trees, a veritable pioneer

home. J. N. Secor has recently purchased the property, and it has been made into a more modern house. This house was built by Caleb Preston's sister Sally, who occupied it for a time, then went West. Uri Hill purchased this property, and here made his second home in Camden, where he spent the remainder of his days. He died May 15, 1850, aged 78 years. His wife went away from this town to live with her children.

### EPHRAIM SANFORD.

Ephraim, son of Jonah Sanford, was born in the year 1789, while the family resided in Clinton. He came to Camden with his father while a young lad, and thus early in youth was inured to the trials and hardships of pioneer life. He was a soldier in



Mr. Ephraim Sanford.



Mrs. Ephraim Sanford.

the war of 1812, and soon after he returned home, married Temperance, daughter of Capt. Joel Dunbar. He built a log house on the corner of Blake and Dunbar Streets, near the site where, later, the old Sanford home was erected, which is now owned and occupied by Robert Craig, which has been remodeled. Here they lived together 48 years. Twelve children were born—



Emily N., Melancthon, James H., Benjamin Franklin, Sylvester C., Eliphalet Johnson, Cornelia, Alonson G., Francis A., Wm. M., Lorenzo Stoddard and Wilbur F. Their home was one of brightness, surrounded by beautiful and choice flowers, which gratified the eye of all who passed that way, or who were fortunate enough to be numbered among their friends. There all of the luxuries of farm life abounded. They were the first to cultivate



Home of Ephraim Sanford.

and introduce the garden strawberry, and many friends and neighbors were the recipients of baskets of the luscious fruit. Equally fine was the large orchard, containing many varieties of apples, which were in great demand. Mr. Sanford was summoned to his eternal home December 24, 1860, aged 71 years. Mrs. Sanford lived to the ripe age of 83 years. She was a consistent member of the M. E. Church, which she joined in her early youth. She was beloved by a large circle of friends and relatives, who were called to mourn her loss October 30, 1874.

#### MELANCTHON SANFORD.

Melancthon, son of Jonah Sanford, married Sarah, daughter of David Blakesley, and settled in a house a short distance east of his father's home, which was built by Mr. Humphrey, a man who came at an early date and located here. He did not remain very long, but went to the western part of the State to live. By his first wife Mr. Sanford had two daughters, Wealthy and Al-

mina; the former became the wife of Mr. Hongsinger of Rome; and Almira continues to reside with her father. After the death of his wife, Mr. Sanford married Mrs. Louisa B. Wilder. In 1872 he built a commodious house on the site of the old one, where he now resides, within sight of his boyhood home.

#### ANDERSON WILSON.

Anderson Wilson, although not one of the pioneer settlers, deserves mention as coming to this town at a comparatively early date. In 1831 he sailed from Ayshire, Scotland, in the sailing vessel "Robert Stewart." He had a family of twelve children, but most of them remained in their native land. He bought the place, where he lived the remainder of his life, from Eliphalet Johnson, and where his son, Archibald, now resides. It is near the line dividing Camden from Hillsborough. William and Archibald are the only sons living in Camden. Archibald married Sarah Simmons, and they still live on the homestead. Anderson Wilson died January 28, 1865, aged 84 years. Agnes, his wife, died November, 1860, aged 49 years. They rest in Forest Park Cemetery.





## CHAPTER X.

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### HILLSBORO.

**H**ILLSBORO is a farming district about two miles and a half south-west of Camden village. It was settled by nearly all nationalities that were emigrating about 1828 and 1830. Those that came from the northern part of Ireland were in the linen industry. After cotton was introduced it had a great effect on that business, so they sought homes in a new country.

The first that came from Scotland was Robert Morton. He wrote back glowing accounts of the cheap farms and fine country, and through him others became interested in this neighborhood. There was a parish in Scotland called Gladstone. A man by the name of Brown owned most of it, and had a number of farms. On one called Calieth, John Richmond, Sen., lived. John Lambie, Sen., lived on another called Middlefield. Wm. Swanson, Sen., and family of Mortons, lived on two other farms. These men settled in Camden. It must have been a severe trial to leave the land of their birth, the cherished home of earliest associations, and cross the broad Atlantic to sojourn, in all probability, the remainder of their lives in a strange land. They had left dear old Scotland with its beautiful scenery. Near where they lived was a place called Lowden Hill; at the foot it was one mile in circumference, and half a mile high at any point. There was a well of refreshing water on top of it. One half of the hill was of large rocks of different formation and color; the other side had beautiful verdure like a cultivated garden. It was a favorite place for picnics, and friends met here from far and near. It is no wonder that the wives of these pioneer Scotchmen shed tears when settled in this hilly place in the forest, with hard work before them.

There is a strong tide of Scotch blood running in the arteries of many descendants of this part of the town. And one tie that binds them to Scotland is the bagpipe, so much used in the land of Burns, who taught

the world to make an ideal of the actual. Scotchmen seldom change; you cannot smuggle a fiddle in church under the name of a bass viol. When some of our friends were leaving Scotland there was great anxiety among those left behind for fear in America they might not be in reach of the gospel. In Scotland the Sabbath is a quiet day. A member of a party traveling in Scotland in the summer of 1896, tried to hire a boat. He was told that he could not rent a boat on the Sabbath day, but he would lend it to him, and he could pay for it on Monday. While relating this, another story was told to the party. Two Scotchmen after church were in the horse shed getting their horses, when one of them said, "Neighbor, if it were na the Sabbath day, I would ask you to sell me your horse." The other responded, "And if it were na the Sabbath day, I would tell you I would sell you the horse for 40 pounds." "Ah neighbor," answered the other, "if it were na the Sabbath day I would tell you I would give 20 pounds." It was finally arranged that as they could do no business on the Sabbath day, the man who wanted the horse was to bring 30 pounds on Monday and get him.

Our genial English pioneers missed the advantages of their mother country, but they easily became Americanized, for the tie that unites us to England is very strong; stronger than between ours and any other nation; for we are the same people, of the same blood, of the same language, and the same religion. With patience and perseverance, most of these early settlers have lived comfortably, and their families prospered.

The precise date the first settlers came here is unknown; it was near 1800, as far as we can find out. Before any name was given to this section, Andrew Monroe was the agent for George Gallagar, a merchant of New York, who owned a large tract of land in this part of the town. The first that came built shanties and cleared a little land. Unfortunately, by these helping themselves freely to ash timber, they lost their homes. Uri Hill, Curtiss Howd and James Whaley were among the supposed permanent settlers. The country being hilly, and Mr. Hill locating here among the first, they called this place Hillsboro. When Mr. Hill moved here from the Marvel Hall place it was a dense

forest. James Whaley settled in North Hillsboro, Curtiss Howd and his descendants moved into the town of Vienna. They had hopes of establishing a small village here in 1830, for the convenience of the farmers. Mr. Monroe gave land, and a building was erected called the "Temple." It was used, although unfinished, for a place of worship, as well as a school. Being unfinished, it fell in by the weight of snow, in 1832.



Temple School House.

This present school building was made of some of the timber, which gave it the name of "Temple School-house." Some of the early teachers in this school were Angeline Cook, Louisa Sandford, Clarissa Preston, Ann Brown, Polly Wood, and Ruth Warner (afterwards Mrs. M. Butler). There was a log house used for a school on the corner of the road leading to Babcock's Mill. It was almost a ruins and the mothers of some of the large families of the district wanted a new one located a little farther to the east. The men were not quite ready, and they settled it in this way: Election day, in 1831, when the men were away to vote, the brave and persistent women of the neighborhood, with Mrs. C. Wilsox as leader, hired a boy with a voke of oxen. He got a chain and hitched to the underpinning of the old log house, and with the aid and encouragement of the women, the old log structure was flat on the ground, to the surprise of the voters on their return home. The next year the district was divided. No. 10 is the Temple District, No. 11 is the Lambie District.

Two log houses stood end for end where now stands the Baptist Church—one house used for a dwelling, and the other for a blacksmith shop.

### CHESTER WILCOX.

Chester Wilcox settled here in 1820, coming from Pompey, N. Y. He first lived in a log house, and in 1828 built the house



Home of Chester Wilcox.

here represented. It has not been changed on the outside, and but few changes inside. His first wife was Aurelia Sperry, who died February 24, 1824, aged 28 years. She left three children, Levi, Polly and Marion. He married the widow of Samuel T. Woods for his second wife; seven children were born to them—Rozana, Louisa, Aurelia, Seth, Fred, Edward and Andrew. This place was used as a tavern for many years. Mr. C. Wilcox died August 4, 1862. His second wife died September 13, 1878, aged 80 years. Fred Wilcox owns this home now. Levi Wilcox was born in 1818, in Pompey, N. Y.; died in De Pere, Wisconsin, September 1896, aged 78 years. He married Miss Lambie in 1846. Their children were—Chester, Jane, John and Lilly. Seth lives in Camden, and his sister Louisa. She is the widow of Joel Howd, who died in 1890. Edward and Andrew live in Iowa.

### JOHN JULIA.

Thomas Morris built the Babcock Mills very early. This road was surveyed May, 1821. John Julia owned this property

in 1820, before any public road was made. John Julia was a carriage-maker by trade, was born in New York City in 1797. He came to this county to seek his fortune with plenty of means. He stopped in Utica on his way, seeking work. In going into a carriage shop he found them in trouble putting a coach together. With his thorough understanding of the business, he soon had it completed; this was the first coach in Utica. Mr. Butterfield was so pleased, he had it drawn by six white horses, with a colored man astride of each, and the employees in the coach for a ride to Whitestown. Soon after Mr. Julia settled in Camden he married the widow of Augustus Byington, who was the mother of three daughters; one married James Van Winkle, and one Mr. E. Walker, and Sophronia married a Mr. Clark. John Julia's children were Sarah, Patience, Emily and Susan. John Julia died April 27, 1867, aged 70 years; Dotha, his wife, died November 16, 1868, aged 71 years.

John Julia built a saw-mill and grist-mill, and also got out shingles. The primitive wood-mill was replaced by Mr. Julia's improvements. He sold this property to Mr. Kirkland, and it was conveyed to Ezra Jenkins, and from him to Peabody; in 1846 it was sold to Babcock & Son.

#### HENRY BABCOCK.

Henry Babcock was born July 6, 1771, and died in Amboy. His wife, Anna Bull, was born February 21, 1771, and came to Camden with her son Amos Merrit Babcock, where she died. Amos M. Babcock and his oldest son Edgar first owned this mill property. It is now owned by Ogden Babcock, who married Charlotte Foster in 1854; they have three sons, Willard, Edgar and Seth. Edgar, Sen., married Emily Burnham in 1848; she died in 1893; he married the second time the widow of William Stacy; Lovina married Luzon Raymond; Silas married Calista Wilson; Bradford married Martha Steadman; Henry married Hannah Jenkins; Susan married Charles Green. Amos M. Babcock, the father of this family, was married November 21, 1824. Mr. Babcock died August, 1893, aged 90 years. Martha, his wife, died in 1873.



## JOHN DROUGHT.

John Drought came from Amboy in 1828, with his family, and settled on the south road Isaac of Carterville, and John, Jr., are the only ones living. The mills were built by Mr. Mason before any public highway. It was all a dense forest. In order to get out to the main road they fired guns, and from the response of those in the clearing, they followed the sound. John Will and his father David Will came from England about 1835. John married Marryatt Conklin. Six children were born to them. John Will died August 1, 1892, aged 79 years. He lived on the same farm 55 years.

## EVAN JENKINS.

Evan Jenkins lived on the road leading to the Babcock Mills; he moved from West Camden here. Their children were, Jacob, Lewis, David, Katie, Emily, Phebe, Maria, Caroline, Hannah, Jane, Sarah Ann, and Elinor. Evan Jenkins died January 5, 1869, aged 81 years; Lydia, his wife, died July 7, 1870, aged 81 years. Seven are living of this large family, but none in this town but grandchildren.

In 1828 there was an English family by the name of Bass that lived half a mile back of the Lambie school-house; there was no school-house then, the road that led to his clearing came out there. There were two sons. Their mother made bobinet lace. Mr. Bass had two cows that had to do the work of oxen, beside supplying the family with milk.



Home of Anthony Lathers.

## ANTHONY LATHERS.

Anthony Lathers, in Hillsboro's earliest days, bought a tract of land, which was almost a wilderness, and commenced the



arduous task of making himself a home. In his leisure time from his farm work he bought and sold cattle, and in so doing obtained a good home. He lived up to agreements in all business matters, and was a kind and warm friend. He was unmarried, and the last two years of his life he made his home at W. T. Cook's, where he died October, 1885, aged 81 years.

### JOHN WILSON.

John Wilson came from Harwinton, Conn., in 1802, and built the house recently burned, at the top of the hill east of the school-house, District No. 11. He married Jerusha Dunbar in Camden, December 4, 1803. Nine children were born to them—George lived and died at the old home; Clarrisa married Charles Burt, and lived in Hastings, N. Y.; John married Ann Eliza Scoville, lived eight years in this neighborhood, and then moved three miles below Camden village; Ephraim married Mrs. Cynthia Brace; Wesley married Hannah Johnson in 1841; he died March 14, 1893, aged 76 years. His wife survived him but a few months; she died August 24, 1893. He bought the farm where he died, chopped down the trees, built the house, and brought his bride to the home he had taken so much pleasure in making. After Mr. Wilson's death, his aged widow could not be prevailed upon to leave this place so dear to her, after spending fifty-two years of her married life so closely associated with all her joys and sorrows.

Daniel Wilson married Jane Ann Crawford, and lived next to the Lambie school-house for several years, but they are now living in the West. Jerusha died in infancy; Sally married Henry Cleveland; Seth married Sarah Ann Jenkins, in 1847. They were long life residents of this vicinity. Mr. Wilson died September 28, 1893; his wife died June 14, 1892. Two daughters survive them.

John Wilson, the pioneer of this numerous family, was one of the earliest settlers in the eastern part of District No. 11. He was born in Harwinton, Conn., January 17, 1784; died March 4, 1844. His wife was born in Plymouth, Conn., January 8, 1786, and died February 4, 1856.

John Wilson, Sen., and wife, Elizabeth, father and mother of our pioneer John Wilson, came at an early date, and lived on Preston Hill with their daughter Elizabeth (Mrs. Lyman Steadman). They were married February 7, 1781. They were blessed with eight children—Lois, John, Josiah, Chester, Rhody, Elizabeth, Polly and Russel Smith—all born in Connecticut. Capt. J. Wilson was from Harwinton, Conn., and was Captain in the State Militia, and was prominent in church society and town affairs. In the list of representatives to the General Assembly from Harwinton is his name. He enlisted in Capt. Seth Warner's Regiment January 2, 1779, which was raised in Litchfield County. Capt. Wilson died very suddenly; he was born March 26, 1760; died December 1, 1839, aged 79 years. His wife was born September 4, 1760; died January 22, 1844, aged 83 years. They were buried in Mexico Street Cemetery.



Home of John Lambie, Sen.

### JOHN LAMBIE.

John Lambie, Sen., with his wife and seven children sailed from Darvil, Ayrshire, Scotland, April, 1831, for America, and came direct to Camden, and settled in Hillsboro. Their children's names were John, James, William, Jean, Isabella, Jennett, Margaret. These were born in Scotland. Gavin, the youngest, was born in Hillsboro; John married Jean Richmond, and for many years was a prominent business man and a highly respected citizen in the village of Camden, living near Grove Mill.

Mr. Lambie died Dec. 1, 1875, aged 61, leaving a widow and six children; three are living at the present time—James, Jr., William and Mrs. D. G. Dorrance. James Lambie, Sen., died February 19, 1889, aged 72. His wife and six children are living, one daughter and son in Arkansas, three daughters in Camden, and one in Michigan. William, Sen., died December 22, 1840, aged 22; Jean, now deceased, married William Rae; Isabella married Levi Wilcox; Jennet is the wife of John Carter; Margaret married William Allen; he died September 8, 1855. She followed him in a short time, dying October 13, 1855. Capt. Gavin A. Lambie, of the 146th Regiment, was very ill with the camp fever, and brought home, and lived but a few weeks; died February 14, 1862. John Lambie, Sen., lived only three years after coming to this country; he died March 28, 1834, aged 50 years. His wife was left with seven children, one an invalid, and the oldest only 16 years old. Mrs. Lambie's maiden name was Jean Allen, sister to Charles Allen's father. She was born in Lenoxshire, in Scotland, in 1788; died in Camden, April 23, 1869, aged 81 years.

#### ROBERT M'INTOSH.

Robert McIntosh and wife came to Camden from Scotland in 1848, and have lived most of the time in the town. They came in company with Robert Robertson and William Allen. He is a farmer in Hillsboro, Christina, wife of Robert McIntosh, died February 22, 1897 aged 71 years.

John Clelland and wife, with three children, came from Scotland to Camden in 1847; settled in Hillsboro in 1855. Guy John, and Christiana, were natives of Scotland; one son was born here. Mr. Clelland, Sen., died in 1876, aged 66. His wife died in 1858, aged 42 years.

William Barber and wife came here at a very early date. They were Scotch Irish from the northern part of Ireland. Their daughter, Matilda, married a Mr. Ewarts, and the other daughter married James Cash, one of the oldest settlers. There was one son, named Robert. Mr. and Mrs. Barber are buried in Forest Park Cemetery.

Casper Coe and wife were among the early settlers; they had two daughters and three sons, David, Paul and Malachi.

## ADAM FANCHER.

Mr. and Mrs. Adam Fancher came to Camden from Connecticut prior to 1813. Mr. Fancher was very ingenious, as well as a musician. While on their long tedious journey of three weeks, he made a bagpipe, the first that was brought into town. In coming by the Taberg road, they stopped the first night at Tim Hyde's, near the Perry Parks place. Tim was a fifer in the rifle regiment, and they had a musical feast with no pretensions of a strictly classical programme. Their hearers must have had a spirit of tolerance, and a willingness to sacrifice their nerves to the enjoyment of this pioneer bagpipe player. The next three days were spent with William Stevens, Mrs. Fancher's father, and soon they were settled in Hillsboro. Mr. Fancher and son Adam had a shop where they made spinning-wheel heads, and other fixtures that went with them, also chairs and bedsteads. This was the first chair factory in the town of Camden. Adam Fancher, Jr., married Mary Abigail Johnson, and from here moved to Rome with his father and mother. Edward went to Nebraska. Aden married Cynthia Brooks, and lived in Cleveland, Oswego County, N. Y. Elizabeth married John Chism of Taberg. Henrietta married George Clifford; their daughter is the wife of Walter Keeler of West Camden. Jacob Jenkins bought the shop that was built by Adam Fancher, and converted it into a saw-mill; all traces of the building are gone.

Asa Burnham married Chloe Hill; ten children were born to them—Eliza, Marion, Samantha, Ann, Susan, Angeline, Flanders, Uriah, Harrison, Addison. Flanders' children are Asa, Eliza, Emma.

## JOSEPH JOHNSON.

Joseph Johnson died February, 1894, in his 90th year; his wife died July 17, 1889. He was born on Preston Hill, and married Isabel Wright in 1835; they moved to Hillsboro, where he had built a house, and made a home for his young wife, and lived there the rest of their lives. Mr. Johnson occupied only two houses, the one where he spent his married life, and the one where he was born—quite remarkable for one who lived to be nearly 90. There were two sons, Bradford, who lives in Michigan, and Abram, who lives on the old place.

## JOHN DANN.

John Dann and wife came to Hillsboro from New Hartford, N. Y., and bought a farm in Lot No. 109, from George Gallagher, New York, May 8, 1827. There were twelve children born to them—Jonathan, Mary Ann, Margaret, John, William, Isaac, Robert, Jesse, Thomas, Edward, Charlotte and Esther. After the children had grown and gone away from the old farm life, they sold to Mr. Garlick, and moved into the village. Mr. Dann died in 1872, aged 78. His wife went to New Haven, Conn., to live with her sons. They are all prosperous men. Mrs. Dann died there in 1887; she was a native of Scotland, born in a village on the Clyde, near Glasgow.



Rev. William Ford.

## MR. AND MRS. FORD.

Rev. William Ford was born in North Hamptonsshire, England, August 15, 1806. He came to this country in 1829, and purchased a farm in Hillsboro, then returned to England for his bride. They came in 1830, in a sailing vessel, and were five weeks out of sight of land. At the time they came, this region





Mrs. William Ford.

was comparatively a wilderness, there was not a frame house in this part of the district. They soon got settled in this home, and lived here the remainder of their life. Eleven children were born to them, three died in infancy; eight grew to manhood



Home of Rev. William Ford.

and womanhood; six are living now: Rev. Jabez Ford, William and James, Rev. Smith Ford of Lowell, Mass., Mrs. J. L. Clelland, and Mrs. H. J. Wilson of Camden. At the time of



Rev. William Ford's death, the family consisted of thirty-nine children, grandchildren and children-in-law. Thirty-six were at the funeral; his six sons acted as bearers. Susanna, his wife, died March 25, 1870, aged 61; her funeral was held in the Temple school-house. Rev. E. N. Manley officiated. Their son John died in 1891, and Henry died very suddenly in 1895.

The first religious services were held in a barn; Elder T. Martin conducted them. Rev. William Ford was the first to be baptized by immersion in Hillsboro; the baptism was in Babcock's pond in 1831; he was licensed to preach September 12, 1835. He was the founder of the Baptist Church in Hillsboro. At the 25th anniversary of the church in 1896, we take portions from the "Camden Advance:"

#### BAPTIST CHURCH.

"The Baptist Church was organized in 1870, with 19 members; Robert McIntosh and Jabez Ford were the first deacons; James P. Ford was the first church clerk, holding the position 18 years, until his removal from the place, when Hamilton J. Wilson, the present clerk, was chosen in his place. Smith T. Ford, now pastor of a church in Lowell, Mass., was the first candidate for baptism. Early in 1871, Rev. Daniel Reese was



Baptist Church.

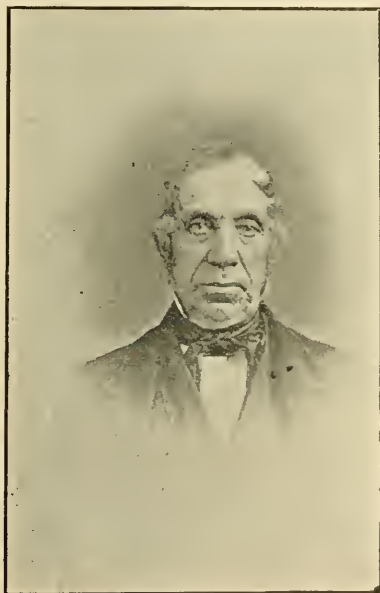
called to the pastorate, and it was decided to build a place of worship. William Ford and wife gave the land, and they began the foundation in the middle of March. June 20th it was completed and dedicated. Rev. Dr. Corey, of Utica, preached the sermon, assisted by Rev. McFarley. The house cost \$2,000,

\$1,850 had been paid, leaving a balance of \$150, which was raised that day; it was dedicated, and left them free from debt. By their good management they keep a few dollars ahead at the present day."

Their pastor left at the end of that year, and the pulpit was supplied by students and W. C. Johnson. In 1879 deacon Jabez Ford was licensed to preach, and two years later was called to the pastorate, a position he still holds. Of the original members, Rev. William Ford, John H. Ford, John Clelland and Mrs. Mary Chambers have died; 75 have been admitted by baptism; 64 during the present pastorate; 7 by letter, 22 by experience. Of this number, 10 have died, 12 have been dismissed. The present membership is 83, of whom about 40 are residents. This neat little church is surrounded by our native maples, and it is nestled peacefully away from the noise and strife of a village. North of the church, on a rise of ground, stands a chartered cemetery, very neatly kept. The first burials were two children of Rev. J. Ford's.

#### ANDREW CRAWFORD.

Mr. Andrew Crawford came to Camden in the spring of



Andrew Crawford.

1831; sailed from Cavan, Ireland, December, 1830. On account of some detention they were long on the way, and if they had

not put in a good supply of provisions, they would have known what hunger was before landing in New York. Five children accompanied them; the oldest remained in Ireland, as he would soon inherit property from an uncle, and also to finish his education. The youngest, William Crawford, of Covington, Ky., stayed for company, and they eventually joined the family here in their new home. When Mr. Crawford reached Utica, he met Mr. J. Dann, and he advised him to purchase in Hillsboro. It was a great change from their home in Ireland, among the gentry. He was in the linen industry. Coming here with plenty of means, they did not suffer as many did. Mrs. Crawford always remembered the poor; it was a place where many hungry children got a slice of bread—she remembering that it is "more blessed to give than to receive." It was a home where ministers and teachers were made welcome. Mr. Crawford was gored by a bull, and lived in great agony eight days; he died July 17, 1856, aged 65; his wife died in 1850, aged 60. The three oldest sons went to Cincinnati, Ohio, and became very prosperous merchants. Susan died in 1894, at her brother William's at Covington, Kentucky. Archibald went to Michigan; both he and his wife died there. John and Andrew live in New York City. Jane married D. Wilson, and the other daughter, F. C. Sanford of Camden.

#### JOHN A. M'GEE.

John A. McGee died in Hillsboro, February 8, 1877, aged 79 years. He had been a resident of Camden for over 50 years. He came in 1820 from Schoharie County, N. Y., with two brothers, Abram and Samuel; John McGee's descendants live in this vicinity; his wife died in 1868, leaving seven children, four sons and three daughters. She was a sister to William Becker, Sen. Aaron Becker and wife were from Schenectady; their children were William Conradt, Aaron, Maria, Eliza and Lucretia; William married Harriet Van Vrankin in Schenectady June 7, 1841. Three children were born to them, Nicholas, Van Vrankin, and one daughter. William and Frank of this village are sons of V. V. Becker. William Becker, Sen., died in 1887, aged 72; Mrs. William Becker died in 1882, aged 60 years.

#### ABNER COOK.

Abner Cook was a resident here in 1821; he died August 7, 1834, aged 44. Almira, his wife, died May 21, 1864, aged 64. There were four children, only George living now; Tracy and

a sister, Mrs. McGee, died in the fall of 1896. This farm has been in the family 76 years. We have been unable to find out about any other families in this part of Hillsboro.

William Kelly was born in Ireland in 1774, and died in Camden, 1839, aged 55. In emigrating here they came by water to Quebec; they were shipwrecked on a rock; they staid until the tide was out, then walked ashore, and were fed three weeks in the woods by the Indians. They went to Quebec, and remained one year, then came to Camden in 1817, bought land of Gallagher and Hanima, Scriba's Patent, four and a half miles southwest of Camden, between Mexico and Hillsboro roads. William Kelly's wife, Nancy Stuart, was born in Ireland in 1785; died here in 1874, aged 89; her mother, Margaret Stuart, came with them; she lived to be 102 years old; born 1759; died 1861. Three children were born in Ireland—Eliza, David and Margaret; William was born in Quebec; he was in the civil war; died in the army hospital in 1864. Five more children were born in Camden.



Abram E. Johnson.



Mrs. Abram E. Johnson.

### ABRAM ELIPHALET JOHNSON.

Abram Eliphalet Johnson, son of Eliphalet and Mary Johnson, was born in Litchfield, Conn., February 25, 1793, and died in Richfield, Michigan, August, 1866, aged 73. He came to

Camden with his father in 1805. In 1818 he married Amanda, oldest daughter of Caleb Preston, and settled on land one mile south of his father's, and built a log house after the fashion of those days, with a large stone chimney, with a fire-place that held logs two feet through, and four feet long; they had to be drawn with oxen to the door, and rolled into place with spikes and cant-hooks; this fire would last 24 hours. By great industry this forest gradually melted away, and he had a farm of one hundred acres, and well stocked. To meet the payments he wielded a five-pound ax into trees, and cut them into piles for market. He also received eight dollars bounty money for every bear and deer that he killed. He killed from 40 to 50 bears, and a good many deer, and in this way soon paid for his farm, with the material aid of his devoted wife, who carded, spun, colored and wove all their clothing, bedding and horse blankets.

The first few years they lived principally on wild meat, fish, Indian meal, maple sugar and beans. Mrs. Johnson's hands were always busy for those she loved, and her heart full of prayers for her husband, children and friends. In a few years he built a substantial farm-dwelling and other necessary structures. There children were: Minerva, Calvin, Sybil A., Albert E., and one child that died in infancy. Minerva married David Gaylord in 1850, and became a resident of Fairfax, Virginia, and remained there until 1854; Louisa Amanda and Emma Aurelia were born there; Jesse, Fidelia and Elijah, who died in infancy, were born in Camden. Mrs. Allen Joslin was one of the daughters. Calvin married Mary Chambers in 1855, who died July 5, 1868, and left two sons, Seth, a very promising young man, died at the age of 31, in 1887; Samuel is a popular dentist in Absecon, N. J. Calvin Johnson married Sarah Hare of West Camden in 1870, and about that time moved to Absecon, N. J., where he now resides. Sybil married Joseph Hart, and had three children; Albert is a resident of Michigan. After the death of Mrs. Abram Johnson, October 3, 1865, her husband went West, and remained with his son until his death.

#### THOMAS MARTIN.

Thomas Martin was born September 5, 1780, at Roads, Northamptonshire, England. He preached in various parts of



that country for about eight years before coming here, which was in the spring of 1830. He soon found a field here to employ the talents with which God had endowed him, for in his own words he said: "On July 25, 1830, at Hillsborough, Parish of Camden, Oneida County, N. Y., I addressed a few people in the name of the Lord." And at this place he continued to preach with the exception of a few Sabbaths when he preached in Vienna, until the year 1832, when at a council covenant held November 15, 1831, in the Baptist Church of Vienna, at which Elder Samuel Bloss was Moderator, and Elder P. Dawly, clerk, he was examined for evangelistic work. There were present elders and deacons from Floyd, Florence, Vernon, Vienna and Annsville. He was ordained to this work January, 1832. He entered the ministry and continued to labor in his Master's service until his death, which came suddenly January 22, 1865. He first settled in Hillsboro, and afterwards moved into the town of Vienna. He established several Baptist societies, and was the father of the first society in Hillsboro. When past 60 years of age he walked eleven miles to the Lambie school-house, and held service. Before he returned home all he had to eat was Johnny cake and a cup of tea. He preached in different hamlets in the town of Vienna, as well as in Camden. He went by the name of Elder Martin, and was known as the pioneer preacher.

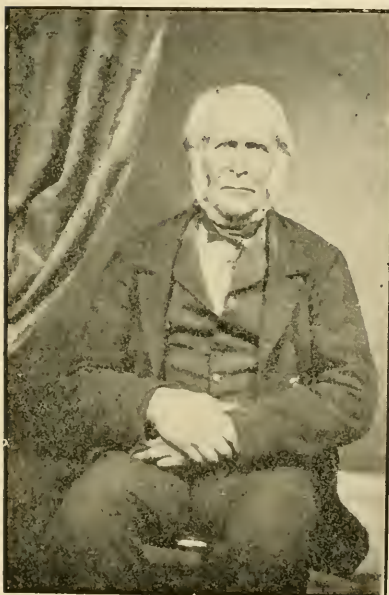
#### THOMAS CHAMBERS.

Thomas Chambers married Mary, daughter of Rev. Thomas Martin, in Stoke, North Hamptonshire, England, in 1827; after remaining there nearly three years they left the home of their youthful days to establish a new home in this country. They landed at Philadelphia in 1830, and some time during that year came to Hillsboro. From New London they came with a lumber wagon drawn by oxen in July. Their oldest daughter was born in England; she married Calvin Johnson in Hillsboro. Mrs. Chambers was among the first to unite with the original Baptist Church. She died January 22, 1884. Mr. Chambers died September 10, 1873. Their oldest son died October 31, 1858. Ann and Catharine married and died in Bayard, Iowa. Martin Chambers lives on the old home; Sarah is Mrs. W. Burr of New York Mills; Miss Salome Chambers of Utica, and Mrs. David Young of Camden, are also their children.



## WILLIAM SWANSON.

William Swanson and family arrived in this country from Scotland in 1828; first went to Lockport, then came to North Hillsboro in 1832. His wife was sister to John Lambie, Sen., they had six children, three born in Scotland, William born on board ship, the others natives of this country. Mrs. Margaret Lambie Swanson was born in Scotland, Gladstone Parish, March 3, 1791; died July 27, 1873. William Swanson, Sen., born January 1, 1797; died November 1, 1882. George Swanson died January 9, 1888; he was largely interested in the lum-



Mr. William Swanson.



Mrs. William Swanson.

ber business. He was a valued member of the Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Swanson died February 18, 1891, aged 64. They had five children, one daughter and four sons. John Swanson was a soldier of the civil war, and belonged to the 146th Regiment. William Swanson married the daughter of Daniel T. Morton, who came to Hillsboro from Pennsylvania in 1847. Mr. Morton was a Swiss; his wife a native of Scotland.

William Swanson, Jr., when a lad four years old, was perfectly fearless; and bears were plenty. One day hearing the dog bark,

he started for him, and there was a bear ready to grab him, when his brother George snatched him away. After a number of years his sister was married to Mr. Burney of Lee. After the wedding they were invited to Mr. Richmond's to a party; they went with a four horse team. Soon after their arrival there came up a fearful storm, it was impossible to drive home. William, then a large boy, started home unbeknown to them; he had two miles to go. When he had got half way, he heard something stepping ahead of him that sounded like a man, when he stopped to listen; then the stepping stopped; finally he shouted, "Hallo there," or "good evening." It was pitch dark, and he could not see anything before him; but at the sound of his voice something gave a bound through the bushes. He hastened home, and told his father, and early in the morning they went out to see what it was. They found that a bear had been backing up on his haunches, ready to grab with his fore paws. For some distance he could be tracked by the impression of the boy's boots in the mud. If he had not escaped an everlasting hug, I should not have known this story as he told it to me. Morris of this place, and Eugene of Batavia, N. Y., are sons of William Swanson, Jr.

#### MRS. ANN WILSON.

Mrs. Ann R. Wilson came from Wales in 1829. She married John Wilson in New York City; they first settled in Amboy. Mr. Wilson died many years ago. They came to Hillsboro about 50 years ago, and settled on the farm now owned by Jabez Ford, her son-in-law; she is also the mother of Hamilton Wilson.

We have been more or less interested in the names given to hills and rivers, and so far have been successful. Johnmycake Hill seemed quite novel, if not romantic; it is in North Hillsboro. In the old survey book it is recorded that the road coming out near Eliphalet Johnson's was altered in 1825; it must have been at this place where the scene of this story was laid.

Many years ago a number of men were cutting a road over a hill. The foreman thought the men were not getting along as fast as they ought, and he says, "Boys, hurry up, or we will not be ready for Johnmycake." When noon time came, and they

sat down to lunch on the hill, everyone, to his surprise, had Johnnycake, and they named the hill after the cake they were feasting upon.

#### NORTH HILLSBOROUGH.

North Hillsboro is the 6th District set off in town. The school-house is pleasantly situated on a side hill; one of the pioneer teachers was Clarissa Preston.

Mr. Thomas Clifford came into North Hillsboro at an early date; he was an English soldier. Many a boy has been entertained by his stories of his thrilling and narrow escapes while in the army. Mrs. T. Clifford died in 1881, aged 88.

John Richmond, Sen., arrived in Camden July 4, 1830, from Scotland, with his wife and four children, Jean, John, William and Jane. Mrs. John Lambie, the oldest, was about 13 years of age. After leaving the Hudson at Albany they came by canal to New London, and in a lumber wagon to Camden; they stopped at Park's tavern; it was on the corner where now stands Curtiss' store. Before leaving Scotland they had to provide their own provisions for the voyage. Arriving in New York they replenished their lunch-box, and by the time they got here they needed more. Mrs. Lambie, then a young girl, was sent out to find a bakery. She walked up the street, and stopping in the park opposite, now the home of T. D. Penfield, a lady came out of a house close by a blacksmith shop, and asked her what she was looking for. She said, I am looking for a place to buy a loaf of bread. She told her to come there, and she gave her a loaf of fresh rye bread; and this was the first they had ever eaten of Yankee bread. This lady proved to be Mrs. John Julia, and Mr. Julia was the blacksmith. It was the place where Thomas Morton worked. Mr. Richmond accompanied Mr. Morton to his home, about three miles, near the Amboy woods, not far from North Hillsboro. His farm consisted of one hundred acres of uncleared land, with a log house without any floor, and the only cheerful thing was a large fire-place. This was the farm about which he wrote back to Scotland with such glowing accounts. Such a contrast from the home Mr. Richmond had left. He was so overcome that he sat down and cried. He made up his mind that he must make the best of it.

for all he possessed was here, and immediately purchased land in North Hillsboro, and lived there until his death, March 31, 1850, aged 68 years. Hannah, his wife, died April 6, 1864, aged 74. It is quite noticeable in Scotch families that the first girl is named after the grandmother, on the mother's side, and the first boy after the grandfather on the father's side. The home of the Richmonds in Scotland had been in their family eight generations.

#### CARLETON BROTHERS.

John, James and Charles Carlton came to North Hillsboro from Syracuse, and settled on a cross-road that came out near the Amboy line on Mexico road. They were cousins of Carlton Brothers on Mexico Street. Charles had the title of Major, and always went by the name of Major Carlton. He married Elizabeth Ann, daughter of William Clifford. The names of their children were, Martha, Ann, Levi, John, Aaron, James, Theresa and Elizabeth. The mother died when these children were very young. Major Carlton died May, 1894, aged 82. He was a native of County Kildare, Ireland.

#### JAMES WHALEY.

James Whaley came here prior to 1809. He was in the war of 1812. His brother, Theophilus Whaley, came from Lake George about 1821; he was a soldier of 1776. His wife was born and brought up in Litchfield, Conn. Upon coming here they bought land in North Hillsboro, and built a log house, where contentment reigned in this forest home with the endurance of the hardships and deprivation of many of the comforts of life. Mr. and Mrs. Theophilus Whaley lived and died on this farm, and are buried in the family lot close by. Mr. Whaley died in 1827, aged 68. Mary, his wife, died in 1842, aged 74. There were eight children, five sons and three daughters—Reuben Whaley, son of Theophilus, was born at Lake George in 1787; died in Camden November 1850. His wife was born in 1802; died 1888. Mr. R. Whaley was in the war of 1812. His wife drew a pension until her death. They are buried in Forest Park Cemetery. Seven children were born to them, only Mrs. Dorcas Marsh living. She married James Marsh in 1861, and

moved on to their farm in Hillsboro. Mr. J. Marsh died January 1, 1896. Ellen Whaley married Asa Warner; Mr. Warner died in 1889; Mrs. Warner in 1897. There are a number of descendants of R. Whaley in town, among them are Mrs. O. A. Manzer, and Dora and Seth Warner.

#### JOHN C. WARNER.

John C. Warner, father of Asa, came about 1832, and bought land on the line of Amboy and Camden. One of his orchards was in Amboy, and the other in Camden. His father was a Revolutionary soldier, and a brother of Col. Seth Warner, whose regiment was raised in Litchfield, Conn., January 2, 1779. John C. Warner was born in 1800, and died in 1882. He is buried in the cemetery near the Baptist church in Hillsboro. This is the last place in this part of this district, and we are now on the highest point of land in town, 450 feet above Lake Ontario.



Well Sweep.



## CHAPTER XI.

### WOLCOTT HILL.

The north eastern part of the town of Camden was named by its early inhabitants Wolcott Hill, after the town many of its settlers came from—Wolcott, Conn. Even in those early days it was a town of considerable importance, and it is decidedly a town of hills. Ephraim Smith was the first permanent settler, coming about 1800. The Indians were friendly, fish plenty, game abundant, and the spicy perfume of the new buds and wild-blooming flowers in spring wafted to his New England heart a sense of softness, which said, I will enjoy these natural blessings. This part of the town is particularly pleasant in summer, the views from its hills delightful to the eye—the air pure and invigorating, the water as pure as any in the State, and from which the village now gets its supply, and the inhabitants very hospitable. Crossing Mad River (which is supposed to have been



The Grove Mills.

thus named from its similarity to the largest stream within the limits of the town of Wolcott, Ct.) Coming from the village, and following the Florence road, the first old landmark on the left is now known as The Grove Mills. Truly this is an appropriate



name, so shady and cool surrounded by its gigantic maples set out by hands long since at rest from labor. The beautiful spot was purchased of Heman Byington by Josiah Clark Sperry in 1813, for the erection of a clock manufactory, coming from Waterbury, Conn., bringing tools with him for that purpose.

### JOSIAH CLARK SPERRY.

After a few years he manufactured wood-bottom chairs and flax-seed oil. In 1818 he built the house near the mill; the date of its being built is found cut on a stone in the cellar wall.

Mr. Sperry built in 1840 on the opposite side of the road a more commodious dwelling. In 1826 he formed a co-partnership with Horace Scoville, for making hand hay-rakes. Mr. Sperry conveyed the mill property to Alexander Gifford. Its present owners and occupants are T. S. Jackson and William Payne, who do an extensive business in the flour, feed and grain line, having a feed store in the village.

Mr. Sperry married in 1812, Miss Charry Sperry (a distant relative), of Waterbury, Conn. They had but one child (Charlotte). Mrs. Sperry died in 1854, aged 80 years. In 1856 Mr. Sperry married Mrs. Lydia Perkins Plumb, widow of William Plumb. Mr. Sperry died in 1869, aged 81 years. Mrs. Lydia Sperry died in 1895, aged 96 years. The first piano brought into town was the one purchased by Josiah Clark Sperry, in 1835, for his daughter Charlotte. We cannot refrain from recording what we have so often heard that Miss Charlotte was the handsomest young lady in Camden. She married Col. Cyrus Stoddard, son of Judge Israel Stoddard. Mr. and Mrs. Stoddard are now living (1897), and have the identical piano. Dea. Stephen Bryant relates that when a small lad, having heard at school that this piano was to arrive on a certain day, he hurriedly did the task his father required of him, and went down to Mr. Sperry's, stood around in the road until the instrument arrived, but was greatly disappointed to find upon its arrival that it was enclosed in a box. Later he often went down and sat on a log in the mill yard nearly opposite the new house, and listened to Miss Charlotte's playing. Mrs. Stoddard keeps up her practice, and sits at her instrument several hours a day.

## HEMAN BYINGTON.



Home of Heman Byington.

Heman Byington came to Camden from Wolcott, Conn., with his wife, Patience Peck, and children, about 1802, and settled on what is known as the John Lambie farm. In 1806 his name is recorded in the first town book. Mr. Byington built and kept a tavern at the lower end of Main Street, in those days called Front street. Mr. Byington sold the farm to Dea. Erastus Upson in 1843. Mr. Lambie purchased this farm in 1851, and it remained in his family until 1893, when it was purchased by its present owner, E. Valencourt. Heman Byington died September 7, 1831, aged 60 years. Patience, his wife, died June 7, 1844, aged 70 years, as stones at their graves in Mexico Street Cemetery record. Found in early record book of Congregational Church, their children were baptized in 1813; their names were Clarissa, Augustus, Elvira, Alvin, Rufus and Ira. Rufus and Ira located in the West. Col. Ira was born January 19, 1813; married Harriet Barnes in 1835. He went to Illinois in 1853. Many will remember Mr. John Lambie, who long occupied this farm. He was engaged in various occupations other than farming; he was much respected, and died lamented.

## REV. ELIJAH GAYLORD.

On the east side of the road lived William Smith; he was a son of Ephraim, and married Polly, daughter of Bartholomew Pond. Their children were, Miles, Hannah, Jehiel, Ann Eliza-

beth, Philander and Morcnus. He removed from Camden West. His name is found on Congregational record book as early as 1807. In 1833 he sold this place to Horace, son of Stephen Scoville. Horace Scoville married Sophronia, daughter of Col.



Rev. Elijah Gaylord.

John Smith in 1832. Their children were, Lois and John. Mr. Scoville died in Camden in 1880, on the 57th anniversary of his marriage. His wife died in 1889, aged 92, at Omaha, Nebraska. Mr. H. Scoville was long associated with J. C. Sperry in the manufacture of hand hay-rakes. The place was later owned by David Johnson, and for many years was the home of Rev. Elijah Gaylord, who purchased it in 1843. It was sold to Mr. Vandewalker in 1873. Rev. Gaylord was a native of Bristol, Conn., born in 1800. He emigrated with his father and family to Florence in 1804, their means of transportation being oxen. Rev. Gaylord married in 1821, Miss Eliza Stearns of Florence, and moved to Camden in 1830. He had two sons and three sons-in-law in the war of the rebellion, only one of whom came home alive. This was David, his oldest son. Rev. Gaylord was a lifelong advocate of temperance, and strong in the anti-

slavery cause. He seems to have had numerous trades, among which was that of mill-wright and carpenter, was associated for a time with J. C. Sperry, in the manufacture of hand hay-rakes. He was long a resident of Camden, and preached in the Wesleyan Church (the building now used and occupied by the Free Methodists). The last years of his life he was connected with the Wesleyan Methodist publishing house at Syracuse, in the capacity of proof-reader. He contributed many good articles for publication. He was well educated, a man of strong constitution, and lived to the great age of 92 years. His children were: David, Adeline, Fidelity, George, Morrison, Caroline, Aurelia and Jane Maria.

#### NATHAN BROWN.

What is known as the Waffle place was in the early days the home of Nathan Brown, who married Hannah, daughter of Gideon Northrop. They had one child, a son, by the name of Delos. Mr. Brown died in 1831, aged 31 years, as a stone in Mexico Street Cemetery records. His widow married Deacon Bennett Cobb, she being the second wife.

#### EPHRAIM SMITH.



Gerrit Smith's Home.

Ephraim Smith emigrated from Wolcott, Conn., to Camden about 1800, coming with a pair of oxen and one horse. His was the first permanent settler's team that forded Mad River at the junction of Florence and Taberg roads. He purchased his land

of an agent, and built a log house, on what is now known as the William Wilson farm; he soon made an additional purchase of land, known as the Gerrit Smith farm. Here he built a frame house, which is used for the back or ell of the present house. His children were John, William, Miles, Jehiel, Ephraim Jr., Sarah Ann and Gerrit. Gerrit Smith was but seven years of age when his father moved to this place. Gerrit Smith married September 20, 1826, Miss Susan Tracy of New Preston, Conn. He returned to Camden with his bride, making the journey in the first spring wagon brought into the place. He was a soldier of the war of 1812, enlisting when only 16 years of age. He with his brother, Col. John, who enlisted at the same time, were sent to Sackett's Harbor. His children were Amarett, Theressa and Newell. Ephraim Smith died December 11, 1831, aged 79 years. Annie, his wife, died September 14, 1827, aged 73 years. Gerrit Smith died July 1, 1883, aged 86 years. Susan, his wife, died January 16, 1896, aged 96 years.

#### SCHOOLS OF THE EARLY DAYS.

The school-rooms of the early days were without even an apology for modern seats and desks. On three sides of the school room were continuous slab or plank benches, over which the girls, as well as the boys, were obliged to swing their feet whenever necessary to use the desk. The instructor's desk occupied the center. Here was stationed a rod or ferule, sometimes both. These, with books, inkstands, fire-shovel, a pair of tongs, and one chair, were the principal furniture. One side of the entry furnished a place of deposit for the hats and spare clothes of the boys. The girls generally carried their bonnets, etc., into the school-room. Ventilation was much neglected. In summer the floor was washed every two or three weeks. The winter school usually opened the first of December, and continued from twelve to sixteen weeks. Summer school opened about the first of May. Instructors usually boarded in the families of the pupils. Their compensation varied from seven to twelve dollars a month for men, and from seventy cents to one dollar a week for women. We have been told of one young lady who taught more than thirty terms in the same district, who began her career as a teacher on the



munificent sum of one dollar per week, and boarded herself. Webster had tact in discerning the wants of the country in his day, and providing for them in his spelling book. There have been few moral lessons productive of the same effect in the country, as the famous old fable of the "Boy that stole apples," and who sits, in the old wood-cut, alarmingly exposed, astride of a branch of a tree, almost naked of foliage, while the farmer in small clothes, one arm akimbo, the other in a most striking attitude, takes aim at the young "saucebox." Then there is the forsaken "Country Maid and her Milk-pail," teaching the double lesson of the vanity of human expectations, and the folly of unnecessary grief, that chickens are not to be counted before they are hatched, or milk to be wept over after it is spilt. The story too of "The boy that went to the Woods to look for Birds' Nests," when he should have gone to school, and the description of a good boy and of a bad boy, not forgetting the wonderful table of "Proverbs, Counsels and Maxims," all in words of one syllable, taxing the wisdom of nations, and the strong old Saxon power of the English language; all sound lessons, calculated to make honest men and ingenious Benjamin Franklins. The order of exercises for the day was usually as follows: From nine o'clock A. M. to fifteen minutes past nine, the instructor came to the door with a large ferule, and struck several times on the door-post, as a signal for opening the school. Such pupils as were present came in and took their seats, or crowded around the fire. Those of the first class who were present, read in the Testament. When this reading closed, writing was attended to. In the winter copies and pens were to be prepared (the pens were made from the quills of a goose's wing), ink to be thawed and watered; and numbers wished to go to the fire at once. In the midst of all this, the second and third classes prepared to be called upon to read. About half past ten the welcome sound, "You may go out," was heard. Every one made his long "obaisance," and was immediately in the street, but in from five to ten minutes the loud rap brought them to the place of obeisance, and to their seats again. The two sexes went out separately. The remainder of the forenoon was spent chiefly in spelling. School closed at twelve o'clock. At the usual signal, "school dismissed"—a scene of confusion



commenced. In the afternoon the rap on the door summoned them at once. The American Preceptor was then read by the older ones; writing was next in order; second and third or smaller classes were heard. A short recess was allowed, as in the forenoon. It was customary to have a pail of water and cup near the school-room door. The water was sometimes handed round. On coming in from the afternoon recess, the classes were all exercised in their spelling lessons again, beginning with the youngest. Once a week they were allowed to choose sides for spelling, which took up about half the afternoon. The side or party who mis-spelled the smallest number of words was declared to have beaten, and they usually manifested much triumph. The exercises of the day closed by calling the roll, and by giving positive orders for every pupil to go straight home, and be civil with everyone they might meet.

#### WOLCOTT HILL SCHOOL-HOUSE.



The first school taught on Wolcott Hill was in a room of the log house of Dickerman S. Castle, about 1823. Miss Lydia Brockett (later Mrs. Smith Miller, mother of Perry B. Miller) was the first teacher. She came from Waterbury, Conn., her native place, to visit her sister, Mrs. Castle. She here formed the acquaintance of Mr. Miller, whom she married October 5, 1825. Mrs. Miller's eldest daughter, Rodell, also taught in this district. The date of building the first framed school-house cannot be ascertained. The one now standing is the second framed build-

ing, and was built by contract by Jacob Wiggins. Very near this school building is a wide spreading maple tree set out by Charles Waldron about 1840, long before Arbor Day was thought of. Many a child now grown to manhood and womanhood can tell of how good the noon dinners, put up by grandmother, mother, or sister, relished, eaten from the tin pail under the shade of this tree; also the frolics and visits its pleasant shades afforded. Deacon Stephen Bryant has been clerk of this district (No. 7) for twenty-one consecutive years, and still holds that office (1897). In 1851 a record shows that the young men of Wolcott Hill had a debating society, or as they named their organization, "Wolcott Hill Lyceum." Its members were George M. Gaylord, A. M. Frisbie, Newell T. Smith and Ezra A. Edget. Many amusing discussions took place before this august body, as is found by looking over its records. These four young men wrote articles on different subjects for what they called "The Recorder" (an imaginary publication), which were copied into a blank-book. Some of these are prose, and a few are poetry. Recorded in same book in 1851 the school-house is found to be much out of repair.

#### RILEY ROOT.



Riley Root Farm, House built by Ephraim Meeker.

On a side or by-road to the left of the school house were the homes of two early settlers. The first was the home of Riley Root, son of Thomas and Princess Noble Root. Mr. Root came from Durham, Green County, N. Y., to Camden in the spring

of 1821, purchasing this farm. He was married October 17 of the same year, to Miss Lavina Butler. Five daughters were born to them. Mrs. Root died June 25, 1834, aged 31 years, and is buried in Mexico Street Cemetery. Mr. Root removed to Galesburg, Ill., in 1836, where he died February 22, 1870, aged 75 years. He was known as a man of integrity and honor, fond of discussion, fluent in conversation upon subjects which interested him, and patentee of several inventions. He did much of the first surveying here, as the first town book records.

### JOSEPH PECK.

The other early home on this same road was that of Joseph Peck. He came from East Haddam, Conn., early in the settlement of the town, as his name is found on the first Congregational Church record book in 1817. Mr. Peck built on this place a log house, and like all the first settlers, commenced to clear the land. His children were: Lansing, Seth, Artemas, Dennis, Arn, Bennett, Mary and Armarilla.

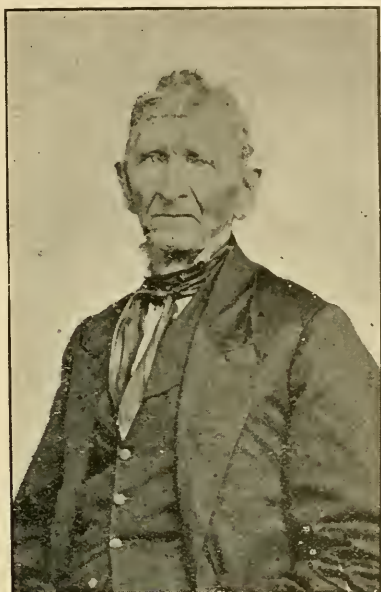
### SAMUEL DICKERMAN CASTLE.



Home of S. D. Castle.

Samuel Dickerman Castle was the son of Capt. Phineas Castle of Revolutionary fame, and was born November 3, 1784, in Waterbury, Conn. He married Sally Brocket, born January 20, 1789. He first came to Camden in 1806, walking from Waterbury in company with several other young men (his brother Phineas being one who settled in Florence), took up land from

an agent and built a log house beyond and on the left of where now stands the Wolcott Hill school-house. Returning to Con-



Mr. S. D. Castle.



Mrs. S. D. Castle.

necticut, he was married during the year 1807, and again started for Camden, now with his young wife; a yoke of oxen and one horse, some household goods, and a few farming tools constituted the outfit. The journey was an adventurous one, wild animals, such as wolves, were numerous, and troubled the settlers by killing their sheep; but young Castle was a good marksman. One time on a hunting trip, which was made on snow shoes, he discovered deer tracks; he followed and sighted three deer in a hollow, all of which he shot. Bears were common and very troublesome, as they destroyed the corn-fields. He was fond of setting traps, and in this way caught many. Shooting foxes and catching wild pigeons was sport that he enjoyed. His mother visited him several times, making the journey from Connecticut on horseback. Sally Brockett, wife of S. D. Castle, died December 9, 1858, aged 70 years. Children of Samuel D. and Sally Brockett Castle: Chloe S., Lovido, Grace Angeline, Almira, Samuel, Orson, Giles, Elmira, Harriet, Flora, Sally, and Polly.

#### ALLEN SPERRY.

What is now known as the Deacon Stephen Bryant farm was the home of Allen Sperry. Mr. Sperry emigrated from Waterbury, Conn., in 1805, with a portion of his family (his three oldest children remaining in Connecticut until 1813. These were Anson, Josiah Clark and Philomelia). He built first a log house on the opposite side of the road from the present framed dwelling, now the residence of Deacon Bryant, and with his family endured the hardships and privations of early settlers. This farm later passed into the possession of his son Anson (who returned to Connecticut about 1812. He enlisted as sergeant at Bridgeport, under Charles Park, and served from July 12 to September 9, 1814), and later it was owned by Major J. D. Cavarly, from whom it was purchased by Deacon Leverett Bryant, father of Stephen. The children of Allen Sperry and Abigail his wife were all born in Connecticut. They were Anson, Josiah Clark, Philomelia, Ira, Rhoda, Andrew, Polly and Sherman. About 1836 Andrew and Sherman Sperry formed a co-partnership for the manufacture of hand hay-rakes. Mrs. Abigail, wife of Allen Sperry, united with the Congregational



Church in 1809. Andrew Sperry died suddenly April 26, 1869, aged 72 years. Betsey, wife of Andrew Sperry, died April 18, 1835, aged 37 years.

Sherman Sperry was 88 years of age at the time of his death, being then the oldest man in town. He had lived here since he was about one year old—a thrifty farmer, and one of the pioneer manufacturers of hand hay-rakes, which business he carried on for many years. He was one of the original members of the Congregational Church, and was for many years leader of its choir. He had but one son, Clark Sperry, who located in the West. His second wife was Mrs. Benjamin Snow.

#### DEACON LEVERETT BRYANT.

Deacon Leverett Bryant came to Camden from Durham, Green County, N. Y., in 1806, first settled on what is known as the Horace Scoville place. He was greatly respected. He died June 15, 1875, aged 84 years. He was twice married. Calista, his first wife, died July 24, 1855, aged 48 years. His second



Home of Deacon Stephen Bryant.

wife died January 3, 1856, aged 80 years. Dea. Bryant served two long terms as deacon in the Congregational Church of Camden, first being elected in 1830; he continued in office until he removed to Jefferson County, N. Y., in 1841. He was re-elected on his return in 1856, holding the office until his death. He was foremost in the reforms of his day, especially those of anti-slavery and temperance. Some time about 1858 a tornado



swept across a portion of this old farm, uprooting fourteen large apple trees near where the log house was built. The old well which was near the house is the only trace left to mark this early home.

### JONATHAN BARNES.

What for many years was known as the McGovern farm was owned in 1802 by Jonathan Barnes, who emigrated from Waterbury, Conn., making the journey with his family, two yokes of oxen, and a few household goods to begin life in the wilderness. He is spoken of as a man of iron nerve, never flinching when undergoing a surgical operation, as blood poison was apparent. He was a Revolutionary soldier, and we have long since learned that these men were made of stronger and sterner material than those of the present day. From Connecticut records of Revolutionary soldiers, it is found that Jonathan Barnes enlisted March 10, 1778, for the war, in the 3rd Regiment Connecticut Line Formation of 1777-1781, Champions Co. January 1, 1780, he was drummer in 1st Regiment. The following is copied from his family Bible, printed in Edinburgh, England, MDCCXC.

"Jonathan Barnes. His Bible Bogght In the year 1791.

Steal not this book,

For it is a shame, for

In this book is the

Owner's Name.

Jonathan Barnes and Sybil Bartholomew was married November 22, 1781.

Polly Barnes, bearth August 23, 1782.

Stephen, bearth December 28, year 83.

Sally, bearth May 5, 1786.

Merrit, bearth August the 30, year 88.

Ransome, October 5, year 90.

Garry, bearth October 12, 92.

Harriet, her berth August 2, 1794.

Carra, her berth March 1, 1797.

Cloe, her berth March 28, 1803.

Cloe, death March 24, 1804.

Stephen, death November 3, A. D. 1806

Harriet, death September 13, 1812.

Garry, death October 24, 1812."

## SCOVILLE BROTHERS.

Harry and Seymour Scoville, sons of Joseph Scoville, had from their father 40 acres of land each, beyond Sperry Hill, on this road. Later they added to it more land, until they owned many acres. Harry built a saw-mill on the north edge of his farm, and Seymour had a shingle-mill near his house. They were respected farmers and citizens. Harry Scoville married Samantha Carley, January 1, 1823. Their children were: Charlotte, Emeline, Adeline, Caroline, Hannah, Hiram, Lucy, Ann, Byron, Albert and Josephine. Harry Scoville died August 7, 1880; his wife, Samantha, died September 5, 1887. Seymour Scoville was twice married, first to Dorcas Higgins, October 8, 1824. His second wife was Cleopatra Butts. Children by first marriage—Sheldon, Merritt, Joseph, Chloe, Ann Eliza, Jehiel, Rachel and James. Seymour Scoville died December 28, 1887, aged 83 years. His first wife died September 24, 1866; his second wife April 6, 1891, aged 72.

Between the farms of the Scoville brothers was a small place owned and occupied for many years by Henry Snyder, who came from Schoharie, N. Y. Further we are unable to learn anything of him. Beyond the Scovilles' house, very near the Florence line, was a school-house, now in ruins. This edge of the town is very pleasant in summer, with its large trees, fine meadows and orchards, with pastures green. Joseph, son of Seymour Scoville, was a zealous G. A. R. man, and member of J. Parsons Stone's Post of Camden; he was also a member of Philanthropic Lodge F. and A. M. In 1864 he enlisted in Co. I. 15th Regiment of New York Volunteers' Engineer Corps, and February 1 was made sergeant. He was discharged June 13, 1865. He was a carpenter by trade. Died April 8, 1895, aged 64 years and 4 months.

After crossing Mad River at the foot of Church Street, we turn a little to the right, and take our course over the road called Taberg Street. The first owners of the land at the right and left of the highway, will be spoken of in another place. For some rods no habitations have ever been that have come to our knowledge.

## CHAPTER XII.

### ISAAC BARNES.

Isaac Barnes came from Watertown, Conn., in 1801. With him came his wife and six children—Ezra, Isaac, Jr., Loly, Lois, Tillotson and Demas. When they came, there were neither bridges across the streams, nor a road, except trees marked to guide them in the way after they left Fort Stanwix, then little more than a military post. They located half a mile east of the village, on the way towards Taberg, on the farm now known as the John Craig place. It would be difficult to describe the hardships they encountered on the way, and after their arrival here. But with stout hearts, and willing hands, they bent to the task before them, and made for themselves a home with as many comforts as were desired. Mr. Isaac Barnes was somewhat crippled, so rendered unable to be a soldier of the Revolution, as so many of the new settlers had been. They were earnest Christian people, helping to build up for themselves and their children a permanent church home, molding characters, fitting them for the positions they were in after years to fill. Their home in the declining years of their lives was with the son Tillotson, who lived on the place, and cared for them till their death. Isaac Barnes died May 29, 1819, aged 75 years. Lucy Barnes died February 18, 1819, aged 67 years. Buried in old cemetery on Mexico street, by the pond. Of their children, Ezra will be spoken of elsewhere. Loly married Ichabod Comstock, the father of the late Elliott Comstock. He resided in Williamstown, and died there. There were three brothers, sons of Loly and Ichabod, viz: Edward, Tillotson and Elliott. Edwin resided in Williamstown, and Elliott also, for many years. About 1873, Elliott with his wife, a daughter, and Mrs. Plumb, (who was Mrs. Comstock's mother), removed to Camden, and lived on Second Street, in the house now owned by A. G. Wood. Mr. Wood married Margaret, Elliott's daughter, for his third wife. In later years Tillotson made his home with Elliott. Of the household since that time, 1873, all have gone hence: first, the aged

mother, Mrs. Samuel Plumb; then Tillotson, Elliott, Mrs. Comstock, and Margaret. Another daughter of Mr. Comstock married Mr. Benjamin French of Williamstown, and still resides there. Tillotson Comstock was unmarried, and Edwin had no children. All were interred in Williamstown, but Mrs. Wood, who rests in Forest Park Cemetery. Of others belonging to the family of Loly and Ichabod Comstock, we have no knowledge. Lois Barnes married a Mr. Gatchell, who lived on the Seventh. She died young, and is buried in the Seventh burying ground. Tillotson Barnes was 16 years of age when his family came to Camden. He was born about 1784 or 1785. May 13, 1813, when 28 years of age, he married Miss Clarissa, daughter of Heman Byington, also from Connecticut. Their children were: Celestia C., who married Amasa S. Parker of Connecticut; Emilia married Horace Peck of Connecticut; Augustus married Sarah Julia of Camden; Alvin married Caroline Luce of Illinois; Melzar married Susan Whitman of Maine. The Isaac Barnes family were not relatives of others of the name in this locality. The Isaac Barnes house was the birthplace of all of Tillotson Barnes' children, he having taken his residence there after his marriage, and caring for his aged parents till their decease. The accompanying illustration shows the old part to the south, with later additions.



Home of Tillotson Barnes.

Tillotson was a millwright and machinist by trade, but skilled in all handicraft. In 1825 or 1826 he formed a copartnership with Clark Sperry for the manufacture of rakes and linseed oil.

The building had formerly been used as a clock factory, that being Mr. Sperry's trade. Mr. Barnes continued in the business until he decided to try his fortune in the West, when in the spring of 1832 he sold his farm to John Dean. In June of 1832 he went on a prospecting tour, and in Michigan he found a spot to his taste. Returning to Camden he prepared to remove his family, settling all business matters, and in October of the same year bade adieu to old friends and associations, departing for the scenes of his new endeavors. Mr. Tillotson Barnes was an useful, upright citizen, and it was reluctantly that Camden people gave him up. His name is often found in records of both town and church, assisting in many ways to build and improve spiritually and temporarily. Often in conversation, Mr. Barnes is referred to by the older residents of Camden at the present day. In his Michigan home he built himself a house, flouring mill, and saw-mill, engaging in both business interests. His death occurred in February, 1836, four years after taking up his residence there.

As an illustration of the high esteem in which Mr. Tillotson Barnes was held, we give an incident which occurred during his residence in this community. While on a visit West, he was taken very ill. As the way from Buffalo east was by canal, he reached New London by boat, too sick to be brought home by wagon. Word was sent to friends in Camden of his condition, and that proper medical aid and nursing were not procurable at New London. When it became known among the citizens that he was there, sick and among strangers, a hundred men volunteered to proceed thither, and bring him home. This they accordingly did, taking turns in bearing him on a stretcher and a bed of feathers to the bosom of his family. This was in the year 1828. Are there one hundred men in Camden to-day who would render a similar humane service to an unfortunate brother? Mr. Barnes recovered, and it must have been a life-long, pleasant memory, to treasure in his heart that so many friends uprose to do him kindness when necessity required it. The hearty, impulsive responses of our forefathers to any call for aid, is what we of this generation should emulate, without stopping first to consider whether we shall receive in dollars and

cents a return for our assistance. The Heavenly Father will attend to that.

Five of Tillotson Barnes' children are yet living, one in Kansas, and four in Kalamazoo County, Michigan. To the eldest, Celestia (Mrs. A. S. Parker), we are indebted for the items concerning Isaac and Tillotson Barnes and others of the family. Mrs. Parker is a most interesting writer, and has lent us inestimable aid in our work. Her memory reaches back to early scenes in the history of the people and the town with a clearness rarely to be found in those of younger years, and remarkably so for one of eighty-two. The youngest of the five is seventy-two years of age.

Demas Barnes, while yet a young man, followed his brother Ezra to Ontario County, N. Y., and bought a farm near him. After a time he married Miss Lorina Gregory, and not long thereafter died, leaving his wife with three children, two daughters and a son—May, Julia and Demas. The widow remained on the farm, and when her children were old enough, were sent to Oberlin College, Ohio, finishing their education at that school. Mary married a Congregational minister. Both died not many years later; Julia married J. C. Reynolds, connected with editing and publishing a paper not remote from Rochester, N. Y.; Demas after his studies were over, realized that for himself he must make his way through life. Bringing pluck and energy to his aid, success followed endeavor to an astonishing degree. After some years of toil he amassed a goodly fortune, built a beautiful home in Brooklyn. He must have been in politics somewhat, for he was elected to Congress, a term or two. His wife died not many years later, leaving one daughter. In later years he married a Miss Blakeslee, one of the Preston Hill family of that name, then residing at St. Louis, Mo. By this union there were two daughters. Mr. Barnes had a generous heart, and gave with an open hand, freely and helpfully to all worthy applicants. He lived to a good age. After his death his property inventoried \$11,000,000.

For a short period of years there were several families who owned and occupied the place, viz., John Dean, Honuel Gifford, David Gaylord, John Craig and others, who have mention in



other parts of our work. Mr. Craig resided here from 1882 till 1895, when he sold to Cyrus E. Simmons, the present owner. Mr. Bauer occupies a portion of the house.

### JOHN FREDERICK LOUIS BAUER.

John Frederick Louis Bauer was born at Darmstadt, Hessen, Germany, July 16, 1816. His education was obtained in prominent schools of excellence in Germany. September 28, 1840, he married Helen Schmidt, who was born September 28, 1820. A child was born to them, living to the age of but four months; Mrs. Bauer lived but two years and a half after their marriage. In 1846 he married a sister of his first choice, Caroline Schmidt, born Dec. 27, 1823. In 1852 they left Germany for America, residing four years in New York City, coming to Camden in 1856. Their first residence here was at "Shady Lake," the present Finch home, owned then by George Strong. Here they lived till 1860, when they bought of Byron Earll on Four Mile Square. In 1887 he removed to the Ebenezer Doten house on Taberg Street, which was his home till 1896. Mrs. Bauer died April 26, 1883, aged about sixty years. Mr. Bauer resides at present in the Barnes house. We are pleased to give the opinion of one who has known Mr. Bauer for a long time, which but voices the sentiments of all who have the honor of his acquaintance, as follows: "I consider it a rare privilege to have enjoyed the acquaintance of the subject of this sketch. To know him is to esteem and love him, for he is one of those singularly pure-minded and unselfish characters which is occasionally met with in the journey of life. A man of strict honor and integrity, equable in temper, genial in manner, and a pleasing conversationalist, his society is enjoyable in a very high degree. Possessed of good educational advantages in his younger days, the results are evident to every one who converses with him. There is in him a delightful combination of the scholar and the philosopher, and he has a good fund of humor beside. His education has not been confined to books alone; he is a close observer and student of nature. His knowledge of animals and insects, plants and flowers, is accurate and extensive, and such as would be no discredit to a professional scientist. I could say much

more of Mr. Bauer, who is so deservedly loved and respected, but I may say in brief, that the charm of his character consists in the great kindliness of his disposition, and in his unwavering trust in the Higher Power who controls all things. I shall retain through life, among my most pleasing memories, the many hours I have spent in the society of Mr. Bauer." Mrs. Bauer is buried in Forest Park Cemetery.

## CHAPTER XIII.

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### COBB PLACE.

A family by the name of Welton lived on this farm first, and Mr Welton suicided by cutting his throat in a barn belonging to the place. This was the first instance of the kind in town. It occurred about 1815, and John Dean was the first to discover it.

### HENRY PECK

Was a son of Joseph Peck of New Haven, Conn.; was the tenth child of a family of fifteen children; was born March 7, 1764, and died February 14, 1833. He married Elizabeth Clark, who was born July 19, 1766, and died September 21, 1842. They removed to Camden about 1819, and at first settled on the farm later owned by Philip Waldron, and afterward by two Frisbies (probably James and Levi). They afterward moved to the house on the east side of Taberg Street, the one known as the "Old Cobb house," now utterly gone. It stood a few rods north of the present Cobb house, and it was here Henry Peck died. While they lived here, a son, Melzar, was drowned in Fish Creek, opposite the house, while bathing. There were six children born to them, four living at the time of his death, one son, Nelson, and three daughters, of whom Mrs. Solon Cook was one. Nelson moved to the State of Ohio. Both Mr. and Mrs. Peck are buried in the cemetery on Mexico Street.

### BENNETT COBB.

Deacon Bennett Cobb was born at Plymouth, Conn., November, 1785; died in Camden, N. Y., April 8, 1870, aged 84 years and five months. He married Miss Mercy Doten, a sister of Ebenezer Doten, Sen., at Plymouth. Mr. Cobb belonged to a family noted for longevity, an uncle living to the remarkably great age of 107 years. Strong in body and full of energy, Mr. Cobb was not content to remain where possibilities were so few, and in 1825 he with his family and a company of relatives (see E. Doten) started for the "Far West." What cause deter-

mined him to settle in this locality we do not know, but suppose it to have possessed all the qualities that the New England home lacked. Here land abounded in timber; it was to be had cheaply, and in any number of acres desired; it was tillable, productive, free from the stones which make so much of the New England soil difficult to cultivate, and no doubt all these points were a consideration in his choice of a home. At this time, all available, desirable land in the Eastern States had been settled, so that any for sale commanded a high price; that less expensive was stony, hilly, bleak, and only to be cultivated under difficulties. These matters well weighed in the minds of worthy



Deacon Cobb.

pioneers, they determined upon removal to a fairer clime. Accordingly they made preparations for the journey. Their effects were packed in emigrant wagons drawn by oxen. Each one took his or her turn in performing a part of the journey on foot. Every morning before partaking of the meager meal, they thanked God for preservation from harm through the night, and asked for divine guidance; that He would keep them on the way, imploring Him who never slumbers nor

sleeps to bring them safely to their journey's end. Their faith was strong in their Leader and Friend, and in these morning and evening devotions Deacon Cobb led in their supplications. But a short time after their arrival here, and their establishment in a new home, Deacon Cobb's name appears upon the church roll, and he served its best interests for over forty years. It was his custom to attend the weekly prayer meetings, invariably walking, until the infirmities of age made it impossible. No doubt there are many yet living who remember his familiar figure as he wended his way to the meeting house to attend devotional services. He gave most liberally and willingly to benevolent causes, though not considered one of the moneyed men of the town. It was his pleasure and habit. His pastor said of him, at the good man's funeral, "That the last year and a half of his life, he had given as much to these causes as all of the rest of Camden." He felt it a duty to give. His wife, Mercy Cobb, died April 18, 1838, aged 49. Though not as early



Home of Deacon Cobb.

to find a home here as some others, he became an honored and useful citizen, and he served the town of his adoption faithfully and well. He married a second time, the widow of Nathaniel Brown, a year or so after the death of his first wife. The original home of Bennett Cobb stood on the east side of the highway, back on the rise of ground. It was subsequently removed to the west side of the street, and became the wood-house of the residence now known as the Deacon Cobb place, which

he built some years later, where he resided till his death, with his son Bennett, Jr. Four of Deacon Bennett Cobbs' children are buried in the Mexico Street Cemetery. Francis, who died in 1828, aged one year; Melissa, in 1835, aged eight years; Matilda, in 1836, aged 18 years; Joanna, in 1838, aged 23 years. The remains of both Mr. and Mrs. Cobb repose in the pioneer cemetery on Mexico Street.

Bennett Cobb, Junior, occupied the home of his father; was the only child of Deacon Bennett Cobb that remained in town. He married Miss Mehetabel, daughter of Ezra Cobb of Lewis County, N. Y. No descendants live in Camden. One son, Ezra, married Miss Abigail Willis of Camden, and they lived here for a few years, when they removed to Syracuse, where they reside at present. A daughter, Matilda, married a Mr. Carpenter, and removed to the West. We copy a letter written by Bennett Cobb, Junior, soon after their arrival in Camden. It is somewhat descriptive of the trip, and may be of interest. To whom it is addressed is not plain.

"Camden, December 8, 1824.

According to your request, I now sit down to inform you that we are all well, hoping these few lines will find you enjoying the same blessing. We had a very delightful journey, and were twenty-two days on the road. We had very warm and pleasant weather, and there was no rain to hinder us an hour or a minute. The first night we staid at Taunton, at Dean's Inn. There grandmother found an old acquaintance; she that was Mercy King. The next night we stayed at Providence, at Ridge's Inn, where we were used very well. The next night, at Gloucester, Chopatchet village, at Peckham's Inn. At Smithfield, a Mrs. Thompson we saw. She seemed very glad to see us, and to hear from her friends in Plympton. She was the daughter of Mr. Daniel Soule's wife. We came through many pleasant and delightful villages, and were four days crossing the Green Mountains. The road was made on level ground by the river, sometimes on the right and sometimes on the left. The mountains on each side hung almost over our heads. The roads were as good as anywhere in the County of Plymouth. Before we left the Green Mountains we stayed at Dewey's Inn. He



was a man that made free use of spirits, and treated himself so often that he could do nothing but walk about and hold a candle, but treated us very well. The children found plenty of chestnuts and shagbarks by the way. October 27 we passed through Greenbush, crossed the river Hudson, and through the pleasant city of Albany. The day following passed the delightful city of Schenectady. Crossed the river Mohawk, and traveled many miles among the Dutch. They are a people that live in good fashion, build their houses two stories high, with their ovens out of doors. We followed the canal about one hundred miles, boats passing us every day. We heard their music day and night. Crossed the Mohawk again at Utica. It is a large and delightful city, with elegant buildings. There we saw a company of engineers which interested us much. The next day we passed the village of Rome, and November 3rd we arrived at Camden about nine o'clock in the evening. It is very well situated, and contains about as many square miles as Carver, and upwards of 1,400 inhabitants. It has thirteen school districts, one town school-house, an academy, two elegant meeting houses, and a good minister (Rev. Henry Smith). There are within a mile five stores, three taverns, three grist-mills, four or five saw-mills, two hat factories, one comb factory, two fulling mills, two potasheries, one chair factory, one woolen factory, one tin factory, two tanning establishments. The first tree was cut down 29 years ago. A few inhabitants then came in from Connecticut. They were a very kind and respectable people. We can give you but a short account of the situation of Camden. Next Monday I commence going to school at the Academy. My teacher is Mr. Seagur. Mr. Van Alstyne will keep school in our district (Peck). Love to all the friends, and Aunt Rickard in particular. I subscribe myself your nephew,

Bennett Cobb."

De Witt Clinton for Governor. Thanksgiving, December 21, 1824.

#### PAUL TANNERY.

A few rods below the Bennett Cobb house, the highway crosses a busy stream, called "Cobb Brook." The facilities it affords for water power was early made avail-

able, and numerous mills were built along its course. In 1855 Benjamin Buell and David Gaylord erected a building for the manufacture of broom handles. The land was then owned by Mr. Miner Buell. In later years Mr. Bettis owned and converted it into a tannery, and for a few years the Costellos used it for the same purpose. It is still used as a tannery, and operated by Robert Paul. The land on which it stands was a part of the Ebenezer Doten, Junior, farm.

#### EBENEZER DOTEN, JR.,

Was born in Middleboro, Mass., in 1795. In 1819 he married Miss Deborah Soule, and came to Camden in 1825. The house just beyond Cobb Brook was built by him soon after, on a part of his father's farm. He was a genial, cheerful gentleman, and no doubt will be remembered by many at the present time. His life was full of activity, his duties quietly, but earnestly pursued. Three children grew to mature years, Miss Mary, Otis and Alfred. Mrs. Doten was one of uncommon geniality of disposition, brightening many a dark passage along life's way, by her sunny nature. She was always looking for the "silver lining" to every cloud; was an earnest Christian, interesting herself helpfully in the welfare of the community, attaching herself warmly to the hearts of her friends. They both attained a good old age. Mr. Doten died in 1876, aged 81 years, and Mrs. Doten died in 1886, aged 84 years. Both are buried in Forest Park Cemetery.

Otis Doten is the only one of their family remaining in Camden; has been a prominent dentist here for twenty-five or more years; is an honest, upright, law-abiding citizen, respected by the community. He was born in this town.

Hannah Doten, sister of Ebenezer and John Doten, married Isaiah Tillson in Connecticut. In 1827 Mrs. Tillson came to Camden with her four children. The journey was then made, as in earlier years, with the covered wagon, containing the household effects. She came to be near her brothers, that they might have a care over her and her family. Much of the way was made by the older children on foot. The Hudson was crossed at Albany on a ferry, propelled by horses walking around a capstan in the centre of the boat. In December, 1843, Mrs.

Tillson died, aged 52, and Lucy, her daughter, in 1845, aged 19 years. Buried in Mexico Street Cemetery. The two sons still survive—Calvin Chaddock of this town, the father of Mrs. L. Fay, and Charles Edwin of Wayne County, who married Mary A. Curtiss, sister of Mrs. Harry Goodyear. We are indebted to Mr. Calvin Tillson for many items of interest in connection with our work.

#### DOTEN FARM—ASAPH WHITTLESEY.

The deed of the farm now known as the Doten place shows the land, 124 acres, to have been bought by contract of George Scriba by Asaph Whittlesey of Wayne County in 1810. Subsequent changes and business dealings show that his wife was Clarinda, Whittlesey, and his children to have been named, Asaph, Cornelia, Melzar, Franklin, Charles and Emily. In 1816 Roswell Lyman Colt occupied it a short time, and then disappeared, as did the Whittleseys. It is altogether probable that while on the place, Mr. Whittlesey died, leaving a family, for when Mr. Doten purchased the place in 1824 it was necessary to go through a legal process, in which Mrs. Whittlesey and the children figured prominently before the title could be made a clear one.

#### DOTEN FARM—PHILO SCOVILLE.



Home of Philo Scoville.

In 1817 Philo Scoville appears in deeds as owning the place. He came from the eastern country, and married Miss Cyrene, sister of Samuel Cleveland of this town. Her father or grand-

sire was a Church of England clergyman, coming to America, and settling in Massachusetts, and in some way related to Roger Williams. They were also related to the Hulburts and to Mrs. Micajah Butler (Ruth Warner). It is to be regretted that we can be no more authentic in this matter, but much time has been given to unraveling the genealogy to no avail. However, of Philo Scoville's business career in Camden we have elicited somewhat. He was an expert in the building and burning of charcoal pits, and on one occasion he prepared and burned in one pit the timber from nine acres of ground. This was the wonder of the town, and great interest was taken by the residents to learn if it was successful. It was even beyond Mr. Scoville's most sanguine expectations, for in every part the coal was burned to the proper gauge. This supplied the iron foundry at Taberg, where he manufactured five pail kettles, skillets, &c. His deeds of daring, as related by himself, were of intense interest. He had a gift of story-telling, was a wit, and made friends rapidly in the community. One dark night as Eleazer Peck and Mr. Scoville were returning from Taberg, on horseback, Mr. Scoville's horse mistook his course, and plunged over an embankment, taking his rider with him. Mr. Peck greatly alarmed, called out, "Scoville, are you dead?" "No," came the reply. "I am just looking for my horse." Mr. Scoville removed to Watertown about 1824, and from there to Indiana in 1837. Further we can not learn.

#### EBENEZER DOTEN.

The subject of this sketch was born in Plymouth, Carver County, Conn., in 1762, and died in Camden, N. Y., February 22, 1856, aged 93 years and six months. He married Rebecca Rickard, born in 1758, and died August 1, 1835, aged 77 years. Both were interred in the Mexico Street Cemetery, their graves suitably marked with stones, yet well preserved. These sturdy children of New England came from Middleboro, Mass., to Camden in 1825. Of the party of pilgrims to this Mecca of their hopes there were fifteen souls, viz.: Ebenezer Doten, Sen., and wife Rebecca; John Doten, Deborah Doten, Lucy Doten, Ebenezer Doten, Jr., and wife Deborah, and two children: Bennett Cobb and wife, and four children. In 1842 Deborah Doten.

daughter of Ebenezer Doten, Sen., died, and in 1843 their daughter Lucy, aged respectively 48 and 44 years. Both are buried in Forest Park Cemetery. Mr. Doten located on the Taberg road, about where the residence of Mr. John Doten now is. His object in coming to Camden was because of the availability of land, and its cheapness. He was a shoemaker by trade, and found employment for all his time—in pleasant weather for clearing land, and when inclement, looking after the needs of his neighbors and family's soles. Mr. Doten was a genial, hearty man, and won many friends; was a kind neighbor, good citizen, and was much respected by all. They were truly Christian people, and it is said of their band, as they pushed their way through the wilderness, that they came with thanks-



Ebenezer Doten.

giving; and on one occasion, as their voices swelled the song of praise to Him who watched and guided them on their way, a company of Indians paused in passing, and listened in evident appreciation, only moving on after the song ceased. Of such earnest, true-hearted people, too much can hardly be said. In sickness ever ready to nurse and care for those who suffered;



in toil lending a helping hand, giving a neighborly attention at all times of necessity, and missed greatly when they were gone from their midst. The portrait of Mr. Doten, which we give, was taken the day he was 91 years of age.

### JOHN DOTEN

Was born in Carver, Plymouth County, Mass., in 1801. He was a son of Ebenezer Doten, Sen., and Rebeka, coming to Camden with his parents in 1824. (See Cobb.) In 1844 he married Mary, daughter of Ezra Cobb of Lewis County, who was a cousin of Deacon Bennett Cobb. He resided on the home farm, and after the death of his father removed the old house to the rear of the present one where it is still used as a carriage barn. (see illustration of the Philo Scoville house on page 240) He built a more convenient structure for his use. Four children were born to them—Myron and William, who died in childhood; Mary A. and Addie E., who live with their mother, and conduct the farm. As a young man, Mr. Doten's faith in God was earnest and deep, and with advancing years it strengthened. In a letter written by him to friends left behind, in 1824, he expresses that faith in language that can not fail to be understood, and describes most interestingly the zeal of Camden residents, in a revival conducted by the Rev. Henry Smith. Mr. Doten was called to enjoy the blessings in store for him at the ripe age of 84 years, in 1885. His remains rest in Forest Park Cemetery. Mrs. Doten is a kindly, hospitable lady, in the fullness of her mental powers, conversing with much interest upon matters pertaining to the past. She is carefully ministered to by her dutiful daughters, and life goes very well with them. Mrs. Doten was born in 1819, being now seventy-eight years of age.

### MABIE PLACE—WILLIAM STEVENS.

William Stevens was born in Connecticut in 1734, and came from Wolcott, Conn., not far from 1800, and soon after erected the house now known as the Mabie place. We much regret that we have been unable to find more than we give concerning Mr. Stevens and his family. He was a soldier in the War of the Revolution, serving his country bravely and with much honor to himself. Prior to his residence in Camden, while a



citizen of Wolcott, Conn., he manufactured a celebrated pitchfork, but failing in the enterprise, came here to find a more successful occupation. We give an accompanying illustration of the house as it now appears in a well preserved condition, owned by Mr. Spaulding Deck. Mr. and Mrs. Stevens suffered the



Mable Place.

loss of an amiable daughter, Welthena, in August, 1812, a Miss of 18 years, who was shortly to have married Rossiter Preston; Sylvester, a son, aged 22, who married a daughter of John Stoddard (brother of Israel and Eliakim) was also removed by death in 1812. This double affliction was a blow to them. Many bright hopes were in anticipation for him, but the enemy, death, won the race, and he was laid to rest beside the sister in Mexico Street Cemetery. William Stevens is spoken of as one of much respectability, and from old records we find him to have been prominent in church work. A daughter married Adam Fancher. His son William removed to Camden village, where mention will be made of him. William Stevens died February 17, 1814, aged 80 years, of quinsy; was a half brother of Martin Stevens, who will be elsewhere mentioned. He rests beside his children in Mexico Street Cemetery.

#### JOEL B. SMITH,

The next owner of the Stevens place, came to Camden from Kent, Litchfield County, Conn., in May, 1812. He was born at New Milford, Conn., February 2, 1788. He married Harriet Brownson, who was born January 1, 1791, at Warren, Conn. His

first Camden home was at the corner of Main and Mexico Streets, in a small house then already standing. He soon built a more pretentious dwelling, better suited to the needs of his family, moving the smaller house to form a wing at the rear of the new structure. This house stood with the eaves toward, and very near the street, and became some years later what was known as the Cavarly house, occupied by J. D. Cavarly. Here six of his children were born. He lived on the place for thirteen years, when he traded his village property with William Stevens for a farm on the Taberg road. This was his residence for eleven years, when he became possessed with a desire to go West, and, selling in 1836, he removed his family to Penfield, Ohio, in 1837. They had ten children. Myron B. Smith born November 30, 1811, in Kent, Conn.; Levi, born October 13, 1812, died young, in Camden; Sarah Stevens, born March 6, 1814, died, aged 24 years; Levi, born December 23, 1815, died March 6, 1884; Harvey Parke, born June 2, 1817; George Lambert, born December 1, 1818, died April 23, 1889; Harriet Eliza, born July 8, 1821, died February 1, 1870; Hiram, born February 26, 1824, died January 26, 1881; Joel Carleton, born April 9, 1827; Henry Stevens, born January 1, 1831. Mr. Smith was an architect and builder, serving an apprenticeship of seven years, and designed his own plans for buildings. He erected the first M. E. Church—commenced it in 1821, and completed it in 1822. In 1835 he raised it from the foundation, making basement rooms for Sunday School uses. He also built the "Priest Smith" house, or the Congregational parsonage in 1817, and Geo. Trowbridge's house soon after. In the process of building the parsonage, Mr. Smith sustained quite severe injuries from a fall, making it necessary for him to rest from labor for a time. The church still stands, being used as a lumber store-house by C. Boehm, and stands back of his wagon factory. It was used by the Roman Catholics as a place of worship for some years. Mr. Smith was one of a family of ten sons and three daughters—three of his brothers in the ministry. They were all reared in the fear and admonition of the Lord. His father's name was Joel, a man of much means. He gave by will seven hundred and twelve dollars to each of his children, and to his wife a generous

portion for the times. We give the first clause of his will, a copy of which is at hand:

"In the name of God, Amen. This 7th day of July, 1828, I, Joel Smith, of Kent, Litchfield, State of Connecticut, being of sound mind and memory, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, to wit: I do will my soul to God who gave it, and my body to the dust from whence it came, hoping for a joyful resurrection through the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose merits alone I trust for happiness beyond the grave, and I recommend my executors to give my body a decent and Christian burial."

Joel B. Smith was a useful man in the community, and it was with regret that the townspeople learned of his determination to remove to the West. His death occurred from heart disease, May 14, 1850, at Penfield, Ohio, aged 62 years. Harriet Brownson Smith, his wife, died at La Peer, Michigan, December 4, 1866, aged 75 years.

#### MABIE PLACE.

We do not know from whence Archibald Wing came to Camden. He married Miss Anna Pettys, and settled on this place in 1838. He resided here till the death of his wife in 1845, when he removed to Schenectady, N. Y., where he died in 1860. Mrs. Wing was aged 44 at her death. He was a deacon in the church, and a good law-abiding citizen. Was a farmer of thrift and success, and introduced new varieties of farm products into the community. For long years after his residence here, there was the "Deacon Wing potato" cultivated—a favorite with the sons of the soil.

After Deacon Wing, Riley Scoville came to this place, in 1850. About 1856 Stephen G. Mabie bought the place of Mr. Scoville. He came from Westerlo, Albany County. He was born June 29, 1814. In 1837 he married Phoebe J. Robbins. Mr. Mabie was an enterprising farmer, and a good citizen. In 1877 they left the farm, going into the West to reside, selling their interests in Camden. Mr. Mabie died in Rockford, Ill., April 5, 1889; Mrs. Mabie died April 8, 1880, in Kansas. Their children were—Edmund R., residing in Kansas; Mary Theresa in Illinois; Franklin G. married first Mary E. Cobb, second Miss Nancy

Sartwell, and are residents of Camden. They have one son, Edward S.; Orlando E. married Emma Finch, and lives in Camden; Theron O. is in Illinois; Augustus S. died in Idaho November 27, 1890; Clarence G. married Cora Palms. They live in West Camden, and have one daughter, Kate J. Mr. Stephen Mabie sold his farm to Rufus Tuthill. Mr. Tuthill sold to Spaulding Deck, who is the present incumbent (1897).

#### SYLVESTER STEVENS.

The accompanying illustration is of the house built by William Stevens on what was then a part of his farm, for the oc-



House built by William Stevens for his son Sylvester.

cupancy of his son Sylvester, who married a daughter of John Stoddard. (John was a brother of Israel and Eliakim Stoddard.) His life went out in 1812, when he was but twenty-two years of age; leaving a wife lonely and disconsolate, with a little son, Sylvester, just beginning life's journey, and a grief-stricken father and mother to mourn. The disease which caused his death was typhus fever, and many others passed on of the same malady. A stone in Mexico Street Cemetery marks his resting place; and several others by the name of Stevens rest beside him—all that is left to tell that he ever existed, save the records kept by the Rev. Leavenworth, of the First Church. To this we have turned again and again, almost reverentially, to learn of marriages, baptisms and deaths, in years now so remote. Soon after, John Dean bought this farm and resided here till 1830,

when Elijah Gaylord purchased it, and lived here for 14 years, or until 1844. While he owned the place, the trees at present standing, were set by him. He also added the south end of the house as it is at present. In the east room upstairs, for the comfort of Mrs. Gaylord's mother, Mrs. Amelia Stearns Curtiss, the fire-place was built, now to be seen, which warmed the apartment in which she did much spinning. While they were residents here, two children, Carrie and Jane, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord.

The next occupant was Truman Rowell. He married Huldah Smith. Was a son of Martin Rowell, who came to Camden in 1809 from Connecticut. His trade was that of wagon-maker. They had children—Sophronia, Abram and Truman. While Mr. Rowell resided here he built two saw-mills on the southwest of his farm on Fish Creek, and carried on quite a thrifty milling industry.

#### NATHANIEL KEELER, JUN.

Nathaniel Keeler, Junior, came on to the place next, and was born at Galway, Saratoga County, N. Y., September 12, 1792, and was a son of Nathaniel Keeler, Sen., and Jemima Barnum. He married Phoebe Hall of Perryville, N. Y., November, 1816, and to them were born four children, viz.: Emily, born August 26, 1817; married Lewis Hamlin in 1847, and died at Perryville in 1890; Parnell Keeler, born in 1822, married Norman Hamlin in 1849, lived and died in Plainfield, Ill., in 1897; Henry J., born in 1828, married Helen M. Sims, is now a prominent merchant of Winona, Minnesota; Charles B., born in 1830, and died at Winona, Minnesota, in 1863. Mrs. Phoebe Keeler died May 5, 1834. In 1835 Mr. Keeler married Amanda Gaylord of Florence, N. Y., born in Connecticut, April 14, 1800. By this union were two sons, Miles L. and Walter E. Nathaniel Keeler came from Florence to Camden in 1856, bought and settled on this place, and resided here till the year of his death. He enlisted as a soldier in the war of 1812, at 19 years of age, and served to its close; was discharged honorably at Greenbush on the Hudson. His father, Nathaniel Keeler, Sen., was a farmer by occupation, and enlisted at 19 years of age in the War of the Revolution as a musician and trumpeter over dragoons under Captain Delevan, Col. Lockwood and others. Afterward settled in Fenner, Madison County, N. Y. He was deacon of the Baptist church there, and at his former home at Galway, N. Y.



Nathaniel Keeler died January 8, 1873; Amanda Gaylord Keeler died September 18, 1887. Buried in Forest Park Cemetery.

#### DANIEL BYINGTON.

Daniel Byington, Junior, was a son of Daniel and Elizabeth Hall Byington. The senior Daniel was a mechanic by trade, of whom the younger Daniel, our townsman, learned the art. Daniel Byington was born in Wolcott or Farmingbury, Conn., in the year 1772. He married Hannah Alcott or Alcox, whose birth occurred in the same year, 1772, at Wolcott. Together they came to this part of the country about 1800, to seek a home for themselves and their children. With strong arms, and earnestness of purpose, they toiled through discouragements and discomfort, many times coming to the attainment of their hopes through strivings and endeavors, realized only by those who settle in a new territory, unimproved and remote from civilization. They made their home on the Taberg road, two and a half miles from Camden village, still known as the "Byington place." His occupation was that of lumbering, and his mill was situated on Cobb Brook. The dam and ruins of the building are still seen. The demand for lumber made his business an important pursuit. Material for many homes in pioneer days was prepared at this mill, and it was kept running on full time to supply orders. In later years, houses to accommodate all permanent residents had been built; land had been largely denuded of its timber, so the occupation of lumbering became no longer a lucrative one. Mr. Byington married three times—first, Hannah Alcott, and by this union were born, Polly, Wells, Coral, Ambrose and William Robinson. Mrs. Byington died December 3, 1835, aged 63 years. Mr. Byington married again after a few years, Miss Huldah Norton, and by this marriage were born Zinah, Hiram and Susannah. Mr. Byington was again a widower, and in the passing of years married Miss Huldah Wakefield. To them was born one child, Mrs. Hannah Jones of this town. From the history of Wolcott, Conn., written by Rev. Samuel Orcutt in 1879, we glean that Mr. Byington, Sen., was a man of much excellence of character, and educated well for the time in which he lived. For twenty-six years and upwards he was clerk of the Farmingbury Society (or Wolcott), keeping a most correct account, almost a model. In another notice of him it speaks of the years of his clerkship as being from 1771 to 1798. Mr. Orcutt says of him: "It is with great pleasure that I record my high appreciation of Daniel Byington



as Clerk of the Society of Farmingbury, whose writings I have consulted daily for much of the time for three months past, until I had become familiar with every turn of his pen, and every form of expression, and until it seemed to me as a communion of spirits, in which friend Daniel was helping me on in giving to the world a picture of 26 years of society life in Farmingbury. Good bye, Daniel, till I am introduced to you on the other side of the veil." Mr. Byington and his first wife rest side by side in the Parke Cemetery on Four Mile Square. Daniel Byington died August 20th, 1843, aged 71 years.

In the pioneer days land was heavily timbered, and before grass could grow upon it, it must be cleared. After this had been done, meadows came to be, and after the grass was mown down, it must be raked. Rakes were scarce, and the first made in Camden were by Daniel Byington, who formed a dozen by hand, cutting the teeth and shaping them with a draw-shave and jack-knife. These found a ready sale, and soon others came to the manufacture, and it became an enterprise in the locality which will be mentioned elsewhere.

#### AMBROSE BYINGTON.

Ambrose Byington was the fourth child of Daniel and Hannah Byington, and was born in Wolcott, Conn., in 1813. In 1839 he married Miss Sally Porter of Taunton, Mass. She was a sister



Miss Sally Porter—Mrs. Byington, in her teens.

of William Porter, who lived on the Ethel Higgins place, and the second Mrs. David Osborn. She was born in 1804. One daughter blessed their union, Caroline Rhoda, who died in 1861, aged 15 years. Mrs. Byington died in July, 1886, aged 82 years. Mr. Ambrose Byington is now at the age of 84, a remarkably well-preserved man, with a sprightly step, of much energy, and a keen memory. We have turned to him for proof that statements were correct, gleaned from various uncertain sources, and have found him a mine of value to us. His memory reaches back to scenes of his boyhood with an alertness and positiveness which would shame a boy of to-day, and all along his life's way he has treasured in his mind the happenings in his experience. We give pictures of Mr. and Mrs. Byington, taken be-



Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Byington.

fore Mrs. Byington's death a few years. Mr. Ambrose Byington still lives in the home of his father. Dempster Snow has charge of the farm, and with the family Mr. Byington lives. He is cheerful and active, and it has been one of the chief pleasures of our work to meet him, and listen to his stories of "ye olden tyme." A brother, Mr. Coral Byington, still lives at the age of

86 years, in the West. Mrs. Sally Byington is buried in Forest Park Cemetery.

Across the highway from the Daniel Byington farm, on land now belonging to W. S. Peck, lived one Theodore Taylor. It has been eighty years and more since the house stood there. Mr. Taylor died, leaving a wife and children. The house burned, and in it perished a child. In the first book of town records we find that widow Taylor received aid from the town to the amount of one dollar and sixty cents, upon the occasion of her child being burned, in 1801. John W. Bloomfield, Supervisor.

Freeborn Robinson is a name we have seen mentioned in old records, and heard from aged people, and find his home was on the Taberg road, back from the street as it at present runs, on the line of the old highway. All trace of his habitation is obliterated, but his unique name we mention.

Hezekiah Rogers lived on the east side of the highway, on a knoll. He was a man of much Christian activity. It was his custom to drive to meetings on the Sabbath, taking a load of people to enjoy the services of the sanctuary with him. He drove a spotted horse; was a man of much pretension, and our informant said, he felt "pretty important." This house is also among the things that were.

#### COLBURN FARM.

Jesse B. Alcott (or Allcox as originally) located early on Taberg Street. He bought about 40 acres of uncultivated land lying along the old highway, and built a house. In later years, or after the survey of the new street, perhaps 1840, he moved the house to its present site. Jesse Alcott died in Camden, and is buried in Mexico Street Cemetery, near the graves of Mrs. Solomon Alcott and Maria B. Frisbie. His son, Blakeslee Alcott, continued on the place till about 1856, when he removed to St. Charles, Illinois. The children of Jesse Alcott were: Electa, Wealthy, Sophia, Lucy, Elsie Ann, Jesse Blakeslee.

Warren Olcott lived near here for some years, later going West. The next owner was Eliphas Colburn. His wife was Phoebe Hoag Cady, she being the widow Cady at the time of her marriage with Mr. Colburn. Their children were Ann, John, Betsey, William and Mary. Eliphas Colburn died December 26, 1859, aged 77 years. Phoebe Colburn died February 10, 1881, aged 81 years.

William Colburn, son of Eliphas, married Miss Elizabeth, daughter of David Brown, and resides on the home place; is a successful farmer and business man. They have three children—Janet, who married O. A. Pierce, formerly of Camden; Fred, who married Miss Clara, daughter of Christien Boehm, and Charlotte. Fred resides with his father on Taberg Street.

#### ELEAZER PECK.

Eleazer Peck was born in Connecticut, January 6, 1793; Hannah Parke, was born in Chatham, Conn., July 27, 1796; married February 16, 1815. They settled on the farm now owned by W. S. Peck, and purchased it of George Scriba, not far from the year of their marriage. So dense was the forest about the crude habitation they first occupied, that Mr. Peck, having spent the day chopping and felling trees, upon his return to his home after his day's labor, lost his way. At last, after wandering for some hours, and feeling faint with hunger, he found a house, at the door of which he applied for food and shelter for the night. His appeal astonished the occupants, and his feelings were indescribable when he discovered he was at his own door asking for bed and board. To Eleazer and Hannah Peck were born a family of twelve children. Maria, who married Israel Stoddard; George; Daniel and Catharine, twins; Daniel married Julia Waring; Catharine married David Kinne; Amy, married Thurston Palmer; William married Roby Howland; Temperance married Samuel Wood; Sage; Eleazer, died unmarried; Sidney; Fannie married B. N. Buell; Harriet.

Eleazer Peck died May 29, 1848, aged 55 years; Hannah Peck died May 6, 1869, aged 74 years. Buried in cemetery on Four Mile Square.

The children of this estimable couple filled useful places in the community, being members of the Methodist Church, and held in very high esteem by those who knew them. All have passed on to the land of their desires, where a union of the family of fourteen is a happy consummation, and an issue out of their afflictions.

Daniel Parke Peck married Julia A. Waring in 1845, and retained his father's farm. Their home for some years was the small frame structure of his father's building, but in 1873 he

built a handsome two-story house, the present home of his son, W. S. Peck. He was an industrious and successful business man, respected by all who knew him, faithful to all trusts, of kindly, generous impulses, a friend to those in need. He was earnest in his Christian work, for years connected with the official and spiritual interests of the M. E. Church. Mrs. Peck was a faithful helper, aiding in all ways to render to her family the daily comforts a mother only can give; was cheerful, hearty and friendly to all whom she met. Mrs. Peck died March 10, 1881, aged 61 years. Their children were—Emma (Mrs. Stephen McCall), Louisa (Mrs. Miles Keeler), Hannah (Mrs. Charles Kniffin), Mary (Mrs. Otto Johnson), and W. S. Peck of this town. In 1885 Mr. Peck married Mrs. Hannah Perkins Smith. In 1894, December 17, Mr. Peck died, after a long illness. He was buried beside his wife in Forest Park Cemetery.

W. S. Peck, son of Daniel Parke Peck, resides on the homestead, and conducts a thrifty farming and dairy industry. He married Miss Anna Smith, daughter of Daniel Peck's second wife. Their home is one of the most attractive in town. In 1895 he was elected to the office of Supervisor of the town, which he still holds, executing his duties to the satisfaction of his friends. Among his achievements is the building of a new substantial fence about the pioneer Cemetery on Mexico Street.

#### McCALL FACTORY.

In the fall of 1871, Mr. Stephen McCall, experienced in the work, erected a building on the farm of Daniel Peck for the business of corn-packing. The building was 48 feet long, and 26 wide. Later he added to the structure, till it was 84 by 26, and a wing 36 feet long, making it of large capacity for the industry. Many hands were employed in the season, and it was a busy locality. Mr. McCall pursued the occupation till in 1876 he removed to Hoopeston, Ill., where he engaged in the same business for some years, or until his health failed him—his death occurring in February, 1897. The factory remained unused, and gradually went to ruin. A few timbers remain on the place, which are being, little by little, cleared away. On this site in early days stood a crude habitation, in which lived one Joel Hitchcock.



## MARSHALL PARKE.

Marshall Parke married Chloe Higgins, daughter of Jehiel Higgins; bought the farm just beyond Gulf Brook, containing twenty acres, and erected a home of logs. He was born in 1798, in Camden, and was a son of Daniel and Esther Parke. He lived here a few years, when he removed to the site near Perry Parkes, his son, who at present occupies the home farm. Their children were Lonson, Franklin and Charlotte. Chloe, wife of Marshall Parke, died March 30, 1832, aged 29 years. The daughter Charlotte died young. In later years Mr. Parke married a Miss Hall of Amboy. Their children were, Daniel, Joshua, Perry, Hannah and Charlotte. Marshall Parke died December 14, 1848, aged 50 years. He is buried beside his first wife, Chloe, in the Parke Cemetery, on Four Mile Square.

## ETHEL HIGGINS

Next owned the place. He was a son of Jehiel Higgins, born



House built by Ethel Higgins, 1827.

in 1807. Was a young man of fine scholarly tastes, excelling in mathematics, and orthography. There were not a few contemporaries with Mr. Higgins, who were experts in these same studies, and the rehearsals of their endeavors, each to outdo the others, have been of interest. For instance, when Ezra Parke taught school in the red brick school-house, there were several boys who were anxious to have perfect lessons, and studied diligently to learn them. This was particularly so with



regard to spelling. In the lesson occurred two words with the same pronunciation, but of course differently spelled. The words were Briton and Britain. We will give no names in this instance, except to say that Ethel Higgins was one of the participants or scholars in the class that had this lesson. The lads were given two trials of a word—if missing the first time, they could try again. One word of those we have given had been spelled when the second one was pronounced. The boy whose turn it was to try stood next to the foot of the class, not because he was a dullard, but because all were nearly perfect, and he could only work his way up, as each one took his place at the foot of the class daily, after enjoying the honor of being "at the head" of the class for the day. Well, this lad had been inattentive to the particular word that had been given, when the next boy, having listened intently, gave it correctly, and "went up one." This was a matter of much interest in the school, and the boy who "went up" wore a silver piece about his neck (an English shilling) for a time, an honor to the scholar with a perfect lesson. In 1827 Ethel Higgins married Miss Clarissa, daughter of Russell Johnson. In the same year he purchased the farm, built the house now standing, and here they lived till 1835, when they removed to Parnassus Street. To them were born three children—Gilbert S., married Emily Stillman, September 29, 1857; Tirzah R., married Leander Sanford, May 1, 1855; Harriet E., married Sedgwick F. Dyer, January 12, 1856. Ethel Higgins died in Florence June 24, 1872, aged 65 years. Buried in Camden.

#### WILLIAM W. PORTER

Purchased the farm in 1835 from Ethel Higgins, and secured the remainder of it from the heirs of Roswell Rudd. Mr. Porter occupied the place for ten years, bringing it under good cultivation. In 1845 he returned to Taunton, Mass., where he died in 1889, aged 86 years. During the greater part of his life he was engaged in the manufacture of Britannia and silver ware, in which business he was one of the pioneers. His sons, Edmund W. and Lemuel C., are at present engaged in the manufacture of silver ware under the firm name of the West Silver Co., Taunton, Mass.

## RUFUS B. TUTHILL.

Rufus B. Tuthill resided here from 1875 to 1877. He was born in Ava, N. Y., was a son of Davis Tuthill, a brother of Baldwin and Hubbard Tuthill of this town. He married Miss Ellen Deck, and to them were born three children. Florence, Cora and Burnett Davis. Mrs. Ellen Tuthill died December 25, 1881, while they resided on Taberg Street. Subsequently he removed to Camden village, and in 1885 he married Orissa, widow of Jesse Fish. She was a daughter of John D. Yager of Vienna, and the mother of Jesse Fish, Jr., our townsman. In 1890 she died, and in November, 1892, he married Mary Louisa, daughter of the late Lorenzo and Nancy Wetmore, born in Camden. They reside on the Wetmore place on Third Street, just north of the Camden Academy, at present. Of Mr. Tuthill's three children, Flora married Charles Lewis of Boonville, in 1891, where they now reside. When but a child, her mother died, and she assumed the responsibilities of the household with an ability that was a marvel to all, and which would have been a credit to many of mature years. Cora and Burnett are popular and estimable young people of our village.

## DANIEL BLAKESLEE.

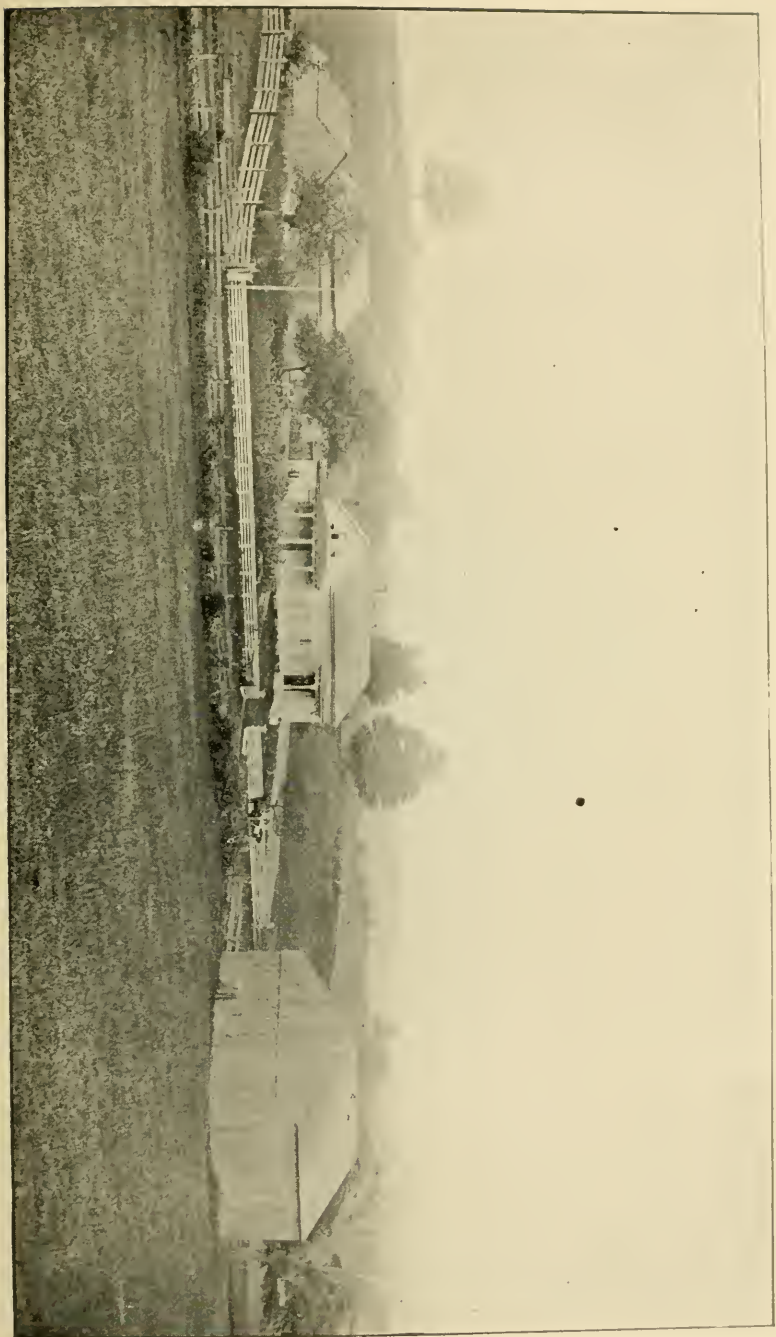
Daniel Blakeslee was born in Harwinton, Conn., in 1788; Abigail Bennett was born in Harwinton, Conn., and they were married in 1812.

They settled two miles and a half from Camden on the Taberg road. Their children were twelve in number: Aaron, Benjamin, Delia, Belinda, Franklin, Louisa, Mary, Marilla, Hiram, Chalotte, Jay and Cynthia. Franklin, Marilla, Mary, Charlotte and Cynthia are at present living. Daniel died in 1872. Of the family, the late Jay Blakeslee occupied the old homstead; his heirs at this time its owners. Jay Blakeslee was born October 15, 1823. He married Miss Eunice Lawton September 21, 1821. Their children are—Homer, who lives in Michigan; Louisa and Grace, who live in Syracuse; Ina; Nellie married Dempster Snow; Fannie married Mr. Dolan; and De Wayne.

## RUSSELL JOHNSON.

Russell Johnson, seeking a home for himself and family, came from Harwinton, Conn., to Amboy, Oswego County, not

far from 1802. He made a farm, clearing and improving land, as all new comers had to do, and endured the privations of pioneer life with fortitude. Was born June 7, 1782, at Harwinton. He married Miss Tirzah Smith, born in 1786, also of Harwinton; and they were married there. Their journey was made with an ox cart, through rough, almost unexplored country. We suppose those who made the long journeys in those days would consider walking in about the same light that we, in these times of rapid transit, would look upon traveling the same distance by an accommodation train. With an ox team, as we would a journey on the "Chicago Limited;" and if by good fortune a team of horses was the means of taking them to their destination, surely it was equal to our "Empire State Express!" Mr. Johnson and his wife remained for a few years only in Amboy, when they removed to Williamstown in the same county, and in 1814 located in Camden, on Taberg Street, about two and a half miles east from Camden village. Their early home in those days was of logs, and was situated near the little brook that crosses the highway a few rods north of the later home of the Johnsons, on the same side of the street. In a few years he built a frame house, a part of that now standing, in which they resided till their death. They were the parents of eight children, who grew to manhood and womanhood respected members of the community. Emeline was born in Connecticut, and married Earl Frisbie of Auburn, N. Y.; Clarissa, born in Amboy, and married Ethel Higgins; Amasa Smith, born in Williamstown, N. Y.; Sylvester, born in Williamstown, N. Y., and Harriet in Camden. She married Levi Smith, and they removed to the State of Ohio; Lucy, born in Camden, and married Wilbur Cutler of Amboy, N. Y.; George born in Camden, and died young and unmarried. Life in a new, undeveloped country is not one of comfort or ease, and Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were not less free from the trials of it than their neighbors. Grain had to be taken to a distant mill for grinding, and Mrs. Johnson had to put her little ones to bed hungry because the grist had not returned, on occasions, between planting and harvest time, feeding them on maple sugar to appease their hunger. No doubt the children were like those of the present day, and enjoyed sugar better than bread. Russell Johnson died August 4, 1858, aged 76 years; Tirzah Johnson died June 19, 1877, aged 91 years. Buried in Forest Park Cemetery.



Home of A. Smith Johnson.

## SMITH JOHNSON.

Amasa Smith was the third child of Russell and Tirzah Johnson, born in Williamstown, N. Y., April 20, 1809. Came to Camden when five years of age with his parents, and resided the remainder of his life on the farm where they first settled, March 11, 1835, he married Sally H. Bloss of Annsville; one son, Melzo, was born to them, dying the year of his birth. December 12, 1836, Mrs. Johnson died. In 1846 he married Miss Sarah C. Stacy, and in 1849 she died, leaving no children. In 1852, October 6, he married Miss Sarah Jane West of this town, born October 30, 1829. By this last union there were children as follows: Hattie Johnson, born August 17, 1853; died March 12, 1881; George, born January 24, 1855, died February 31, 1894; Myron, born September 7, 1857, died February 21, 1880; Fred D., born February 19, 1861; Russell Smith, born June 7, 1865; Carny, born May 1, 1867, died May 27, 1873. Both Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were people of much intelligence, of character and real worth. In the M. E. Church Mrs. Johnson was one of the active workers, and in Sunday School a most interesting teacher, giving much time to the study of the lessons, and imparting her knowledge with rare ability. Mr. Johnson was a man of much business enterprise, conducting his farming interests ably, and with profit. The home of his boyhood he enlarged and made attractive in many ways, and it was a favorite place for the friends of the family to visit. After the death of Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Johnson removed to Camden village to give her sons better advantages in educational directions, and resided here until her death. A. S. Johnson died October 30, 1879, aged 70 years; Sarah J. Johnson died May 14, 1884, aged 55 years. Buried in Forest Park Cemetery.

Of the descendants of A. S. and Sarah Johnson, but one remains in Camden, Russell S., of the law firm of Davies & Johnson. In April, 1896, he married Miss Mary, daughter of the late Ezra Edgett of Newark, Wayne County, and are residing on Church Street. Mr. Johnson is a young man of marked ability in his profession, a diligent, successful Republican leader in politics, of fine personal appearance, and a most desirable



member of the community. Mrs. Johnson is amiable, energetic, of fine musical tastes, an accomplished pianist, and a favorite in social circles.

George Johnson married Delia Kiernan in New York City in 1884, September 8. Children are Russell and Horace Edward.

Fred Johnson married Carrie P. Robbins of Stittsville, August 23, 1882. They reside in the West.

Perry Parke is a son of Marshall Parke, of whom mention is made on another page. He married a daughter of Henry Hall, who resided on Pond Hill. He continues farming on the place occupied by his father, and is successful in his work. The farm is productive, and he has brought it to a high state of excellence.

The line between Camden and Annsville is reached, and we return to Camden village.





## CHAPTER XIV.

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### JACOB CONKLIN.

Going east from the Florence road near the Sherman Sperry place, we soon come to the early home and farm of Jacob Conklin (now known as the Voorhees place). This man Conklin was a very early settler, if not the earliest on this place. Some time in 1830 Robert his son showed considerable talent for speaking, and was also a student to some extent. The ladies of the Congregational Church interested themselves in him, among whom were Mrs. Dr. Ransom, Mrs. Erastus Upson, Mrs. Humphrey Brown, Mrs. Clark Sperry and others, who thought best to help him to an education with a view of his becoming a minister. They clothed him and made arrangements for sending him away to school, which in those days was an opportunity very few could have. This interest the ladies took in him stimulated his ambition. He was soon able to enter college, and was fitted for the ministry. His first call was to a Presbyterian church in Providence, R. I.. He proved to be one of the most talented ministers of that State. He was seen a number of times by Deacon Erastus Upson in later years, and always expressed his gratitude for what the ladies of Camden did for him in his early life. Next was the home of Joshua Kenfield, now owned by Ira Howland. This primitive home, like others in the early days, was of logs. At one time Kendall had a little mill on Cora's Creek (now Cobb Brook) for turning wooden bowls.

### WRIGHT SKINNER

Emigrated from Vernon, Albany County, N. Y., to Camden in 1820, making the journey with oxen and cart. He was in the war of 1812, enlisting in a regiment that went from Albany to Sackett's Harbor. In marching through the north-eastern part of the town, on the State road, he concluded this would be a good place to locate, among such fine timber, much of which

would make good material for building ships. After his return home his two eldest sons, often listening to their father's glowing accounts of this section, came on prospecting, and concluded to locate. Building a log house at the turn of the road beyond the Conklin place, they returned to Vernon for their parents and the remainder of the family. From the family Bible this record is copied:

"Wright Skinner born October 5, 1763; died December 18, 1830; his wife Hannah Ten Eyck, born June 27, 1773. Children—John, Christian, Robert, Christopher, Martha, Francis, William, Reuben, Jacob, Esther, Abraham."

John, the oldest son, was in the war of 1812. He served on Long Island. He was the father of Luther Skinner, who enlisted in 1841 in the U. S. regular army at the age of 16 years. His father took him home; he again enlisted under the name of Ten Eyke (his mother's name). The Company went to Florida to engage in the Seminole War; from thence to California, and then to Mexico. He was in the First Infantry, Co. E, under Maj. Dearborn (a Pennsylvania man). The name of the Captain was Backhurst. The Brigade was under Gen. Taylor; and in this Brigade was Stonewall Jackson, Longstreet and Lee, then young cadets fresh from West Point.



The Skinner Neighborhood Burial Spot.

On the Skinner farm, a short distance back of the house, on a knoll, is a family and neighborhood burial spot, not enclosed. Here are the remains of fifty or more persons, and not a

stone other than a common field stone to mark the last resting-place of any. Here are the remains of Wright Skinner and his eldest son, John, who both served in the war of 1812. Luther was a son of John, and served in the civil war. We learn that when the first settlers came into this part of the town the wolves were very numerous. When the farmers butchered an animal the wolves were attracted by the smell of the blood, and it was difficult to drive them off. Powder and shot could not always be procured. Living as we do to-day with comfort and ease, we realize but little what hardships and privations our ancestors endured.

#### PETTIS BROTHERS.

Prior to 1835 four Pettis brothers settled on this road. They were Robert Layton, Richard, Hiram and Valentine. A few years later another brother, George, came to this town and located near his brother Robert Layton. This family was from Charlton, N. Y. Robert Layton Pettis married in 1835, Miss Emily, daughter of Jeremiah Ladd of Camden. Eleven children were born to them. Mrs. Richard Pettis died in 1846, aged 41 years. In the years intervening between 1850 and 1860 these brothers removed West, and settled in Henry County, Ill. Valentine Pettis died in Camden at the residence of Charles Cain, in the winter of 1860, while here on business. Three of the brothers died in Illinois. They are Robert Layton, in 1863; Hiram in 1864; George in 1876. The descendants of these brothers are all in the West, scattered through the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska. Charlotte, wife of George Pettis, died July 17, 1856, aged 32 years and 3 months; Valentine Pettis died February 14, 1860, aged 50 years and 10 months. Those of this family who died in Camden rest in Forest Park Cemetery.

Simon Brewster married Miss Mary Carr. He came to Camden about 1845, and settled on the Florence road. There were eleven children, viz.: Amy, Julia, George, Elizabeth, Mary Jane, Maria; five died when quite young. He was from Charlton, N. Y., but came from Parish, Oswego County, to Camden. Simon Brewster died August 7, 1883, aged 88 years; Mary, his wife, died February 20, 1886, aged 87 years.

FROM TABERG ROAD, ACROSS TO WOLCOTT HILL  
SCHOOL-HOUSE.

Leaving the Taberg road we approach what is now called the Finch place, on Cobb Brook, called in the early days Cora's Creek, as one by this name lived here, and built the first saw-mill where the road crosses the stream. Nathaniel Yale lived here after Cora. He married a sister of Lyman Curtiss. In 1820 Daniel Byington owned this property and rebuilt the mill. His son Ambrose built a saw-mill below on this stream. On this place near Mr. Finch's residence is a charming little sheet of water known as Shady Lake.

The next place was that owned and occupied by Zophar Tuttle, now in the possession of Gilbert Quance. Zophar Tuttle was born in Connecticut, February 4, 1776; he came from the town of Salisbury, Herkimer County, N. Y., to Camden, when quite a young man. His wife was Betsey B. Bowler, formerly of Connecticut, by whom he had six children. Hannah, Polly, James, Delight, Salmon and Zophar. The ancestry of this family is of New England stock of English extraction. Zophar Tuttle died in 1855, aged 80 years.

The next home on this road was that of Royal Root. In 1829 Mr. Root married Elizabeth Wheeler; in 1836 he married for second wife Louisa R. Kellogg; by the second marriage seven children were born to them. He removed to Farmington, Ill., where he died November 10, 1856.

Isaac Wheeler lived on this place, and while he occupied it, the house was burned.

## JOHN BRYAN.

On the east side of the road, next was the home of John Bryan. He came from Wolcott, Connecticut, to Camden, in 1805. Later, about 1812, he bought the farm now owned by Theodore Ansen; the house was burned in 1896, and was the same formerly occupied by him. He purchased this property of Col. John Smith. The journey from Connecticut was made with the regulation outfit, a cart, yoke of oxen and one horse, bringing with them the necessary house-keeping articles. Mrs. Orissa Mix Barnes has in her possession the old table around which the nine Bryan children stood when

eating a meal. John Bryan was born in 1775 at Watertown, Conn.; married Sophronia Atwater in 1800. Sophronia Atwater born August 8, 1777. The names of this couple are found on the records of the First Congregational Church of Camden, having joined the church by letter in 1806, and in 1809 subscribing to its support. Their children were—Abigail, who married Amos Mix; Julianna married James Frisbie; Rhoda married Charles Houghton; Sophronia married Daniel Wheeler; Ursula married Wright Abbott. John, Jr., Asabel, Roderick, Samuel Treat; these four last settled in the West. In 1819 Mrs. Bryan died, September 9, and in 1821 he married Mehetabel Alcott Bradley, she being one of nine Alcott sisters. He joined the troops that marched to Sackett's Harbor in the war of 1812. His death occurred November 24, 1858, at Clinton, Oneida County, where the closing years of his life were spent with his daughter, Mrs. Wright Abbott. His remains and those of his wife rest in Forest Park Cemetery, Camden.

#### JAMES FRISBIE.

Records show that in 1834 John Bryan sold to James Frisbie 38 acres of land, being one-fourth part of lot No. 29, town of Camden, township No. 8 of Scriba's Patent, as surveyed by Benjamin Wright, &c. James Frisbie was born in Wolcott, Conn., in 1799; married Maria Bradley. Not far from 1825 he with his wife located on Wolcott Hill, purchasing a farm partly in the town of Florence and partly in Camden. Shortly after, he went to Leyden in this State, where he remained but a few years, returning to locate on the farm previously owned by John Bryan, the father of his second wife. Later he purchased a farm north of the village, of Caleb Rowell, and in 1858 the residence in the village now occupied by his son, Willard J., on Second Street. He died in 1862, aged 63 years. His second wife, Juliann Bryan, survived him 32 years, dying April, 1895, at the age of 84. His trade was that of clock-maker, in which he was engaged many years. Later, and until his health failed, he was in trade in the village. By the first marriage there were two children, Albert M. and Harriet, who married Frank, son of Ephraim Sanford by the second wife, Frances (Mrs. Stoddard Sanford) and W. J. Frisbie.

## PHILIP WALDRON.

The next place, known as the Story farm, was owned in 1819 by Abbott, father of Wright Abbott. In 1835 it was purchased of Chapin Allen by Philip Waldron and his father-in-law, John T. Brogue, who came from Greenville, Green County, N. Y. The next morning after their arrival, which was in the month of February, upon some member of the family going to the barn, footprints of a wolf were discovered in the snow. The children of Philip Waldron were—Oliver, John, Charles, Elizabeth, Joseph, Rhoda, Miriam, Harriet, Martin and Jane A.

This road is generally known as the Butternut drive, as it is shaded almost its entire length by butternut trees.

One Joseph Peck lived on this farm very early; his house was back from the road further than the present house. He was called "Uncle Joseph," to distinguish him from the one of the same name living west of the school-house. North-east of this farm, on land owned in the early days by Sylvanus Wilson, Jr., is an old well, which leads us to believe there was once a house near it. Tradition tells us that long years since a man hung himself from a limb of an apple tree close to this well.

## SPOOK HOUSE.

The old Spook House of Wolcott Hill must not be forgotten, as a house thus named was not far from the home of Waldron and Brogue. It was here that the credulous and school children heard strange noises, and saw unheard of things, such as the rattling of brass kettles, jingling of pot-hooks on the crane in the fire-place, imaginary coffins seen in the bedroom. One aged man, whose mind was weak, declared he had seen this house burn three times; but lo! when morning came the house was still standing as before. All that now remains to mark this historic spot is a pile of stones, and a few lilac bushes. This house was the property of Col. John Smith, and was used as a tenant house.

## ROBERT ALLEN FARM.

This farm was purchased of George Parish, through his agent, George Trowbridge, in 1833, by William Smith and Brainard Orton. At that time this part of the town was thickly



timbered. These men, with their families, did not long remain here, as in 1836, the land was conveyed to Eliphas Colburn, and in 1854 conveyed to Robert Allen, and is still in the possession of his family. Mr. Allen made many improvements, adding to the original structure, making a



Robert Allen's Farm House.

pleasant and commodious farm house. From old papers pertaining to this farm, Joseph Peck in 1832 made some arrangements to purchase this land, he built a log house, but soon concluded to locate in another part of the town, buying north-west of the Walcott Hill school-house, where his family were educated.

#### REUBEN ROOT.

Not far from the home of Zophar Tuttle, and east of it, was the home of Reuben Root. He married widow Upham for second wife, who had three children when he married her. She was Philena, daughter of Arty and Tabitha Allen. Mrs. Allen lived with her son-in-law the last eleven years of her life. Mr. Root died in Fairbank, Iowa, March 3, 1880, in the 80th year of his age. He was a resident of Camden for nearly fifty years.

#### RUSCOE PLACE.

As deed shows, in 1839 Benjamin Ruscoe purchased 40 acres of land east of Zophar Tuttle, of George Parish, through his agent, George Trowbridge. At the time of his purchase a log house stood where the present house is. We regret that we are

unable to learn who was its occupant; probably the man was unable to fulfill his contract, and the land reverted back to its original owner. Mr. Ruscoe built the present house. Benjamin Ruscoe married Polly Dean, daughter of John Dean, in 1831. Their children were: Samuel and Ellen. Benjamin Ruscoe was born in 1809; died in 1889; his wife, Polly Dean, was born in 1808 at Camden; died in 1864. The remains of both rest in Forest Park Cemetery.

#### RAY'S CHAIR FACTORY, ON EMMONS' BROOK.

In 1870 Charles H. Ray, moved by a commendable spirit of enterprise and energy, purchased a right and water privilege of D. B. Gaylord on the Emmons' Brook, in the eastern margin of the village, and erected a chair factory thereon. The main building, 40 by 26 feet, paint shop 30 by 20 feet, a steam and dry house building 26 by 50 feet, all built in a substantial manner, and arranged for convenience in the business, and safety from fire. The water power consisted of a dam, dyke and pond with 10 feet head of water, which drove a 24 inch turbine water wheel with adequate power and speed, that was put in under the direction of J. E. Tripp. Mr. Ray manufactured all kinds of wood-seat chairs for wholesale, and did a good business. He made good, solid and durable wood-seat chairs of various kinds, plain, fancy, and rockers. This factory was burned in 1887. Mr. Ray died August 4, 1887, aged 57 years. His death was thought to be due to over-exertion at the time of the burning of his factory. Emmons Brook was so called in 1809. From this brook and Voorhees spring the village of Camden gets most of its water supply.

The road from Wolcott Hill school-house east, towards Pond Hill, and terminating on the Taberg road near the Peck farm, is the one on which the early settler Ephraim Smith first located with his family, as spoken of on another page. A drive on this road over the hills and through the valleys reminds one of old Connecticut, from which State most of the pioneers emigrated. Descendants of these early emigrants, consider your blessings of to-day, and compare them with those of your ancestors. Andrew Sperry and Horace Scoville lived near the school-house

off the main road to Florence. They were partners for some time in the manufacture of hand hay-rakes. The factory was situated but a short distance from their homes on Emmons Brook. Later this property was purchased by John Waldron. Mr. Sperry was thrice married, first to Miss Kingsley; second to Miss Catherine Friz; third to Miss Elizabeth Hubbel. By the first marriage was a son, James; by the second marriage was Libbie, Rhoda and William.

#### DANIEL DEAN.

Daniel Dean married Anna Surtliff, and removed to Camden prior to 1809. He settled on the farm at present owned by Mrs. Caroline Birch, perhaps better known as the Ananias Edgett place. The territory belonging to the farm was of considerable acreage, comprising that owned by Artemas Peck, near by. Mr. Dean was a genial gentleman, much respected by his neighbors and acquaintances. He was a sincere Christian man, and a valuable aid in church work. His name in his own signature is found among the list of those first subscribing to the minister's salary in 1809. In Rev. Leavenworth's book of records we find his death occurred in 1811, aged 67 years. Born in Connecticut in 1744. He had two children, viz.: John and Leva. Leva married Phineas Castle of Florence. Daniel Dean served in the War of the Revolution. His name is found in the history of Wolcott, Conn., as subscribing to the minister's salary in 1794. In 1787 he was school committee as appointed by the parish society. Same history mentions his being a taxpayer in 1802.

#### STEPHEN EDGETT.

Stephen Edgett, father of Ananias and Ezra, removed from Durham, Greene County, N. Y., in the year 1835, and settled in Camden on a farm north-east of the village two and a half miles, and near the Wolcott Hill school-house. Stephen Edgett married Mary Hubbell, April, 1826. He died at Newark, N. Y., January 23, 1870, aged 72 years. His wife also died at Newark January 4, 1891, at the advanced age of 95 years and 14 days. Ezra A. Edgett and brother Ananias began the corn-canning industry in 1853 in Camden, having previously learned the her-

metically sealing process in New York City. So little confidence had the farmers in their plan that it was only after they were offered \$10.00 per acre in advance that they were willing to risk the planting. The brothers at first did their work of canning in an old building near the house of their parents, which had been formerly occupied by a family of the name of Parkinson, and stood between their home and that of Capt. John Smith, then an aged man. Their first operations were of course on a very small scale. In August, 1854, the little factory burned to the ground. Andrew Sperry offered them the use of a part of his rake factory, and they pluckily resumed work, coming out that season about \$700 in debt. In 1858 Ezra Edgett removed to a farm on the Seventh, and there continued the corn-canning business until 1865, when he removed to Newark, N. Y., building a factory there, and continuing a successful business until his death in 1889. Ezra Edgett married Miss Harriet Marvin. Their children were James, Edith and Mary.

#### COL. JOHN SMITH.

Col. John Smith lived in the early days on the farm known as the William Wilson place. This was where his father Ephraim first settled upon coming to Camden. Col. John Smith emigrated from Wolcott, Conn., in 1803 or 1804, having previously married Lois Alcott. He enlisted as captain in the war of 1812, went to Sackett's Harbor with his company, and later was promoted to the office of Colonel of the regiment. Originally a log house stood where he later erected a substantial frame house, which was, for those days, considered an elegant structure. This house was burned after the farm was purchased by William Wilson. This farm was long in the possession of Newell Smith, son of Col. John, who sold to Mr. Wilson and removed to Camden village, and later to Iowa. Newell J. Smith died at Clinton, Ia., July 22, 1888, aged 87 years. His wife died June 3, 1869, aged 43 years. Col. John Smith's children were Sophronia, Newell and Hannah. Col. John Smith was born in 1774, and died in 1860; Lois, his wife, was born in 1780, and died in 1840. The remains of this family all rest in Forest Park Cemetery.

What is now known as the McKillips farm was early owned and occupied by Daniel Wheeler, son of Isaac. This farm has had many occupants, viz.: Stephen Crandall, Ezra Skinner, Alex. McAdams, and others. Minor Buell settled near here, coming from Rome in 1831. Not far from his home on Cobb Brook was a saw-mill built by Abram Sandford, and for many years called "The Buell Mill." Beyond the Buell place lived one by the name of Felton Muscat he was an acquaintance and warm friend of Mr. Buell's. He came from Lee to Camden. Near Dingle Street corner lived Philip Estes, who was from eastern New York. What is known as the John Shaw farm was early owned by Clark Mumford, who emigrated from Connecticut. John Shaw was nearly all his life a resident of Camden. He was born in the town of Annsville, but early in life settled on this road, near Pond Hill. Besides being a farmer, he conducted a market in the village for a time. He was a man who had many friends, and was much respected. He died May 18, 1891, aged 64 years. His children were—John H., Delight, Belle and Robie.

The farm now owned by Frank Parke was early owned by one Dunham, who was its first occupant, as he purchased of George Parish. Next this place was that of Arja and Milo Skinner, who came here from Brownville, N. Y., with their aged father, Thomas Skinner, who was a Revolutionary soldier. The last days of his life were spent with some relatives in Pennsylvania. These men came to Camden in 1830; they were Vermonters by birth.

#### BENNETT RUSCOE.

Bennett Ruscoe came to Camden from Connecticut in 1818, and settled on what is now known as the Franklin place, near the Taberg road. He was born in Connecticut in 1782; married Roxy Mathewson, born 1784. Twelve children were born to them: Alexander, Elizabeth, George, Benjamin, Orsamus, Mary, Sabina, Cynthia, Esther, Ira, Sarah, Edwin.

Mr. Ruscoe being somewhat of an invalid, was induced to emigrate to this locality on account of its healthfulness, as the land was then thickly wooded with pines.



We are unable to give the line of those who occupied these farms from their earliest settlement, but below are the names of some of the people who lived on this road at a later date, who have not been mentioned: J. V. Conover, J. Dopp, G. Howland, C. Cain, E. Field, W. Earl, D. Dimblebee, P. Howland, H. Hall, D. Howland, Leonard West and others.

## LEONARD WEST.



Mr. Leonard West.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard West came to Camden from Cherry Valley, Otsego County, in 1837, with their own conveyance, and settled not far from the present George Webb place, near the Taberg road; and later he lived and died just beyond the town line in Florence. Camden village, at the time of their coming here, was comparatively new, buildings far apart, many of which were small and low. There were but two streets, called Front and Liberty, now Main and Second. From Mad River Bridge to the Town Hall the timber was cut, logs lying about and stumps standing. Mrs. West is a daughter of Benjamin Allen, who was a brother of Col. Ethan Allen of Ticonderoga fame.



Her father was also in the war of the Revolution. Mrs. West, now (February 1897) in her 94th year, as seen by the writer, is a remarkably preserved, very intelligent and bright woman, with a good memory. She well remembers of her father's telling of his long tedious marches, and of the sufferings of the soldiers; but like his brother, Col. Ethan, was a man of unflinching loyalty, and always spoke with pride of his soldier life. An amusing incident occurred during the last years of his life, when crippled by infirmities of age, and he went out but little. He was left at home alone one Fourth of July, the family going to attend the



Mrs. Leonard West.

celebration in town. Upon their return his daughter heard before entering the house, cheers given with great glee, and on entering found another old soldier with her father. They had drained their goblets once too often. Surprised, she exclaimed, "Why, father, what does this mean?" He replied slowly: "My daughter, don't chide your old father; you have been enjoying the day as pleased you best; we, too, are celebrating in our own way. My old comrade and I have been drinking

bumpers to the old days," and straightening himself up proudly, said with emphasis, "Remember, my child, your father fought for this day." Mrs. West was born in 1803, at Saugatuck, Fairfield County, Conn.; Leonard West was born in 1793, at Stillwater, Saratoga County, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. West were married at Charleton, Otsego County, N. Y., April 3, 1822. Mr. West died October 8, 1888. His boyhood and early manhood were spent in Montgomery County, N. Y. He was a soldier of the war of 1812, and lived in Camden and vicinity more than sixty years. He was the last pensioner of the war of 1812 representative in this vicinity. He was in town July 4th, 1888, sat on the speaker's stand during the address. He always showed much patriotism and love for American institutions. He was a man greatly respected and beloved. He had grandchildren in the war of the rebellion. His children were Nancy, Vianna, Ruama, Martha, Mary Elizabeth and Harriet. He was somewhat gifted as a poet. We give a few lines of his relating to the circumstances that prompted him to come to Camden, entitled,

#### FROM CHERRY VALLEY TO CAMDEN.

Friends and neighbors, northward bound,  
 Wrote us saying,—Paradise Found;  
 One day in early springtime, we grew quite discontent,  
 And settling up our business, away we quickly went;  
 We stumbled over stones, we stumbled over logs,  
 We scrambled up steep hill sides, we lost ourselves in bogs;  
 We slowly traveled on, nursing up our wrath  
 When we found our road had ended and we only had a path;  
 Following this, weary and foot-sore,  
 We almost stumbled against our neighbor's door;  
     This is the place we have sought with such cost  
     This is the heaven,—our Paradise Lost.

On our wooded farm in Camden, as Pioneers we rally,  
 Yet sometimes lovingly look back to dear old Cherry Valley;  
 But wife and little ones are here,—for them we smile and delve.  
 For rougher paths we've traveled, though way back in 1812;  
 Brave heart,—strong arm 'twill never do to dally,  
 So here's three cheers for Camden, and not a sigh for Cherry Valley.

## DINGLE STREET.

What is now known as Dingle street, was not laid out as a public highway until 1839; prior to that time there was only a foot or bridle path. The street extends from the Wolcott Hill Road to the Florence Road. Dingle street was thus named, as those living on this road allowed their cows to feed in the road with bells attached to their necks. On the west side of this road much of the land is low and swampy, through which was built a corduroy road from the Skinner neighborhood to shorten the distance to the school-house. Like all roads of the kind, it was very rough, which caused it to be named "The Devil's Washboard." On the State road, near this street, was the home of George Pettis, on whose land was the first school-house, which was built by the Pettis brothers and neighbors for the double purpose of holding religious meetings and school. It was built of logs, as were many, or all the first houses. Later the framed school-house was built on Dingle street. On this street was a saw-mill, built by Abram Sanford. This mill was owned and used by Morenus Scoville, who here did a considerable business. Gideon Cain was the last one that used the mill. It is now gone to decay. Not far from the mill was the home of Morenus Scoville, who married Miss Chloe S. Castle, March 27, 1827. The children were, Lorenzo P., Albrow, Castle, Elizabeth A., Harriet H., Sarah B., Alvira O., Almira F.—two last twins.

Samuel Stewart was an early settler and built a house in this vicinity, as did also Elijah Carswell and his brother John and Leonard West; the latter sold to Arza Skinner. Corner of Dingle street and Westcott Hill Road was the home of Mr. Fielding, who sold to Mr. Dennison, who later sold to Andrus Mecker.

## STATE ROAD.

In the northeastern part of the town of Camden is the State road crossing its corner. In the first town book a survey bill is found, reading as follows, and we suppose it must be this road. Page 36 of book, September 30th, 1801: "Beginning in the center of the highway leading from Fort Stanwix by John Rogers' and John Spinning's tavern to Salmon River, at a

beech tree (known as the 12 mile tree) on the Salmon River road, in the fourth town, &c."

Charles Thompson built in 1848 a hotel on this road. He married a daughter of Henry Peck. The children were—Svi-vester, Jerusha, Gilbert, Lois, Alvin. This hotel was burned several years since.

Andrew Secor was an early settler on this road; he emigrated from Albany County, N. Y. The family consisted of his wife and fifteen children, six sons and five daughters. Richard Joslin settled beyond the Secor home; he was from Albany County also; his family consisted of wife and five children. Although the country was new, this road was much used, being the direct road to Sackett's Harbor from Fort Stanwix (now Rome). Hotels then did a thriving business, and were numerous. William Joslin built one beyond the home of his father in this town.

#### MEXICO STREET.

The Oswego County History tells us "the road called Mexico street was cut or extended from Camden to Vera Cruz, passing through the present towns of Amboy, Parish and Mexico about 1804." It was the main road from Rome to Mexico, running through what was later called Vienna, up to Phelps' tavern, then turning to the left, running up over Preston Hill, coming out onto what is now a main road from Camden to Mexico, not far from the Deacon Osborn place. The Mexico street leading from the village west, past the railroad stations and which joins this road, was the next street laid out in the village after Main street. A little log house formerly stood on the site of the Masonic Lodge, occupied for a short time by Judge Williams, who acted as land agent, where new comers would stop for a night's lodging. When provisions were scarce, as they must necessarily be in a new country, we are told he would take his gun, and, wandering along the bank of Fish Creek, shoot deer, which furnished them with meat.

The name of Curtiss has been associated with this part of the town for more than half a century. As early as 1795 or 1796, Jesse Curtiss came to this locality and built a saw-mill on the east side of Fish Creek, near the site of Penfield & Stone's

grist mill. We can find no records of the land or of whom he purchased it, but have been told some of the early land owners gave him ten acres in this part of the village as an inducement to come here and build a mill.

Before the town of Camden was separated from Mexico, in 1799, the records of the latter place were lost in the woods while being conveyed to Whitestown, and never recovered; so it is almost impossible to gain any information concerning land titles prior to that date.

The millstones used in this early structure were quarried in Clinton, and are now used by Pliny Phelps in his mill at Phelps-ville.

From the time Jesse Curtiss first established a business here this part of the town has been a busy place.

#### ELIHU CURTISS.

Elihu, son of Jesse Curtiss, came to Camden from Clinton about the time his father located here. His journey was made by water, as far as possible, coming up Wood Creek to the great carrying place, then across to Fish Creek. On the way he found a tree had fallen across the stream, obstructing his progress, which had to be removed before he could proceed further. This is said to have been the first tree cut in this locality.

Elihu Curtiss built a log house near the site of Charles McCarthy's store. He moved his family here, which consisted of a wife and four children. Lyman, who married Lucinthia Parke, and settled in Camden. Eliab was a sailor and lost at sea. Polly married David Norman Castle, and Hope, who married Olney Hines.

Elihu Curtiss built the first tavern in town, where Robson's hardware store now stands. Jesse Curtiss built the first frame house erected in Camden, in the rear of the log house occupied by his son, Elihu. It was long used as a mill house.

We find this inscription on a time-worn stone in the Mexico street Cemetery: "In memory of Elihu Curtiss, who departed this life the 11th day of Jan., 1815, in the 59th year of his age.

Death is a debt to nature due;

This debt I paid, and so must you."



First Tavern in Camden.



View of Railroad Bridge from Mexico Street.





After the death of Elihu Curtiss, Judge Israel Stoddard purchased the property, or part of it, in 1818. It consisted at that time of a grist mill, a saw mill, a dwelling house and shed, with about two acres of land.

Judge Israel Stoddard and Gen. Lyman Curtiss were in company in 1822, and Edward Goodyear had a distillery underneath the mill. At that time all of that corner where the Dorrance & Wright block now stands was a mill yard, covered with logs.

In 1834 Erastus Upson bought one-half of the mill property and was in company with Lyman Curtiss.

During 1851 Francis H. Conant purchased an interest in the business, and the firm was known as Curtiss & Conant. October 23, 1854, Mr. Curtiss sold his interest in the business to Thomas D. Penfield, and Conant & Penfield conducted the business for two years, when Mr. Conant sold his interest to Mr. Thomas Stone, and the firm was known as Penfield & Stone until the death of Mr. Stone in 1861. Mr. Penfield carried on the business alone until 1867, when B. D. Stone became a partner and the business was continued under the name of Penfield & Stone.

The mill built by Gen. Lyman Curtiss was destroyed by fire, but a new one was erected on the site, where an extensive business is carried on at the present time.

The first permanent bridge over Fish Creek, on Mexico street, was built in 1805.

### LYMAN CURTISS.

Lyman Curtiss married Lucinthia Parke. Two children were born to them, who died in infancy and early childhood.

Lyman Curtiss succeeded his father in the interests centered around what is now the beginning of Mexico street. Across the bridge, on the south side of the road, was the Lyman Curtiss farm. He lived in a story and a half house, which was quite pretentious in those days, until he built the stone house in 1842. On the west end of the dam stood a grist mill, painted red, consequently it was called the old red mill. When Mr. Curtiss built the new dam it was moved away on a vacant lot, left unused, and in some mysterious way took fire and burned. On the east

side of Fish Creek was a saw mill, a grist mill, and a mill house, painted red, where Thaddens Hibbard lived and acted in the capacity of mill-tender. His childhood home was in Hadley, Mass. He married Miss Sophia Marsh, who was born in Leverette, Mass., in 1798. She was married when only 17 years of age. They left Massachusetts in 1810, and lived for a time in



View from Mexico Bridge.

Floyd. They came to Camden in 1831. Their children were Sarah, Allen, Thomas, Irene, Melissa, Sophie, Emeline, Maria. Mr. Hibbard died in 1858. His wife survived him 20 years, dying in 1878.

Gen. Lyman Curtiss had an adopted daughter, Elizabeth, who married Dr. A. T. Van Valkenburgh, a prominent dentist in Camden for many years, also belonging to the early Saxhorn Band.

Two children were born to them, who died with small-pox. Elizabeth Curtiss Van Valkenburgh died August 14, 1863, aged 31 years. Gen. Lyman Curtiss died December 13, 1868, aged 76 years; Lucinthia, his wife, died April 2, 1850, aged 54 years.

## MEXICO STREET CEMETERY.

In lot 69, Seventh township, on the west bank of Fish Creek, is an old cemetery, which contains the sacred dust of many of the pioneer fathers, who, after their toilsome life in the new country, were laid to rest here in the midst of the growing town. They had done their work well, and when they were called upon to lay down their burdens, others took them up; their loss only making a slight ripple on the ocean of time. Their sons and daughters were well fitted to promote the work begun. The remains of many have been removed to Forest Park Cemetery to rest beside the dear ones who were left to mourn their loss, and when the summons came to them, were laid to rest in a more quiet spot. As the years rolled by, Mexico street became one of the most busy thoroughfares, and it seemed more fitting that the remains of the departed should rest beyond the busy hum of hurrying feet and active business life. After the new cemetery was purchased, south of the village, the use of the old one was gradually discontinued.



Old Cemetery on Mexico street.

It contains nearly two hundred well-marked graves, although many common field-stones are used for the purpose, bearing neither name or date. But doubtless many are buried here whose graves are unmarked, whose names are unknown and forgotten by all; but they "sleep well," waiting for the final summons which shall cause them to arise and live. It is sacred ground, and speaks to the passer by of what has been and what shall be in language too plain to be misunderstood. We find this inscription on a timeworn stone near the street: "Bartholomew Pond, died March 21, 1810, aged 73 years. The first person buried in Mex co Street Cemetery." He owned a large number of acres of land in this vicinity, and we are told he donated of this land about three-fourths of an acre for a cemetery. But we find no trace of it in the County Clerk's office. The thought comes to us, that having lived more than the allotted time, and knowing he must soon lay down the burden of life, and desiring to rest near the scene of his daily labors, he chose this quiet spot, where the cooling stream in the summer gently laved its grassy banks, and where in winter its surface was wrapped in an icy pall, so emblematic of death. We conclude it was given verbally, and accepted in the same way. We find that seventeen Revolutionary soldiers are buried here, and three of the war of 1812.

During the last year a Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has been formed in Camden, and they have interested themselves in this cemetery; through their instrumentality, largely, many improvements have been made, by removing unsightly shrubs and dead trees, and otherwise improving the ground. Through the efforts of our present Supervisor, W. S. Peck, a neat board fence, painted white, encloses this sacred place.

#### MEXICO STREET.

The site of the first house, which stood beyond the cemetery, now occupied by the brick residence erected by the late George Abbott, was formerly occupied by a rude structure, where Judge Williams had an office as land agent. In 1820 Erastus Upson purchased the property for his mother, and had a tin shop, but after a short time he located his business on Main street.

The next occupant of the place was Isaac Allen, who was born January 16, 1769, in Rhode Island. He married Sarah Staples, who was born October 3, 1779. Their marriage took place at Danbury, Vt., February 17, 1799. No children came to them; and after the death of his wife, September 6, 1840, Artemas Peck and wife took up their residence there, to care for him in his loneliness.

Isaac Allen built the house which was moved back near the Corbin factory, where the late Amos Mix lived after moving into the village until his death.

Artemas Peck was born in Durham, N. Y.; his parents were natives of Connecticut. He married Parthurria Caine, born November 16, 1807. Their marriage took place in Rome, N. Y., January 1, 1824. Eight children were born to them—Alphonse, Sophie, Mary, Charlotte, Elizabeth, Horace, Reuben and Caroline. Four children are now living—Mrs. Charlotte Roberts of Buffalo, Elizabeth Howard of Camden, Mr. Horace Peck of Camden, and Mrs. Caroline Harvey, residing in our village. Reuben Peck enlisted in the 117th Regiment, Co. B, N. Y. Volunteers; was taken prisoner, and died in Andersonville prison. Artemas Peck died in Camden, July 11, 1888.

The next we can learn about the property is that eight and three-fourths acres of land were sold by Isaac Allen to Edwin Seth Dunbar, October 23, 1847, and by him transferred to Eben Abbott. The Isaac Allen house had been built under contract by Seth Dunbar, the date uncertain, but not later than 1835.

The late George Abbott married Louisa Merrick in Connecticut in 1842. They came to Camden in 1850, and settled eventually in the Isaac Allen house, where they continued to reside until 1865, when it was moved back near the Corbin works, to make room for the fine brick house completed in 1868, where his widow and daughter, Mrs. D. L. Mann, continue to reside. Four generations are living under the same roof: Mrs. Abbott, her daughter, Mrs. Mann, her grand-daughter, Mrs. Kittrick, her great grand-daughter, Elma Kittrick. The children of George Abbott were Helen, who married D. L. Mann; Anthony, who married Miss Irene Lamb; Elma, whose death occurred



August 25, 1891, unmarried; Frank, who married Miss Bailis, and resides in New York city. George married Miss Webster, and resides in Camden; and Marion, who married W. H. Stansfield, and resides in Syracuse. The death of George Abbott, Sr., occurred October 11, 1890.

The next building west of the residence of the Abbott home, was the hotel. A description of it will be found in the chapter pertaining to the "Early Taverns of Camden." The next was the store of general merchandise, with which the late George Abbott was connected nearly all of the years he resided in Camden.

Just beyond the store we come to the R., W. and O. R. R. station. This road was completed from Rome to Camden during the year 1850, and the last rail was laid through to Watertown September 3, 1851, and the road opened with an excursion, September 24, the same month. It was leased by the New York Central in 1890 or 1891 and a few advantageous changes made. The station was burned and a new one built in 1862. We read in one of our town papers of that year, that "Many improvements on the former style were added to the new building." In the journal of the Rev. W. Albright of Boston, who has kindly allowed us to make extracts from it, he writes: "It was just five o'clock on a cool damp morning when I got off the train, the only passenger to be left at Camden. The station was a dingy looking old building, with an office and a waiting room at one end, and all of the rest devoted to freight. The building seemed poorly constructed, and cried loudly for care and paint. I followed the gray horse which was carrying the mail to the post-office, and at length found myself on the main street of the village." Mr. Albright arrived in Camden several years after the new station, with its "many improvements," had been built. Although it has been altered from time to time and the waiting room is more comfortable than in former years, our beautiful town is worthy of a far better station, and had not the efforts of our towns-people been unavailing with the officials of the road, a new and modern building would have ornamented the site ere this. George Abbott, Sr., was the first ticket agent. He

was succeeded by George Whaley. The late H. A. Case held the position for many years. His son, E. C. Case, was ticket agent for a time, but resigned the position to enter the employ of F. H. Conant's Sons, where he remains at the present time a valued assistant. W. Buchanan, a young man whose home has been in Camden since early childhood, is the ticket agent at the present writing.

On the opposite side of the road stands the station of the Lehigh Valley. It was extended from Cortland to Camden in 1887, under the name of Elmira, Cortland and Northern, a continuation of the E. & C. road. The first train over the road was an excursion train to Sylvan Beach, Sunday, July 10, 1887. Byron A. Phelps was installed as ticket agent at this time, and continued to act in that capacity until it passed into the control of the Lehigh Valley road in 1895. The latter part of the summer of 1862, the first telegraphic communication with Camden and the outside world was put in working order by the R., W. & O. R. R. Co.

#### DAVID JOHNSON.

David Johnson built the house at the top of the hill on the right hand side west of the railroad station. For many years it was the only house in this locality. During the last ten or fifteen years this part of the town has grown rapidly and it presents one of the most thickly settled portions of the town to-day. David Johnson married Laura Wilson, May 28, 1828. Their children were Elizabeth, Lucien, Horace, Eliza, and Charlotte. When playing out of doors while yet a child, an electrical storm arose; Eliza sought shelter under a tree which was struck by lightning. While it did not cause her death instantly, she never fully recovered from the effects, and was laid to rest two years later. David Johnson died September 1, 1872; Laura, his wife, died February 25, 1867; Charlotte married James H. Gamble, and occupied the home until 1884, when it was sold to J. M. Dexter, and they purchased the Franklin Fifield house on the corner of Second and Union streets, where they continue to reside. Mrs. Gamble is the last one of the family living.

## MILO POND.

Bartholomew Pond gave his son Milo the land where the old red house stands, built by Sheldon Sanford. Until a recent date this was the next house beyond the David Johnson place. Milo Pond married for his first wife, Sophronia Smith. She died September 14, 1832, aged 32 years. His second wife was Mrs. Sarah Ballard, who, after the death of Mr. Pond, married Oliver Kinney and lived on Second street at the time of her death. Mr. Pond's children were, Erastus, Sylvester, Caroline, and Clara. Milo Pond died January 2, 1854, aged 53 years. Sophronia, his wife, died September 14, 1832, aged 32 years. Sylvester died



Milo Pond's House.

April 17, 1855, aged 30 years; Erastus died April 23, 1855, aged 27 years. The house has had various tenants since the Pond family occupied it, and is still standing, a relic of by-gone years.

We next come to the site of a log house built by Commodore Rodgers. He married the widow of Zenas Curtiss and left the property to her son, the late Jeremiah Curtiss. He built a frame house, which stood here for many years unpainted and weather-

beaten, but with an air both homelike and pleasing. On the east side of the house a large orchard of apple trees strewed the ground with their fragrant petals in the spring and in the autumn showered their luscious fruit over the same field. In front, on either side of the door, lilac bushes grew, with other old-fashioned flowers. Mr. Curtiss married Flora, daughter of Samuel Howd, and here they lived a peaceful life for many years. One son was born to them, William Curtiss. Jeremiah Curtiss died May 23, 1874, aged 69 years. His wife survived him but six days, dying May 29, 1874, aged 67 years.

In 1860 George Swanson bought the property of Jerry Curtiss. Mr. Swanson was a native Scotchman, born May 6, 1824. His home was near Edinburgh; he came to this country when only four years old. Ann Wilson, to whom he was married May 23, 1849, was born May 16, 1826. He removed the old house which he had purchased, and built a fine commodious house on the same site, but a few feet farther back from the road, where he expected to dwell with his wife and family, but his wife's health failed soon after they moved into the new house, and not long after his own health was undermined. After his death it was sold and is now occupied by Michael Hooks.

#### HORACE DUNBAR.

Horace Dunbar, son of Seth, married Alice Park. He built and owned the house which stands on Dunbar street, just off from Mexico street, not later than 1835. It is a sightly place, commanding a beautiful view of the village, nestling among the trees. Their children were Cornelia, Mary and Wallace. Cornelia married George Whaley, had one son; they resided in Camden for many years, then went to Adrian, Mich. Mary married Mr. Austin, and had one son. Wallace went to Ohio. Horace Dunbar sold his home in 1860 to H. A. Caswell, who occupied it with his family for a time, then went to Rome. At the present time it is owned by Samuel Scoville, who resides there and carries on the farm. Alice Park Dunbar died July 23, 1855, aged 48 years. Mr. Dunbar married Helen Snow of Austinburg, O., for his second wife; had two sons.

## JOHN ELDEN.

John Elden came from England in a British man-of-war some time during the Revolution. But a short time elapsed after landing in New York before his sympathies were enlisted in the cause of freedom, and he deserted his Majesty's army and joined our forces. He served in the war of the Revolution until honorably discharged. He settled in Plymouth, Conn., where he married Elizabeth Curtiss, who also resided in Plymouth. Their son, John Elden, came to Camden about 1807, bought a large number of acres of land on Dunbar street, which has been known to later generations as Elden Hill. He cleared one acre and built a log house, then returned to his former home, and when he came back, was accompanied by his father and mother. He married Lucy Cook; they had four children—George, Joel, Uri, who died while yet a young man, and Sally. They lived in the log house for several years, then built a frame house a little farther on, which was standing a few years ago, but now only the old well and the remains of the cellar walls mark the site where they all dwelt so many years. The children married and settled in Camden. Joel married Nancy Woods, remaining on the farm to care for his parents in their declining years. Two sons were born to them, George and Walter; the former married Miss Mary Wetmore. He met with a painful accident, and was killed while a young man. Walter married Mary Williams, and resides on the farm where two generations have lived before him. He occupies a new house, which was built a few years ago on the opposite side of the road from the old home. John Elden, Sen., died July 4, 1828, aged 76 years; his wife died October 19, 1833, aged 82 years. The son, John Elden, died in 1848, aged 64 years; Lucy, his wife, died in 1840, aged 55 years. Uri was born in 1808, and died August 10, 1830, aged 22 years; Joel Elden died in 1879. His wife survives him.

## ISRAEL BUTLER.

Israel Butler was among the large number of people who came from Connecticut at an early date. He first settled on the road which ran up from the George Parks place to the old



Matthews home, on Preston Hill. It was just back of the farm now occupied by William Barnes. It was rather low and marshy land, and has been called Butler's swamp up to a recent date. He afterwards sold this farm and bought land on Dunbar street, built a house, and near it dug a well. There is a grand old elm tree standing to-day, which was planted about eighty years ago to cast its cooling shade over the well. It stands as a remainder of the early home of this pioneer. Micajah Butler, one of the sons, was born July 4, 1800. He married Sibelia Snow, January 27, 1825. Her death occurred January 7, 1848. For his second wife he married Ruth Warner, born in 1807. Micajah Butler died September 16, 1872; Ruth Warner Butler survived her husband 21 years, living to the advanced age of 86 years, when her death occurred January 9, 1893. One son, Israel Butler, now resides in Camden.

#### THE DUNBAR MILL.

The first record we have concerning the property situated on what is now called Mill street, a road leading to the right, off



The Dunbar Mill.

from Mexico street, and extending through to Oswego street, a short distance above the village, is from a deed given by Jeremiah Curtiss, October 26, 1829, to Horace Dunbar and Alfred



Cole. In 1832 Horace Dunbar and Seth Dunbar, his father, built the first mill. Edwin Dunbar owned it at one time, for we find a deed given by him to his brother, Horace Dunbar in 1885.

April 1, 1861, Mr. William Caswell purchased it, operating it for one year, when he sold to Mr. George Swanson, April 1, 1862. From him it was purchased by John and Daniel Taylor, but in three years it again came into the possession of Mr. Swanson. He carried on the business until his health failed in 1888, when it was eventually sold and purchased by John G. Dorrance. At present it is operated by H. M. Carleton.

#### EDWIN DUNBAR.

On the left side of Mexico street, just above Dunbar street, stands a large fine house, painted white. It was built by Edwin Dunbar, brother to Horace, in 1846. He married Lydia Ann Abbott of Middlebury, Conn., in 1837. He was born in Camden, January 8, 1813. They had five children,—Caliste, Delancey, Sarah, Edwin, and Marian. With his brother, Horace, he was largely interested in the lumber and milling business. They were straightforward, upright business men, and gained the esteem of all who knew them. The names of both are prominently mentioned with the history of the town while they resided here. In 1861 Edwin Dunbar went to Michigan to reside, where his death occurred in Saginaw City, where he had been a resident about nine years. He was proprietor of the Dunbar House for eight years, leaving it in 1868 to reside on a farm in the town of Swan Creek, where he was four times elected Supervisor; the last term he served he was the oldest member of the board. While living in Camden he was twice elected Supervisor; the first time being the youngest member of the board. His death occurred in 1883, leaving a wife, one son and two daughters to mourn the loss of a noble husband and loving father. Edwin Dunbar sold his house and lands to Jeremiah Curtiss when he left Camden, where Mr. Curtiss resided up to the time of his death, and which is now occupied by some of his descendants.

## DAVID OSBORN'S FAMILY.

Deacon David Osborn was born in Litchfield, Conn., in the year 1782. Esther Potter, his wife, was born in Plymouth, Conn., in 1779. They were married by the Rev. Mr. Waterman, the 22d of December, 1802. In March of the following year they came to Camden, making the journey with an ox team. Fifty acres of land had been taken up about a mile and a half from the present village and two and a half acres cleared. Reuben Osborn, a brother, came at the same time; a log house had been built on his land. David and his wife remained there two weeks. These primitive houses were erected in a short space of time, and a log house with a cross-legged table and bench was ready for occupancy at the end of two weeks. The table is still in existence at the residence of the late David Osborn, a descendant. Mrs. Osborn brought a bag of sweet apple seeds with her from her old home, from which sprung the fine old orchard which has supplied



David Osborn and Wife.

the descendants, and many others, with delicious fruit. Possessing a great love for flowers, she brought from her Eastern home single hollyhock seeds, which she sowed in the virgin soil of the wilderness; they well repaid her for all her trouble and care; they grew finely and bore double blossoms of all colors, a thousand-fold, making a glorious blaze of color among the chaos of logs and brush of that newly-cleared land, cheering the hearts of the passers-by with a thought of the possibilities of the future. They

lived seven years in their first home. It stood back of the present house, on a road which ran through from Dunbar street, fallen into disuse many years ago. They abandoned the old house, moving into one owned by Deacon Lyman Tuttle nearer the village, and later into the Penfield house, just off from the main road. During the year 1817 Mr. Osborn built the frame house which is still standing in a good state of preservation, known to all as the Old Deacon Osborn place, and where he died in 1859. His wife died at the home of her son, David Osborn, a short



Deacon Osborn's House.

distance this side of the old home, and on the land they first purchased in Camden. Their children were—Potter, Sherman, Lucy, David, Elam, and Esther, the youngest and only one living, who married Isaiah B. Loomis and resides in Bound Brook, N. J. To her we are indebted for this history of the early settlement of the Osborn family. She has one son, O. P. Loomis. He entered the electrical field with Prof. Thomson, at New Britain, Conn., in 1883, and went with that company to Lynn, Mass., where in 1885 he devised improvements in the art, from this time until 1887, when a company called the Loomis Electric Manufacturing Company was incorporated. In 1889 they moved to New York where the patents were transferred to the Eureka Electric Company. Under the pressure of the panic of 1893 this company was suspended and has since gone out of

business. Since this time Mr. Loomis has been engaged in the design and manufacture of electrical machinery and his apparatus is successfully running in all parts of the world. He is a member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers, and has contributed several articles to various journals on the subject. During his career he has taken out over twenty patents for improvements, principally in the line of electrical engineering.

Reuben Osborn and his family came to Camden with his brother David. He was one of the trustees of the First Congregational Church. In 1811 he moved to Dover, O., where he died March 24, 1860, aged 81 years. Lucy Osborn died unmarried in Camden, May 26, 1852, aged 45 years.

Elam Osborn, son of David, married Miss Maria Platt, whose home was in Connecticut. He owned and occupied the house on Second street, which he sold to P. C. Costello when he moved his family back to Connecticut. Mr. Osborn was engaged successfully in the mercantile business. Two children were born to them, Lydia and Platt, whose early childhood was spent in Camden.

Sherman Osborn built the house just west of his childhood's home and moved into it December 4, 1830. He married Susau C. Osborn and settled here. They had two children, Hubert and Mary. His wife died August 10, 1844. After her death he married Marilla M. Phelps, by whom he had one son, Miner Osborn, residing in Camden; Sherman Osborn died April 6, 1859. His second wife survived him until December 31, 1885. Miner P. Osborn is the owner of the electric light plant of this village. In 1887 he commenced obtaining the necessary subscriptions for the introduction of the electric light, and met with good success. The system introduced was the Loomis incandescent, manufactured by the Loomis Electric Manufacturing Co. of Boston. Many of the business places threw out the old mode of lighting and replaced the kerosene lamps with electric lights. In 1888 an experimental electric light was placed on Main street, opposite Union street, which was so superior to the oil lamps which had been in use prior to this, that at the present time the whole

village is lighted with electricity, as well as many private houses. Mr. Osborn with his wife and one son resides on Church street.

#### DAVID OSBORN, JR.

David Osborn, Jr., built a house for himself just east of his childhood's home, in 1854. He married Mercv D. Cobb, daughter of Bennett Cobb, Sen., by whom he had one son, Henry S., born October 6, 1842. His wife died ————. He married the second time Mary Porter, who came from Taunton, Mass. Three children were born, viz.: Benjamin Porter, who died when a mere child; Betsey Porter, born February 16, 1845, married Walter D. Mathson of Amsterdam, where her death occurred; Benjamin L. Osborn, who was born October 25, 1846, who resides in the old homestead and to whom we are indebted for this history of his father's family.

Since writing the history of the Osborn family Mrs. Esther Osborn Loomis was removed by death, May 14, 1897, aged 77 years.

#### BARTHOLOMEW POND.

Bartholomew Pond, nephew of the one whose early burial is recorded in the old Mexico Street Cemetery, was born the first



Home of Bartholomew Pond.

of August, 1754. He was a soldier of the Revolution. He married Elizabeth Dunbar. He, with two brothers, came to Whites-



town, N. Y., in 1787, and before 1800 he, with his brothers, Barnabas and Timothy, came to Camden. They cleared a small piece of land on the old road leading from Rome to Mexico. It was just back of the old David Osborn place. Here they built a log house and then returned to Whitestown. Later, Bartholomew came back with an ox team, bringing his wife and seven children, his brothers remaining in Whitestown. When, late in the afternoon, they reached Fish Creek, where the Mexico street bridge now spans the stream, they found the water so high they could not cross, and camped on the east bank all night. The next morning they felled trees and constructed a rude bridge, over which they passed, and followed the Indian trail to their new home. He, later, built a frame house on the New Mexico road. Three sons were born to them: Merrit and Milo, who were twins, and Curtiss. Merrit Pond lived in the old home and cared for his parents. He married Ariadne Soper, sister of the late Amos Soper. They had six children, viz.: Amos, Pernette, Francis, Walter, Edward, and Marietta. The only ones living are Walter and Francis, of Chicago, and Pernette



Torbert House.

of this village, who has one son. Also Charles Putnam Pond and Mrs. T. D. Norton, children of the late Capt. Amos Pond, who reside in Camden. In this old Pond house one of the de-



scendants remembers seeing a room full of Indians fast asleep on the floor, who had entered in the night and wearied with their long tramp, were not awake when the family arose in the morning. The Indians used to pass over this road to Amboy to procure black ash, from which to make baskets. The daughters of Bartholomew Pond were, Caroline, Minerva, Mirinda and Hannah. Minerva married Sheldon Sanford, who built the old Milo Pond house; Miranda married ———Stevens; Hannah married ———Smith. Bartholomew Pond died March 31st, 1850, aged ninety-five years and eight months. His wife died November 8, 1839, aged seventy-eight years. Meritt Pond died June 13, 1856, aged 55 years. His wife, Ariadne Pond, died in Chicago at the age of 69 years. Her remains were brought here and buried beside her husband. Curtiss Pond built and occupied the house known as the Torbert house. He married Susan Mix. They eventually went to reside in Pennsylvania.

#### GIDEON NORTHRUP.

Gideon Northrup was born in Plymouth, Conn., in 1753. He married Hannah Hitchcock, who was born in the same town in 1775. They came to Camden to reside, and their names are associated with its earliest history. Mr. Northrup purchased a tract of land nearly opposite the David Osborn place, and the deed of it is said to be one of the earliest on record in the County Clerk's office. An old barn is still standing, although in a very dilapidated condition, a relic of pioneer days. A pump has been placed over the old well, which is just outside of the fence in the highway. Thirteen children were born to them, viz.: Lucy, Anna, Munson, Ebenezer, Jessie, Isaac, Medad, Rebecca, Daniel, Meritt, Hannah, David and Esther. The mother of Gideon Northrup probably came to the town with her sons, as her death is recorded in the early history of the Congregational Church as occurring December 1, 1812, aged 86. Hannah, the wife of Gideon Northrup, laid down the burden of life at the age of 69 years, September 10, 1824. She rests in the Mexico Street Cemetery. Her husband married the widow of Noah Tuthill, and moved to Pennsylvania, where he died in 1842.

## ANDREW TUTTLE.

Andrew Tuttle, son of Noah, came to this town in company with his father in 1797, bringing wife and one child, Lyman. Andrew Tuttle was born November 2, 1772, in the town of Wolcott, Conn. He married Philoma Allen, August 12, 1795. She was born May 19, 1779. They settled on Mexico street, west of the Sherman Osborn place. Their children were: Lyman, born in Wolcott, in 1796; Orris, born September 14, 1798, the second male child born in Camden; Eliza, born November 19, 1800;



Andrew Tuttle's Home.

Amanda, born June 30, 1804; Thankful, born March 27, 1808; Rebecca, November 3, 1810; Amelia, born September 17, 1815. Andrew Tuttle died October 19, 1829, aged 57 years. Philoma, his wife, died November 7, 1856, aged 77 years.

## DEACON LYMAN TUTTLE.

Deacon Lyman Tuttle came to Camden with his father. When he grew to manhood he married Sarah Hungerford, September 27, 1820. He succeeded his father in the old home, but in his declining years moved into the village, occupying the house which the late R. Harding moved back on the premises when he built the fine residence now standing on Main street. Here he lived with his daughter, Sarah, who married Calvin Preston.

Deacon Tuttle had three children by his first wife—Andrew

Orris Tuttle, born July 7, 1821. The next was a son, who died in infancy; and Sarah Eliza, born October 12, 1829. He married the second time Sabra Whitney, who was born August 13, 1806. One daughter was born to them, Helen Orvilla, October 14, 1838. Deacon Lyman Tuttle died in 1865, aged 69 years. "He was one of the earliest inhabitants of Camden, coming when a mere child, and growing up with the town. He, like many others of the early settlers, saw the wilderness become a thriving village. He has seen the rising and setting of a generation." Sarah Hungerford Tuttle died October 16, 1833. The second wife died in 1782, aged 66 years; Sarah Preston died October 20, 1871, aged 42 years, leaving one daughter. Helen Tuttle was one of the earliest teachers in the Union School. She went West to reside.

#### MEXICO STREET SCHOOL HOUSE.

Through the kindness of Dr. B. L. Osborn we have obtained the following facts concerning the Mexico Street School House:

The oldest written record obtainable concerning the school in District No. 3, Mexico road, is of the date June, 1813. "At a meeting warned by orders of Commissioners of Common Schools, Philip Barnes was elected President of Proceedings; Eliasaph Doolittle was elected Clerk; Isaac C. Smith, Oraman Tuttle, and David Osborn were elected Trustees." The school house in use at that time, according to the records and the recollection of the two persons now living (1897), Clark Porter and Thomas D. Penfield, who went to school in the school-house then standing, was a wooden structure with a door, and a stone chimney, with a fire place at the end toward the road.

It having been voted on November 28, 1813, "to procure two windows with sash and glass," and this apparently not having been carried out, it was again voted on November 17, 1814, "to procure two window sashes, also a pair of andirons." On January 24, 1814, it was voted "that a tax be laid for to clapboard the old school-house with rough clapboards; also to point the cracks the inside with lime mortar, and to put in some joists overhead, and lay a floor and fix the chimney, if necessary."

At the annual meeting held October 5, 1819, it was "Resolved unanimously to build a stone house, with the school-room, 17

feet square with a good chimney; and Resolved, That the old school house be sold to the highest bidder, &c."

On November 15, 1819, it was "Resolved by a majority of the voters present that the vote taken at the last annual meeting for building a stone house be null and void. Resolved, That the old school-house be done off in the manner talked of this evening, viz: To be a good floor laid; writing tables on three sides; ceiled up to the windows; 6 15-light windows; a good chimney with 1,500 brick; two doors hung with hinges; nail all loose boards, clapboards and shingles; the sashes painted; the whole to be done in a workmanlike manner; to be lath and plastered, \$20 dollars to be paid in cash and the remainder in cattle or grain."

On December 6, 1819, the above resolution was again unanimously voted, with this added, "that the trustees be directed to lay a tax on the district of \$2.75 for the purpose of purchasing a pair of fire-dogs and a record book."

On November 4, 1830, it was "Resolved to lay a tax of fourteen dollars to purchase a stove for the school-house."

Finally on the evening of October 30, 1840, at the annual school meeting the old school-house was put up at vendue to the "lowest" bidder, on this unique plan: The lowest bidder was to take the old school-house at his bid as half pay, together with an equal amount of money to be raised by tax, for building the new school-house, and have it finished by the first of July, following, according to plans furnished by the Trustees.

This seems to have been done, and a special meeting called July 1, 1841, which voted to build a tight board fence five feet high on the east, south and west sides, and a three and a half or four foot fence in front, with a gate, with iron hinges and a latch."

On December 8, 1852, it was voted to build a wood-house 12x16 feet square, and a tax was laid for that purpose.

During the summer and fall of 1862 the matter of building a larger and more commodious school-house, with seats in slips, larger black-boards, and with arrangements more modern, was agitated, discussed, and finally voted, chiefly through the efforts of Delos Penfield, and the school-house now in use (1897) was built in the winter of 1862-3.

Delos Penfield and John Pilkington having each given an equal amount of land, the grounds were enlarged, graded down and inclosed on three sides with stone wall. This building stands entirely back of where the old school-house stood. Upon the completion of the new school-house the old one of 1841 was sold to Abraham Voorhees, who moved it around the corner on to the Mix road, and used it for a shoe shop. The wood-house built in 1852 was sold to Clark Porter.

B. L. Osborn, District Clerk (1897.)

#### PARSONS ALLEN.

Parsons Allen, one of the pioneers of Camden, was among the earliest settlers, and an honored and respected citizen for more than half a century. He was identified with the earliest history of the Congregational Church, and a most consistent member of it. He married Chloe, daughter of Noah Tuttle, who was born March 13, 1787. He purchased the farm later known as the Voorhees place, and built a house, which is still standing, but little altered on the inside but materially changed outwardly. He built and operated a tannery near his home, and from the leather he made boots and shoes, and kept a shoe shop where they were for sale. His children were, Samantha, Alonzo, Noah, Edwin and Barzilla. Their baptisms are recorded in the early records of the Congregational Church in 1813. Parsons Allen was born in 1792, and died in the town of Munson, Ill., June 22, 1867. He left Camden for his western home in 1855. Samantha Allen, whose life was one to enlist our deepest sympathies, was always in feeble health, until it undermined her intellect, and in this state she remained until she reached the mature age of 33 years, when she was called from her pain and suffering to rest, and her remains are mingled with the sacred dust in the Mexico Street Cemetery. Her death occurred April 19, 1839.

#### DANIEL BARTHOLOMEW.

The next house beyond the school-house, on the left, was owned by Daniel Bartholomew, who came from Connecticut. But little can be learned concerning him. He settled here and built a log house; but prior to 1823 he sold the property to Fowler Penfield, who during that year built the house which

was destroyed by fire many years ago. Here he lived with his family until he went to Westchester County to reside. One daughter, Susan, was born in the new house.

#### DELOS PENFIELD.

Delos, son of Fowler Penfield, married Mary Barnes and continued to reside in the home his father had built until in 1851 he built the fine large house on the opposite side of the road, now the property of Charles Carleton. Four children were born to them: Jane, Warner, Julia and Jessie. Only Warner, whose home is in New York, and Julia, who lives in Washington, caring for her mother, survive. The farm on Mexico street was sold; the family coming to the village to reside. After several years they went to Washington, where they have since made their home. Delos Penfield died in New York, February 26, 1887, and was brought to his native town for interment.

#### CARLETON FAMILY.

The Carlton family came from Kildare, about twenty miles from Dublin. Charles Carleton, one of the brothers, came directly from Ireland to New York in the "Senator," a sailing vessel, in June, 1849. The voyage was a comparatively long one, taking most of the time for a month before they arrived in New York harbor. A relative had already arrived in this country, settling in Hillsborough, whom he wished to visit. He decided to make his home in this locality. The following November the father and mother, with two sons, James and John, and two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, left their homes and started for the new world and arrived in Camden, where they have since resided. Mary married David Price in Ireland, and Elizabeth married Richard Price soon after they arrived here. The Carleton brothers bought a large number of acres of land some distance off to the right from Mexico street, of Horace and Edwin Dunbar. They built large mills, where James, Jr., continued to reside until fire destroyed the property. The mother's maiden name was Ellen Raymond. All belonged to the Church of England in the former home, and soon after their arrival in Camden, identified themselves with Trinity Church. James Carleton, father of Charles, John R., and James,



Jr., died March 25, 1878, aged 72 years. Ellen, his wife died June, 1857, aged 47 years. They rest in Forest Park Cemetery.

#### WILLIAM PENFIELD.

William Penfield settled in Camden just west of the home of his brother Fowler. He located on the farm now owned by John R. Carleton. He married Eunice Penfield. They had five sons who went West and died there. William Penfield went on a trip through the South and when returning was stricken with yellow fever. He died with it and was buried at sea. His widow married Warren Preston, and located in Pennsylvania. Judge Israel Stoddard purchased the farm and had one of the barns moved to his farm south of the village, where it is still standing. An old well marks the site of the home.

#### STEPHEN SCOVILLE.

On the opposite side of the road from the home of John R. Carleton, Stephen Scoville lived many years ago. Little can be gathered concerning himself and family. His son, Thompson Scoville, occupied the home where John R. Carleton now resides. Stephen Scoville married Chloe Cook, sister of Oliver and Martin Cook. He died May 18, 1849, aged 74 years. His wife died June 16, 1848, aged 73 years.

#### CLARK PORTER.

The oldest man now living in Camden is Mr. Clark Porter, who resides on the left side of Mexico street, above Charles Carleton's residence. Lewis Porter, his father, came to Camden in 1811, and settled on the Seventh for a short time, where Clark Porter, the oldest of six children, was born the following year. Soon after he bought the house where his son, Clark Porter, now lives. Lewis Porter died December 27, 1858, aged 75 years. His wife died November 7, 1877, aged 92 years. Their native place was Watertown, Conn. Clark Porter and wife had three daughters and one son—Lizzie, who married Andrew Bohem, died July 15, 1895. Lewis Porter bought the house on Mexico street of Phineas Tuttle, who had formerly kept it as a hotel.

#### ELIASAPH DOOLITTLE.

Eliasaph Doolittle, whose name is closely identified with the earliest records of the town, was born in Plymouth, Conn., March

7, 1782. He was descended from English parents who came to America and settled in Plymouth in 1700. Eliasaph Doolittle had four sisters and six brothers, viz.: Lucy, Ruth, Sally, Betsey, Charles, Miles, Isaiah, Potter, Amazi and Charles. He left Connecticut to settle in Oneida County, N. Y., in 1802. This journey was performed on foot, with his clothing in a little pack, which he hung on the handle of the ax he carried on his shoulder. A very strong affection existed between his mother and himself and it was a hard trial for her to let the dear one go out into the world alone. She walked with him a long distance before bidding him good-bye. After he had parted from her he looked back and saw her still standing where he left her, shading her eyes with her hand, gazing after her boy, doubtless with tears blotting out the image she was trying to see. Tears always came to his eyes whenever he related this incident. His first home was made on Mexico street, on the farm known to a later generation as the Jerry Bailey farm. He made a small clearing and built a log house. At night he slept with logs piled against the door to prevent the wolves from entering. In the morning he often saw their tracks in the ashes where he had burned brush and logs. In the fall he buried his potatoes and walked back to his old home in Connecticut, spent the winter there and early in the spring again started for Camden. He paid partly for his land when he first settled here. When he left home the second time his father gave him sufficient money to pay for the remainder. He then built a more comfortable house and otherwise improved his land. Two years later he went again to his old home, and married Miss Joanna Brace, 1805. His father gave him a horse and wagon which conveyed himself and wife to the new home he had prepared for her. In 1812-1814 he was mustered into service and went to Sackett's Harbor and Oswego. During his absence his wife was at home alone with small children and the howling of wolves around the house at night made it imperative for her to keep the latch-string inside the door, lest in some way a wolf might pull it and enter. This fear added greatly to her loneliness. Mr. Doolittle received a pension in his later years in acknowledgement of his services as a soldier.

The farm where he first settled was sold in 1813, and the one purchased, just at the edge of the village of Camden; and this one was owned and occupied by the Doolittles until 1892, when it passed into the possession of G. S. Watkins. Seven children were born to Eliasaph and Joanna Doolittle, viz.: Sally, Miles, Willard, Wolcott, Lucena, Maria and Herman. The family were all members of the Congregational Church, one son, Miles entering the ministry when he was 30 years old, doing the Master's work most nobly. He died in the city of Troy, Wis., March 22, aged 68 years. Wolcott Doolittle married Marian Cronkhite of Wyoming, N. Y., taking his wife to the house occupied by his father, where they lived all of their married life. Eliasaph Doolittle was born March 7, 1782; died November 13, 1872, aged 90; Joanna, his wife, was born April 13, 1784; died in 1840, aged 56 years. Wolcott Doolittle died in 1850. His wife died in 1891. No descendants living at the present time in Camden.

#### JEREMIAH BAILEY.

Jeremiah Bailey bought this place of Eliasaph Doolittle and settled here. He married Fanny Scoville for his first wife, and Nabby Wilson for his second wife. Two children were born by his first wife, Fanny and ———. His second wife's children were Julia and Roxy. Fanny married Cornelius McGee; had five children; Carrie, who married John W. Brierley; Charles W., Burdett B., Adelbert S., Worden J., Clarence C. Julia married, first, Sidney Clark, and had five children, Julia, Jackson, Mary, Henry and Cora. Her second husband was John Sanford of this village; they have one daughter, Flora.

#### ELIJAH BAILEY.

Elijah Bailey was an early settler in this locality, coming here with wife and family. He was a soldier of the Revolution. His children were Roxanna, who died September 11, 1842, aged 22 years, and Winthrop, who died January 30, 1836, aged 37 years. Elijah Bailey died August 11, 1838, aged 76 years; Jeremiah Bailey died ———. Another brother, James Bailey, lived on the site where the house occupied by Eben Stevens now stands. After his death his widow married Samuel Gray. They had

three children, Maria, William and Stephen. The daughter married O. B. Gibson, lived for a time in Camden, then located in the West.

### SAMUEL CLEAVELAND.

Where the new dwelling house of James Carleton now stands, at an early date, Samuel Cleaveland settled with wife and children, becoming a large land owner. We can only learn of five children, Laura, Esther, Fannie, Richard and David. His first wife died August 11, 1820. She rests in Mexico Street Cemetery. He married, the second time, the widow Soper, mother of the late Capt. Amos Soper; one son was born to them, Henry, father of our well known townsman, Platt Cleaveland, and his older brothers, Seth, a prominent business man of Rochester, N. Y., and the late John Cleaveland of Buffalo. Samuel Cleaveland departed this life November 11, 1847, aged 76 years. The death of his second wife occurred October 7, aged 80 years. They rest in the old part of Forest Park Cemetery. In 1819 Samuel Cleaveland was one of the trustees of District No. 3.

### JOHN REMINGTON.

John Remington came to Camden from New Hartford in 1844, and bought of Horace Dunbar lot 59 in the township of Scriba's Patent. He had a steam saw-mill on a cross road which ran through the woods between Mexico street and Hillsborough. When he came to Camden he brought his wife and two children with him. John Remington identified himself with the old Amicable Free Masons, which was organized in New Hartford in 1792. He was an honored and useful member of Lodge 164 of Camden. His residence in this town was in or near the house which was occupied at an earlier date by Samuel Cleaveland, but after a number of years he moved into the village and kept the lower tavern. He moved to Utica, April, 1874, where he died April 11, 1890, aged 84 years. His wife died March, 1896, aged 77 years, leaving five children.

### ELIPHALET JOHNSON.

Eliphalet Johnson was born in Litchfield, Conn., in 1746. He enlisted in Capt. Lathrop's company, Norwich, August 29, 1777, and went to Saratoga. Dismissed October 23, 1777. He mar-

ried Chloe ———, whose childhood home was in Connecticut. He came to Camden in 1805, bought land and settled on the site later occupied by the Cash tavern, about three or four miles from the village. He made a small clearing on the land which he had purchased and built a log house, where he lived alone the first year he spent in Camden. After he had the side walls and the roof covered he left it one day to go to a neighbor's house, who lived about three miles west of his home, to procure some fresh meat. He made his purchase and started homeward; while going through the woods he heard the blood-curdling sound of howling wolves. They had scented the meat and were rapidly following him. As they came near he threw it to them and ran. It satisfied their ferocious hunger for a few moments, but soon it was devoured, and they came on faster than before. They were almost upon him as he sprang into the house and up a ladder into the loft. While in so much danger his wits did not desert him. There was no floor, and finding a long pole, he reached down and closed the door, then jumped from the gable end of the loft, which had not been enclosed, and went to his nearest neighbors in search of help, which he procured, and returning, speedily despatched the baffled animals. The following year he moved his family to Camden, coming from Connecticut with an ox team. He had eight children, all born in Connecticut, Abram, Eliphalet, Stephen, Miles, Elias, Chloe, Lydia, Amy and Ansel. Eliphalet Johnson died November 2, 1818, aged 72 years. Chloe, his wife, died February 26, 1817, aged 63 years. They rest in the cemetery on Mexico street.

#### JOHN WEBB.

After the death of Eliphalet Johnson we can find but little about the place; but in 1837 John Webb owned and occupied it with his family, and had erected a new building and kept a hotel. They were an English family. Mrs. Webb was a lace-maker in her home across the water, and continued to make it for sale after she came to this country. It was a curious sight to see her sit hour after hour with the large cushion before her, the pattern outlined with pins upon it, and to watch the alertness with which the bobbins flew from one pin to another with such



precision; there was never a mistake. They had one daughter, Sarah Ann, who married William Cash. After the death of Mr. Webb, the son-in-law continued to keep the hotel for a time, Mrs. Webb living with her daughter. He finally sold it to James Gilmore, who converted it into a private house. In 1857 or 1858, Mr. Gilmore sold to Patrick Keeshan, who lives there at the present time. Some changes have been made, the ball room, which was on the east side, has been moved farther on the road to Amboy, and made into a home for Mr. Keeshan's brother. John Webb died June 6, 1842, aged 70 years; Sarah, his wife, died November 14, 1853, aged 81 years.

The following was handed us to be published in the history of our town, which we gladly do:

On a certain day in the year 1831, the startling news was heard on the street that a person, a Scotchman by the name of Morton, in the employ of David Johnson, blacksmith, suddenly dropped down and expired. He resided on Mexico street, some four miles away, near the Amboy woods, in a log house. The family consisted of husband, wife and nine children, two boys and seven girls.

Deacon Lyman Tuthill, like the good man he always was, when he heard of it, went and called on them and soon saw that they were in very destitute circumstances, with not enough provisions to last them twenty-four hours. Before leaving he offered up a petition to the Heavenly Father in behalf of the widow and her fatherless children, commending them to His holy care and keeping. He went home and, with a little effort, obtained supplies of the neighbors and sent them to the sorrowing family.

Rev. Lewis Loss preached the funeral sermon, and after the funeral Deacons Tuthill and Osborn, Linus Sanford, James Southworth. Gen. Curtiss and others counseled together what was best to be done for the widow and afflicted family. It was proposed to get them into the York Mills, if possible, and Deacon E. Upson was requested to write and see if there was any chance for such. Mr. Walcott replied, Send them right along.

After the reception of the letter, a committee of ladies was appointed, consisting, among others, of Mrs. Deacon Tuthill



and Osborn, Mrs. Pearsons Allen of Mexico street, Mrs. Lyman Curtiss, Mrs. Esq. Brown, Mrs. Ransom, Mrs. J. C. Sperry, and Mrs. Deacon Upson, to look after their wearing apparel and report at Mrs. Deacon Upson's. The result was that the family were well provided with clothing until they had time to help themselves. Men volunteered with teams and transferred them to York Mills.

Now, reader, let us ring up the curtain for 1842, and notice the results; the two young men, James and Alexander, had prepared themselves to enter college by studying mornings and evenings, working in the mills during the day. They entered college, and Mr. B. S. Wolcott, the proprietor of the mills, generously aided and assisted them. They graduated with honors. James entered the ministry, and was a successful preacher; Alexander conceived the idea of getting up a pen that should be non-corrosive, an article much needed. The result was "Morton's celebrated gold pen." It was a great success and in a short time agencies were established in all the great commercial centers of the world.

Alexander, the famous inventor, died in the sixties, having acquired a large fortune. Before his death he requested his brother, James, to take the business and "Push it." James consented, and crossed the Atlantic eighteen times, and the Pacific twice, in the interest of the business, but eventually made his home in London the last few years of his life. In the summer of 1895, James, the brother, died. They were both young men without a single vice.

The sisters, young ladies, grew up genteel, refined and amiable, all having good homes; the whole family of nine children ornaments of society and a blessing to the world.

I could speak of letters received from her gracious majesty, Victoria, and other crowned heads and potentates of the old world, acknowledging in high praise the worth of Morton's gold pen as a valuable acquisition to the world, but this is not my purpose. It was to mention those early settlers, those fathers and mothers, who so nobly aided and assisted the widow and her fatherless children in those dark days of their bereavement and extremity.

Perhaps it has not been generally known that several of these men mentioned were contributors in the eighteen twenties of \$25 each to an endowment fund for Hamilton College, during the days of Rev. Henry Smith. The reader may smile and think this rather a small sum, but in those early days of a limited currency, coming so soon after the Revolution, it was fully equal to one hundred at the present day.

They were strong society leaders, both male and female. I grant that there are generally two sorts of society leaders—those who are the real, actual inspirators, quiet, cultivated, and refined, if not conspicuous, but who set standards of demeanor and give the best tone and character to advancing civilization; and the showy sort, who inwardly are restless, uneasy, and not cultivated, scarcely knowing what to do with themselves in order to pass away the time. They were church goers, and it seems to be a fact that the best people are church attendants, and dressed suitably to the occasion. They were persons of strong, generous personalities, receptive and responsive to spiritualistic influences, emphasizing by words and deeds the highest, loftiest and noblest ideals and ends of life. Other instances equally striking, characteristic, and gratifying in their results are not wanting.

Reader, kind reader, I think you will cordially agree with me that these and such as these are well worthy of pleasant mention in the History of our Town. Their remains rest in our several cemeteries. Sacred be their memories. We ne'er shall see their like again.—Communicated.

#### ROAD LEADING FROM MEXICO STREET TO HILLSBOROUGH ROAD.

The first settlers on this road were Laney Castle and Jesse Penfield, purchasing their land of Ogden & Murray, land agents. One David Lewis made a clearing in 1812, near where George Rush's home is at present date.

Jesse Penfield emigrated from Plymouth, Conn., (where he was a tax-payer in 1794) to Camden about 1803. His log house was the first home on this road, and was built on a rise of ground near Mexico street. He was a Revolutionary soldier, serving with honor in the militia under Capt. Phineas Porter in 1775.

In 1778 he enlisted in the First Connecticut Troopers, serving until 1780, receiving a pension for his services. His wife, Miss Polly Upson, was also from Plymouth, Conn. From Mexico street to his home was at first a bridle path (as in the early times people went from place to place on horseback); later, trees were cut and cleared, and a cart road constructed, which bore to the east and south from the present road, at the terminus of which, on a slight elevation, was the spot selected by Fowler, son of Jesse Penfield, as his home. He was married by Rev. Moses Gillett to Miss Jane DeMilt, April 21, A. D. 1811. On this spot he built a log house, which was the birthplace of our much respected townsman, Hon. Thomas DeMilt Penfield. Fowler Penfield's children were—Britannia Eliza, Thomas DeMilt, Warner Wood, Delos, Susannah W., George Jesse. The mother of this family died November 17, 1865, at her residence, No. 7 Rutger's Place, New York City. Her parents were Peter DeMilt and Susan K. Warner. Mrs. Fowler Penfield was born in the city of New York in 1790, but was a resident of Camden for many years, coming here when nine years of age. In 1846 she, with her husband, removed to Eastchester, Westchester County; from thence to her last residence in New York city. When Mrs. Penfield first came to Camden the journey from New York took four weeks, their manner of traveling being by horses and carriage. Where now is our village park was then a forest of lofty pines, with the homes of the first settlers interspersed among them. She was a lady of rare Christian character and excellence. Polly, the wife of Jesse Penfield, united with the Congregational Church of Camden in 1809. We can not ascertain what year this cross road was straightened and extended across to the Hillsborough road. Others settled in this neighborhood: Chauncey Woodruff in 1814. Mr. Woodruff came from Harwinton, Conn., where he married his wife, Miss Rebecca Scoville, in 1817, first coming to Camden and providing a home for his bride. The trip with his young wife was made with oxen, the cart containing their household goods. He purchased his place of Laney Castle (we regret that we can not learn something more of this early settler), upon which a

log house had previously been built. Mr. Woodruff had a family of eight children.

Willis Pond, son of Beriah Pond, lived on this road, and still later others settled here, among whom were Joseph Piney, Andrew Seubert, John Rush, John Peter Leavenworth, who came in 1841. He was a native of France, and served in the French war, was six years under King Louis Philippe, coming to America in 1833. He was married to Miss Mary Ann Keiser of Utica in 1836. He was a permanent and respected resident, attaining the age of 81 years. He died July, 1885. John Rush died in 1862, aged 65 years; Elizabeth, his wife, died in 1887, aged 87 years; Joseph Piney died in 1844; Margaret, his wife, June 30, 1853, aged 74 years.

### WEST CAMDEN.

We will now introduce you to the homes in an enterprising little village in the north-western part of this town, called West Camden, where the influence, both secret and silent, direct and open, conscious and unconscious, have molded the character of men and women of to-day. Of some of them we can only give you a passing glance. Among the early occupants of these homes there was no aristocracy of blood, or of boasting of honored titles. They were men of moderate means, and would have made a good living any where there was work. The first homes that they built were small and rude; in many instances they were log cabins, but were the abodes of contentment. The west branch of Fish Creek runs through this village and gives great facilities for milling purposes. The pioneers of this locality were hardy and industrious people, like their neighbors in other parts of the town. They have brought their wild lands and dense forests to a highly productive state, which shows their diligence and unremitting labor.

We find the name of David Smith in very old deeds, which shows that he owned a large tract of land in its primitive state at an early date.

Joseph Northrup emigrated here before his father, Gideon, and bought land here and on Mexico street. They lived together in Harwinton, Conn., not far from Allen and John Sper-

ry's, who belong to our pioneers. Their home was near the Naugatuck River. Joseph Northrup married Cynthia, daughter of Enos Blakeslee, and in buying land here the contract was made out to Joseph and Cynthia Northrup, from David Smith, and signed by Ambrose Curtiss and David Bartholomew of Plymouth, Conn. As Mr. Joseph Northrup did not settle here first, he must have transferred this property to Manning Barnes, the first permanent settler, who came here in 1802, whose deed was given in 1806, but not recorded until 1825.

Manning Barnes erected a log house and made a clearing, and this was the end of the road. It was simply an Indian path beyond, only to be traced by blazed trees towards Williamstown. This was the first clearing within the present limits, and also the first log house which served as a habitation. He soon brought



Manning Barnes' Residence.

his newly-wedded wife, Lucy, daughter of Gideon Northrup. The frame of this building was added at different times to the log house. Soon after settling here he hung out a sign and made a business of tavern keeping for a good many years. The log house was where now stands the store occupied by Mr. Leigh. The original road through West Camden ran back of what is now Lucius S. Smith's farm and S. V. Palm's, coming out on the Amboy road on the hill near Mrs. Leigh's house. This road was altered August 13, 1822—Enos Blakeslee, Surveyor. Mr. Barnes lived to see the progress of this place; and well he remembered



of visitations in the early days from the Oneida Indians that would pass through every autumn on their way to Salmon River to fish and hunt and lay in their stock of winter provisions. They would stop at Mr. Barnes' to cook and feast. Manning Barnes was born in 1780, in Connecticut, and died in West Camden, December 31, 1856, aged 76. Lucy, his wife, was born in 1788, and died October 1, 1858, aged 70. Their children that grew to manhood and womanhood were, Amanda, Albert, Lucy, Emeline, Wilbert and Mary Ann. Albert Barnes married Julia Ann Gillett. Mr. Barnes died June 17, 1836, aged 28. His widow married Thomas Henderson of Sand Banks, in 1840; Amanda married Selden Munson; Emeline married Marcenus Hyatt, and lived in Mexico, and also her sister, Mary Ann, who married Truman Goodell. Wilbert Barnes married Annis Stanton, and lived in West Camden for a while after marriage. He established the first store, and was the second post-master. He moved to Sand Banks and died there February 26, 1879, aged 68. Lucy married Baldwin Tuthill in 1842.

Mr. Tuthill was a native of Trenton. He left home in 1836, and came to West Camden soon after, and conducted a store. About 1844 he moved to Camden village and identified himself with the town in all its advancement of the rising generation in both church and school, and contributed liberally to the support of both. Mr. Tuthill died June 4, 1857, aged 62. His wife survived him twenty-three years, dying in 1880, aged 69. Four children were born to them: Mary died in infancy; Hull, a very promising young man of 18 years, died February 1, 1864. Miss Cynthia Tuthill and Mrs. Mattie Tuthill Porter are residents of Watertown.

Serajah Comstock married Clemina Austin, and emigrated here from Norfolk, Conn., in 1805. He settled at the extreme east of West Camden, on what is known as the Ostrander place, and followed farming for an occupation. In 1814 he removed to Williamstown, where he died. He was a Revolutionary soldier and enlisted in the Third Regiment of Connecticut line. Ten children were born to them. Two daughters died in Connecticut; Anna, Flora, Lucy, John and Samuel A., were born in



Connecticut; Sylvester was born in W. Camden; Charles and Franklin in Williamstown. We find in the records of the First Church in Camden, that Mrs. Clemina Comstock was a member in 1813. After her husband's death she married a Mr. Austin of Sand Banks. In a "Western Recorder," a paper published in Utica in 1826, and edited by Thomas Hastings, this obituary appeared: "Died—In Williamstown, February 23, in the 66th year of his age, Mr. Serajah Comstock, a soldier of the Revolution, and one who also, in the judgment of charity, enlisted a few years since under the banner of the Great Redeemer. He continued to walk worthy of the profession he had made, and at last died in peace."

### JOHN SPERRY.

Passing on to the next farm, which was the home of John Sperry, all traces of the house is gone. As to the date of his settling here we have been unable to find out. His brother, Allen, came to the town in 1805. It is believed that he came not long after. He must have been a large land owner, as we found in an old paper that John Sperry and Ann Sperry, his wife, owned 102 acres of land in Camden in 1816, adjoining Williamstown. His son, Angus, lived next on the south side, the place now owned by Samuel Belknap; and the other son, Davies, lived where J. Foster now resides. Davies Sperry married Cande Upton in 1812. This shows that this family were early settlers in West Camden. Their daughter, Rachel, died May 19, 1850. Marion married a Mr. Northrup.

### DANIEL STACY.

Daniel Stacy came to Williamstown from Washington County in 1810, and erected the first carding mill there. In the fall of 1818 he moved to West Camden and bought water privilege and built a saw-mill, and added a grist-mill and a small carding-mill. He raised the dam, which caused the sickness in 1825. His father, Oliver Stacy, and wife, came with him to West Camden, and lived where Mr. Winchester resides. His brother Orrin lived opposite. J. H. Taylor's blacksmith shop stands on the original site of the first shop built by Mr. Ladd in 1822.

Truman Cook came from Connecticut about Jan. 1, 1831, and

bought the Daniel Stacy home, and in 1850 Russel Winchester bought the place, and it has been in the family ever since. There were three children—the late Mrs. Fargo, and Mrs. A. Gibson, and H. F. Winchester, who occupies the place now. Russel Winchester died March 4, 1875, aged 73; Grace, his wife, February 2, 1876, aged 71.

Miles Spencer lived in this vicinity about 1817; his wife died and left two children—Miles and Polly. He married a sister of Lyman Matthews for his second wife; two more children were born—Coronda and a daughter.

Deacon Charles Spencer lived in a little house that was back of the blacksmith shop; his wife, Grace Spencer, aged 40, and daughter Laura, aged 18, both died, December 12, 1813, with a malignant fever.

The first house that was built where John H. Taylor lives was built by Ora Ballard in 1812. Ora Ballard married Sally, daughter of Joseph Northrup. They went as missionaries to the Indians at St. Joseph, Mo., returned in old age, and died at her sister Emily's (Mrs. Riley Preston), in Pennsylvania. Ora Ballard was brother of Deacon Roswell and blind Henry Ballard, and Mrs. Erastus Upson.

The place now occupied and owned by William Osborn was the home of Zophar Barnes, Jr., and father of Harvey, and grandfather of the late Potter Barnes. The latter got his name from his grandmother, who was sister to Samuel and Zenas Potter, of Plymouth, Conn.

Samuel Magee's house was built in 1822. Mr. Magee came here in 1820 from Schoharie County, N. Y. Many of his descendants live in this vicinity.

Miles Johnson was born January 3, 1782, and died September 19, 1826, with the fever that was prevailing at that time. His remains were removed from the old cemetery to the new one. There is no stone to mark his grave. He was married twice; his first wife was Miss Fish, his second, Miss Christina McCullom. Elias, his brother, was killed by falling from a tree near by; they were sons of Eliphalet Johnson, on Mexico road, who died in 1818.

Abel Munson removed from the Seventh in 1822 to West

Camden. Before coming here he lived one year in his first home, in 1809, and then he moved into a log house that stood a little west of the Marvin farm, and resided there six years. Afterwards he lived in another log house the same length of time, and then on the Marvin place, and from there to his new house in West Camden, now the Palms place, close by the crossing. Mrs. Munson's maiden name was Lucy Osborn. She died June 2, 1850, aged 70. Abel Munson died October 12, 1831, aged 57. He was a soldier of 1812.

Leverett Munson's home was east of the Presbyterian Church. After his father's death he lived in the old homestead. He was married three times; he first married Elizabeth Potts, who died in 1826, aged 19; his second wife was the widow of Angus Sperry; she died in 1856, aged 63; his third wife was Harriet Morse, who died in 1869, aged 67. Leverett Munson died October 17, 1868, aged 67. The only descendant living is Mrs. C. Crawford, of Iowa.

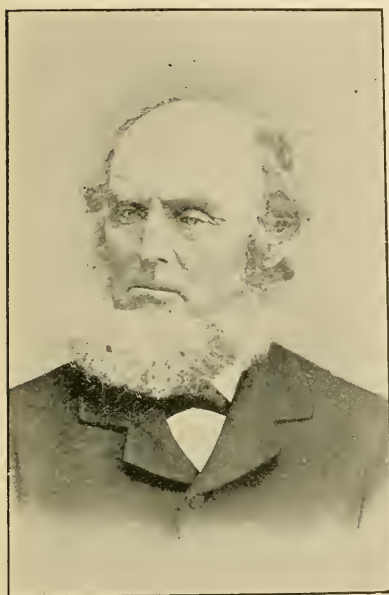
Lorenzo Munson bought land in Lot No. 16, about half a mile west on the Amboy road. He married Polly, daughter of Whiting Barnes, December 31, 1827; moved on to the farm in 1828, and both lived there until their death. Lorenzo Munson died September 29, 1892, aged 89; Polly, his wife, died December 1, 1884, aged 76. Their son, Loren now owns and occupies this farm.

Merritt Munson lived in West Camden for a number of years; he moved West, and died in Geneseo, Ill. His first wife was Harriet Rice, and his second, Mrs. Maria Matthews. Merritt Munson was the first postmaster at West Camden. He held the office a few years, and at that time the mail was carried through on horseback twice a week by a Mr. Worden. Not more than one or two newspapers came to this office at that time.

Selden Munson married Amanda Barnes, May 4, 1825. He bought land adjoining his father on the east, on which he spent most of his life after marriage. Five children were born to them. Lucy Amanda Munson married S. L. Smith; Mary A. Munson married J. W. Gamble; Almira P. Munson married L. H. McKee; Albert S. Munson married Lizzie McWhort; Merritt M. Munson married Helen Jones. Mrs. Selden Munson died De-

ember 1, 1869, aged 64. Selden Munson was born in Windham, N. Y., June 2, 1799, and died in Watertown, January 22, 1873. For more than half a century he was a resident of Camden; he united with the Congregational Church in 1830. He was a very estimable man, and disclosed rare traits of character, which was a rich inheritance to his children.

MR. S. L. SMITH AND WIFE.



The children of S. L. Smith and Lucy A. M. Smith are George H., a merchant, and Dr. Albert Smith, of Camden village, and Lucius, Annis, and Arma, of West Camden.

Since the above was written Mrs. Smith "entered into rest." She was ill, but not confined to her bed for a long time. She bore her affliction with much patience and resignation. Like a Christian she viewed the gradual but certain approach of the "last enemy" with calmness and composure. Her death was sudden, but peaceful. In the death of Mrs. Smith her family, the church and the community has sustained a severe loss; but their loss is her infinite gain.

[The writer wishes to express her gratitude to the family of the late Mrs. L. Smith for her valuable assistance.]

William Bird and Polly Munson were married in West Camden at the home of the bride, May 8, 1832. Their first home was in Windsor, Broome County, N Y., where they remained until 1834, then removed to Camden, where they became permanent settlers. William Bird inherited a great deal of energy and push, and was considered a "hustler." He was connected with a fine tailoring trade for those early times. He was right at home when, with the boys, he could sing and crack a joke, tell a good story, and above all, a lover of music, of which he could write. The following lines are not a sample. In Vol. I., No. 8, of the first Camden paper, we find this advertisement of Mr. Bird:

" Let all those who dote on a good fitting coat,  
Whose pockets are filled with the rhino,  
Don't be foolish as coots, but for BIRD start your boots,  
He'll do it the rightest 'est, I know;  
All those that live out in the country about,  
That live by your dairy or tillage,  
Bring butter or cheese, or just what you please,  
I'll take it, says BIRD, of the village.

March 23, 1842."

There is music in this rhyme which shows great ability of metrical composition. Mr. Bird died February 28, 1859. Mrs. Bird is still living in her 88th year. The writer is very much indebted to her for information which has been of great help. Three daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Bird, the oldest, Mrs. William Owen, Parkersburg, Ia.; Mrs. Adelaide Traffern, and Hattie Bird, of Camden village.

Whiting Barnes came here previous to 1805. His first wife died in Connecticut, leaving six children. He married the second time and two more children were born to him. The names of the children were: Mary, Avert, Hannah, Alfred, Polly, Whiting.

Mary married Gilbert Hyatt, who was a native of Schoharie County, N. Y. His father came to this section at a very early date. Gilbert Hyatt was a soldier in the war of 1812. He was born in 1796, and died in 1888, aged 92. His wife died March 21, 1875, aged 73. Fifty-three years of their married life was spent in the same home where they died.



Avert Barnes married Catharine Hare. He built and lived in the house almost 60 years, now owned by Mrs. E. Holt. Hannah died unmarried; Alfred married Olive Cook, and lived on Preston Hill; Polly married Lorenzo Munson; Whiting married Almira Gifford. The second wife's children were, Zophar and Amanda, who live in Connecticut. Whiting Barnes, Sen., died May 26, 1825, aged 46.

Zebina Hare lived beyond Mr. Hyatt's, on the Amboy road. There were seven children. Francis Hare married a daughter of Arba Cook, and moved to Connecticut. Dolly Ann died July 14, 1839, aged 24; Sarah married Calvin Johnson of New Jersey; the other four were Catharine, Emily, Edward, and Laureatte. Mrs. Hare came with her husband from Massachusetts in 1828; Mr. Hare died in 1855; Mrs. Hare died March 21, 1875. George Hare that lived here for some time was a nephew of Zebina Hare. He married Wealthy, daughter of Charles Curtiss, who died February 18, 1854, aged 25. He returned to his native place in Connecticut.

District No. 9 of West Camden is a joint district with the No. 9 of the southern part of Florence, where a number of the inhabitants were the original settlers, who came when this part was in the town of Camden, and were identified with the school and church work of this little village, and were among our pioneers.

#### CLARK CRAWFORD.

Clark Crawford was one of the pioneers of this section; he was born in Connecticut, and when ten years of age he came with his father, Charles Crawford, in 1799, and settled in Camden, now Florence. His last days were spent in West Camden with his son, and he is buried in the Seventh, dying November 29, 1875, aged 87; his wife died March 8, 1872, aged 76. Mr. Crawford had said at the time of their coming here the whole surrounding counties were a dense forest. There were five or six families who commenced this settlement, known as the Bates District, near Robert Sparrow's. Charles Crawford was one of the first, to whom a bonus of fifty acres of land was given as an inducement to settle here. The nearest grist-mill for a number



of years was at Rome. Thither the settlers were compelled to go with ox teams, or on foot, carrying a grist on their backs. When twelve years old, Mr. Clark Crawford was bound to Norman Waugh, and remained there until he purchased the farm of Mr. Waugh, which was his home for nearly 72 years. When a young man he was in the habit, with others, of going to the State of New Jersey to work on roads during the warm weather. The journey both ways was made on foot. He assisted in the construction of the old road from Salina Salt Works to Sackett's Harbor. In 1812 he entered the army as corporal in a company of 36 men from Camden, under the command of Capt. Andrew Palm. On their arrival at Sackett's Harbor with Captain, afterwards Gen. Weaver's company, from Deerfield, he served three months; he was soon discharged after Gen. Brown took command. "Annals of Oneida County" says that the settlement which is now the town of Florence commenced in 1801. Mr. C. claimed that he came with his father when ten years old, which would establish the date of the first settlement as 1799.

#### ASA KELSEY.

Asa Kelsey, Jr., who lives on the line between Camden and Florence, came from Litchfield, Conn., with his father and mother in 1803; he was two years old when they settled here; it was in Camden Township. Florence was taken off in 1805.

Mr. Kelsey was 96 years old February 1897, and is a man with a wonderful memory. He looks twenty years younger. There may be a fountain of miraculous water flowing out of Florence Hill in which he bathes, that has such a wonderful effect on the youthful looks of a man in his 97th year. His wife died January 26, 1871, aged 61. He now lives with his daughters, Mrs. Green and Miss Dr. A. Kelsey. There were six children—Emily, Miranda, Adelaide, Sarah, Samuel and Josephine. The latter married O. P. Clark, and their home is on Mt. McGregor, Saratoga. Mr. Kelsey gives a description of his father's house, and how it was built, and some other incidents in that vicinity as he remembers them. When his father moved here in 1803, there were eight children, four boys and four girls. His father went into the forest one mile further than where he put up his

house. In building, he put up the body of logs and the rafters. For the roof he cut small straight poles and fastened them with withes close enough together to hold the bark, which was four feet long. He cut red and black ash in a swamp, and peeled the bark from that for the roof. After the bark was laid on the poles another row of poles was laid on the bark, and the ends of the upper poles were fastened with withes to the end of the under poles; and that made the roof. The floor was made of small logs of trees cut through the middle, long enough to reach across the room; then he smoothed the split side with an ax as well as he could. This was their first home. He said that people got lost in the woods and stayed out all night; and he remembered one who when he was found was so nearly famished that he died from over-eating. He told another incident about a young man trying to cross Mad River before there was any bridge, and was drowned; which was a great loss to the settlers. There was a man in the same neighborhood who went on foot to Rome and bought a bushel of wheat and brought it home on his back, walking the long journey of twenty-five miles to where he lived, for they had no bread in the house. Told by Mr. Kelsey August 17, 1896. About one mile beyond the home is a little cemetery with a monument where lie the remains of the pioneers of this family. The inscription on the stone is: "Asa Kelsey, died April 20, 1818, aged 70. Sarah, his wife, died February 2, 1841, aged 84; Anna, their daughter, and wife of Jesse Dennison, died December 15, 1815, aged 24."

Since the above was written, Asa Kelsey departed this life on the 23d day of May, 1897. He retained his intellectual faculties to the last, and died at the ripe old age of 96 years, and is now blessed, it is hoped, with the rich rewards of a truly virtuous and eminently useful life. His oldest daughter died in February last.

#### ELIAS CHAPMAN.

Nathaniel Chapman was a soldier of the war of 1812. Most of his life he lived near West Camden; he was very much interested in all public improvements. His last days were spent with his son, Elias Chapman. The home was over the town line in Florence, but belonged to the joint District No. 9 of West Cam-

den, and therefore he was identified with the pioneer church work, and also was interested in the already established school. After a life of active toil and an unparalleled record as a pioneer,



Home of Elias Chapman.

he died April 30, 1884, aged 93. His wife died August 21, 1874, aged 80. They were married in 1814. Elias Chapman died September 6, 1892, aged 74; his wife died November 23, 1893. The children of E. Chapman were, M. O. Chapman, Mrs. W. Russell, Mrs. H. J. Walker, all of West Camden, and H. H. Chapman, of Camden village.

#### ELIHU GIFFORD.

Elihu Gifford was born near New Bedford, Mass., October, 1797. The house in which he was born still stands. He came to this State when a small boy; his father was a sea captain, and while pursuing this hazardous vocation, his vessel was captured by pirates. When the sad news of his death reached his wife, she fled with her two boys, Honuel and Elihu, to a place where white sails and blue waters are never seen. They came to Smithfield, Madison County, N. Y., and lived in the house with Hiram Spencer. At the age of 20, Elihu married Diana Spencer, who was only 15. Three years afterwards this young couple moved to Florence and bought of Gerrit Smith Lots 99 and 100, and lived there ten years; then bought or traded with Isaac Stearns, the present home of Hamilton Gifford, and built the house now

standing. There was a log house a little to the north, with ten acres, owned by Pliny Putnam, that he bought and added to this farm. Four children were born to them; the two that are living are Hamilton Gifford and Mrs. A. Barnes, of Cleveland, O. Elihu Gifford and wife were very hospitable people; they kept a room in the house to give shelter with the open hand of charity, which



Hamilton Gifford's Home.

has left a living example of kindness and sympathy. One act is often told of E. Gifford: He had an unusual large yield of corn; and the farmers' corn in that vicinity was a failure. He put the price of his corn at one dollar a bushel, so that the rich and the poor were served alike, and only one bushel at a time could be bought from him either. He had chances to sell at a larger price for speculation, but he would not let them have it to make profit, and sell it beyond the reach of the poor. Elihu Gifford died March 2, 1883, aged 85; Diana, his wife, died July 10, 1882, aged 80. Hamilton Gifford occupies this farm at the present day. He has been married twice; his first wife died and left three children, now Mrs. James, of Syracuse, Mrs. J. H. Taylor, of West Camden, and Mrs. J. Saladin, of Camden village.



He married Miss Hannah Northrup for his second wife; she died in 1893, leaving five children: William, Elihu, Thomas, Henry and Rose.



Eastern View of Hamilton Gifford's Home.

On a cross road one-fourth of a mile east of Hamilton Gifford's, is the home of John Gamble. He came to this town in 1834 from Greenwich, Washington County, N. Y. His step-father and mother, two sisters and one brother were living here. Betsey married Angus Sperry; Clarissa married Caleb Rowell; James father of James Gamble of this village, married Olive Preston. All of this family are at rest in the cemetery on the Seventh, but John. John Gamble married Sophronia Curtiss in the fall of 1835, and moved upon this place, and it has been their home ever since. Mrs. Gamble is the grand-daughter of Major Jesse Curtiss, and the only one living in this vicinity. There were six children born to them—Wesley, Sperry, James, Anna, Carrie and Susan.

In Mrs. John Gamble's early days the girl who could spin her run or run and half a day was an accomplished lass.

In crossing the track and the bridge by the railroad station in West Camden, at the left, on a rise of ground, was an old ceme-

tery. As no record had been kept of all the burials, we have been unable to find the names of many that were buried there. When the ground for the new cemetery was bought, the bodies were removed there or elsewhere, and this plot of ground was sold to McKee & Morse for a bark-yard. The new cemetery was incorporated September 12, 1861, and consisted of one acre. In 1895 an additional tract of land of half an acre was joined to the original purchase, and its systematic plan of the lots makes it one of the neatest in this section, considering the smallness of this village. The first trustees of the West Camden Cemetery Association were, L. S. Smith, H. F. Rogers, L. Munson, Elias Chapman, C. L. Morse, George W. Smith. There were a number of bodies moved here from the old cemetery; among them were John Sperry, who died August 8, 1825, aged 75; Anna, his wife, who died October 27, 1826, aged 72; John Davies Sperry, who died October 6, 1825, aged 57; Angus Sperry, who died August 7, 1825. Daniel Stacy and father and mother's remains were removed to Forest Park Cemetery, Camden village. Daniel Stacy died September 8, 1825, aged 37; Oliver Stacy died September 26, 1826, aged 69; Azubel, his wife, died November 18, 1822, aged 59; the wife of D. Stacy, who died March 28, 1872, aged 76, and is buried beside her husband. The first burial in the new cemetery was a colored man. There were a number of bodies removed here from Florence Hill; among them were John Littler, who died March 26, 1846, aged 69; Freideswed, his wife, who died April 7, 1850, aged 65. They were natives of England, and emigrated here in 1835. There are many descendants in this vicinity. Another stone marks the resting place of the wife of Elder Bates, a woman whose good works live after her. There have been two hundred and twenty-two burials in this cemetery. Walter, son of Henry J. Keeler, has charge of this cemetery; his wife was the adopted daughter of Newell Smith. Their children were Charles, May, Ellen, and Florence.

#### RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

The religious services at a very early date were held in the school-house or a private dwelling for many years. November 5, 1851, the Presbyterian Society at W. Camden was organized with sixteen members, by a committee appointed by Oswego Presbytery. The government was not at first of the Congrega-



tional form, being connected with the Presbytery, upon the so-called accommodation plan. About the year 1883 or '84, the church voted to adopt the Presbyterian form in full. It is not known who preached, or who assembled to hear the first sermon previous to the coming of Samuel Sweeney. They had occasionally been supplied with preaching from time to time by others—Rev. Simon Waterman of Connecticut, Rev. Henry Smith, Peter Gardner and Truman Gillett, a Baptist clergyman. The charter members were—Charles Curtiss, Sabrina Curtiss, L. R. Smith, Mrs. L. S. Smith, Fannie Gillett, Sophronia Gamble, John Gamble, E. M. Higbee, Polly Humaston, Christine Litts, Harriet Litts, Seth Rice, Mary Rice, Daniel Litts, Amanda Kelsey and Rebecca Winchester. In the fall of 1857 Leverett Munson gave the site, and a house of worship was begun, which was finished



Presbyterian Church, West Camden.

and dedicated the following autumn. For about twenty years it was used by both the Presbyterian and Methodist Episcopal Societies, each society having preaching services every alternate Sunday. In 1878 the Methodist Society concluded that there appeared to be enough ground to build on, and material enough to build with, by taking hold with a good deal of zeal in the right spirit. They accordingly began to move for a separate place of worship, and they started with their subscription paper and met with good success. The land was given by Mrs. A. Gibson, and in three months the church was built and finished. Elihu



Methodist Church.

Gifford and wife, quite advanced in years, were great workers in this good cause. Mrs. Gifford was confined to her bed three years before her death, and while lying there she knit socks and mittens and pieced quilts to help pay a subscription of twenty-five dollars. The first trustees of the M. E. Church were Elias Chapman, Hamilton Gifford and G. T. Luther. West Camden has had more workers in the missionary field than many places of a larger size.

## DR. ADALINE D. H. KELSEY.

Among the residents here whose work has given their name a more than local interest is Dr. Adaline D. H. Kelsey, a daughter of one of our earlier settlers. After graduating from Mt. Holyoke Seminary (now college), and the Woman's Medical College of New York Infirmary, and serving as physician in both institutions, Dr. Kelsey engaged in medical missionary work in China, under the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, until ill health made her return to America necessary. After a brief furlough she took up similar work in Japan, under the Union Woman's Missionary Society, and on her return to this country after five years, was accompanied by two Japanese young ladies, of whose medical education she has had the supervision. These young ladies graduated in Cincinnati, April, 1896, and are looking forward to the time when they will sail away to Sunrise Land with a pleasant remembrance of their life on Daisy Farm in West Camden.

## REV. JOHN B. DEVINS.

Rev. John B. Devins spent the early part of his life in West Camden, at the home of Joshua Chapman, and was at one time a pupil of Dr. Kelsey. Going to New York as a young man, he spent some years on the staff of the New York Tribune, and was engaged in the "Fresh Air" movement. Later he studied theology and became pastor of Hope Chapel, a mission connected with the Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church. He is actively engaged in many forms of benevolent work, and articles from his pen on questions of practical philanthropy frequently appear in the leading periodicals. He married the secretary of the Home of the Friendless, and she is a co-worker with him.

Miss Arma Smith, daughter of L. S. Smith, was for several years a teacher in the American College for girls in Constantinople. She was abroad three years, studying and teaching, and visited different parts of the Continent.

## MISS CARRIE BATES.

Miss Carrie Bates, daughter of the late Rev. Eli Pates, who was for many years the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in this place. She was an invalid during her childhood and early

womanhood, and on her restoration to health she connected herself with the Christian Alliance, and is now a missionary in Khamgaon, India, under that organization.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOL.

This place had its public school from the first of their settling here. The first teachers were, Rachel Hungerford and Anna Comstock, and they taught in a log house owned by Manning Barnes, opposite the blacksmith shop. On this place a frame building was afterwards erected for a school-house. In 1838 this was replaced by another, which stood until 1869 or '70, when the district voted to erect a new one, and purchased a site just south of the old one. They have now a building with two departments, and it is in a flourishing condition.

#### MANUFACTORIES.

The precise date of building the first mill is unknown. There was one in operation at an early date, but receives distinct notice when bought by Daniel Stacy in the fall of 1818. The deed was reocrded from Ogden & Murray to Daniel Stacy, March 11, 1823. He built a saw-mill, grist-mill, carding-mill, and added a rake-factory. January 31, 1831, this property was deeded to Samuel Morse and William Plumb, and the same day sold to Truman Cook of Connecticut. July 18, 1849, it was deeded from Truman Cook to George Cook, his nephew. January 2, 1850, it was conveyed from George Cook to Russell Winchester. Winchester's heirs sold to Albert Mott, January 12, 1884. These dates are from the County Clerk's office. Mott Brothers changed the mill to a circular mill. The first chair factory was owned by Smith & Weed. It was destroyed by fire, and soon after, Alonzo Gibson purchased the site and built another chair factory, which flourished until the depression of business in 1895. It is now owned by Cummings & Brothers, and used for other business.

The first tannery was built by Henry Hawes, who sold to Potter & McKee; Potter sold his share to Mr. Stone, then the firm went by the name of Stone, McKee & Co. In 1859 it was sold to Delemater & Morse, and was burned April 2, 1876. Mr. Morse moved here from Jeffersonville, Sullivan County, N. Y., in 1859.

## WEST CAMDEN POND.

In the year 1825, the pond in West Camden, then owned by Daniel Stacy, caused an epidemic called "pond fever," which so alarmed the people that many went away and did not return to their homes. Any one traveling through would make haste to get beyond this afflicted district. It was several years before this disease was under control. The dam on the site now owned by Mott Bros., was raised to a height of eleven feet, flowing the water on standing timber, which caused this fever. The mill dam was indicted as a public nuisance. It was torn down, and when the property changed hands the dam was raised about four feet, and has remained the same to the present time. There were so many sick at the time of the epidemic that people from adjoining districts went to their aid. In the village of Camden, five miles away, Rev. Henry Smith, pastor of the Congregational Church, appointed two for each day among his people to act as nurses, and they would be seen going and coming every night and morning. Forty were dangerously ill at one time. Dr. Torbert of the village was constant and faithful in his care for the sufferers. There were a great many deaths; John Sperry's two sons died of the disease; the father, at the death of Angus, fell in a fit and died by his bedside; Davis lived but two months after; Daniel Stacy and father were among the victims, also Miles Johnson.

Looking back from to-day to those pioneer times of West Camden, we can hardly realize the contrast between the present homes and the fertile fields, and those rude homes of their forefathers that were scattered and so far from one another in the dense, dark forest, that echoed the psalms and hymns which lightened their heart as their voices of prayer and praise ascended to heaven.





## PARNASSUS STREET.

Parnassus street begins at Empey avenue, at the top of the hill, and extends past Conant Bros.' chair factory to the corporation limits. This street winds up the rugged and uneven sides of Mt. Parnassus, from which it received its name. The first place on the left, after crossing Mad River, now owned and occupied by Mr. Eaton, was in the early days the home of Arty Allen and Tabitha, his wife, who came to Camden from Springfield, Mass., in 1804. Much of interest clusters around this home. In this house are plain doors made from a single pine board, the same taken from trees that stood where is now our village park. There are other evidences about the house that show it was one of the earliest framed houses built in the town. The name of Arty Allen is found on the first town record book in 1808. The children of Arty Allen were Lucy, Achel, Philena and Chapin. Mr. and Mrs. Allen were married at Springfield, Mass., January 25, 1799. Arty Allen was born January 15, 1775, and died February 26, 1817. His wife, Tabitha Chapin, was born August 13, 1770, died May 6, 1861.

Nearly opposite on the right was the home of Abram Hodges, who came from Ellisburg, Jefferson County, in 1826; he bargained for this place from one by the name of Holt, of whom no information can be gained. In 1829 Mr. Hodges built a distillery south of his house, near Mad River. He was unfortunate, and this property passed into the possession of Artemas and George Trowbridge; later it was purchased by Henry Mowers, who here built a tannery. April, 1869, there was a disastrous freshet on Mad River, and the tannery was carried down the stream.

On this street was the home of Woodard Perkins, built by him in 1845. He set out a grove of maple trees about his house, many of which are still standing. The place is now owned and occupied by William Hull. Mr. Perkins was married to Miss Esther, daughter of Gideon Northrup, in 1822. In 1863 he was President of the Camden Industrial Association and delivered the address that year. He was much respected, and a favorite with the young, who were fond of hearing him repeat incidents of his early life. Before he entered the militia he sent for a book



on military tactics, and when going to the woods chopping took this book with him, and while eating his dinner studied. He made for himself a crude wooden gun to practice with, and in this way was so advanced when he joined the militia that he was soon raised to the rank of major. Esther Northrup Perkins was born May 29, 1803, and died February 2, 1871; Woodard Perkins born May 20, 1798, died August 12, 1883.

### SPRINGS AND MOUNT.

Mount Parnassus was thus named at an early date, probably about 1842, by some of the young people who were exceedingly classical. They often took airy flights upon Pegasus, and as a matter of course, the mount was their alighting place. It was, until within a few years, the resort for numerous picnics and strolls for young and old. The trip up the mount, although tiresome, is worth the climbing, as one gets an extended view when the top is reached, and will never regret making the journey. Nearly at the foot of the mount are springs, the water of which are clear as crystal, and of most excellent quality. For many years they were called "The Eliab Dunbar Springs." The possessor of this property at present date, 1897, Charles Pond, is a direct descendant of Bartholomew Pond, one of Camden's early settlers, and a Revolutionary soldier, whose remains rest in the Mexico Street Cemetery. In 1830 Aaron Meeker lived just over the mount. His home stood where the road is now; a pile of stones by the roadside marks the spot of the cellar of the house. He came from Middlebury, N. Y., purchased his land of Heman Byington, some ten or fifteen acres. Mr. Meeker, while bathing in what is now known as the Conant Pond, was drowned above the dam. His widow was left with six sons and a daughter, the names of which were, Erastus, Jonathan, Ephraim, Sheldon, Howland, Marv, and Lyman. Later, widow Meeker settled on what is now known as Cropper street. Beyond the Meeker place in a log house, Jehiel Higgins lived prior to 1810. The remains of an old orchard are here to be seen, and stones and flowering shrubs to designate the spot where this home stood. Parnassus street extends across the mount to the Florence road on Wolcott Hill.

## CROPPER STREET.

Cropper street begins at the foot of Mt. Parnassus, and leads to Florence. John Cropper, from whom the street takes its name, came from England and settled on this road prior to 1802. He built a saw-mill on Mad River, and did an extensive lumber business for those days. Every lover of trout-fishing in this region can locate this old landmark, as it still retains the name of its original owner. On the corner of Parnassus and Cropper streets the land was owned by Ephraim Sanford prior to 1814, as that year it was conveyed by him and his wife, Temperance, to Eliab Dunbar. November 20, 1833, the same was deeded to A. & G. Trowbridge by Eliab Dunbar and wife. In 1885, by G. Trowbridge and wife to Charles P. Pond, its present owner. Eliab Dunbar was a son of Capt. Joel Dunbar. He married Miss Rachel Harrison. Their children were—Betsey, who married Leverett Pond; Charity, who married E. J. Nelson; Julia, who married Mr. Brackney; and Plumb. Mr. Dunbar's trade was that of carpenter. His grandson, Brainard J. Nelson, born in Camden, has been a resident of Oswego, N. Y., for many years. The first house built on this corner was of logs, erected by Mr. Dunbar. He removed from Camden to Pennsylvania many years ago. Chas. Pond has built on this spot a very pretty Swiss cottage. Some little distance beyond, on this street, at an early date, was the home of Enos Humaston. In 1839 Wilson Baldwin purchased it of Sheldon Wilson. The present frame house was built by Ransom Barnes. When Mr. Baldwin first settled on this place the cart path leading to his home from Parnassus street was through a dense woods, and beyond his place towards Florence the inhabitants went by marked trees. The road was surveyed in 1825, as records show, by Widow Allen's, past Enos Humaston's. Mr. Baldwin married Miss Mary Mowers in 1837. Their children were, William, Nancy, Henry and Lydia. Mr. Baldwin died November 4, 1874, aged 63. He was a resident of Camden fifty or more years, much respected, a quiet man, interested in all good works for the interest of the town.

Two sons of Joseph Peck had homes beyond the Baldwin place—Erastus and Seth. Their homes were on the east side

of the road, overlooking the valley to the west. Later, another brother, Lansing, lived on this road. The children of Erastus Peck were, Joseph and Helen. Children of Seth Peck were, Louisa D. and James E. Children of Lansing Peck were, Minor and George.

Beyond the Peck brothers was the farm of Amos Sweatman, who came to Camden in 1842. He emigrated from Ellington, Conn., (having previously purchased his place of Aaron Stone), two spans of horses transporting the family, consisting of the parents and two daughters, Clorinda and Mary, with household goods. They were two weeks making the journey. Clorinda



Mrs. Clorinda Miller.

commenced teaching school at the age of 16 years in Ellington, Conn., and followed the same occupation in Camden, all together teaching between forty and fifty terms. Many in reading the above will well remember Aunt Clorinda's unique manner of punishing her pupils. She married Alva Miller in 1851, and is living at this date, Oct., 1897, at the advanced age of 93. Alva Miller was born in 1797, and died in 1868; Amos Sweatman died April 13, 1870, aged 93; Mary, his wife, died April 12, 1857; born in 1777.

## WADSOR SCOVILLE.

Wadsor Scoville, son of Ezekiel Scoville, lived near Mad River Bridge. He was twice married, first to Miss Hannah Kinne in 1846, a most estimable lady, and daughter of Amos Kinne; she died August 4, 1871, aged 50 years. His second wife was Mrs. Burrill, a widow. Wadsor Scoville died January 22, 1882, aged 58 years. Children of Wadsor and Hannah Kinne Scoville were, Amos, DeMilt and Kinne.

On Mad River, near the bridge, which was built in 1838, Aner Mathews erected a saw-mill, the site was purchased of Deacon Erastus Upson, (as deed in County Clerk's office show in 1836, being a part of lot No. 25); it was conveyed to Woodard Perkins in 1839, and by him in 1854 to Nelson Satchell. The mill has not been used for some years and consequently fallen into decay, the spring freshets have taken all traces of it from its original spot. The road to this mill, in the early days, was near the river, east from Waterman's, now Scoville's mill.



Falls on Mad River above the Mill.

Every boy who has fished for trout in this locality will remember this waterfall, and of its beauties in the spring, when the water is plenty. It is fed from a spring above, and falls from a large flat rock into the river.

## JOHN CRAIG.

Beyond the bridge, and very near it, in 1840, lived Woodard Perkins, who when he sold the saw-mill to Nelson Satchell, also

sold this house, which was burned later. Beyond on the same side of the road, lived John Craig; both he and his wife were natives of Davrel, Ayrshire, Scotland, but their marriage took place in America. They were kind neighbors and greatly respected. Their children were, Sandy, Ellen, and Charles. John Craig died in 1876, aged 66 years; Agnes, his wife, died in 1878, aged 75 years.

### JONATHAN MEEKER.

The place now owned by Jonathan Meeker on this road, was early owned by Benjamin McCall, who here built a log house near where the present house stands. He came from Connecticut about 1831, but only remained some two years. He sold to Erastus Upson, who sold to Nathan Kinne, who sold to Sheldon and Ephraim Meeker, who sold to their brother Jonathan Meeker, its present occupant.

### KINNIE DISTRICT.

David Blakeslee came to Camden from Connecticut in 1795. He bought land in the north part of the town in District No. 8. The farm is now owned by Mrs. Nathan Kinnie. He first built a log house, which he occupied until he built the present frame



Nathan Kinnie Home.

building. Later he sold this place and bought a farm on Preston Hill, now owned and occupied by David Craig. Of the nine



children born to them, only two remained in Camden until their death. Sarah was the first wife of M. D. Sandford; Wealthy was the second wife of Nelson Simmons. David Blakeslee was of early colonial stock, the line of his ancestry running back to Samuel Blakeslee, a planter at Guilford, Conn., in 1650, who died in New Haven, Conn., in 1672. Mrs. Wealthy Blakeslee Simmons was identified with the life of the village for many years. In her early days she was a teacher in Camden and other towns; and later she carried on a fine millinery business, renting of H. Minor the old tavern, about 1830. After her husband's death she resumed business and conducted it successfully for many years. At the time of her death, in April, 1891, at the age of 85, she was the oldest member of the Methodist Church, having united about sixty years before. David Blakeslee was born in Thomasville, Conn., in 1771, and died in Camden June 20, 1843, aged 72. In twenty days his wife followed him to their eternal home, dying July, 1843, aged 68. One of his sons, Norman Blakeslee, died at Perry, Wyoming County, N. Y., January 28, 1877, aged 80. Morris Blakeslee died in West Bloomfield, Mich., December 26, 1876, aged 72; Joel Blakeslee lives in Peoria, Ill. Sophia, Mrs. Bradley, died in Camden, February 12, 1876; Lucy Blakeslee Morgan died in Farmington, Fulton County, Ill., November 7, 1867, aged 63.

In 1815, Amos Kinnie moved to Camden from Clinton, Oneida County, N. Y. He had four brothers who became residents here, David, Rufus, Oliver and Stephen. They were from Pomfret, Conn. Amos Kinnie bought of David Blakeslee. When he came here his family was composed of his wife and three children; nine more were born to them in this home; they were reared and schooled when schools were kept from house to house and in adjoining neighborhoods. When Mr. Kinnie first settled in this home it was at the end of the road; since that time the road has been extended to Florence. As the family grew to manhood and womanhood, they went out from their old home, free to find new homes of their own, scattering here and there, until almost every State in the Union holds a representative. Amos Kinnie died in the old home in 1855, aged 75. In 1857 his widow was laid by his side in Forest Park Cemetery.



Nathan Kinnie, the oldest son, married Samantha Hodges in 1836. There were five children born to them, only two living, Nathan, Jr., and one daughter, in Binghamton, N. Y. Mr. Kinnie was often elected to town offices in succession. For many years he was Overseer of the Poor. He discharged the duties of the office with due regard to the needs of the poor, and with honest economy to the town. Nathan Kinnie died in 1877, leaving his widow and son, Nathan, to carry on the farm, who still remain in the old homestead to the present day. Four of the original family of Amos Kinnie are still living—the widow of the late Charles Allen, the only one remaining in Camden; her home is No. 6 Third street; the other three are living in the State of Michigan.

Oliver Kinnie, brother of Amos, built the house on Main street, known as the Dr. Sewir house, now occupied by Father Tiernan. It was built in 1835. He owned through to Second street; had a carriage shop on the site now the home of A. C. Woodruff; it was afterwards owned by Enos Humaston. Oliver Kinnie and Diana, his wife, were the parents of six children. Helen, Angelina and Oliva died in infancy; E. O. Kinnie died May 1892; left a widow with four boys; her son Allie died the same summer in July. Three sons are in Watertown, where she makes her home. Orland Kinnie lives in the West, and Alfred in Redfield.

#### EDWARD WILLIAMS.

Edward Williams came from Chester, England, was married at Manchester, and sailed for America, some time during the year 1838, and soon came to Camden. They first lived in a little house, now head of Third street, and later bought on the river road, about on the line in Florence. Mrs. Williams has been a widow for a number of years. She makes her home in Camden with her daughter, Mrs. Walter Elden.

Elijah Perkins bought in lot No. 11, in 1803, and lived there until he died.

#### ARCHIBALD CRAIG.

Archibald Craig with part of his family, came from Darvel, Ayrshire, Scotland, in 1832, and bought a farm of Maj. Woodard

Perkins, the farm now owned by John Walker. Six children were born to them: Robert, Andrew, John, Mary, Marion, and Janet. Robert first lived on the farm in Lot No. 23, near R. Sparrow's, and later moved near Hillsboro, this side of the Wilcox place. Five children were born to them, only one living now, in Western Colorado; two died in the army in the civil war; James belonged to the 117th Regiment; Alexander volunteered previous to the July call in 1861; Robert Craig died July 17, 1863; Elizabeth, his wife, July 25, 1862, aged 58. Mary Craig married Archibald Nisbet in Scotland in 1828; came to this country in 1834; bought of Woodard Perkins land adjoining her father's. Nine children were born to them, only one son and four daughters lived to maturity. Marion Craig was married in 1846 to John Walker; he bought of Eliab Humaston in 1845 the old home. Janet married John Anderson in Scotland; he died in 1842, leaving three sons and two daughters. In 1847 she came to America with her children, and settled on Preston Hill; she was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, in 1802, and died in Camden February 7, 1891.

Andrew Craig will be connected with the Preston Hill history; he with his brother John were among our Scotch poets, twenty years and more ago. John went West in 1849, when Chicago was about the size of Rome, and has observed the rapid growth and development of the western country with interest and wonder. He is a great reader and admirer of Nature's beauties, and a true Scotchman. He was born in 1825, in a locality where so many of intellectual ability were nurtured. Burns' birthplace was but a few miles distant in Ayrshire, and it was not far from where Adam Wallace was burned on Castle Hill, Edinborough, for reading his Bible and because he would not renounce his faith in God. John Craig married Miss Sophia Miller in 1851, whose birthplace was Clay, near Syracuse. He returned to Camden in 1859, and was identified as one of our business men. In 1882 he purchased a farm of Allen Joslin, and lived there thirteen years. His oldest daughter, Jennie E., married P. W. Heron, and resides in Camden. Julia married A. B. LaClere, and Josephine married George Batchelor, all residents of this town. Mr. and Mrs. Craig make their home with Mrs. LaClere.

Faulkners came in 1848; Mr. William Faulkner died February 9, 1877, aged 66.

Zenas Humaston settled here not far from 1800, and purchased wild land, which is now the farm owned by Richard Davis. They had five children—Enos, Eliab, Orren, Laureatt and Kesiah. Enos married Mary Grant; she died July 11, 1837, aged 33; she is buried on the Seventh. He married a Mrs. Scram from Cuba, N. Y., the second time; he moved from Camden many years ago, and died at Dewitt, Ia., September 21, 1867, aged 68 years. Eliab married a daughter of David Brown; in 1836 moved to Pennsylvania, and from there to Illinois; Orren married and went to New London; Kesiah married Roswell Wilson; Laureatt married Smith Brown. The father of this family died December 8, 1833, aged 60. Lucy, his wife, died March 19, 1827, aged 52.



Wilson Baldwin's Home, built by Ransom Barnes, (should have been on page 333.)

#### THE FIRST SCHOOL-HOUSE IN DISTRICT NO. 8

Was erected near the Goodyear homestead, and in 1850 moved near Mr. Kinnie's. A few years ago religious services were held there, in connection with a Sunday School every Sunday, and was well attended. The pioneer teachers of this district were Sarah Ann Woodworth, Mary Woodcock and Abbie Joslin.

On the direct road leading to the village, John Joslin was the first settler; he built a log house; his family consisted of a wife and three children, Abbie, Harriet and Benjamin. This

property was transferred to Street Barnes, who afterwards built a frame house, and after his death his son Marenus occupied it for a number of years. Gaius Perkins, a son-in-law of Street Barnes, lived opposite; he sold his farm and moved into the village, where he spent the remainder of his days. Florence Hill road was about one-fourth of a mile west of this road. One of the first places this side of the Florence line was Capt. Gideon Smedley's home; Elijah Ransom lived there afterward. At a later date other families bought and built in this vicinity.

Lorenzo Goodyear married Mary, the daughter of Mr. Ransom. He bought land and built the house now occupied by Mr. L. C. Ball; he sold this place and bought his father's place in 1862, and sold the old home in 1888, and moved to Illinois.

#### EDWARD GOODYEAR.

Edward Goodyear married Leva Alcott in Wolcott, Conn., in 1814. They emigrated from Connecticut in 1817, and settled in Canada. In 1820 they came to Camden and bought this farm of 170 acres of Norman Castle the same year. He lived in the village six years, and in the mean time built this house. Their



Edward Goodyear Home.

first home was what is known as the Willis house, and at that time from Second street back to Mad River was called Pine Hill; it was all woods. Lucius and Harry Goodyear remember very well of playing there on the logs with the boys. When they came here our village was a mere hamlet of a dozen houses. The country



around here soon began to be cleared by the quick descending blows of the pioneers' ax. Edward Goodyear had a distillery under the Penfield & Stone mill, when it was owned by Lyman Curtiss and Israel Stoddard, not far from 1822. Edward Goodyear was the father of eight children. Three living at the present time are Harry, Lucius and Leva, now Mrs. P. C. Costello. Edward and Edwin (twin children); Linus and Prenett died many years ago. Mrs. Costello says that although a mere child, she remembers the loneliness of her mother when they lived on the farm in the woods. Her mother would be sitting by the fireplace, knitting, with her children around her, and telling them stories of the dear ones she had left in Connecticut and of the wonderful deeds of their great-grandfather, Capt. John Alcott of Revolutionary fame. Mrs. Goodyear's uncle, Joseph Alcott, was grandfather to Louisa M. Alcott, the writer. Mr. Edward Goodyear was born in Cheshire, Conn., in 1788, and died in Camden in 1862, aged 74; Mrs. Goodyear died in 1863. Lorenzo M. Goodyear died May 29, 1897, aged 77.



Norman Castle Home.

Norman Castle was the earliest settler in this locality; his farm extended from Waterman's mill to Capt. Smedley's place. He built this house now owned by John Davis. Mr. N. Castle

married Polly, daughter of Elihu Curtiss, and sister to Gen. Lyman Curtiss. He sold this place and went to Indiana. His brother, Seth Castle, was a blacksmith in the village, and lived opposite to the Commercial Hotel. He moved to Syracuse.

Mr. Lawton was the next occupant of this farm after Norman Castle; then Mr. Ely; then Smith and Prindal. In 1832 Woodward Perkins bought the farm, and in 1838 sold it to Ashbel Up-



Mr. Ashbel Upson.

son, who bought the water privilege in 1849, and built a large saw-mill, which has been doing a good business ever since. In 1854 his oldest son married Louisa, daughter of Col. R. Empey, and remained on the farm. Mr. Ashbel Upson bought on Oswego street, and lived there until his death.

Wilbert Upson lived here until a number of years after the death of his first wife, in March, 1868. She left six little children, only three living now, Fletcher, George and Dora. The two oldest, Richard and Wilbert, died in Nebraska in 1896. The mill property changed hands in 1857; Henry Waterman came from Taberg with his family, and bought the mill and built a house opposite. Curtiss Scoville was the next owner of the mill, and now it is the property of Walter Russell.



## HENRY WATERMAN

Died December 9, 1892. During his residence here he became a very popular citizen, holding many offices of trust. He left a widow and two daughters. His wife survived him until the spring of 1896, dying at her daughter's, Mrs. A. Paddock, Clinton, Ia., who brought her mother here in company with her sister, Mrs. J. H. Conant, to lay her beside their father.

Beriah Pond, son of Bartholomew Pond, Sen., married Sylvia Sandford in Plymouth, Conn., and on coming to Camden settled on the Florence Hill road, opposite the Riley Pond place. All traces of the house are gone. He had a large family—Chauncey, Porter, Willis, Riley, Lucy B., Celista and Miles, and several others. Beriah Pond was a cousin to Bartholomew Pond, Jr. They served in the war of the Revolution together. He was in Col. Elmore's regiment for one year from April, 1776; afterwards he was in the corps of artificers, from 1777 to 1783. He died at his grand-daughter's, Mrs. George Rush, March, 1836, aged 78.

Willis Pond and wife settled on Lot 99; they came from Connecticut; stayed five years, then returned to Northfield, Conn. On a visit here some years after, his wife died and was buried in the Mexico Street Cemetery. The inscription reads: "Hannah, wife of Willis Pond, died December 22, 1857, aged 71. Her aunt, Laurana Sandford, died while here on a visit in 1837, aged 78." They are buried side by side. Celista married Benj. Joslin and moved to Cattaraugus County, N. Y. Her mother and brother Porter went and lived with her. Riley Pond married Abigail, daughter of Ichabod Brown; she had two brothers, Nathan and Riley Brown. Ichabod Brown was a Revolutionary soldier; went from Cornwall, from June, 1776, to December 25, 1776; he died May 31, 1850, aged 97. His wife's name is on the First Church's membership records in 1809.

This cross road that comes out by Russell's mill was surveyed January 17, 1828, from Beriah Pond's place to Noah Preston's, on the Oswego road. The romantic name for this rustic road is "Lovers' Lane." Edward Mills lived at one time on the place now owned by Mr. Driscoll. "Uncle Ned," as

familiarly known, was born in Plumpton, Sussex County, England, in 1790. He came to America with his wife in 1829. Of the thirteen children born to them, eight are living, but only two in Camden, Mrs. Judson Hull and Mrs. Jonathan Meeker. Uncle Ned worked on the first railroad between Albany and Schenectady, then drifted to Camden, and remained in this vicinity until his death, in 1887, aged 97 years. Lucy, his wife, died September 28, 1855, aged 57.

After leaving this place you come to a lane called "Barlow Lane." We find in the old town book in the survey, of altering this road, July 17, 1817. The owners of the property on the corners were Nathan Barlow and Nathaniel Brown. The Barlow place is the one known as the Newland home, and occupied by Wilbert Upson, who married Mr. Newland's widow. On the other corner there is no trace of a building that once stood there. The last deed given from the first settlers or their descendants was from Delos Brown.

The next house to the west, now owned and occupied by G. Roberts, was built by Warren Preston. This property has changed hands a good many times.



Calvin Johnson's Early Home.

### CALVIN JOHNSON,

This is the original part of the house built by Calvin Johnson, who married Honor, daughter of Noah Preston, March 11, 1811. Four children were born to them, Rosetter, Spencer, Lorenzo and Cornelia. Rosetter, the oldest, was born December 16, 1811,

and his first recollection was when his father went to assist in defending the State against the attack of the British in the war that began in 1812. He said his father took him up and kissed him "good-bye," and then placed him in the arms of his weeping mother, who explained that his father had gone to the war and might never return. He returned very soon, as the government did not need any more volunteers. March 30, 1819. Mrs. Johnson died at the age of 27. Calvin Johnson sold in 1828 and moved to Ripley, Chautauqua County, where he died in 1844. Rosetter went to California in 1849, and became a very prominent man in San Francisco; he died May, 1886.

#### ELISHA HOWLAND.

Elisha Howland next owned this place; he added the upright part, which was moved near the fair ground a few years ago by George Upson, the present owner. Elisha Howland was the father of eleven children—Gideon, Chauncey, Ira, Philip, Peter, Rebecca, Mary, Lydia, Roba, Lizzie and David. Elisha Howland was born February 1, 1772; died October 26, 1846, aged 73 years and 8 months. Mrs. Howland was born December 21, 1785. Philip and Ira Howland, the only descendants here, are the sons of David.

The house opposite Barlow lane and now owned by W. Halstead, was built in 1845 or 1846 by Anthony Bush; he lived there one year, then exchanged places with Caleb Rowell, and moved to West Camden.

#### MARTIN SMITH.

Martin Smith came to Camden February 1822, from Claverack, Columbia Co., N. Y. He was born in New Milford, Litchfield County, Conn. He was in the war of 1812; enlisted at the age of 16 in the cavalry. He married Betsey Place in 1818, at Claverack, her native town. In coming to Camden he first lived in a house that stood on the corner of Second and Church streets. He bought land now owned by George Upson, and while building this home he lived in the house then owned by Warren Preston. He also built a shoe shop near by; he was a tanner and currier and shoemaker by trade. He sold this place to

Rufus Baldwin in 1826, and moved in 1827 on Mexico street, near Osborn's Hill. The shoe shop was moved down what is now Union street, and converted into a dwelling house, and was occupied by Chauncey Woodruff for many years. In 1828 Mr. Smith moved to Verona, and in 1834 returned to Camden, and



Martin Smith Home.

bought of Nathaniel Wetmore on Preston Hill, east of the Marvel Hall farm. They moved into the village in 1855. Of the eleven children born to them, five are living now; two died in infancy; Ambrose died in 1860; Betsey in 1831; Mary, a young girl, while at the barn to assist her brother, was kicked by a horse and died from the injury at the early age of nine years, in 1851; George died in 1877, leaving a large family. M. A. Smith is in the furrier business, which is of a long standing; he learned the latter business of Truman Spencer in connection with it.

#### LYMAN SMITH.

Lyman Smith, now of Chicago, has become noted with his great inventions; one of the most prominent of these was the pneumatic elevator for unloading grain. His latest is in storing grain in air-tight tanks, preserving it in its natural state. This idea he got from the fact that grains have been sealed with mummies for thousands of years, and when planted have grown and produced luxuriantly. He was born in the first house his father built in Camden. Jay Smith is a farmer in Minnesota; Morris is a grain dealer in Cambridge, Ill. Sarah is the widow of Julius

Allen of this village. R. C. and E. W. are the sons of the late George Smith. Martin Smith died January 4, 1875, aged 77. His wife died October 29, 1876, aged 78.

#### ASHBEL UPSON.

This farm changed hands about 1840, and different ones had owned it until Ashbel Upson bought it in 1854. It has been in the family ever since. George Upson is now the occupant of the place. Ashbel Upson's children were, Dorlisca, Wilbert, George and Bleecker. Dorlisca and Bleecker died a number of years ago. Mr. Ashbel Upson died July 1st, 1881, aged 77; Betsey, his wife, died August 7, 1875, aged 65.

#### ELIASAPH DOOLITTLE.

The next place was the home of Eliasaph Doolittle. Their life in Camden will be written in the Mexico street history. This property was bought by Edward Watkins in 1892. He has laid it out in streets, and it is now so thickly settled it looks like a little village by itself.

#### ALBERT GODFREY.

The Elden house was built about 1845 by Albert Godfrey; he married Rosina Putnam; four children were born to them—Jane, George, Julia and Gertrude. In 1850 they sold and moved into the village. Mrs. Rosina P. Godfrey died at her daughter Julia's, August 18, 1891. Gertrude, wife of Ranney Park, died July 15, 1873; George L. Godfrey lives in Fairbault, Minn; Mrs. O. L. Hall and daughter, Mrs. T. D. Norton, and family, are the only descendants in town.

#### GEORGE ELDEN.

In 1850 George Elden bought this place, and Mr. Elden and Col. Empey bought 18¾ acres of land belonging to the Priest Smith heirs, where now is Railroad, Liberty, Elm, Elden and Fayette streets. This last street did not belong to the former purchase; Mr. Elden bought it later of Hiram Smith. These streets were carefully laid out, with Aaron Matthews as surveyor; they had a hard struggle to get the bridge across on Railroad street. Mr. Empey being a mechanic and Mr. Elden a commissioner of the town, they succeeded, and the bridge was built and the road extended to the depot. All the buildings



about the depot and the above named street have been erected since that time. They soon extended Liberty street to Dunbar mill. The last two lots of the original purchase were sold in 1894. In 1851 this plot was all bush pasture, filled with pine stumps. Now these streets are nearly all settled with comfort-



George Elden.

able homes. Mr. Elden was in the produce business for about thirty years; for thirteen years of this time Joseph Stark was his business partner. George Elden was a native of Camden, and for more than three-score years he walked the streets of his township and mingled with his people. He was firm and unflinching in regard to his duties. He became a member of the M. E. Church in 1835, and an official member for many years. George Elden married Amelia Stanton in 1832; she was sister to Annis, the first wife of Wilbert Barnes of Sand Banks. Mr. George Elden died September 24, 1895, aged 85; his wife died April 1, 1887, aged 75 years. Judson, their adopted son, lives in Syracuse. This place is now the property of Mr. Miller.

#### ISAAC BARNES.

The next place would be the farm now owned and occupied by Lucius Goodyear, north of the cottage, head of Main street. Isaac Barnes, who married Martha Atwater, sister of Mrs.

James Frisbie's mother, lived here. In January, 1816, with his wife and four children, he left Camden and made the long journey to Ohio with his own conveyance. He stayed there a short time, then started again for Missouri, as a missionary to the Indians; he settled on the little Osage River, a branch of the Missouri. He returned to Ohio, and settled in the town of Medina, and stayed there several years, during which time two daughters were born to them. His two oldest sons were students in Hudson College; George, the oldest, graduated; Carlos made a specialty of surveying, and started well in business, but after a few years his health failed, and he died while yet a young man. In 1830 the spirit of adventure again seized Mr. Barnes, and he left Ohio for Michigan, the beautiful peninsula, and after roaming the southern part of the State, he turned his steps northward and landed on the beautiful prairie named Gule prairie, from its nearness to Gule Lake, so named by its surveyors. He was the first to settle there, but other families soon followed, and in the fall of 1832 there was a thriving community of intelligent people there. After a few years of rest on the prairie, further desire of adventure beset Mr. Barnes, and he roamed through the pine forest of Allegan County until he found a stream where he thought there was a good site for a mill, and he decided to make that his home, and built a log house, moved his family, and subsequently erected a mill as he planned; but his work was nearly done; a few days of sickness and he was laid to rest in his beautiful pine grove, and in three weeks his wife was laid beside him. Thus, after life's fitful fever, they rest peacefully beneath the wide spreading branches of the stately forest trees. Thus ended the lives of the true pioneers of the great West, as well as of Camden.

In 1862 Lucius Goodyear purchased the land once owned by Isaac Barnes and erected a fine residence. His first wife was Miss Arma Smith; they lived together many years. As they had no children of their own, they kindly gave a home to seven children, only two living in Camden now, Mrs. W. Frazee and Mrs. W. Parks. Mrs. Goodyear died January 3, 1893. Mr. Goodyear married for his second wife Miss Elizabeth A. Schuyler of Chittenango, N. Y., in 1895.

## BARTHOLOMEW POND.

In the book, "Our County and Its People," edited by the late Daniel Wager, we learn: "In the spring of 1796 Bartholomew Pond owned what has since been known as the Royce farm, in Clinton." We learn also: "Mr. Pond donated to the society of Clinton an acre of land to be used as a burial yard." About 1805 Samuel Royce made an additional donation of land, therefore, we conclude, upon his return to Clinton, Samuel Royce exchanged property with Bartholomew Pond, who succeeded Mr. Royce as the owner of the property in the northern part of this town. Mr. Pond was already a large land-owner in this locality. He was born in Bradford, Conn., in 1737. He married Lucy Curtiss, and at the date of his arrival here had a family of nine children. In the early records of the town we find the last town meeting held at the home of Samuel Royce occurred in 1803, and the next one was appointed to be held at the home of Bartholomew Pond, which establishes the date he first occupied the property at the head of Main street. In a short time the log house gave place to a two-story frame house, with a wing on the east side. The old well which receives the overflow of the fountain was under the woodhouse; it was the starting point for the survey of many of the streets as well as much of the land in this vicinity. He also owned all of the land east of Main street to Mad River, and north of Union street, including the land in the valley, the site of the Conants' chair manufactory. The land east of Main street was his farm, under good cultivation. The orchard was in the part where Third street was laid out. Some of the old apple trees are still standing, or were a short time ago, back of the old Stewart place. The remains of Bartholomew Pond and his wife rest in the Mexico Street Cemetery: they lived fifty-three years together before they were separated by death.

Iri Pond, son of Bartholomew, married Lettice Blakeslee. He was a soldier of the American Revolution. He died suddenly while walking on the street in Camden, but the date of his death is uncertain. His wife died August 10, 1848, aged 85 years. Iri Pond, their son, built the house where Dr. Leonard now resides.

and had a wagon shop near. The first hearse used in Camden was made by him. It was a rude and cheap affair, but the dead made no objection to it. We find this advertisement in an old town paper, which is unique, and a convincing proof that while there was little competition, and no facilities for transporting goods from distant towns, it paid to advertise:

#### WAGON AND SLEIGH MAKING.

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The subscriber grateful to the last,  
Returns his thanks for many favors past,  
And gives his friends this timely information,  
He still remains at his old former station,  
And carries on his very useful trade,  
In wagons fine, as good as e'er were made;  
Wagons and sleighs, all sizes, coarse and fine,  
All kinds of work within the carriage line,  
He keeps on hand always, both neat and clean,  
West of the church, and near the Camden Green.  
Come rich, come poor, both grave and gay,  
My wares are good, I boldly say,  
Cheaper by ten per cent, or more  
Than in this place were sold before.  
I'll be content with little gain,  
And take my pay in cash or grain;  
Call at my shop and take a look,  
I can't be beat in Kinderhook.

IRI POND.

Camden, April 20th, 1842.

Iri Pond, Jr., died February 17, 1848, aged 64 years. The death of his first wife occurred April 23, 1846, aged 62 years. He married the second time the Widow Birge of Watertown, and left her a second time a widow; she is well remembered as the "Widow Pond," while she remained in Camden.

#### BILLIOUS POND.

Billicus Pond, son of Bartholomew, married Rhoda Orton, and continued to reside in the home after his father's death. He was a deacon in the Congregational Church, and looked upon as an exemplary man in every respect, which meant much in those early days. But he fell from grace one Sabbath morning in a way which to the eyes of the present generation would have added to his reputation as a man of strong principle; but to those

Puritanical fathers was considered an open violation of the Fourth Commandment. In the year 1836 or 1837, one quiet, peaceful morning, the restful stillness of the Sabbath unbroken by any sound of manual labor, Deacon Pond started for the sanctuary, undoubtedly in a proper frame of mind, conducive to religious thoughts, when someone rashly informed him a bear had been seen on the outskirts of the village. Time and place were instantly forgotten; he returned home, procured his gun, and hunted it successfully, to the delight of the more timorous ones, but to the detriment of his good name. That a deacon of the church could so far forget himself as voluntarily to be absent from church and do such a deed on the holy Sabbath day, was beyond their comprehension. He must be made to repent in the depths of his soul; no circumstances could justify the deed. They labored with him in vain. A man who could, single-handed, hunt and kill the wild beasts of the forests was not to be intimidated by any body of men. He boldly told them it might have killed some one, and under like circumstances, he would do the same thing again. The effect of this answer upon his judges has not been recorded. The children of Billious Pond were—Billious, who married Temperance Northrup; Rhoda married Truman Catlin, who built the Hildreth house on the west side of Main street; he also owned all of the land north as far and including the Doolittle farm, now known as the Watkins Addition; Amanda married Reuben Bettis; Adeline died unmarried; Samuel, Xavier, Parmela and Hannah Smith. Billious Pond, Sen., sold his property in Camden about 1839 or 1840, and with most of his children and their families went to Illinois to reside. His wife died, and after settling in the West he married again.

### JOHN JAMIESON.

John Jamieson came from Glasgow, Scotland, in the early part of the present century and settled in Amboy. In 1840 he purchased the property at the head of Main street, of Bartholomew Pond. Falling heir to considerable money from his native land, he soon began preparations for a fine house, to be erected on the site of the old Pond homestead. The house then occupying the



ground was moved to the corner of Empey avenue and Second street, where it stood many years unchanged, but has been remodeled and made to accommodate two families, by F. H. Conant's sons, who own the property. Mr. Jamieson built the "Cottage," the name he gave it, farther back from the street than the other house had stood. It was patterned after the houses in his former home, and was considered the finest residence for many miles around. A circular drive led up to the wide entrance door,



The Jamieson Cottage.

with many flowers bordering it, and numerous choice trees and shrubs. The grounds were spacious and well improved. Five children were born to them, viz.: John, Robert, James, Lillias and Marian. The last named married Elliott Stewart, the editor of the "Camden Gazette." They eventually settled near Buffalo. John settled in or near Amboy; James died while a young man; Robert died in Mexico.

Lillias Jamieson was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1814. She came to America with her parents at an early age. She married Alphonso, only son of Dr. Joshua Ransom. After the death of the father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Ransom continued to reside in the "Cottage." Here two children were born, Mary and Lillias.

Alphonso Ransom kept a store, dealing in groceries and drugs. In 1862 he was appointed notary public by the Governor. The death of Mr. Ransom occurred February 16th, 1868. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Ransom went to Johnstown, N. Y., to reside with her daughters, who had married and settled there. She died January 27, 1874. Her remains were brought to Camden to rest beside her husband in Forest Park Cemetery. John Jamieson died December 6, 1849; Mary, his wife, died May 20, 1845, aged 56 years. They sleep in Forest Park Cemetery.

After the death of Mr. Ransom "The Cottage" and grounds were sold to G. B. Miller, who occupied it for a time, but upon his removal from the town, it was again for sale. The purchaser was M. R. Cook, who occupied it for a time. In 1879 E. H. Conant purchased the entire property, where the family now reside.

### HENRY BACON.

Henry Bacon was born in Litchfield, Conn., in 1807. He married, first, Sally Maria Edwards, May 2, 1829, by whom he had two children: Charles C. and Ajulia C. Mrs. Bacon died August



Home of Henry Bacon.

11, 1832. January 29, 1834, Mr. Bacon married his second wife, who was Miss Betsey Jones of New Haven, Conn. By the last wife he had six children: Francis, H. Clifford, Edward, Frederick, William and Anna. Henry Bacon moved to Camden from New Haven, Conn., in the fall of 1836, and started the business

of manufacturing and selling boots and shoes, which he continued until his death. On his arrival in Camden he purchased the house on the corner of Main street, (the A. B. Hildreth place), just north of the new residence of W. J. Frisbie. This was bought of Mr. Catlin, and Mr. Bacon resided here about five years, when he sold, and bought the place just south of Chauncey McCall (W. J. Frisbie's) where he spent the remainder of his days. Of the children, Frederick died in infancy; H. Clifford died in Watertown, where he was employed in the office of the Superintendent of the Rome & Watertown Railway, in 1862; Charles died in Homer, N. Y., in 1863. He left two sons. William H. died at Los Angeles, Cal., May 18, 1878; Ajulia, at Wilton, Ia., November 7, 1896. The living are, Mrs. B. Bacon, who resides with her daughter, Mrs. Anna Durrell, at Los Angeles, Cal., and is 88 years of age. Edward resides at the same place. Mr. Francis Bacon, with whom we are better acquainted, from frequent visits to Camden, has been a resident of Wilton, Ia., for many years. His children are: Charles C., John E. and Mary.

Henry Bacon died in Camden, October 25, 1881, aged 74 years. He was buried in Forest Park Cemetery. Ajulia Bacon's remains were brought to Camden and interred there also.

Mr. Henry Bacon was a man of much intelligence, having strong convictions upon many questions which arose in politics, government, religion, &c. He was an ardent supporter and member of the Episcopal Church, attending with remarkable regularity upon all its services. His responses were given in a clear, earnest, correct manner, and his life was in accordance with his profession. No doubt much of the success of the establishment of the Episcopal Church was due to his earnest interest in its well being.

We copy from an old paper Mr. Bacon's advertisement of his business, which interested us and will many of our readers:

“SHOE STORE! !

THE subscriber would respectfully inform his friends and the public generally, both of this and adjoining towns, that he continues at his OLD STAND, next door to I. Y. Miner's Dry Goods Store, the business of

## BOOT AND SHOE MAKING

in all its various branches. It is not common that I indulge in poetic strains, but there are exceptions:

Cheap for cash my shoes I'll lay  
 To those who down the cash will pay;  
 Your products are good, exchanged for work.  
 As grain, butter, cheese, beef, hams or pork.  
 Cash is the best—come try the test,  
 Ye worthy folks who have it;  
 You'll be convinced, by your good sense,  
 That truth will favor merit.  
 To those who'd like to trusted be,  
 Of worthy stamp I fain would see,  
 Call at my shop, my shoes behold!  
 I tell you t'hey're as "good as gold."  
 'To those who never pay, I'll simply say,  
 I do not like to trust 'em—  
 And at my shop you're not forgot.  
 I can live without your custom.

I intend to keep such a general assortment on hand as patronage will warrant, at all seasons of the year, and those who wish to be accommodated at all times please remember the *sine qua non* necessary for the perpetuity of business.

Camden, April 5th, 1842.

HENRY BACON."

## NICHOLAS SALLADIN.

Anthony Salladin, father of Nicholas Salladin, emigrated to America with his wife and family in 1830, from Montbroun, France. The trip was made from Havre to New York in a sailing vessel. The vessel was 58 days in making the trip. From New York to Albany the journey was made by boat up the Hudson River, and thence by canal to Syracuse, where they were met by a Frenchman who had been sent by their friends with wagon and oxen to convey them to their new home in the woods, four miles from Mexico village. The family consisted of the parents and eight children. A daughter of two years died on the voyage and was buried at sea, much to the grief of the family. Nicholas was at this time ten years of age. The father was a sculptor by trade. He served seven years under Napoleon Bonaparte during the French and British war; was wounded in Spain, taken prisoner, transported to England and imprisoned.

experiencing much suffering. At the time of exchange of prisoners Napoleon got two men for one. Mr. Salladin was among the soldiers exchanged at that time. He re-entered the French army and remained until Napoleon engaged in war with Russia. Nicholas Salladin, at the age of 17, made his first visit to Camden, having been sent by his father for medicine from the old Swiss, Dr. Seewir. The journey was made on horseback, a distance of twenty-five miles. The night was spent at the Cash tavern, on the Amboy road, then kept by John Webb and wife, who were fine old types of English people. When 24 years of age he came to Camden with a load of four tomb stones. His establishment might well be called "a marble shop on wheels," for when he made a sale he boarded with the purchaser's family while cutting the inscription and placing the stone. His first work was for Iri Pond and Eleazer Peck to mark the resting place of mother and wife. In 1849 he came to Camden from Jordan, N. Y., and has remained here permanently since. He first occupied Iri Pond's wagon shop for his work, and the home now the residence of Dr. Leonard. Some two years later he purchased his present residence on the east side of Main street, of Nancy Thacher. He built a marble shop near it, where he continues the same business. He married Miss Lucinda M. Riley of Verona, N. Y., December 25, 1846. She died April 16, 1880, aged 55 years. Five children were born to them, viz.: Martha L., Mary M., John H., Emma Jane, who died at the age of two years, and Will N.

#### EDWIN ROCKWELL.

Edwin Rockwell was a native of Vermont, born in 1801. At an early age he taught school in Norway, N. Y. In 1827 he journeyed on horseback from his home to Redfield, N. Y.; here he purchased a farm situated on Salmon River, about two miles below Redfield Square, and soon moved his family to their new home. In 1840 he came to Camden to reside. He at once became interested in town and village affairs. In 1842 he was elected Justice of the Peace, which office he held almost continuously until his death, in 1874. He was thrice married: First, to Miss Manley, who was the mother of three children, viz.:



Horace, Cornelia and Lucius. His second wife was Miss Nichols, and mother of Edwin Rockwell of Brooklyn, N. Y. His third wife was Mrs. Melissa Norton.

### JOHN KENT, SEN.

John Kent, Sen., of New York city, with his wife and son came to Camden in 1840; with this family also came Mrs. Kent's mother and two sisters (Mrs. Richard Vose and daughters Mary and Lizzie). Their first home was a portion of the dwelling on Miner avenue, now the residence of Joel House. This dwelling was moved from the west side of Main street.

Mr. Alfred Brooks came to Camden in 1850 and later married Miss Mary Vose. Mrs. Richard Vose died September 4, 1867, aged 78 years; Miss Lizzie Vose died April 2, 1878, aged 55 years; Mrs. John Kent, died January, 1886, aged 72 years; Mr. John Kent died February, 1872, aged 83 years.



### FORT NEWTON.

Fort Newton stands near the head of Third street; it was built prior to 1824 by Nelson Newton. It has no war history. Newton was proud of his fort, for here were his wife and children always to be found happy to welcome him home after his day's labor. He named his home after himself. Years have passed, and he, too, is gone. This place has had many occupants. It is the only typical home in Camden village, whose architecture remains unchanged. This property is owned by Mrs. Silas Allen.

Edwin Sweet, a painter by trade, and for many years a resident of Camden, was in early life drum major at Fort Warren, Boston harbor.

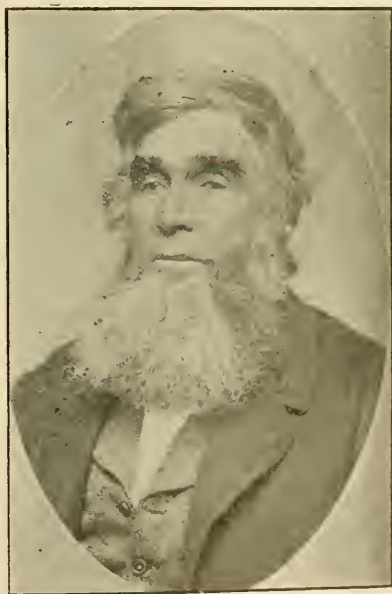
#### NELSON F. SIMMONS.

Nelson F. Simmons was born in Dover, N. Y., in 1800. He moved to Vienna and was married to Eunice Hawkins of Floyd in 1824. James, Edwin and Myron H. Simmons were born there. He moved to the Seventh about 1828, and here Eunice A., who became the wife of Israel Butler, and Thomas D., who died in early life, were born. About 1832 Mr. Simmons returned to Vienna, and in one or two years returned to Camden; he lived in a house on the ground where T. D. Penfield's residence now stands, and had a blacksmith shop just east of his home. Here there was one more added to this family, Sarah, now the wife of Archibald Wilson. After a time he purchased the land now occupied by the Nichols & Tiffany block, and later, land extending to Second street. He moved a shop from near the head of Main street on to this lot. Mr. Simmons then purchased of Aaron and Thomas Stone a cabinet shop, moved it to this lot and used it as a wagon shop. Next east was the engine house, where the fire apparatus was kept. This was also purchased and used as a paint shop. He also bought land on the side of Second street, extending from the Loveland home to Mrs. Q. Barber's, and built a house on the north part, which was remodeled a few years ago. Having lost his wife, he was married in 1845 to Wealthy Blakeslee. There was one child from this union, Rev. J. R. Simmons, born in 1847. Mr. Simmons was of colonial stock; his father was a Revolutionary soldier. The old musket he carried was used by the son at general trainings, and is now in the possession of Myron H. Simmons. Mr. Simmons died in 1853, aged 53 years. The only grandchildren were those born to James Edwin Simmons, viz.: Mrs. G. H. Smith; Miss Minnie Simmons, for years a teacher in the Union School; and Mrs. H. J. Newland. Of these only Mrs. G. H. Smith survives. Mr. Edwin and Myron Simmons carried on the business of their father for many years, as long as health would permit.

## GEORGE EMPEY.

George Empey's father was from Scotland, and later settled in the northern part of Ireland, in the County of Fermanach. With his family he emigrated to this country in 1783 and settled in Cambridge. He was born in 1737; died December 20, 1823, aged 86.

Anthony Empey, his son, married Margaret Livingston at Cambridge, Washington County, N. Y., in 1793. He moved to Florence in 1808, and bought land of George Scriba; the deed was given October 10, 1808. In early days he was associated with this town. He was received by letter in the First Church in Camden from Cambridge Presbyterian Church, May 6, 1810. His wife united later. In an old deed we find he owned property on Second street, between Union and Empey avenue, and sold to Charles Trowbridge in 1837. Col. Richard Empey was



Col. Richard Empey.

the sixth child of the ten that were born to them; he was born July 5, 1801, therefore was seven years old when his father came to Florence. Col. Empey lived at home until 16 years old, then came to Camden and made his home with Dr. Joshua Ransom until he was of age. In the year 1829 he married Elima Putnam,

daughter of Capt. Daniel Putnam, a veteran of '76. They went to housekeeping in the Priest Smith house at the head of Main street. In 1830 he built the house two doors south, and lived there a few years, then rented his home and went to Florence village to superintend the tannery of J. S. F. Stranahan. In 1837 he returned to Camden, and lived on Main street until he sold to Anson Strong. In 1844 he built this house. The same



The Empey Homestead.

year was elected to the Assembly. In early life he was a member of the State Militia, in which organization he gained the title of Colonel. His certificate, which was signed by Dewitt Clinton, is well preserved in a frame, and hangs on the wall in this home he took so much pride in building. He was one of the original members of the Camden Industrial Association; also the Cemetery Association, and the first Spring Water Company; the latter at one time was in a flourishing condition. Six children were born to them—Clarissa married A. P. Pond in 1852, and died in 1858; Louisa married W. I. Upson in 1854, and died in 1868; James died November, 1861, unmarried; Nancy married Edward Edie in 1868, who owns and occupies

this homestead. They have two children, Clara and Charles E. Lafayette Empey married Ann Holley of Elmira; they went to Illinois; Mrs. Empey died in 1880, and left four children; Addie, the only daughter, died in 1894. Isaac resides in Macomb, Ill.; Lafayette, Jr., in Iowa, and James in Elmira, N. Y. Lafayette, Sen., married Mrs. Jennie Cox, of Williamstown, in the fall of 1896, where he now resides.

September 1, 1862, Lafayette Empey enlisted in Co. E, 146th Regiment, was taken prisoner June 2, 1864, near Cold Harbor, Va., and commenced his prison life in the Pemberton building at Richmond, called "Castle Pemberton;" remained there nine or ten days. One night was spent in Libby prison; from there he was sent to Andersonville, where he remained a prisoner nearly three months; then was transferred to Charleston, S. C., where he was in a camp which was situated on the race-course, about one month; and from here was sent to Florence, S. C., and confined there until the middle of February, when the prisoners were all sent North. He was paroled at Goldsborough, N. C., February 24, 1865, and sent into our lines near the railroad bridge, twelve miles north of Wilmington, N. C. Here he remained about two weeks, when he was sent to parole camp at Annapolis, Md. At this place he procured a furlough, and came home about the 20th of March. Returned to parole camp the last of May, and received his honorable discharge June 20, 1865.

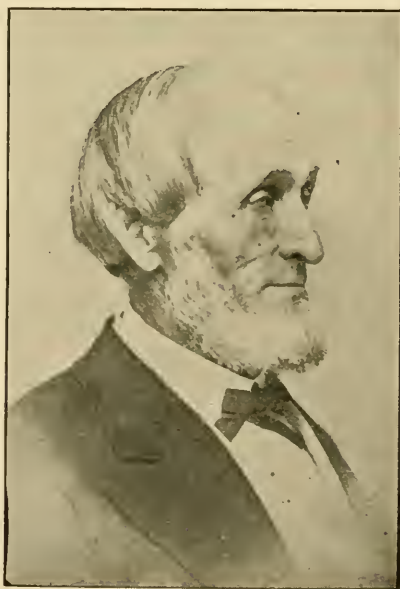
Horatio Empey died in 1871, leaving a widow who died in 1881. Col. Richard Empey died February 15, 1881, aged 79 years. His wife died March 28, 1887, aged 83 years.

#### ISAAC STONE.

Isaac Stone, son of David and Mary Stone, was born at Newton, Mass., October 9, 1767, and died in Camden, N. Y., November 2, 1839, aged 72 years. Nancy Chamberlain, wife of Isaac Stone, was born at Worcester, Mass., July 21, 1770, and died at Camden, February 1, 1838, aged 67. Isaac Stone was a descendant of Simon Stone, born in Hartford, England, in 1590; came to America in ship "Increase" in 1635; settled at Cambridge, Mass., becoming by "Stone's grant" owner of all that part of Cambridge now around Mt. Auburn Cemetery, including



the old farm and home at Newton, where Isaac Stone was born. He came to Camden some time in the twenties, and first settled on a small farm on Mexico street, purchased of Bartholomew Pond, Jr. He afterwards bought land in the village, of Billious Pond, the property of the late Mrs. Thomas Stone. Their first house was moved on land he also owned, situated where, later, Union street was laid out; the house is still standing, just east of Mrs. W. R. Paddock's residence. Eight children were born to them—Artemas Woodard, born 1793, died 1813; Betsey, known as Eliza, born 1795, died at the residence of Mrs. T. Stone in 1870; Nancy, born 1798; Isaac Herring, born in 1800, died in 1822; Aaron, born 1803, died 1875; Mary, born in Salem, Mass., in 1807; Thomas Stone, born in 1809; Zebina, born at Fitchburg in 1817, died 1868. The five older ones were born at Keene, N. H. Isaac Stone and wife died in their home on Union street. Aaron and Thomas Stone returned East to finish their trade as cabinet makers. Thomas went to Massachusetts to learn carving. Aaron went to Keene, N. H. While on a visit



Aaron Stone.

in Swanzee, he became acquainted with Miss Amanda Parsons; they were married in 1832, and immediately came to Camden,

and lived the first two years with his father and mother. In 1834 Aaron and Thomas Stone built the double house now on Union street, in the rear of the original site on North Park street.

Aaron Stone was a man very highly esteemed, and held many offices of trust. Of the three children born to them, only one is living now. Angeline, born in 1835, lived but one year. J. Parsons Stone, born in 1833 enlisted in the war of the rebellion,



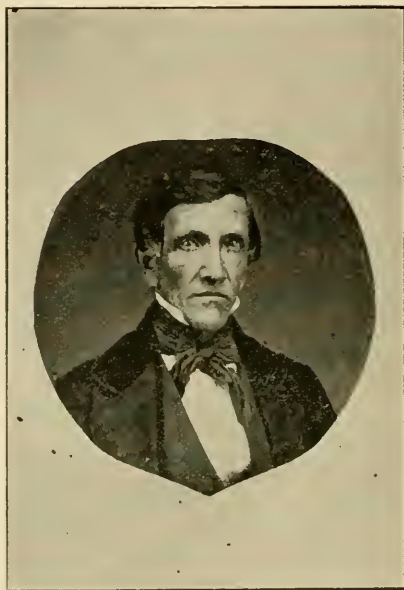
A. Stone & Son's Drug Store.

and was made Captain of Co. B, 117th Regiment, N. Y. S. V. "As a soldier, with his bravery and courage and genuine kindness of heart, he gained the confidence and respect of his comrades." He was killed at Petersburg Heights, Va., June 11, 1864, aged 30 years. The news of his death brought sorrow to his friends and the community. His remains were brought to Camden and buried in Forest Park Cemetery, with the honors of war, in the presence of a large crowd of mourning citizens that were anxious to testify to his worth when living, and to honor his memory when laid away to rest.

Augustus Stone was in company with his father many years in the drug business. Augustus L. Stone married Miss Kittie Angell of Pulaski in 1864. They moved to Clinton, Ia., in 1870;

he went into the banking business with Alfred Smith, also of Camden, where they now reside. Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Stone went to Clinton, Ia., in 1870; Mrs. Stone survived her husband fifteen years, dying January, 1890.

Mary Stone married a Mr. Fielding of Rome.



Thomas Stone.

Thomas Stone married Britannia E. Penfield, March 11, 1835, at Camden; went to housekeeping in the house Mr. Stone had recently built. In 1837 he went East with his wife and oldest daughter, and was gone two or three years. In reading a letter written by Isaac Stone to his son Thomas, we find these few items of interest, written June, 1838, at his home on Union street. He writes: "Stacy has built a house opposite ours, and it is painted bright yellow," the place owned and occupied now by Stoddard Sanford. "And the town at their annual meeting voted that their money should be laid out in a house for their use. It is to be a framed building, forty feet square, with a dome on top, and be completed before the fall meeting." This establishes the date when the first Town Hall was built. Thomas Stone returned from the East and lived the remainder of his

days in their first home; he died in 1860, aged 51; his wife survived him until February 9, 1897, and died aged 87. Six children were born to them—Jane Stone died in 1855; Mrs. Elizabeth Stone Hume died December, 1883, leaving four children. Her daughter, Alice Hume, died in 1888; Jennie Hume, the late Mrs. George Morss; Thomas Hume resides in New York city; Hattie Hume is the wife of Dr. Frank Miller of Whites-town. Nancy Stone married Judge Truax of New York city; died in 1886, leaving three children: Arthur, Bessie and Nannie. The three sons are living—Fowler Stone of Wausau, Wis.; Disbrow Stone of Colorado Springs, and Hon. B. D. Stone, one of our prominent citizens of Camden.

B. D. Stone married Elma Berry in the spring of 1868; Mrs. Stone died December, 1870, leaving one child, Florence, the late Mrs. Lyman Carr of Chicago. He married for his second wife Lizzie H. Putnam of Saratoga Springs; three little girls entered their home, Sally, Ruth and Barbara; Ruth is the only one living. Fowler Stone married in Wisconsin, where he resides, and has three children, two sons and one daughter.

#### ROBERT BURR.

Robert Halsey Burr was born in Barnstable, Mass., in the year 1801. When he was about ten years of age his parents moved to Deansville, then called Brothertown, in Oneida County, N. Y. In 1823 he came to Camden, and in 1826 married Abigail, daughter of Capt. John Smith. She was born in Milford, Conn., in the year 1805; married in Camden. In 1838 Mrs. Burr died. To Robert and Abigail Burr were born three daughters—Frances, Almira and Mary; Almira married Mr. P. H. Costello, for many years a resident and business man of the town. (See Tannery article). To them were born three children—Alfred C. of New York, Ella, who married Dr. Theodore Neville Brown of Brooklyn, with whom is Mrs. Costello's home, and J. C. Costello of Costello, Pa. Mary Burr married a Mr. Audas, and resided in Camden until her death, which occurred a few years since. In 1843 Mr. Burr married for his second wife Miss Hannah Smith. Soon after coming to Camden he purchased property in the lower part of the town, adjoining property later owned by Patrick Durr. He was a tailor by trade, the building

where he first commenced being a part of the house now owned by William Bartlett, then standing a little distance farther north. The house which he owned just below the bridge was purchased by Mr. Burr of Calvin Wimple. Mr. Burr was a man of quiet, unostentatious manner, sound business judgment, energetic in his occupation, and successful in his career. He held the highest regard of his fellow-men, and was respected by all. He built in late years a business block on the west side of Main street, in which was the Craig bakery and a wholesale liquor store, kept by Dempster Chamberlain. This burned when the store of C. J. Wright, the Dorrance store and others that stood in the row of business buildings south of Mexico street, were burned, which will find mention in the list of great fires in Camden. In 1884 Mr. Burr died at the ripe age of nearly 84 years and is buried in Forest Park Cemetery.

#### J. H. TRACY.

Joshua H. Tracy is a son of Hezekiah and Caroline C. Tracy, and was born in Norwich City, Conn., in 1816. He came to Camden in 1832, assisting J. D. Cavarly in his store and teaching school. Later he studied medicine with Dr. David Ely in Camden. In 1845 he graduated from Geneva College, practiced medicine in the South about three years; but his health failing, he returned to Camden, and after his recovery entered into partnership with J. D. Cavarly in the mercantile business. In 1851 he married Miss Elizabeth S., daughter of Linus Stevens, and resided on Second street—their present home. In 1860 Mr. Tracy was elected School Commissioner for the Third Commissioner District, Oneida County, and served nine consecutive years. At the expiration of his term of office he again engaged in mercantile pursuits, and continued till 1882, since which time he has not been in active business at any time. There were three children born to them that reached maturity—Elizabeth E., who married William T. Jones of Waterville, where they reside; Fernando, a physician in Western New York, and Miss Fannie of this town. Mr. Tracy is a man well preserved, of unusual intelligence, reading much and keeping pace with all leading topics of the day. In politics he is a Democrat, staunch and loyal to his party. Mrs. Tracy is also fond of reading, is



most agreeable in conversation, and has a remarkable memory of things that occurred in her young womanhood. Has not lost much of the comeliness said to have been hers in youth.

#### MARTIN STEVENS.

Martin Stevens was born in Naugatuck, Conn., in 1767. Was a son of William Stevens of Naugatuck, who was a Revolutionary soldier. Martin married Miss Thirza, daughter of Thomas Tyrrell. Mr. Tyrrell was a Revolutionary soldier, a lieutenant in Col. Jedediah Huntington's Regiment, under Captain John Ripley of the tenth company. Was wounded, and in hospital at Harlem Heights. His wife rode on horseback, with a three months' old babe in her arms, a distance of one hundred miles, taking three days to make the journey, to see him. The home was in a locality called "Pond Hill," and was also the home of other families bearing the same name—Stevens. When Mrs. Martin Stevens was yet Miss Tyrrell, at 18 years of age, she taught school, and received the sum of ninety-two cents per week. With her wages she purchased a calico dress, paying therefor ninety-two cents per yard—the first calico dress she ever had. In 1827 they removed from Connecticut to Camden, and resided in the house now owned by James P. Owen, and built by their son Martin for their occupancy. Near by it, on the site of the George Wood house, stood his blacksmith shop, where he made steel pitchforks—the first introduced into this country. During Mr. Stevens last illness the shop burned, and the danger to the residence was so great that they moved him out of it on a stretcher. It did not burn, however, and still remains, though much changed from its former appearance. Their children were, Hopkins, Thirza, Martin H., Laura, and Pernet. Martin Stevens died February 14, 1839, aged 72 years. His remains rest in Mexico Street Cemetery, marked by a stone bearing above date. Thirza Tyrrell Stevens was born at Naugatuck, Conn., in 1778. While on a visit to her old home, she was called higher, at the ripe age of 82 years, in the year 1850. Their daughter Laura, and son Martin, still survive.

#### MARTIN H. STEVENS.

Martin Henry Stevens was a son of Martin and Thirza Tyrrell Stevens, and was born in Naugatuck, Conn., December 25, 1806.

He was the fourth child born to them. After a boyhood spent at "Pond Hill," he had arrived at the years when a young man chooses for himself a vocation in life, and came to Camden in 1826, when about nineteen years of age. The year following, 1827, his parents came here to reside, he having built a home to receive them. For a few years he worked for George Ferris, but later he, with his brother Hopkins, began a furniture trade, continuing some years. The shop, remembered by many, stood on the east side of Main street, and was purchased of Gen. Curtiss. For several years he was engaged in the purchase and sale of lumber with New York parties about the '50's. In 1831 he married Miss Helen, daughter of Riley Preston. In 1833 they sustained the loss of a little son, Henry Dwight, aged one year. In 1835 Mrs. Stevens died, and both are buried in Mexico Street Cemetery. In 1836 he again married, his second wife being Miss Emma A., daughter of Jesse Fish, Esq., of Williamstown, Oswego County, N. Y. In 1846 he purchased one-third of an acre of land about where the "Commercial House" now stands, of Jesse Fish—land joining Nancy Thatcher's—which latter must have been the Reed Hotel property. Hereon he erected a home for himself. Mr. Stevens held many offices in the militia when "general training" days were of much interest and importance. The commission papers showing his appointments are at hand. In February, 1830, he was sergeant under Capt. Ammi Hinkley, 68th Regiment, Col. R. Empey. In May, 1831, Ensign, John A. Dix, Adjutant General; signed E. T. Throop. In May, 1832, lieutenant in 68th Regiment, Infantry; signed Enos T. Throop. In August, 1835, captain in 68th Regiment, Infantry; signed W. L. Marcy. August, 1838, major of 68th Regiment; signed Wm. L. Marcy; and in 1839, lieutenant colonel of same regiment; signed William H. Seward. It is said of him by those who recall those days of enthusiasm, that he made a fine figure in his uniform, carrying himself with much military dignity. To Mr. and Mrs. Stevens were born two children, Walter Tyrrell and Helen Martha, born 1841. Helen M. died in 1861, at the age of 20 years. She was a young lady of much beauty of character, a favorite with all, especially with those of her age, among whom she had a host of friends. It was a heavy affliction for

her parents to bear, and the poor mother grew weary in her deep sorrow. To speak of the kindly character of Mr. and Mrs. Stevens is fitting and proper in these pages. For those in affliction there was always a heart full of sympathy; those in want ever found open hands to aid them, and in sickness they prescribed remedies and soothed the weary, pain-racked bodies. Mrs. Stevens would lay aside her own work if an aged friend (and they were many) needed a cap, and without a seeming effort fit her with one, the material provided from her store. The writer speaks from positive knowledge of the fact, that no appeal to Mrs. Stevens for assistance in childish troubles was in vain. A doll's dress or bonnet, a bow or a belt for the child herself, a hat made or a dress fitted and made; all these things have been done, not with complaints and excuses, but with evident pleasure in the act and satisfaction with results, by Mrs. Stevens. She was an earnest, devout member of the Episcopal Church, and her daily life was a benediction. Mr. Stevens' kindness and attention to children was remarkable. If they were ragged and dirty he made no distinction between them and those more tidy in appearance. If he were driving, at least a half dozen were in the party; or if walking, a troop would follow, and at last find their way to the confectioner's, where a treat of candy and fruit rejoiced their hearts in the getting, and his in the giving. Mr. Stevens is aged and infirm now, waiting a little for the summons from the Master to come higher and receive the reward he merits for his deeds well done. He is spending his declining days with his only son, Walter T., and is in his 91st year. His mind is in the main bright, and memory retentive. Mrs. Emma Stevens died December 10, 1875, aged 65 years, and was laid to rest beside her daughter Helen, in Forest Park Cemetery.

#### W. T. STEVENS.

Walter Tyrrell is the only surviving child of Martin H. and Emma A. Stevens, born July 3, 1839. He gained an insight into his father's business through the years of his boyhood and young manhood, and in 1860 assumed the proprietorship entire, continuing for some years at the old stand. In 1868 he erected a new and more commodious place of business on the site of the

Linus Stevens house, turning the old house around with the end toward the street—the building now used as the post-office. Here he continued the same business, enlarging and improving it from year to year, till it became the largest of the kind in town. In 1893 he sold to Williams & Norton, and retired to a life of ease and quiet. In May, 1863, he married Irene M., daughter of the late Orson B. Norton. Several children have blessed their union. Grace Irene, born August 6, 1867, the wife of Rev. Robert Tafft of Baltimore, Md., is the only surviving one. Mr. Stevens purchased the home of his wife, that of Orson B. Norton, in 1876, and resides there at present.

#### WILLIAM STEVENS, JR.

William Stevens, Jr., son of William Stevens, married Marinda, daughter of Barthoolmew Pond, in 1810 or 1811. He was the father of Mr. Franklin Stevens, born in Camden, 1813, and of the late Samuel Higley Stevens. He owned where T. D. Penfield now resides, and had a blacksmith shop about where the Episcopal Church is. He was much respected in the community. He was in service during the war of 1812. Mr. Stevens also owned where the R., W. & O. depot stands—about seven acres of land.

Franklin Stevens was 18 years of age when he left Camden and went to Cleveland to engage in the furniture business. He married there, and three children were born to them—daughters. Two died after reaching maturity—Miss Ellen and Lavina. The youngest, Wilhelmina, and the mother yet survive, their home being at present at Sylvan. Mr. Franklin Stevens died in 1896, aged 83 years. Buried at Sylvan.

Samuel Higley Stevens died in Camden in 1866, aged 69 years. Mr. Higley Stevens married Miss Susan, daughter of Timothy W. Wood. They had one son, Jay Stevens, now living at Laconia, N. Y. William Stevens was chosen trustee of the Congregational Society in 1810.

#### LINUS STEVENS

Was born in Cheshire, New Haven County, Conn., November 29, 1800. At Naugatuck, Conn., December 6, 1821, he married Miss Fannie Smith. They removed to Camden in 1836, and

purchased a house of Hopkins and Martin Stevens, which is the present post-office building, then standing with the eaves to the street. They reared a family of children—Lawrence S., Elizabeth S., Nelson B., Anson L., F. Ellen, Fernando D., and George L. Lawrence married Kate Daniels of Lockport, N. Y.; Elizabeth married Joshua H. Tracy of Camden, N. Y.; Nelson B. married Hannah Upson of Camden, N. Y.; Anson S. Miss Julia Beecher of Naugatuck, Conn.; Ellen, Gershom B. Bradley of Westport, Conn.; Fernando D., unmarried; George L., Miss Mary Ransom of Camden. Mrs. Tracy is the only member of the family residing in Camden. They were a family of much talent in music, literature and conversation. Stearns was a minister of the gospel. Nelson the editor and publisher of a Western New York newspaper. Ellen, George L., and Nelson, also had fine taste for music, the former giving instruction in the same. Mr. Stevens resided in Camden thirty-seven years. He was greatly respected and beloved in this community for his quiet and unostentatious character and his honest, upright, industrious life. In his 75th year Linus Stevens died at Johnstown, N. Y., in 1875; Mrs. Stevens, in Camden, in April, 1885. They passed away in old age, crowned with the joys of a correct and well-spent life. Buried in Forest Park Cemetery.

#### ORANGE DAYTON.

From Mr. Melville E. Dayton of Chicago, Ill., we have the following concerning his father's residence in Camden: "My father, Orange Dayton, went to Camden in 1842 or '43, and left there, I think, in 1852; was born in Hadley, in Northern New York, married at Vernon Center to Miss Mary Phinney. He had five children—Samuel James, Lois Amelia, Melville Emory, Wilber Fiske and Oscar Milton. His first wife, my mother, died in Camden, and is buried in the church-yard on the road to Rome. A few years later he married Miss Linda Skiff Warner, who then lived near Vernon, N. Y. After leaving Camden, my father took up his residence in Clinton, N. Y., where he continued to live till 1881, in which year his wife died. He then came to Chicago to live with his children, residing here with my brother Oscar and myself, and died later in the same year, at the age of 78. My father went to Camden from Hamp-



ton, N. Y., where he had been engaged in the shoe business. He started in business in Camden, as a partner in the firm of Dayton & Bettis, which conducted tanning, currying and shoe-making. This was done at the south end of the bridge on Main street, where the Costellos subsequently built up a very large manufactory of leather. Later my father conducted a shoe business by himself mainly, in a building nearly opposite the Spencer block. (We believe it to have been the checkered store.) His daughter, Lois Amelia, was a student and teacher of fine attainments, and married the Rev. Dr. Abel Stevens, a distinguished author in the M. E. Church. ('History of Methodism,' in seven volumes; also 'Madame De Stael, a story of her life and Times,' and other works of high literary character, were among the results of his life's labors). Mrs. Stevens lived but a year after her marriage; her death occurred at Brooklyn, N. Y., at the age of 35 years. Wilbur Fiske Dayton died at Clinton, N. Y., at about the age of 32. After the experience of moving to Camden, I do not recall any incidents of special interest. The move referred to was remarkable, inasmuch as it was effected in April, over more than four feet of snow, a fact that I have heard commented upon as somewhat unusual, and which I personally remember from having been tipped out of the box sleigh, in which the family were transported, into the snow banks. I recall that among the friends of my father were Mr. Empey, Mr. Spencer and Mr. Bird, and some others. Very cordially and respectfully yours,

M. E. Dayton."

#### LEVI MATTHEWS

Lived in town somewhere; we have not been able to locate the spot. He married Polly, daughter of Eliakim Stoddard. They had a family of seven children, viz.: Chloe, Irene, Mendana, Marcia, Alvero, Lorin and Ransom. This information was given us by George Matthews, son of Alvero. Ransom Matthews and Solon Cool, were playing squirrel in a tree; Ransom was striving to make his escape from the tree before it fell. He attempted to come down from the tree, up which he had climbed, and Solon, who had been using a new ax to chop it, hurried to get in another clip, and fell it before Ransom escaped. The result was dreadful; the ax sinking into his leg and partly

severing it from his body. Dr. Chatfield was sent for, a distance of four or five miles. Anaesthetics were then unknown; surgery was but little practiced, and the amputation finished with much pain with a saw, taking a half day to complete it. The shrieks of the poor afflicted boy were heard a great distance. Ransom Matthews lived and learned the trade of a tailor, and had a business in Taberg. A circumstance of the dishonesty of one of his customers comes to our knowledge. A coat had been made by Mr. Matthews for this customer (name withheld), which he claimed was too small, and he flatly refused to pay for it, whereupon Mr. Matthews prosecuted him to recover for the coat. The dishonest customer appeared in the court room with the garment on his back, which surely enough, was too small. Of course the jury gave a verdict in his favor, and inviting a few friends to a near-by bar, the victor treated, and disclosed to them the secret of the shrinkage of the coat. Underneath he had dressed himself generously with several shirts and two or three vests, which made it impossible for a well-fitting coat to go around.

#### ERASTUS UPSON.

Deacon Erastus Upson moved to Camden from the Seventh in 1820. He bought the property on Mexico street, west of the cemetery, for his mother, and also carried on a tin shop. A little later he purchased the tavern which stood where Robson's hardware store now stands, built by Elihu Curtiss, who sold it to E. Goodyear, of whom Mr. Upson bought it. He also purchased a small red building just north of it, in which he carried on a general store in connection with the tin shop, using the tavern as a dwelling house. Some time afterwards he sold this property to H. J. Miner, reserving the tin business and continuing it in what is now the dining-room of the Crimmins House. He erected this building for the purpose. It was universal in those days to make a bee for raising buildings, and inviting all to come, and when the work was done to pass liquor around very freely; but on this occasion they were told, when invited, he had made up his mind to depart from the usual custom and provide only cake and hot coffee. All were on hand, however, and the building raised very quickly. One man left

shortly after the work was done and came back with a jug of whisky, and very pleasantly invited the boys to go over across the street into the mill yard and have a good time, but greatly to their credit, not one accepted. About this time Erastus Upson purchased of the Huntingtons of Rome nearly all of the land lying south of Union street, to Mad River on the east, and Fish Creek and the top of the bank (near the Raymond house) on the south, across to Second street, up to the Ranney Park's house (now owned by Dr. Bacon), embracing nearly all east of Second Street making him one of the largest land owners in the corporation. This part of the town was called Pine Hill, being covered with partly burned log heaps and pine stumps. After his purchase Erastus Upson proposed to the town to throw up the road leading diagonally from the Town Hall, and running back of the John Stewart residence, and down the hill back of the Godfrey place, coming out just south of the place where the blacksmith shop now stands, crossing the three branches of the river, on as many bridges, and substituting in the place a road from Second street to Mad River, now Union street, and opening Church street to Mad River, and crossing it on one bridge, instead of three, thus changing materially the eastern part of the town. In 1837 he purchased the land lying south of Empey avenue, and the rear line of lots on the east side of Main street, embracing all north of Union street, and including all of Second and Third streets. He built the house at the top of the hill in 1842, where Union and Church streets join, and there he spent the remainder of his days. Erastus Upson departed this life January 3, 1850, aged 61 years. Cynthia, his wife, died May 20, aged 75.

The children of Erastus and Cynthia Upson were Angeline, Cynthia, Hannah, Mary, Ballard and Larne Perrine, the latter a bright boy of eleven years, who died August 9, 1829, and sleeps in the old cemetery on Mexico street. All are dead but Ballard, who with his wife and one son, George, continues to reside in the old home, to whom we are indebted for this history of Erastus Upson.



THOMAS D. PENFIELD.

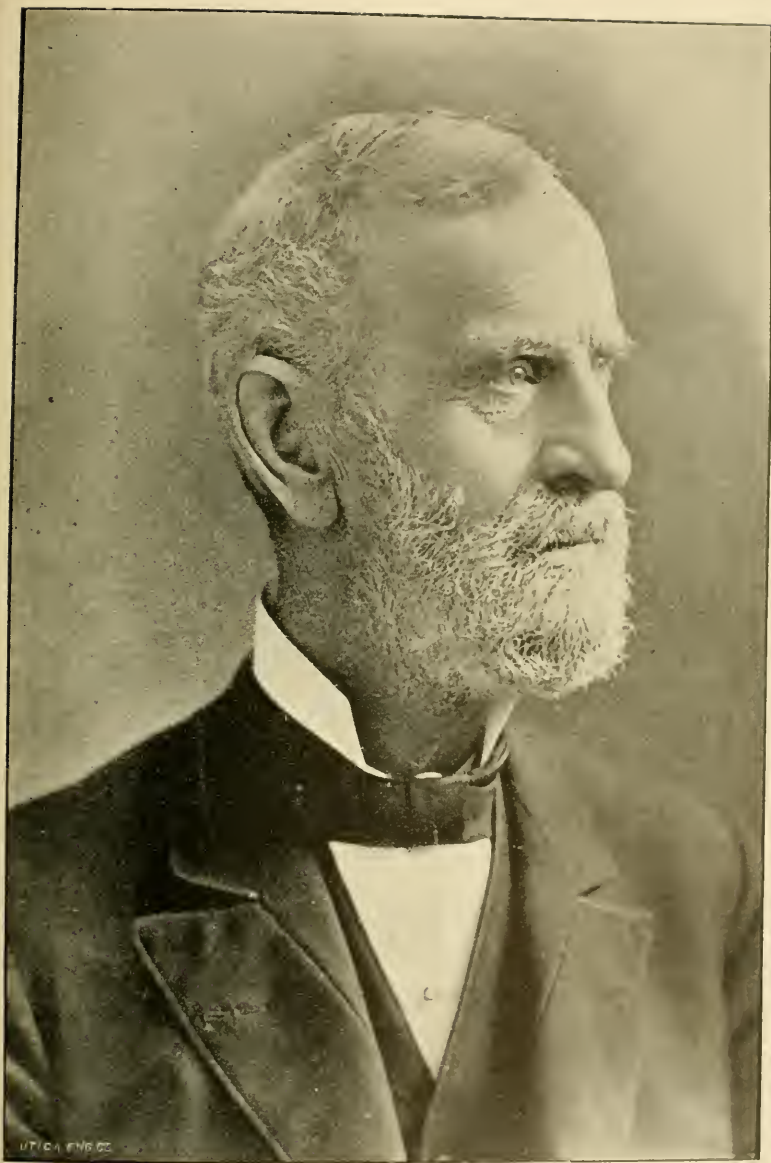
## THOMAS DEMILT PENFIELD.

Mr. Penfield has been a life-long resident of Camden. He came from his home in the country to the village before he had attained his majority, to learn the boot and shoe trade, and has been identified with it since. He has honored the village and the village had honored him. Its improvements and advancements have been his pride and pleasure. He built a fine residence on Main street, which he now occupies. He has been identified with the Penfield & Stone flour and grist mill since 1854. In politics he has always been an ardent Democrat. His public life was inaugurated as School Commissioner in 1842. He next served as Justice of the Peace and as Justice of the Oneida County General Sessions. For eleven terms he represented the town in the Board of Supervisors, his first term was in 1851 and his last in 1886. In 1856 he was elected to the State Assembly as a Democrat, and again in 1862. For years he has been prominent in county affairs, its religious, agricultural and manufacturing industries. As a member of the Oneida Agricultural Society he has many times been its President and member of its Executive Committee. He has been nine times President of Camden village; served as Water Commissioner, and several times Commissioner of Highways for the town. He was Sheriff of Oneida County, duly qualifying January 1, 1883. Mr. Penfield has been twice married; his first wife being Miss Ann, daughter of Rev. Eliakin Stoddard; his second wife, Miss Lucynthia, daughter of Judge Israel Stoddard.

## FRANCIS H. CONANT.

Francis H. Conant was born in Albany, N. Y., September 19, 1815. He married Mary Gates in Stow, Mass., October 25, 1836, where they remained until the following spring, when they came to North Bay, this State, and remained about twelve years. They returned to their Eastern home, but in 1851 came to Camden to reside, and Mr. Conant entered into partnership with Gen. Lyman Curtiss in the milling business. During the year 1854 he bought the property in the valley, and engaged in the business of manufacturing chairs and furniture. In 1865 he purchased the Detroit Chair Manufactory, which he managed for





FRANCIS H. CONANT.

several years. While in business in that city he was also associated with S. P. Duffield in the manufacture of fluid extracts for medicinal purposes. Later he went to Adrian, Mich., where he lived several years, but returned to Camden, his former home, where he continued to reside until the death of his wife, which occurred June 25, 1882, in Toledo, while on a visit to her son, Walter N. Conant. She was brought to Camden and laid to rest in Forest Park Cemetery. Mr. Conant was a man of unusual activity, energy and enterprise. He was a member of the Congregational Church, and always interested in its welfare. He was superintendent of the Sunday School, and was for many years a trustee of the society. At various times he was elected a trustee of the Corporation and a member of the Board of Education. Six sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Conant. The two older ones died in infancy. The rest grew to manhood. Frank E. Conant enlisted in the late civil war and was killed at the battle of Antietam September 17, 1862, when but nineteen years of age. His remains were brought back to his home for interment.

Walter N. Conant married Mary Gatchel of this town, and eventually settled in Toledo, O., where he became an extensive furniture manufacturer and dealer. Two children were born to them, Mary and Frank, both residing in Toledo. Walter Conant's death occurred in Los Angeles, Cal., December, 1891, where he had gone on business.

E. H. Conant was born in North Bay, and came to Camden with his family when about six years old. He married Caroline E. Phelps, a resident of Camden. Their children are—Harold T. Conant, Alice P., and Mary E. Conant; all reside in Camden.

John Alexander Conant was born in this town. He married Genevieve Waterman, also a resident of Camden. They reside in Clinton, Ia., at the present time.

George F. Conant, the youngest son, is a native of this town. He married Ella Spicer of Adams, N. Y.; they have two children, Clarence and Bertha Conant.

After the death of his wife Francis H. Conant went West to reside. July 25, 1883, he married Mrs. Sarah Beach for his second wife. They lived in Coldwater, Mich., the home of Mrs. Conant, where his death occurred May 12, 1887, aged 71 years.

His remains were brought to Camden to rest in the family burial place.

### REUBEN BETTIS.

John Bettis, now residing in Cedar Rapids, Ia., gives us the following account of his own and his father's life while they lived in Camden:

Reuben Bettis came from Westmoreland to Camden during the year 1822. He located just south of Fish Creek bridge, bought several acres of land, and built a home for himself, which stood on the east side of the road. He built the first tannery in that locality and conducted the business until it was well established, when he took Calvin Wymple as a partner, who conducted the business, and Mr. Bettis moved into the Bvington tavern, where he remained for a time, then lived in Esquire Timothy Wood's house about one year. At this time Mr. Wood was a widower. Reuben Bettis married Amanda Doolittle in Westmoreland; one son was born to them, John Bettis, who was four years of age when his father came to this town. The first wife of Mr. Bettis died October 26, 1832, aged 33 years. He married the second time, Caroline, daughter of Billious Pond. No children came to their home; her death occurred October 23, 1836, aged 33 years. He married again Miss Mary Peck of Brooklyn, N. Y. Their children were Nathan, who died in infancy; Fannie, who married William Sperry, and resides in Denver; and James, who located in Little Rock, Ark. He is the editor of a paper in that place. For many years the family resided in the old Bettis home on the north-west corner of Washington and Second streets. It has been very materially changed in these later days. Reuben Bettis and son John established a boot and shoe store on the east side of Main street. They suffered from the fire which swept through that part of the village in 1856, but immediately resumed business, and continued it until 1862, when, on account of failing health, they sold out the business, and Reuben Bettis retired from active life. His death occurred September 15, 1862. His wife survived him and found a home in the West with her children. As business men this firm were upright and honorable, commanding the respect of their patrons in every instance.

## JOHN BETTIS.

John Bettis married Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel B. Hinkley. They made their home on Second street, where Aaron Cornish now resides, but later occupied the house on North Park street, now owned by Christian Boehm. Mr. and Mrs. Bettis were most consistent members of the Congregational Church and were prominent members of the choir. Mrs. Bettis was one of the sweetest singers among the number. No musical circle was complete without their presence.

Four children came to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bettis, viz.: Willie, who died in infancy; Otis, Bruce and John, Jr., who reside in the West. In 1864 Mr. Bettis bought all of the land south of Church street, and east of Fourth street, except one



John Bettis.

tier of lots on the east side of Fourth street, of Mrs. Cynthia Gatchel. The land was covered with stumps and but little had been done to improve or beautify it. He cleared the land and then extended Miner avenue through to J. C. Sperry's land, now

the property of Alfred Stoddard; then laid out Fifth and Sixth streets, and sold the lots for building purposes. It is now a fine part of our beautiful village. It was with sincere regret that Camden lost this most desirable citizen. He moved with his family to Bergen, in the western part of the State, on a fruit farm. Later he sold the property, and located in Cedar Rapids, Ia., where he continues to reside. The death of his wife occurred September 10th, 1888.

#### WILLARD W. WILLIAMS.

Willard W. Williams was born in Rome, N. Y. He commenced his business career in Higginsville, where he married Jane, daughter of the late Silas Frazee. In 1862 he came to Camden and purchased the boot and shoe establishment of Reuben Bettis & Son, where he built up an extensive business. He was associated with his brother-in-law, Dayton Locke; also for a time with Q. Barber, but at the time of his death was sole proprietor of the business. He erected the house on Second street, where his wife continues to reside. In 1868 he united with the M. E. Church in Camden, becoming a devout and consistent member, and devoted much of his time to the Master's work. For fourteen years he was Superintendent of the Sunday School, doing the work most successfully. In 1870 he was licensed a local preacher, frequently occupying the pulpit in this village, and often going to surrounding towns, preaching the plain gospel to his fellow men. As a business man his example is worthy of imitation; as a citizen, he had the respect of the community at large, by whom his loss was deeply mourned. He died November 24, 1883, aged 49 years.

Dayton Locke married Harriet Frazee and came to Camden in 1862. Was associated several years with W. W. Williams in the boot and shoe business, but eventually moved to Madison, Wis., where his death occurred May 14, 1893, leaving a wife and one daughter.

#### A. G. OLMSTEAD.

A. G. Olmstead came to Camden in 1844. At this time his family consisted of his wife and two children, Fayette W. and Maronctte P. They drove two horses, with their effects in a wagon. It being late in the evening when they arrived, their



goods were unloaded in Truman Spencer's Exchange building. In the fall of 1847 Mr. Olmstead purchased of Linus Stevens the lot upon which his house now stands. A blacksmith shop was on the lot at the time; this was sold to S. Crouch and moved across to the east side of Main street, south of Martin Stevens' cabinet shop. During the winter of 1848 Alexander Kilpatrick taught school in what was called the Lower District; he boarded around, as was the custom at that time. While stopping with Mr. Olmstead he told of the brick-kiln which he had put up the fall before in Vienna. It contained thousands of brick that he desired to dispose of to raise money sufficient to attend school at Cazenovia. Mr. Olmstead, intending to build soon, bargained for the entire kiln at two dollars and fifty cents per thousand, with which his house was built. It was the first brick building put up in the corporation. Lorenzo J. Wetmore was the mason. A. G. Olmstead was married January, 1839, to Miss Almira Plumley of Sandy Creek. In 1852 Mrs. Olmstead died, leaving four children, Fayette W., Maronette P., Mary and Francis. Fayette W. married Miss Jennie, daughter of James Stark; their home is in California; Maronette P. is unmarried and lives in Toledo, O.; Mary married P. L. Hoadley, and they live in Newark, N. J. Francis married Jas. H. Worden of Orange, N. J.

In 1856 Mr. Olmstead married Miss Martha F. Cropsey of Pulaski, the mother of William and George Olmstead; she died in 1859. In 1860 Mr. Olmstead married Miss Melinda Lathers, who with Mr. Olmstead still survive and reside in the brick house. Mr. Olmstead's life was a busy one for many years. He carried on the dry goods business for some time, and later, was engaged with his son, Fayette, in the clothing trade, both ready-made and custom work. In late years he has been more in retirement, and less active, but interested in all local matters.

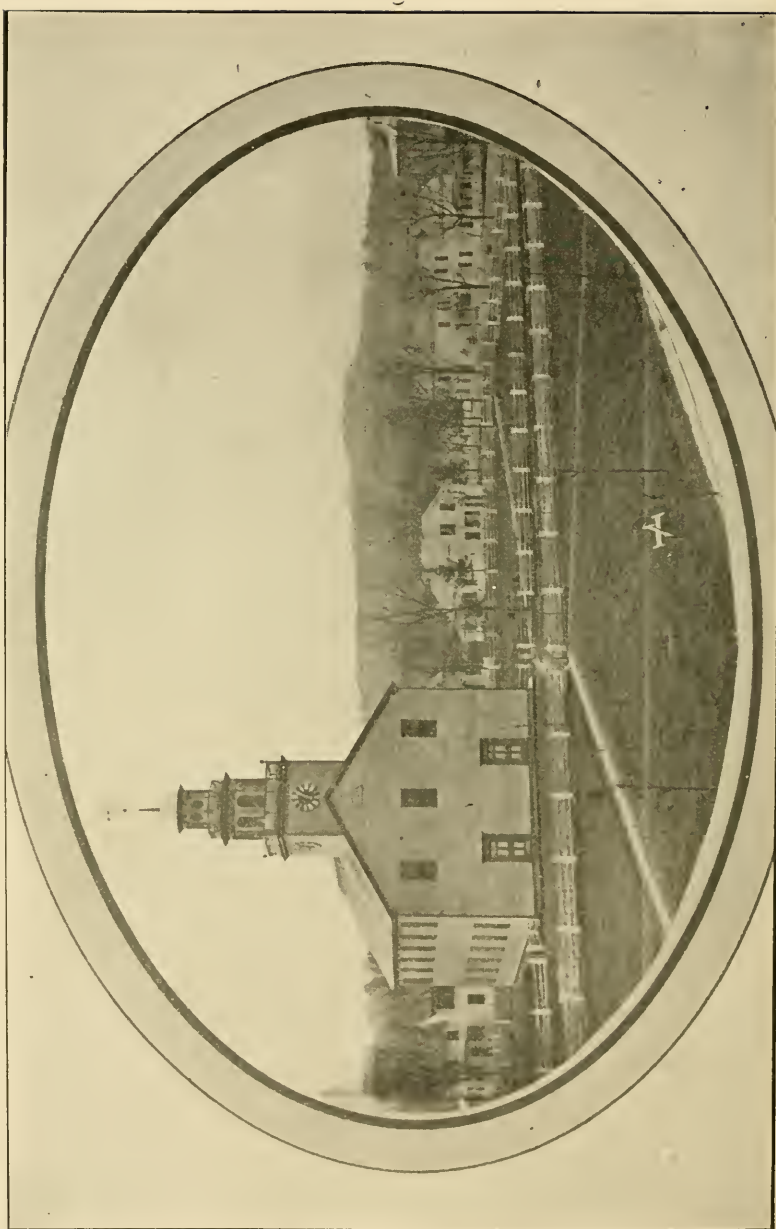
## CHAPTER XV.

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### FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN CAMDEN.

The first records of the Church of Christ in Camden were made by Curtiss Pond, whose handwriting is very plainly to be discerned at this time. In the first book of Town Records his chirography also appears frequently, legible, full, letters well formed, spelling correct, and of all the specimens of either found in these interesting pages, none are so perfect as those of Curtiss Pond. Much of the penmanship, we must admit, is inferior—extremely so—and some of the spelling far from scholarly; yet we have gleaned many items by carefully studying the pages, and feel we owe a debt of gratitude to them for what we know of their early achievements.

As in New England, the meeting house and its services were paramount in the hearts of the people; so here, in the formation of a new town, its settlers must have the privilege of religious worship. Congregationalism was then the most widely accepted of all denominations in the Eastern States, and as our pioneers were from families who settled the colonies, and were reared in that faith, it was natural that they should form themselves into a Congregational body, which they called the "First Church of Christ in Camden." They were descendants of Pilgrims and Puritans, strong in body, in mind and endeavor, recognizing the leadership of God in all they did, desiring liberty of thought and worship more than worldly gain. They were largely from Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut, and of sturdy New England stock. Many Camden settlers of those early days, in their seekings after a new home, seemed to have tarried first at Paris, Oneida County. There, was a church, and from it came the first eight organic members of this Camden Church, which was established February 19, 1798. Its first communicants were Benjamin Barnes, Jemima Barnes, Noah Tuttle, Thankful Tuttle, Philip Barnes, Laura Barnes, Marshal Merriam, and Benjamin Barnes, Jr. The first sermon was preached by the Rev. Joshua



Johnson of Redfield. Text, Isaiah, 35 : 1: "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose." A more appropriate selection could not have been chosen, and in the growth of this pretty village from the howling wilderness of a hundred years ago, behold its verification! Full and complete record does not commence until 1806. Previous to this time there had been no book for the purpose, but at an annual meeting they voted to buy one to record the "doings of the meetings." Into this necessary article, bought December 26, A. D. 1806, the earlier history of the society was copied, and from it we choose such items as we believe will be of interest to the general reader of our work. We know its authenticity is beyond dispute. On its first page we find: "A register of the names of those who have signed the articles of the First Society in Camden. These names were copied from other records and put on this book this 3d day of January, A. D. 1807, by me, Curtiss Pond: Jessie Curtiss, Abner Matthews, Aaron Matthews, Joel Dunbar, Elihu Curtiss, Ichabod Brown, Daniel Parke, Ephraim Wright, Gershom Holdridge, Samuel Pond, Gideon Northrup, Sylvanus Wilson, Israel Stoddard, Abner Legg, Lemuel Corey, William Weaver, Eliasaph Preston, Elisha Curtiss, Eliab Dunbar, Eliasaph Parker, Ezra Barnes, Philip Pond, Calvin Stafford, Henry Filkins, Abner Preston, Erastus Deverise, Truman Baker, Daniel Allen, Isaac Barnes, Jonah Sanford, Bartholomew Pond, Giles Sanford, Darius Wiard, Jesse Pond, Elnathan Thrasher, John Smith, Ezra Gatchell, Isaac Barnes, 2d, William Smith, John Thrasher, William Stevens, Heman Byington, Daniel Dean, Allen Sperry, Joseph Curtiss, Phineas Castle, Amos Soper, Samuel Porter, Seth Dunbar, Eliphalet Johnson, Billious Pond, Oliver Cook, Joshua Ransom, Warren Preston, Abel Collins, Persons Allen, David Matthews, Linus Sanford, John Dean, Samuel D. Castle, Curtiss Pond, Conet Scoville, Benjamin Phelps, Joseph T. Scoville, Lyman Matthews, James Whaley, Isaac Pond, Treadwell Soper, John Wilson, Jr., John Wilson, Sr., John Bryan, Martin Cook, Jehiel Higgins, Samuel Beech, Jesse Penfield, Phineas Tuttle, David Osborn, Reuben Osborn, Orrimon Tuttle, Henry Holly, Daniel Fellows, Sylvester Curtiss, Ransom Barnes,

Thomas B. Segur, Philip Barnes, Daniel Bartholomew, Arty Allen, Noah Preston, Harman Hardaway, Calvin Johnson."

These subscribers were not necessarily all members of the church, but those who were willing to aid in its support. (We have learned from a previous chapter how it was first established in the "Seventh Township," and its history brought down to the union of the two societies.) It must be remembered that religious matters were not looked upon lightly. It was their duty to attend service on the Sabbath. What if the church was remote from their homes, the roads thereto rough and long, the conveyance a lumber wagon drawn by oxen? What though the day was cold and the clothing insufficient for their comfort? What if the seats were rough boards and the house of worship cold and uninviting? The fervor of their love for their Master was sufficient to make smooth the way to the sanctuary; it shortened the distance which must be traversed, and the warmth in their hearts gave comfort to the meeting, and the long prayers and longer sermons were relished with intense pleasure. They wended their way homeward invigorated, renewed and fortified against the trials of the days to follow. As we enjoy the comfort of our present houses of worship it is difficult to imagine the early pioneers enduring such crude and unpleasant surroundings. Could our early ancestors have penetrated the future to this period, and have discovered the carpeted floors, cushioned pews, warmed and lighted rooms, and music proceeding from a pipe organ, with other convenient accessories, which we feel are absolutely necessary to our spiritual well being, it is safe to assert they would have considered our salvation a very doubtful question, and heartaches would have been added to their other discomforts. While religious matters are as deeply and heartily enjoyed as in days of yore, Scripture is interpreted differently, and the beauty of its truths more earnestly sought after and taught the young. Little hearts do not beat with fear of dreadful punishment from a loving Father if, in their childish innocence, they commit some misdemeanor, but they are rather shown the kindly interest He has in them, the depth of His love, and are led by that love to know how much better it is to do right than wrong. Love, not fear, is their guiding star to



Heaven. These early settlers were descendants of Puritan fathers and mothers, with much of the severe discipline and training of the Puritans instilled into their minds, and it is not strange that they believed it the true and only way. In many families work ceased with Saturday night at sundown, and the quiet of the Sabbath fell about them. All secular matters were laid aside and preparation for the morrow begun by prayer and scriptural reading. Voices were subdued, steps quiet, and a holy peaceful atmosphere pervaded their homes. We imagine they did not sing praises with joy, but the strains of old "Windham," perhaps, were chanted in the minor key. Surely the sentiment found sympathy—"Broad is the road that leads to death." Children were admonished in stern tones to be still, and laughter was immediately suppressed. Perhaps the severity of their early training tempered the discipline of the home in our day, and we have escaped the rigors of the Puritan religious home. We know we have as sincere, pure, Christian fathers and mothers as those early pioneers had. The minister himself was held in high regard by his church people. To him they repaired for the settlement of all difficulties, religious, domestic, secular. His field of labor was a wide one, and full of effort. He must preach and pray in public twice on the Sabbath. On week days he must attend to lectures, prayer meetings and pastoral calls; often being appealed to in medical and surgical cases; till the soil, prepare his firewood, often going to the forest for the fuel, and attending death-bed scenes. The best of God's bounties to the members of the church were shared generously with the pastor. He must have the choicest fruits, vegetables, meats of their store, and these were willingly bestowed from a sense of duty. Lands of the largest value were set aside as "glebes," or "minister's land." That now owned by Churchill & Tibbitts, on Mexico street, was the "glebe" lot in 1809, and is often mentioned in the first book of records. There are the names of several early members who had the courage to declare their disagreement with the church on many doctrinal points, who were summoned to appear before the council, admonished, examined, "found wanting," and excommunicated. There were those who were fond of the cup which intoxicates. They were visited by the church examiners,

expostulated with, earnestly enjoined to live sober, useful lives, to no avail. Thereafter they were not considered suitable members, and were denied the privilege of further communion with the church. Yet, as a rule, the men belonging to this Congregational band were of strong character, good principles, straightforward in their dealings with each other, firm in purpose, just in all ways. By such was the foundation of our community laid, and we feel no wonder that the same elements are found in our men of to-day that characterized them nearly one hundred years ago. Now we shall keep more closely to the old records:

"This Record was copied from other records by me, Curtiss Pond, this 3d day of January, 1807."

"1801.—A Register of the Names of the first Trustees chosen in the First Society in Camden: Joel Dunbar, Ezra Barnes, Israel Stoddard, Ephraim Wright, Samuel Pond."

"December, 1802.—At an election held at the house of Elihu Curtiss, and chose Abner Matthews Moderator, and Isaac Barnes and Ezra Barnes Trustees for the year ensuing."

"December 12, 1803.—At an Annual Society meeting held at the house of Elihu Curtiss, was chosen Bartholomew Pond and Gershom Holdridge Trustees, and Elihu Curtiss Clerk for said Society."

"March 22, 1804.—At a meeting held at the house of Elihu Curtiss, and chose Jesse Curtiss Moderator, and voted to hire Mr. Spencer one year if the other society in Camden would join with them, and desolved."

"April 12.—At a meeting held at the above mentioned place, and voted that Jonah Sanford and Darius Wiard and Jesse Pond should be lawful voters in said society, and adjourned to the house of Daniel Parke, on the 19th day of April, the present month."

"April 19, 1804.—A society meeting was held at the house of Daniel Parke, and desolved."

"December 10, 1804.—A society meeting was held at the house of Elihu Curtiss, and chosen Darius Wiard for one of the Trustees of sd. Society, and adjourned to the same place."

"December 17.—At a meeting of sd. society, chose Elihu Cur-

tiss Clerk, and Aaron Matthews Moderator for the year ensuing, and adjourned to the 24th instant, and opened on the same."

"December 9, 1805.—The annual society meeting was warned and held at the Union School House, and chose Ezra Barnes and Heman Byington Trustees of sd. society."

Here we will pause to explain that Elihu Curtiss, who kept the "Publick House," was located at what is now the site of A. G. Robson's store, north corner of Main street and Miner avenue. Further mention of the Elihu Curtiss house will be seen elsewhere in this work. Daniel Parke's house was located one and one-half miles south of the village, who will be mentioned in another article also. This is the first reference made to the Union School-House.

In December, 1807, "Bartholomew Pond, Abel Collins, Elihu Curtiss, and Jesse Curtiss, with their wives, all of Camden, convey by deed to Heman Byington, Israel Stoddard, Reuben Osborn, Elihu Curtiss, and Elisha Curtiss, Trustees of the Congregational Society, about  $3\frac{3}{4}$  acres of land, to be held by the society which they represent, and to be governed by their successors in office, to them and their uses, and for the benefit of public buildings and uses forever." This land is in part our beautiful village park, and that on which the Congregational Church stands is also a portion of it. Further, "That the said Trustees, and their successors in office, shall and may from time to time and at all times forever hereafter, by force and virtue of these presents, lawfully, peaceably and quietly have, hold, use, occupy, possess, and enjoy the said premises. But if the described premises shall by any power of said Trustees, or their successors in office, be applied to any uses other than public buildings and purposes, then the above bargained premises, with appurtenances, shall revert to and become the property of the donors. Since that far away time, Church street, North and South Park streets, and Second street, have been surveyed through it. Encroachments have been made upon its boundaries, as originally surveyed, reducing its area somewhat. We have, as a community, reason to congratulate ourselves that a park so near to our village center has been saved to us by so fortunate a business transaction. Could those generous men

possibly have foreseen our needs in the distant future? It really seems so. In 1806 it was voted "that if there can be raised eight hundred dollars by subscription for the purpose of building a meeting house, it shall be binding on the signers the sum they subscribe; also that it shall be paid quarterly, beginning at January, 1808, and ending at January, 1809." The meeting house was slow in its process of building, and services and annual meetings were held in Union School-House during 1807. About this time it was "voted to call the Rev. Mr. Hubbard for three months, provided he will receive for his labor, one-half his salary in grain, and the other half in money." The amount of the salary is not stated. Evidently he could not fill the pulpit, for no further mention is made of him. In 1809 the society extended a call to the Rev. Ebenezer Leavenworth to become their pastor at a salary of \$300 per annum. Now they have a church edifice 36 by 44 feet. It is enclosed, but stands without foundation except at corners and under cross-beams. Sheep crawl under it for protection from sun and storm. Seats are rough and they have no fires. Foot-stoves are brought by the feminine portion of the worshippers, and the more hardy men endure. It would seem that with so many trials to beset them in the new country, so little to enjoy of real comfort, that they would have been reluctant to pledge themselves to do more. But we can realize how intense was their zeal in the service of the Master when they, without murmuring, enter upon the task of building a church or "meeting house." They find time, material and money, and contribute. Those who have a knowledge of architecture give to the framing and construction; those having wood land furnish timber and shingles, and those who have time, and but little else, assist in the use of the hammer and saw, while few give of ready cash. Thus slowly, but steadily and surely, the building grew, and though far from complete, they call to their leadership the Rev. Leavenworth. A record of his pastorate in Camden was kept by him, of births, deaths and marriages. Rev. Leavenworth was called October 16, 1809, and ordained December 6, 1809. He gave to the church a library of fifty volumes, the first in Camden. September 11, 1811, "Voted to have a paper circulated for members of the Second Society to sign to have the Rev. Leavenworth

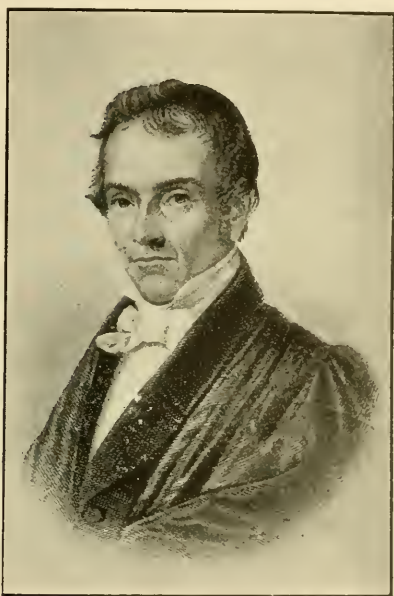
preach one-quarter of one year in the other society in the town of Camden." He remained the pastor till October 13, 1813, when he requested that he be dismissed—a request agreeable to the church people. About thirty-six were added to the list of membership during his pastorate, and several stricken from it. An unpleasantness arose between him and some of his flock, and he was vindictive. To relate a little story in connection with his labors while here, will verify the assertion made heretofore, that the pastors often were obliged to get their own firewood.

Rev. Leavenworth's story—an o'er true tale,—Between Mr. Leavenworth and his churchman, Hubbard Tuthill, there had arisen an unpleasantness. Mr. Tuthill was a tanner, and Mr. Leavenworth had secured a new harness made from leather of Mr. Tuthill's tanning. The reverend gentleman dwelt in the house now owned by Mrs. Orissa Barnes, but which in those days stood where the late George Abbott's house now is. The day was one Saturday, in winter, rainy and disagreeable. Wood was needed in the parsonage, and to have a cheerful hearth on the approaching Sabbath he must go to the "glebe lot" for it. He accordingly put the harness before-mentioned upon the horse, hitched him to a sort of jumper, and drove to the woodland for his supply. He was obliged to cut and get it into convenient shape to load, which took him some time. Having accomplished the task, he found it necessary to walk to his home, which he did, leading the horse by the bridle. Deeply engaged in meditation, no doubt, upon his Sunday sermon, he thought no further of his load till he reached home, when turning to unhitch his horse he was amazed to find the sleigh nowhere in sight. The tugs becoming water-soaked, had stretched; the horse walked on, but the load remained in the wood. He backed his horse enough to loosen and remove the harness, put the beast in the barn, threw the harness over the hitching post and left it, awaiting results. Sunday morning he officiated as usual. The day was mild and pleasant. Upon his return home, he found that as his harness dried the leather had contracted in the same proportion as it had stretched, and the load of wood was drawn to the door. This must be a true story, for the Reverend related it. In the autumn of 1815 a spirited revival took place under the earnest effort of Reverend Samuel Sweezy, which together with



the religious fervor of the following winter, added about fifty to the church list. In September the same year, it was "Resolved to have a committee appointed to draft a plan of the inside of the meeting house, with a view to making some improvements." A little later it was voted "that the meeting house be finished with pews, and that they be made without bannisters." Heretofore the worshipers had been seated on boards. This committee were Joel B. Smith, Seth Dunbar and Isaac Barnes, Jr., all practical carpenters. The 23d day of October, 1815, "a meeting of the inhabitants of the Town of Camden, for the purpose of forming a Congregational Society according to the laws of the State of New York, was held at the meeting house." Trustees, Israel Stoddard, Erastus Upson, Sylvanus Wilson, Sr., Ambrose Curtiss, Sr., Ashbel Upson, Billious Pond, Phineas Tuttle, Joel Rathbone and Daniel Parke. At this time the union of the societies in the Seventh and Eighth Townships took place, and thus united became "The Union Congregational Society of Camden." About four years elapsed between Rev. Leavenworth's time and the coming of the next settled pastor, and various preachers came to minister to the spiritual needs of this people. In February, 1817, the society decided they would call the Reverend Henry Smith to be their pastor, and at a meeting warned for that purpose, they "Resolved, first, that they wished him to become their pastor; second, that they would give him six hundred dollars a year for his ministerial labors, and six hundred in materials to build him an house and firewood for three years, for a settlement; also build him a barn. "Resolved that the Trustees draw a subscription for the purpose of raising \$600 per year to hire Mr. Smith." That this was a powerful call was demonstrated by his accepting it willingly. He was first a sort of supply here for some time, had endeared himself to the people, and they felt it was well to make an extra effort to retain him if possible. He was a young man, zealous in the cause of saving souls, a faithful pastor, an agreeable gentleman, and highly respected in the community. His labors here commenced with a remarkable revival of religion, which drew many into the fold. The ordination sermon was preached October 8, 1817, by the Rev. John Frost of Whitesboro. A pamphlet copy of it is in a

good state of preservation. It was printed by William Williams of No. 60 Genesee street, 1817, "at the request of the church and congregation in Camden." Text, 1 Timothy iii : 1 : "This is a true saying: If a man desire the office of a Bishop, he desireth a good work." The charge to the Bishop was by the Rev. Israel Brainard of Verona. The right hand of fellowship, by the Rev. Moses Gillet of Rome; charge to the people, Rev. Noah Coe of New Hartford. We copy a few words from Rev. Frost's address:



Rev. Henry Smith.

"We have reason to hope that the connection now formed will be followed by the most happy consequences to both parties and to the rising generation. Study to preserve that peace and harmony which at present prevail. Be punctual in the fulfilment of your pecuniary engagements. Let no trifling excuse prevent a regular attendance on the means of grace. Look upon your pastor as a messenger for good to you from the King of Zion. Receive him as one of the richest gifts that God ever bestows on earth. Treat him with affection and respect. To your service he is consecrating his talents in the flower of his days, and on your kindness his happiness and his usefulness most essentially depend. Over his faults, if you see any, (and all are imperfect), throw the mantle of charity. We will hope and pray that both

you and your pastor may so live together on earth as to meet at last on Mount Zion, there to mingle your voices with that innumerable company in their endless alleluias."

Mrs. Cyrus Stoddard says of him: He first came to Camden as a home missionary in 1817; was a native of New Hampshire, the son of an eminent jurist; graduated from Bowdoin College and Andover Seminary, and a classmate of Daniel Webster. After a few months' residence here he received a call to become their pastor, which he accepted. A house for worship was nearly completed on the ground where now stands the brick church. He was very zealous and active, doing much to build up the church and society. In 1818 he married Miss Hannah Huntington, daughter of George Huntington of Rome, N. Y., and immediately came to Camden, shortly after occupying the house just completed at the head of Main street, owned till within a



Priest Smith House.

short time by his children, Hannah of San Jose, Cal., and Henry of Buffalo. It is at present the property of L. P. Haviland. The few living who remember him speak of his acts of kindness and love. He occasionally made trips by private conveyance to his New Hampshire home, accompanied by his wife. Upon his return from one of these trips, it was whispered by his people that he was preparing to ask for dismissal. This came to his knowledge, and at a meeting quickly following the report he told them of having heard it, but that it was untrue, and said he, "I expect to live with this people, and die with this people, and to rise with this people at the resurrection." No further fears were entertained of his leaving them. His death, which occurred in 1828, was most sincerely mourned by a wide circle of admirers

in church and society. At about forty years of age, being stricken with a fever, he died, and was buried in the old cemetery on Mexico street. Mr. Smith must have been possessed of unusual magnetism. Much has been said of him by older residents in the highest praise, and all seemed drawn to him by his tender sympathy and interest in them. A sweet memory lives after him. Upon the unpretentious stone, (see illustration), which marks his grave is this inscription:



“Sacred to the Memory  
of  
REV. HENRY SMITH,  
Second Minister of the  
First Congregational Church  
And Society in  
Camden.  
Faithful in his sacred calling  
And successful in his missionary  
And pastoral labors.  
He departed in peace  
July 19, 1828, in the  
40th year of his age, and 11th of his ministry.  
“The memory of the just is blessed.””

His people were left to mourn him as sheep without a shepherd. It was after his decease, and upon calling another pastor, that they found themselves without a parsonage, and decided it was best not to bestow "an house" upon Rev. Mr. Loss. Early in Mr. Smith's life among them occurred the first renting of pews. We have a copy of a deed entitling Gideon Northrup to a seat in the church, January 1, 1818, for "one-third part of Pew No. 37," paying nine dollars and fifty cents therefor. It is worded much as the present deeds of property are, and is a document about the size of a foolscap sheet. The pews were sold for the benefit of supporting the gospel, and "those holding them shall have right, from time to time, to direct where their money shall be appropriated, either at the meeting house or at the academy in said society, for the support of the gospel."

These pews were of the old-time style; square, with seats on three sides. In changing them and making slips, a bottle of some sort of liquid was discovered near one of the prominent members' pews. It was under the moulding which finished the top of the enclosure. The contents of this bottle smelled suspiciously like something not orthodox beverage, and to determine accurately what it might be, several men, judges of fluids of all kinds, cautiously tested and pronounced it whisky! Surely either the member or the carpenter put it there, and we will be charitable, giving the good brother the benefit of the doubt.

A gallery was on three sides of the church. Across the front and opposite the pulpit, the choir were seated in the first row. Back of the choir sat the younger portion of the congregation usually, and higher above them, probably under the tower of the old church, sat the "tithing man," whose duty it was to discover all disturbers of the peace of the sanctuary and cause them to be announced from the pulpit, if their errors were persisted in. Neither were slumberers tolerated. If from toil and the weariness of travel through long distances to the house of God, a quiet restful hour invited sleep, and the monotony of the parson's voice lulled them into realms where all was peace, they were not longer indulged in the sweet enjoyment than it took the "tithing man" to journey from his post of observation to their pew, when he promptly reminded them of their shortcoming.



The 26th day of December, 1824, the first Sabbath School was organized, called the Camden Sabbath School Union, and was auxiliary to the Oneida Sunday School Union. Any could become members upon the payment of 12½ cents annually. Officers were: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, three Directors and thirteen Visiting Committee, annually chosen the third Wednesday in August. Rev. Henry Smith was first President; Benjamin Phelps, Vice President. In 1825 Mr. Phelps was chosen a director. Sabbath Schools were organized in the various outlying districts, under the direction or control of the Camden S. S. Union. In 1827 and 1828 Albert Phelps was Superintendent in District No. 5, in the brick school-house. Was also one of the committee to arrange for music suitable for the work.

It is altogether probable that up to this time, 1824, the singing had been wholly congregational; but now a vote is taken to appoint "a committee to promote good singing." Accordingly the following men were chosen to attend to the matter: Eli Wilson, Lyman Tuttle, Artemas Trowbridge, Garrett Smith, Ashbel Upson, Billious Pond, Erastus Pond, George L. Coe, Uriah Hill, Jerry Bailey, Benjamin Phelps, Daniel Tuthill, Reuben Bettis, Lent Upson, Joseph Peck, Leverett Bryant, Curtiss Pond. Eli Wilson led the first choir, pitching the tune with a "fork." These were all of them singers of "ye olden tyme." Who the feminine portion of the choir were, we can not find in full, but mention some who lifted their voices in song: Miss Charity Dunbar, Honor Preston, Eliza Sperry, Susan Doolittle, Caroline Pond, Sally Bailey, Angeline Upson.

It must have been delightful to hear the songs of Zion sung in the good old way, with hearts attuned to praise. We give a little incident, related by one who well remembered the circumstance of the introduction of a bass viol into the church to lead the choir. The matter had been agitated for some time, though opposed by a few members of the congregation, but at last the committee for promoting "good music" summoned courage to try it. It was accordingly taken to the church, and the hymn being announced, the tones of the viol went out over the room

sweet and full, the voices of the choir and congregation joined to swell the notes of praise, when from a prominent pew near the pulpit there issued a male member of the flock, and he strode from the presence of this "instrument of the devil," indignant and wrathful. As he passed into a less polluted atmosphere, with fists clenched and face livid with rage, he ejaculated: "I will not stay to hear that old bull fiddle!" The lady relating the circumstance said she well remembered it. He had a bald head, and to prevent himself from taking cold, wore over it and tied under his chin, a red bandanna handkerchief. The matter created much amusement with the larger part of the society, but it was some time before all were pleased with it. We believe Curtiss Pond to have been the man who played the instrument, but have not been able to verify it. This was the first instance of instrumental music in a Camden church that we find recorded.

It appears that a bell was not secured at the time desired, for, October, 1826, "the Trustees of this Society are directed to procure a bell for the meeting house, to weigh 700 pounds, or thereabouts, and that they adopt the most expedient method to accomplish the same." Mr. John A. Bettis of Cedar Rapids, Ia., sends us the following account of its arrival and adjustment: "It was in 1825 or 1826 that a bell was purchased for the Congregational Church. When said bell arrived in town, people were so elated over it, that they must manage in some way to hear it. Esquire Wood's log cart was placed on the Green near the church. It had large wheels and a high axle. The bell was drawn up underneath, a heavy rope tied to the end of the tongue, when it was ready for use. Any one that desired to ring it could do so. Crowds gathered about and it was kept going for some time. Finally Uncle Eliasaph Doolittle, a strong, heavy man, thought to try its loudest tone, and gave it a pull with the force of his whole strength. The bell must have been defective, for it cracked. That settled the matter of a bell in the church, for a while at least. It was lowered and sent back to be recast, and in due time another one came. This remained unused until it was hung in the belfry. Soon it was announced that it would be raised on a certain day. Everybody gathered about to witness the feat of placing it in position. Tilly (Tillotson) Barnes superintended

the job. The tackle was placed, and when all was made ready Mr. Barnes gave orders: "Weak men stand back, Strong men take the rope!" and mounting astride the bell it was hoisted into place without accident, Mr. Barnes guarding it from contact with the sides of the belfry. There it hung and did duty till the burning of the church in 1867. This was the first bell of which there is record. It was rung and tolled for divine service, for deaths, fires, marking the hours of time as they passed, warning people to repair to their homes—a veritable voice in the community. In 1827 they vote to re-seat the church. In 1828 it is recorded: "Voted to have the bell rung at noon, and at nine o'clock in the evening during the week." We have heard it said that "curfew used to ring in Camden," and this verifies the statement. In 1828 the Rev. Henry Smith, stricken with fever, is removed by death and in 1829 they call the Rev. Lewis Loss, "voting to give him 600 salary,  $\frac{1}{2}$  in grain and  $\frac{1}{2}$  in cash." He came pursuant to the call, remaining a year and a half. We imagine that it was hard to please the congregation after the pastorate of one so gifted as Reverend Smith. However, a powerful revival of religion took place under his preaching and many were "joined unto the church." We copy a clause from the Rev. Ethan Curtis' "Historic Discourse" of the church: "This revival was peculiar on account of the pungent convictions of its subjects. Men and women of the strongest nerve were prostrated on the floor, both at home and in the house of worship, and Christians were often called up at midnight to pray with and guide them to the Savior. A portion of the church, both male and female, manifested great faith and power with God, and obtained signal answers to prayer. The Masonic excitement was prevailing at this time and greatly hindered the work. A convert who was a Mason, offering himself for church membership, objections were made, and the church was compelled to act in the case. The Masonic brethren were required to abstain from the meetings of the lodges, which created dissension, in consequence of which Mr. Loss felt constrained to ask for dismissal at the end of the year. This was reluctantly granted."

Following Rev. Loss, the Rev. William Lusk occupied the pulpit for a few months, and was succeeded by the Rev. John

Barton, who labored among the people eight years with encouragement and success—from 1836 to 1845. In 1836 it was "voted to raise \$1,000 to use in altering the house, taking out the pews and making slips, changing the galleries and making a new pulpit; building on a porch and making a session room above; and after the necessary amount shall have been raised, the Trustees be instructed to make contract for such repairs." In December, 1836, we conclude it was so far done that meetings were held. In Dec. the "Trustees are instructed to insure the meetinghouse." In 1839 they raise "fifty dollars for singing and discontinue the ringing of the bell except for church service, but in 1840 return to the ringing of the curfew." In this same year they buy a new Bible and psalm book for the pulpit. In 1842 they vote to pay Mr. Doolittle twenty-five dollars to conduct the singing, and Mr. Pryor fifteen dollars to play the flute with the choir for one year. In 1843, "Voted to tender thanks to the Young Ladies' Sewing Society, for their liberality in furnishing blinds for the meeting house and lamps and trimming for the pulpit." In October, 1845, they call Rev. Richard Kirk to watch over the flock. In this year "a committee was appointed to make arrangements to build a parsonage house or to circulate a subscription for that object. In 1846, forty years after the gift was made to the society, the Trustees are instructed to record the deed of the Public Green, to survey it and clear it of all encroachments. In 1847 they "fence the Green and pay Horace Dunbar fifteen dollars for a clock." We suppose the fence which at present is about the door yard of Mr. Robert Craig's house, is what remains of that old "Green" fence. In 1849 it is "Voted that the Trustees take efficient means to shingle the meeting house; also to plaster and paint the inside. Also the partition be removed and a chapel be built." November 26, 1849, they vote to pay a salary of seven hundred dollars. Bad boys disturb the meeting, and if they further offend their names will be announced from the desk. This same year "Miss Hannah Smith presents a Bible to this society, of which her father, Rev. Henry Smith, was formerly pastor." In 1854, "Voted to raise money to put a furnace into the church," and in 1855, "That the Trustees proceed

to pay for the same, and are recommended to take an indemnifying bond that it shall heat the house when a new chimney shall have been built." In the same year they call the Rev. Henry Budge, at a salary of \$700 a year. In 1857, "It is decided to invest the legacy of Sylvester Pond to be a permanent fund, loaned out at interest, said interest to be used annually for the benefit of sd. society." They vote unanimously in 1859. to call the Rev. Budge at a salary of eight hundred dollars a year, but he decides not to accept. The Rev. George B. Rowley is called, and comes to be their pastor. This first "Book of Records" has brought us down to 1859, and here a new book begins. The most important items it contains we have copied, at least those we thought would be of the greatest interest to the general reader. We have followed it from its first beginnings through about sixty years of its history, to the point where they have a well equipped, permanent house of worship.

The twenty-second day of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, the disastrous fire occurred which destroyed many buildings in Camden, and the old Congregational Church was one. About the time of the building of the present edifice differences arose in the congregation not easily adjusted, and the Presbyterian Church was established. The present house of worship, the "First Congregational Church," was erected in 1868, and its first pastor was the Rev. Ethan Curtiss, in 1868, who continued with them nineteen years. It is at present a flourishing church, under the leadership of the Rev. Edward Evans, with a large membership. The work of the church has been blessed in many ways, ever tending upward and onward with steady progress. •

#### SUCCESSION OF PASTORS FROM 1800 TO 1897.

Giving the date of their settlement and dismissal.

Rev. Ebenezer Leavenworth, Dec. 6, 1809—Oct. 13, 1813.

Rev. Henry Smith, Oct. 8, 1817—July 19, 1828.

Rev. Lewis H. Loss, Nov. 11, 1829—Jan. 26, 1831.

Rev. William Lusk, Feb. 19, 1834—1835.

Rev. John Barton, 1836—Jan. 29, 1845.



Rev. R. R. Kirk, Oct. 7, 1845—Sept., 1849.  
 Rev. E. G. Townsend, 1850—July 6, 1852.  
 Rev. H. H. Morgan, Nov. 1, 1852—May, 1853.  
 Rev. Henry Budge, 1855—1859.  
 Rev. George B. Rowley, July 1, 1859—July 1, 1864.  
 Rev. W. S. Franklin, Oct. 31, 1865—May 14, 1867.  
 Rev. Ethan Curtiss, Oct. 14, 1868—Nov. 5, 1887.  
 Rev. M. L. Dalton, April 1, 1888—April 1, 1891.  
 Rev. Robert Tufft, June 1, 1891—April 1, 1892.  
 Rev. W. F. Berger, Oct. 1, 1892—May 1, 1895.  
 Rev. Edward Evans, Nov. 18, 1895—Present pastor.



Old Town Hall, M. E. Church and Parsonage.

#### METHODISM IN CAMDEN.—1801-1882.

Historical Discourse of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Camden, Delivered by Rev. H. M. Danforth, Jan. 15, 1882. With a list of the Pastors from 1801, and the Present Officials of the Church.

Methodism, as a distinct form of church life and polity, dates from the revival of religion in England, under the labors of the Wesleys, in 1729. The Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States was formally organized in 1784.

The first information we have of Methodism in the town of Camden comes to us from Mrs. Phoebe Park, a former resident of Camden, and a member of the church as early as, or previous to 1818. She related to me what she could recall of the early history of the church. It is as follows:

"In the summer of 1801, Mrs. Esther Park and Mrs. Harris walked from Camden to Western, a distance of eighteen miles, to attend a quarterly meeting. At that meeting they met the Rev. David Dunham, a circuit preacher, and invited him to come to Camden and preach. He came that summer, and formed a class of five persons: their names are as follows: Mrs. Esther Park, Mrs. Harris, Oliver Case and wife, and a Mrs. Fish, sister of Mrs. Harris. Oliver Case was the first male member. At that time there was no conference in these parts: the preachers were sent out as missionaries from the Baltimore Conference. There was what was called the "Herkimer Circuit," and the preachers on that circuit traveled four hundred miles to meet their appointments. In 1803 the Rev. William Keith and Rev. Henry Willis traveled the circuit, and when the weather was favorable they visited Camden once in four weeks." That the Methodists did commence their labors in the town as early as the time mentioned by Mrs. Park we learn from another source. In 1802, Rev. John Taylor was sent by the Missionary Society of New Hampshire to visit the Black River country, and in his printed journal we find this:

"Camden, Tuesday, Aug. 24.—The people of this town are said to be all Congregationalists but two. This people will, however, well united at present, very soon be divided by the Methodists."

To return to Mrs. Park's statement: "In 1803 there was a revival, and a number were added to the church or class, some on what was then called 'The Flat,' and some on Preston Hill. Among those on the Flat were Mr. Lemuel Corey, who lived on the Deacon Laney place. Lemuel Corey and all his family were converted, and his son Zadock was an exhorter. Among those on Preston Hill was Caleb Preston, who was licensed to preach. In 1804 they held their first quarterly meeting in a log barn on Preston Hill." And Mrs. Park was of the opinion that this was the only quarterly meeting held until 1810. "From 1803 until 1806 Lorenzo Dow traveled through this part of the country and preached. In 1804 and 1805, Rev. Knowlton and Rev. Paddock preached to the class. There were only two Methodist sermons preached in the village of Camden until the church was

built, in 1822, one at the funeral of Mrs. Collins, preached by Rev. Eliakim Stoddard, in the Congregational Church, the other by Rev. A. G. Gifford, at the burial of Mrs. Israel Stoddard. Previous to 1810 there was a revival which spread throughout the country, and many were added to the class. Among them were Martin Tyler and wife, Zadock Kord and wife, Mr. Barker and wife, Jesse Blake and wife, Lyman Steadman and wife, Mr. Humphrey and wife, Caleb Preston's family and Eliphalet Johnson and family. In 1810 a class was formed on Preston Hill, consisting of the following: Eliakim Stoddard, Caleb Preston, E. Barker, Jesse Blake, Russel Johnson, Ephraim Sanford, Hannah Tuthill, Lois Stoddard, Jehiel Higgins, Sally Castle, Temperance Sanford; later, the names of Jesse Penfield and wife, John Bryan and wife and others whose names we do not get. In 1810 the second quarterly meeting was held in a little building which stood by the roadside, opposite the old Israel Stoddard home, (now owned by John N. Stoddard). In 1818 George S. Park and two of his sisters, Solon Cook, Isaac Allen, with many others, united with the class. In 1812 and 1813, Rev. Charles Giles traveled the Western Circuit and preached in Camden. Rev. E. Lambert, Samuel Lowery, Isaac Puffer, Rev. Stebbins, Rev. Corey, Rev. Soten, George Harmon, Rev. Pomeroy and Rev. Halstead were some of the preachers who labored in Camden previous to 1831. The first Presiding Elder was Rev. William Case. The first camp-meeting in this part of the country was held in Vienna, in 1811. In 1816 Rev. Eliakim Stoddard, a local preacher, moved from Vienna and settled in Camden, and became one of the leading members of the new society, as the records will show."

This is the portion of the history as given by Mrs. Park. The first official record commences in 1820, and is as follows: On the first page of the Trustees' Book we find this pledge:

"We, the undersigned, having attached ourselves to the Methodist Episcopal Society in Camden, agreeable to the statutes of the State of New York, in such case made and provided for the regulation of religious societies, as contained in the



REV. ELIAKIM STODDARD.

seventh section of said act, do hereby engage to support the Methodist ministry, agreeable to the discipline of said church.

Heman Byington.

Silvanus Wilson.

Ezra S. Park, Clerk for said Society.

Camden, Sept. 10, 1820."

The record of the first meeting reads as follows: At a meeting of the male members and congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the town of Camden, according to due notice given (and in conformity to the statutes of the State of New York in such case made and provided), the sixteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty, to take into consideration the expediency of erecting a house of worship of Almighty God, and for appointing trustees and other officers of the same. At this meeting James Lowden and Martin Tyler were elected Presidents; Eliakim Stoddard, Jehiel Higgins, Sage Park, David Kimm, Timothy Hyde, Lyman Steadman, Eliphalet Johnson, Matthew Thompson, Stephen Kinne, were elected trustees under the title and forever hereafter to be known by the name of the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the town of Camden. As witness our hands and seals the day and year first above written.

James Lowden. [L. S.]

Martin Tyler. [L. S.]

I certify the above written organization to be a true copy of the original, as transcribed by me.

Ezra S. Park,

Clerk of the above stated Church and Society.

Oneida County, ss.

On this, the 10th day of October, 1820, personally appeared before me James Lowden and Martin Tyler, to me known to be the persons within named as Presidents, and duly acknowledged the execution of the same, and that the within certificate was made agreeable to the statutes in such case made and provided. Let the same be recorded.

Israel Stoddard, Commissioner.



Clerk's Office, Oneida County, ss.

Recorded this eighteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and twenty, in Book A of Religious Societies, pages 117, 118.

Thomas Bloodgood, Clerk.

At a meeting of the male members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Camden, held in the Brick School-house, on the 23d day of October, 1820, the trustees were authorized to purchase a site for said house of worship.

At an adjourned meeting, held on the first Monday in November, 1820, at the Brick School-house, the trustees reported that a site had been purchased for the church in the village of Camden, and the land staked out. The report was accepted. The land was purchased from Joel and Abel Collins, and there are two different deeds, the first from Joel Collins giving the trustees, for the sum of twenty dollars, a piece of land in the town of Camden, fifty feet on a parallel with the public square, containing about twelve rods of land. This deed was acknowledged before Israel Stoddard, Commissioner, October 24, 1820.

The second deed was given by Abel Collins, granting to the trustees, for the sum of thirty dollars, a part of lot number fifty-two, containing about thirty rods of land. This deed was acknowledged before Samuel Morse, Commissioner, on the 30th day of November, 1821, and recorded in the County Clerk's office the 12th day of August, 1823, at two o'clock p. m., in Book F. F. of Deeds, pages 509 and 510.

Eliasaph Dorchester, Clerk.

Another deed, given to the trustees by Thomas D. Penfield in 1854, adds to the church lot about nine rods of land, for which they paid eighty-five dollars.

At the time the trustees were authorized to locate and purchase a site for the church, the strength of the society was on Preston Hill, and efforts were made to locate the church there.

At a meeting held February 5, 1821, at the house of Kamee Park, a committee was appointed to procure timber and other materials for the building of a church. A contract for building the church was made with Joel B. Smith. The house

was 40x50 feet, and Mr. Smith bound himself to have it enclosed and the outside work finished by the 15th day of September, 1821. He further bound himself to provide pike poles, sag poles, scaffold poles and ladders, and the trustees bound themselves to invite the hands and furnish liquor for the raising.

At a meeting held in the school-house on Preston Hill, December 31, 1821, Jesse Blake was elected trustee in the place of Stephen Kinnie, and at the same meeting the trustees were instructed to contract for the finishing of the church. In May, 1822, a contract was made with Joel B. Smith to finish the inside of the church, for which he was to receive the sum of six hundred dollars. He was to have it ready for plastering by the first day of October, 1822. At this time the following were the trustees:

First Class—Isaac Allen, Ephraim Sanford, Jesse Penfield.

Second Class—E. Humphrey, Lyman Steadman, Eliphalet Johnson.

Third Class—Eliakim Stoddard, Sage Park, Jehiel Higgins.

The church was dedicated in the spring of 1823. The sermon for the occasion was preached by the Rev. Charles Giles, at that time Presiding Elder of Oneida District. The text was Proverbs 9 : 1, 2: "Wisdom has builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars; she hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table." The building of the church was a great undertaking for the young society, not one of them rich in worldly things, yet rich in faith and filled with zeal for the cause of God. So self-sacrificing were they that some gave their last cow to help pay the church debt.

In 1822 Heman Byington and Silvanus Wilson connected themselves with the society. From June, 1823, to 1827, there are no records of the doings of the society. We learn that during the years 1825 and 1826 powerful revival meetings were held every day and evening in both churches in Camden and in the school-house on Preston Hill, at which time a large number united with the churches. Previous to 1826, Rev. Alason Gifford and James Brown traveled the circuit and preached at Camden. In 1827 Rev. Beach preached to the society.

On the 20th day of October, 1827, there was a meeting of the male members of the society for the purpose of incorporating themselves according to the act to provide for the incorporation of religious societies. George Harmon and Eliakim Stoddard were chosen to preside; Eliakim Stoddard, Abner Preston and William Plumb were elected trustees. The society to be incorporated should be called the First Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the town of Camden, Oneida County, State of New York.

This act, signed and certified to by George Harmon and Eliakim Stoddard, before Samuel Morse, Commissioner. Attest, Ephraim Sanford, Clerk. Recorded in the Oneida County Clerk's office, Nov. 27, 1827, at one o'clock p. m., in Book A, pages 177, 178.

J. M. Ostrom, Clerk.

In 1828 and 1829 Jehiel Higgins and Jeremiah Bailey were elected trustees. At the same meeting they adopted rules to govern the renting and sale of the horse-sheds which had been erected at the church. The purpose was to keep the sheds in the hands of the society. The following respecting the erecting of the sheds, was related by Solon Cook: The society having secured a desirable location for their church, and land sufficient for a parsonage, jealousy was awakened in the hearts of some, and they conceived a plan to depreciate the value of the site. After the frame of the church was up the jealous ones had the street surveyed and marked out, running south of the church, dividing the lot, leaving two narrow strips on each side. This looked discouraging for the young society; but after advising with Judge Stoddard, a number of the men went into the woods about three miles from Camden, and in one day felled the trees, hewed them and framed the timbers for a long horse-shed. The next night they put it on wagons, drew it to the village and put up the sheds across the east side of their lot, and in the morning, when the inhabitants of the quiet village were astir, there stood the heavy frame of the shed across the new wished-for street.

In 1831, Camden was made a station at the session of the Oneida Conference in Lowville. Rev. George Gary was Pre-

siding Elder, and Rev. Robert Fox was appointed to Camden; Rev. Eliakim Stoddard, local preacher; Asa Blakeslee and Michael Donovan, exhorters; Solon Cook, Eleazer Peck, Eliasaph Barker, Isaac Palmer, Bros. Gifford and Loveland, leaders. Ephraim Sanford and Asa Blakeslee recognized as stewards, they having been stewards on the circuit. Solon Cook, Jeremiah Bailey and John Cady were added to the Board of Stewards.

Rev. Goodwin Stoddard was appointed to Camden in 1832. Solon Cook and Jeremiah Bailey were elected trustees, and Samuel Rowells, Isaac Crawford, Nathan Thompson, John Wilson, Jr., E. Gifford, and H. H. Gifford were leaders, David Target and David Tremain were leaders, and this year their classes were connected with the Vienna circuit.

In 1833 a camp meeting was held in Florence. Florence at this time was connected with Camden, but set off to Williamstown circuit in September. We judge of the strength of the society at this time by the following record found in the steward's book: "Sunday, 19th of September, 137 members partook of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper."

July, 1834, George Gary, presiding elder; Rev. Eliakim Stoddard, preacher in charge; Elijah Gaylord, exhorter; Truman Spencer, steward; Jesse Blake and Lyman Hungerford, leaders. In December the name of Silas Sears appears as an exhorter. In 1835 Rev. E. Bowen was presiding elder; Rev. E. Stoddard, pastor. In 1836 Rev. Reuben Reynolds was employed by the presiding elder to preach in Camden until the return of Rev. C. Danforth from the South, where he had gone for his health. On his return, finding the work well supplied by Bro. Reynolds, Rev. Danforth returned to the South, and after a few years died at St. Augustine, Florida. Rev. Reynolds served two years. In 1832 M. D. Sanford united with the church, and is still a member. In 1836 the Black River Conference was organized, and at its session in September Rev. A. Blackman was appointed to Camden, serving one year. T. D. Penfield and I. Stoddard united with the church in 1836, and are members at the present time (1882.) These two brothers, with George Elden and M. D. Sanford, have served the church as official members for forty-four

years. The Sabbath School report for 1838 is as follows: Scholars, 50; number of teachers, 11; William Tuthill, Superintendent.

The records show that Ezra S. Park was the first clerk of the Board of Trustees, serving for seven years; Ephraim Sanford served as clerk for eleven years, and Truman Spencer served for seventeen years. Ephraim Sanford was secretary of Quarterly Conference and Recording Steward for thirty years.

At the Quarterly Conference held June 9, 1838, Rev. E. Gaylord was recommended for admission to the annual conference. Henry Voorhees' name appears as trustee. In 1839, T. D. Penfield as leader. In 1839, Rev. E. W. R. Allen was pastor, serving one year. In 1840, Rev. G. C. Woodruff was appointed to Camden, serving two years, closing in 1842. The Sabbath School reported in 1841, 90 scholars; 13 teachers. This year the official list was as follows: Rev. A. Adams, presiding Elder; Rev. G. C. Woodruff, pastor; Rev. E. Stoddard, local deacon; E. Gaylord, Silas Sears, local preachers; Solon Cook, Jeremiah Bailey, T. Spencer, E. Higgins, stewards; H. H. Gifford, J. Higgins, H. Rodgers, T. D. Penfield, William S. Tuthill, H. Voorhees, C. Woodruff, leaders; E. Sanford, secretary. The following resolutions were passed.

Resolved, That in the opinion of the members of this Quarterly Conference, instrumental music does in no respect tend to the edification or spirituality of the church; nor does it redound to the glory of God or His kingdom on the earth, and therefore shall not be encouraged.

The leader of the choir had taken a violin into the gallery. Time changes all things, and the children of these fathers and mothers in Israel are now led in their songs of praise by a two thousand dollar organ.

Jehiel Higgins, D. Castle, Ella Peck, Jeremiah Bailey and Hall Doolittle were leaders in the singing from time to time, also Henry Voorhees. They sang the good old tunes in the good old way, not for the ear alone, but from the heart to the heart. After this, for many years, George Elden and wife led in singing, then the choir for a number of years consisted of



M. P. B. Cook and wife, Mrs. G. C. Huyek, George Shepard and Miss Hattie Bird, with Zophar More at the organ. Later the choir was led by William J. Hull, with Miss Cornelia Hinckley at the organ. In 1840, the name of Amos Mix appears as one of the officials.

Up to this time the society had been united and prosperous. The faithful, godly men and women had not prayed in vain. God had been with them. But a difference of opinion as to the action of the General Conference of 1840, on the subject of slavery, resulted in dividing the church. In 1842 a number, among them several prominent members of the society, left the church, and many feared that the old society would become extinct; but soon after the secession occurred, peace being restored, a revival of religion took place; about eighty were added to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1842 Rev. Harvey Chapin was appointed to the Camden church and served two years. During his term the first parsonage was built. At a Quarterly Conference, held October, 1843, Rev. W. W. Nine was presiding elder, and the name of W. R. Paddock appears as one of the leaders. In 1844, Rev. Burroughs Holmes was presiding elder, and Rev. Russell West the pastor. He was the first pastor that occupied the parsonage, which had been built and finished during Rev. Chapin's pastorate. In 1845 Rev. P. D. Gowie was appointed to Camden, serving two years. During his stay Mrs. Gowie died and was buried in the Camden cemetery. The name of Calvin Johnson and M. M. Rice appear in the official list, the latter as an exhorter. He became a very able preacher, was a member of the Northern New York Conference; the church that sent him out will never have cause to regret it. Daniel Wilson, Anthony Whipple, O. Dayton, J. M. Plant and William Wilson are new names that appear on the official list. In 1847, Rev. N. Salsbury was presiding elder, and the Rev. Ezra S. Squier the preacher in charge. The names of Wesley Wilson, W. C. Clark and H. Clark appear on the official list. Rev. E. S. Squier was earnest and zealous in his work, but of a frail constitution. Near the close of the second year his health failed entirely. On Sunday morning, the

4th of March, 1849, the good man went from labor to rest. He was buried in the Camden Cemetery.

In 1849, Rev. F. H. Stanton commenced his work in Camden, which continued two years.

The report of the Sabbath School in 1850 was as follows: Officers and teachers, 15; scholars, 100.

The name of D. P. Peck appears in the official list. At the conference in 1851, Rev. Almon Chapin was appointed to the Camden church, and served two years. The names of Frank Park, J. Dick, Israel Stoddard and D. Barber appear as members of the Official Board in 1849. During the pastorate of Rev. A. Chapin the old church building being too small for the society, it was sold and a larger building was built in its place. The present building was commenced in June, 1852, and dedicated the 22d day of December, the same year. H. H. Hapgood presiding elder, Rev. J. Irwin preaching the sermon. To complete their new church the society greatly needed a bell, but having paid liberally for the building of their church, did not feel able to purchase one. M. D. Sanford wrote to his brother, Mr. B. F. Sanford, of Cincinnati, who was formerly a member of the Camden church, stating the circumstances of the society. Mr. Sanford, kindly remembering the church of his father and mother, and the place where in his boyhood he learned of things divine, sent to the society one hundred dollars. With this to head their subscription they soon secured sufficient to purchase a bell, which now calls the people to worship.

It is proper to state that since the society was organized they have built two church edifices, also remodeled and improved the present one several times, yet the society has never been embarrassed with a church debt. The earnest, liberal, self-sacrificing fathers and mothers remain with the children, and it may be truthfully said of the people of Camden, they have been and are liberal in their support of the churches, and no place of its size can boast of better church accommodations than are afforded by the five churches in this village. At the opening of the new church the officials were, Rev. Eliakim Stoddard,

Ephraim Sanford, Solon Cook, Truman Spencer, Thomas DeMilt Penfield, George Elden, M. D. Sanford, Amos Mix, A. T. Rice, Israel Stoddard, H. D. Minor, Alvin Johnson, David Sears, George S. Park, A. B. Alcox, Daniel P. Peck, Francis Park, and S. Scofield. In 1853 the Sunday School numbered 140 scholars; infant class, 43. Since 1851 Myron Simmons has had charge of the church as sexton, and is still faithful and true to his trust, 1882.

In 1853, Rev. George Gary was appointed to the Camden Church, and served one year. In 1854 Rev. O. M. Legate was pastor, and remained two years. In 1855 and 1857 J. Rush, B. N. Buel and M. R. Cook, became members of the Official Board. In 1856 Rev. D. M. Rogers was pastor, followed by Rev. William Jones, who remained two years. Rev. George Sawyer was presiding elder. John Walker, A. S. Johnson and John Wilson were the Official Board. In 1859 Rev. J. T. Alden was presiding elder, Rev. W. S. Titus preacher in charge; A. Voorhees, M. Tipple and Nathan Kinnie were trustees in 1860. Rev. W. S. Titus remained two years, and in 1861 was followed by Rev. Lemuel Clark, Rev. A. J. Phelps being the presiding elder at this time, and M. D. Sanford Superintendent of the Sunday School. Rev. L. Clark remained two years, and was followed in 1863 by Rev. J. T. Alden. In 1861 the name of Z. L. Jones appeared in the official list. During the summer of 1864 Brother Alden responded to the call of the Christian Commission for chaplains to labor among the soldiers in the hospital, and at the front. In August he was taken seriously ill and started for his home in Camden, which he reached Monday morning, just in time to spend a few hours with his family. On the evening of the same day, August 29, he calmly passed to the better land, leaving his blessing with his weeping family, and feeling that he was dying among those who were his friends. "Peaceful, Oh, how peaceful," were the last words he spoke. He was buried in the Camden Cemetery. After his death Rev. J. C. Vandercok supplied the pulpit until the annual conference of 1865, when Rev. J. H. Lamb was appointed to the church and served two years.

In 1867 Rev. B. S. Wright was presiding elder, and Rev. O. C. Cole pastor. During Rev. Cole's term there was an extensive revival, a large number were added to the church, many of whom remain to this day. Brother Cole served three years, the first under the three year rule. In 1869 the Board of Trustees was reduced to three, viz: T. D. Penfield, James E. Tripp, Adin Phelps; and in 1870 it was increased to five, viz.: M. R. Cook, J. D. Chamberlain, D. P. Peck, with T. D. Penfield and James E. Tripp. In 1868 W. W. Williams was elected Superintendent of the Sunday School, and has, with the exception of one year, remained in that position until the present. George Cook was superintendent one year.

In the official list of 1868 we find the following names: Stewards, Q. Barber, T. D. Penfield, F. Washburn, M. P. B. Cook, Solon Cook, D. P. Peck, B. N. Buel, A. Voorhees, and William Wilson; leaders, A. T. Rice, George Elden, M. D. Sanford, Daniel Wilson, A. S. Johnson, Francis Park, Jacob Rush, Israel Stoddard, John Walker, Lyman B. Peck; trustees, M. R. Cook, M. D. Sanford, T. D. Penfield, Adin Phelps, J. E. Tripp; Sunday School Superintendent, W. W. Williams. This brings us so near the present time that we omit mentioning the changes in the Official Board, and give only the names of the pastors and the time they served. In 1871, Rev. H. M. Danforth was appointed to the Camden Church, and remained three years. He was followed in the spring of 1873 by Rev. T. Richey, who served two years. Rev. H. M. Danforth, presiding elder. In 1875, Rev. A. L. York was appointed to the work, and during his two years' service there were revival meetings held every evening for a number of weeks; the pastor assisted by his brethren. Many were added to the church; some remained only for a short time, like the "stony ground hearers," they soon withered; others are in the church at the present time. Rev. B. F. Barker, presiding elder. In 1877, Rev. B. T. Barker was appointed to Camden and remained one year, followed in 1878 by Rev. W. R. Cobb, who served two years. A. L. York, presiding elder. In 1880, at the conference held in Hion, Rev. H. M. Danforth was appointed to the Camden Church, and at the time

of writing, is near the close of the second year of the second term of service. Rev. H. Skeel, presiding elder.

And here we must close the hasty and imperfect review of the eighty years of Methodism in the town of Camden, and sixty-one years of their church organization. Few churches can show a better record, or present a braver set of Christian workers than were the early Methodists of Camden. For sixty years the church has stood with open doors, and her ministers have proclaimed a free gospel to a lost world.

During this time she has been a power for good, restraining and saving hundreds of men and women from the sin and temptation of a wicked world, and in her Sabbath School the truths of the gospel have been taught, and impressions for good made upon the hearts of the young.

We will be grateful for the past, use the present, have faith to work on

"Till in God's good time  
We reap the fruit  
In crowns that do not fade."

### PASTORS.

The names of the pastors who served the Camden Circuit and charge from 1801 to 1882:

Rev. David Dunham, Rev. William Keith, Rev. Henry Willis, Rev. Lorenzo Dow, Rev. Knowlton, Rev. B. F. Paddock, Rev. M. Gifford, Rev. Charles Giles, Rev. E. Lambert, Rev. Samuel Lowery, Rev. Isaac Puffer, Rev. Stebbins, Rev. Alonzo Gifford, Rev. James Brown, Rev. James Beach, Rev. R. Fox, Rev. Goodwin Stoddard, Rev. Eliakim Stoddard, Rev. Reuben Reynolds, Rev. A. Blackman, Rev. Borrough Holmes, Rev. E. W. R. Allen, Rev. G. C. Woodruff, Rev. Harvey Chapin, Rev. Russell West, Rev. P. D. Gowie, Rev. E. S. Squires, Rev. T. H. Stanton, Rev. A. Chapin, Rev. George Gray, Rev. O. M. Legate, Rev. D. M. Rodgers, Rev. William Jones, Rev. W. S. Titus, Rev. Lemuel Clark, Rev. J. T. Alden, Rev. J. C. Vandercook, Rev. J. H. Lamb, Rev. O. C. Cole, Rev. H. M. Danforth, Rev. T. Richey, Rev. A. L. York, Rev. B. T. Barker, Rev. W. R. Cobb, Rev. H. M. Danforth, present pastor.



## OFFICIAL BOARD FOR 1882.

Leaders.—Israel Stoddard, George Elden, M. D. Sanford, Francis Park, John Walker, George Cook, W. W. Williams, Charles Giles, Lyman Peck.

Stewards.—D. P. Peck, A. Voorhees, B. N. Buel, M. Hall, E. E. Spencer, George Watts, J. H. Watkins, T. F. C. Locke, Walter C. Stoddard.

Trustees.—T. DeMilt Penfield, E. A. Harvey, M. D. Sanford, J. Rush, J. P. Newland.

Local Preachers.—W. W. Williams, George Elden.

Exhorter.—Lyman Peck.

## LADIES' SOCIETIES.

The ladies of the society are ever active in their work, having a Ladies' Aid Society in active operation, with Mrs. W. A. Stoddard, President; Miss Minnie Simmons, Secretary; Miss Hattie Bird, Treasurer. They have also the Ladies' Foreign Missionary Society, active and successful in their work, with Mrs. H. M. Danforth, President; Mrs. O. H. Kniffin, Secretary; Miss Florence Voorhees, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. M. H. Simmons, Treasurer.

## SABBATH SCHOOL—OFFICERS AND TEACHERS.

Superintendent—W. W. Williams.

Assistant Superintendent—O. H. Kniffin.

Secretary and Treasurer—Fred Johnson.

Chorister—William J. Hull.

Organist—Miss Hattie Bird.

Librarians—Elmer Johnson, Will R. Paddock, Elmer E. Sanford.

Teachers—Mrs. M. Tipple, Mrs. G. C. Huyck, Miss Minnie Simmons, Miss Florence Voorhees, Mrs. R. Paddock, Miss L. Blenis, Mrs. Thomas Smith, Mrs. O. H. Kniffin, Mrs. Adin Phelps, Mrs. M. H. Simmons, Miss Clara Harvey, Mrs. A. S. Johnson, Mrs. Mary Elden, Mrs. M. D. Sanford, Mr. Z. L. Jones, B. N. Buel, G. G. Cook, E. A. Harvey, W. C. Stoddard, J. C. Davies, H. M. Danforth.

The discipline makes it the duty of the pastor to organize the

baptized children of the church into classes, that may be instructed in the nature and design and obligation of baptism and the truths of religion, necessary to make them "wise unto salvation." In January, 1882, such a class was formed, consisting of twenty members.

### SERVICES.

1. Public worship on the Sabbath is held at 10½ o'clock a. m.

2. Class-meeting and Sabbath school at the close of the morning service.

3. Public worship Sabbath evening 7½ (7 in winter).

Prayer meeting the hour preceding public worship.

4. Class-meetings Tuesday and Friday evenings.

5. Prayer meeting Thursday evening.

Strangers and those who do not have stated sittings are welcome.

Ushers.—J. C. Davies, Fred D. Johnson, William I. Stoddard, Charles W. Stewart.

### ANNIVERSARY HISTORY.

M. E. Church Sunday School, Camden.

An Interesting paper edited and carefully prepared for the occasion by Mrs. Sarah Squires Tipple, giving its history in brief.

[Published in "Camden Journal," Feb. 13, 1896.]

Last Sunday evening the anniversary of the Sabbath School of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Camden was celebrated with appropriate programme, which was listened to by a large congregation. The paper read by Mrs. Tipple showed a large amount of research, and was ably presented. We give it in full, knowing that a history of this department of one of the oldest religious denominations of Camden will prove of interest to readers, as it is a part of the important history of Camden.

In writing the history of an organization, no great difficulty would be experienced if complete records had been made and preserved. The writer, when asked to give a history of our Sunday School, the First Methodist Episcopal Sunday School of Camden, began to look for facts concerning it, and found very few on file. There may have been more, and in the changes that have been made from time to time, been lost. What of history is

here presented to you, has been largely collected from the memories of those that have been connected with the school, more particularly those of its early days. To the large part of this audience assembled, the fore part of this history will not be especially interesting, but there are those that hear me to whom the mere mention of the names of its founders and faithful workers will cause their very souls to thrill within them. We have endeavored to get a complete list of superintendents. If any have been omitted, we regret it exceedingly. We have also tried to place each in his respective place as to succession and date, and think we have succeeded fairly, but do not think that of vital importance. The first church that stood on this spot was dedicated to God in the spring of 1823 by Brother Charles Giles; the sermon being from the text, "Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars, she hath builded her house, she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table." From that time we do not learn of a Sunday School or class among Methodists here until 1831. To us, that seems strange, when the church of to-day is largely, I might say, almost entirely, fed from the Sunday school; that the Sunday school is a great part of the body politic. The greater portion of the good people in that day, thought with suspicion upon the project of establishing a Sunday school. When first an attempt was made, they felt it would be an intrusion, that the word of God should be taught by the call of God from the pulpit, and that such a school would do more harm than good. We believe they were most sincere, and needed the experiment of a Sunday school, led by Christian teachers, to have convinced them of its great benefits. Some of them lived to see that time. It was a struggle to get a Sunday school started, but in the summer of 1821, with Rev. Robert Fox as pastor, it was given out that on such a Sunday, a Sunday school class would be formed. The time came, and they met in the gallery of the old church (now in use by Boehm Bros. as a storehouse), the class-meeting being held in the same room, only below stairs, where the congregation sat for service. There was then only the one room. If I were to call the roll of that class to-night, there is one here who would say, "present"—Mrs. Huldah Stoddard Judson, and it is quite certain there is but one other person living who helped to compose that class of 15 or 20 souls; that is

the widow of Rev. Dr. Hibbard. The two named were intimate girl-friends, and have so continued, although to human vision, Mrs. Hibbard is nearer the "crossing." As I have said, the class gathered and filled two seats.

Soon Rev. Eliakim Stoddard, a local preacher, and an uncle of Mrs. Judson's, with Chauncey Woodruff, came from the class-meeting, and opened the Sunday school class (for school it could not be called), Rev. E. Stoddard making a prayer which almost might have brought heaven to earth. Mr. Woodruff sang that still familiar and soul-searching hymn, "A charge to keep I have." A few general catechism questions were asked by Rev. E. Stoddard, and the scholars were given the first chapter of Matthew to commit to memory, ten verses to be learned each week. Singing again closed the first meeting of the class. They continued to meet each Sabbath during the summer, with the same teacher, being visited and questioned by the pastor. In the fall it was closed for the winter. Those mentioned as being scholars have always respected and revered the memory of all who interested them, but at their meetings in late years, and living over the old days, could see a pleasant, funny side to that first gathering of scholars for a Sunday school class. 1832 and summer again; pastor Rev. Goodwin Stoddard, a nephew of Rev. Eliakim Stoddard; class met together in same place, and if the roll were called, No. 2 might say "present," Melancthon D. Sanford, who was converted just previously, and joined the church. H. H. Gifford was the teacher. Class closed for winter, and convened in the summer of 1833. Rev. Goodwin Stoddard, pastor; Elijah Gaylord, teacher. 1834, Rev. Eliakim Stoddard preacher in charge; Truman Spencer teacher. 1835, Rev. E. Stoddard, pastor; Truman Spencer continued as teacher. 1836, Rev. A. Blackman, pastor (who is still living). The class met again, and we find Elly (Eleazer) Peck teacher. Did we not speak truthfully that souls would thrill at the sound of their names? These were men who feared God, and worked righteousness.

We now come to 1837-38. Rev. Borroughs Holmes, pastor. 1837 was the year the Sunday school was organized, with Wm. Tuthill as superintendent, as it was given to me from the pen of Melzar D. B. Cook, whom many will remember. The Sabbath the meeting was called to organize a school, after the morning service, mother took me by the hand (I remember it well), and

led me in one of the numerous cow paths over to the Congregational Church, where she knew everybody, and which she was about leaving, to join the Methodist Episcopal Church. We went in, and mother talked with some of them a few minutes, and then led me back to the meeting at the M. E. Church. There were about twenty or thirty persons, mostly ladies, convened. There was talking in little coteries, but no organization was effected. There was no basement under the church at that time. A class meeting must meet somewhere at noon, and this meeting could not be held at the same time and place with the school. An arrangement was made for the class meeting to meet in the study room of the Academy that stood beside the Simmons blacksmith-shop, where the stores of Tiffany and Nichols now are. Soon another meeting was called, and an organization effected, the school occupying the church, which I think the next summer was raised, and thereafter the class meeting was held in the basement. I do not now recall but one living person, except myself and sister Elizabeth (Mrs. Q. Barber), who could have been a member of that school at its beginning. We might now call the roll, and that one would respond, and from the sound of his voice you would say at once, Thomas D. Penfield. This was an eventful year to Mr. Penfield; settling in married life with Miss Ann, a daughter of Rev Eliakim Stoddard. She was a "sweet singer in Israel," and ever after a remarkably self-sacrificing Christian worker, until taken home, it seemed prematurely. Only a short time ago in answer to roll call one more would have responded, the Christian worker for many years, George Elden. We shall learn more of his work as this article progresses.

Report of Sunday school—50 scholars, 11 teachers, Truman Spencer, superintendent. In 1839, Rev. E. W. R. Allen, pastor; Thomas D. Penfield, superintendent. 1840-41, Rev. G. C. Woodruff pastor; Jas. Foster, superintendent in 1840; Elly Peck in 1841. Report, 90 scholars, 13 teachers. 1842-43, Rev. Harvey Chapin pastor; Elly Peck superintendent. In 1842 several prominent members chose to leave the church, and form a Wesleyan church. This weakened the M. E. Society, but a gracious revival of religion took place that year, and eighty were added to this church. 1844, Rev. Russell West, pastor, being the first to



occupy the parsonage that was moved, and is now the home of Dr. Van Allen. The late George Elden, superintendent. 1845-46, Rev. D. P. Gowie pastor; George Elden superintendent. 1847-48, Rev. Ezra S. Squier, father of writer of this article, pastor. Here he finished his work at 34 years of age, and God took him to himself. We shall know why, if we are accounted worthy to enter where he is. During these two years, O. J. Hyde was superintendent. Amelia, daughter of Mr. Hyde (now Mrs. Foot), was sent by the Foreign Missionary Society as a medical missionary to India. During the summer of 1848 Miss O. Ianthé Randall (now the widow of Rev. Charles Burritt), and Miss Julia Spencer (now Mrs. Wm. Crawford), who had just been converted, started an infant class. It opened with seven scholars, the writer being No. 6 on the register. George G. Cook, No. 16, joining soon after. In looking over the list of names we find the great majority have entered the unseen. Some are still with us, faithfully carrying out the instructions of early years. I'll not mention their names, for if here they might look sharply at me. Prizes were offered in those days for verses committed to memory. Mr. Hyde offered a red morocco Bible to the one who could repeat the 119th Psalm. Christina Cleland (now Mrs. Wm. Ford) secured the book. She was from the primary class, and of course the teachers were quite proud of her. It was not an uncommon thing to hear repeated in the school a whole chapter, and even two or three, by one scholar at the same time. There were Sunday school books in those days, for records speak of Truman Spencer as librarian, when not superintendent. We know the infant class were provided with them, from an incident we remember plainly. The class met at 9 o'clock A. M. Sunday. One Sunday during the morning sermon, the writer heard in sweet but emphatic voice, "Daughter, put up that book." That reproof would have been heeded, had it been given in the quiet of the parsonage. Undoubtedly other hands were toying with books, to his annoyance, and he preferred to make an example of his own child. Surely we were not looking in them for pictures. They were not there as at the present time. Children who attended other churches used to meet with the class, even as now they do with the "Junior League." There was a nice little colored girl in the class, by the name of Mary Hazel.

Pleasant summer days we used at times to go to Mt. Parnassus or Baldwin's woods, for pleasure, marching two by two with a banner carried in front of the procession. None of us enjoyed marching with colored Mary, therefore she usually took the lead with the teachers.

1849-50, Rev. F. H. Stanton pastor; Orange Dayton superintendent the former year, the latter year the ever-faithful child of God, whom we so recently mourn, Quincy Barber. Amelia, the daughter of Mr. Dayton, married a prominent minister and editor, the late Rev. Dr. Abel Stevens. Report of Sunday school, 100 scholars, 15 officers and teachers. Infant teachers, Miss Julia Spencer and Miss Caroline Park.

1851-52, Rev. Almon Chapin pastor; Q. Barber superintendent. Infant class teachers, Miss Spencer and Miss Amanda Paddock (now Mrs. F. Whipple). During part of 1852, the Sunday school met in the Town Hall, as this was the year the church we now have, was built and dedicated by Presiding Elder Rev. J. Erwin, of sainted memory. I will read to you the memorandum as preserved of February 8, 1852, 44 years ago to-day:

"The pastor of the church visited the school and questioned the scholars on the lesson. During the past week one of our scholars died, Huldah Blake, aged 8 years, a good scholar, and attentive, almost always in her place. She died very sudden, taken sick Friday night, died Saturday morning. We miss her to-day in the school."

1853, Rev. Geo. Garry pastor; George Elden superintendent. Report of Sunday school, 140 scholars, 16 teachers. Infant class 43.

1854-55, O. M. Legate pastor; H. D. M. Minor and Daniel Wilson superintendents. Miss Julia Spencer was married in 1854, leaving the infant class in charge of Miss Amanda Paddock, who married in 1855, when the record shows class closed April 29, with \$2.35 missionary money on hand. There had been 170 scholars in the class.

1856, Rev. D. M. Rogers pastor; Q. Barber superintendent.

1857-58, Rev. Wm. Jones pastor; George Elden superintendent.

1859-60, Rev. W. S. Titus pastor; M. P. B. Cook, superintendent in '59. In 1860 M. D. Sanford was elected from the class

room. Mr. Cook still continuing, by agreement, for two years, to explain the Sunday school lessons before the school.

1861-62, Rev. L. Clark pastor; M. D. Sanford superintendent.

1863-64, Rev. J. T. Alden pastor. He was taken from earth to heaven in August, 1864, dying, Oh, so peacefully. His body awaits the morn of resurrection in our cemetery. Rev. J. C. Vandercook supplied the pastorate the remainder of the year. M. D. Sanford was superintendent, and the winter of 1864 we had our first Sunday school Christmas tree. A beautiful pine tree was secured, but the following year a hemlock was used. The heat of the candles on the pine tree, and warmth, caused quite an unpleasant experience.

1865-66, Rev. J. H. Lamb pastor; Q. Barber superintendent. Mrs. Lamb as teacher gathered an infant class together that met at the same time of Sunday school (noon) in the north class room.

1867-68-69, Rev. O. C. Cole pastor; Q. Barber, superintendent in 1867-68. In 1869 W. W. Williams was elected superintendent. It will not be out of place to say he had not always been associated with Sunday school work, or even church work. He was converted when past the prime of manhood, and developed rare qualities for a Sunday school superintendent. It seems, to look back, that he ran to do the Master's work the few years that were left him. We cherish his memory. In 1867 the writer was given charge of the primary class, and has been allowed to retain it until the present time.

1870-71-72, Rev. H. M. Danforth pastor; W. W. Williams superintendent.

1873-74, Rev. T. Richey pastor, W. W. Williams superintendent.

1875-76, Rev. A. S. York pastor; George G. Cook superintendent in '75, W. W. Williams in '76.

1877, Rev. B. F. Barker pastor; W. W. Williams superintendent.

1878-79, Rev. W. R. Cobb pastor; W. W. Williams superintendent.

1880-81-82, Rev. H. M. Danforth pastor; W. W. Williams superintendent in 1880, George G. Cook in '81, W. W. Williams in '82.

1883-84-85, Rev. W. L. Tisdale pastor. Mr. Williams again elected superintendent in '83, but was soon taken ill, and "was not, for God took him." Walter C. Stoddard as assistant superintendent took charge of the school the remainder of the year.

1884-85, James Watkins superintendent, who so recently, we believe, joined the triumphant host.

1886 to 1890 inclusive, Rev. C. H. Guile pastor and superintendent. The Sunday school prospered under his supervision. The Sunday school rooms were enlarged, beautified and refitted. We felt we had model rooms.

1891-'92-'93, Rev. W. Demster Chase pastor and superintendent. The attendance was large during this period. In 1891 a Sunday school missionary society was formed, Miss Jennie Spencer secretary.

1894-95 brings us to the present 59th anniversary of the school's organization. We regret we cannot give the names of every officer and teacher since its beginning. Most of the superintendents served in other relations to the school. Additional assistant superintendents were Mrs. Emeline Paddock, Thomas Owen, Martin R. Cook, Z. W. Moore, B. N. Buel and Dr. Towseley. Z. W. Moore for thirteen consecutive years led the singing in Sunday school, and played the organ both there and at public worship, his remuneration being the "Promise of the Father." During those years it is doubtful if he was absent as many Sabbaths as the pastor. Of the teachers, a few names of those who have closed their eyes, we expect, to open in heaven, were Miss Olive Loomis, Mrs. Ann Stoddard Penfield, Mrs. Wealthy Blakeslee Simmons, B. F. Whipple, Miss Lucy Bowen, George Greene, A. Kilpatrick, Lucina Woodruff, Sophronia Byington, Mrs. Eunice Butler, Maricle Cook, Mrs. A. S. Johnson (mother of Hon. R. S. Johnson), Mrs. Maggie Caswell Linkfield, Daniel Peck, Mrs. Israel Stoddard, Mrs. Sarah Broughton, Mrs. Fanny Peck Buel, Mary Alden, the former Mrs. O. C. Cole, and Mrs. Solon Cook, who was probably a teacher in this school longer than any other person. We can see her now with her Bible in hand, and a smile on her face, going from the morning service to the Sunday school room. She was a godly woman, believed the Bible to be divinely inspired, and that gave her advantage over doubting teachers. She knew much of the Holy Scriptures

by heart. The Bible was truly God's word to her. She had a large Bible class, and not until the weight of four score years crowded upon her did she lay down the work. The International lessons were introduced early in the seventies. There were some who considered them an innovation, but do we not love to study the Old Testament better, see the analogy between that and the New Testament clearer, and will not the generation of to-day know more of Abraham and Isaac, of Moses and David, with many others, for having these lessons? We will not forget that it is the Holy Bible we are studying and teaching, and impress it upon our scholars.

E. A. Harvey has been a warm friend and supporter of the Sunday school. Especially is the primary class much indebted to him for the generous gifts of books and papers. Two only of the earliest workers in the school remain with us, M. D. Sanford and T. D. Penfield. Although quite vigorous, the twilight has overtaken them. As they go out into the night, may the light of the years shine brighter and brighter to them.

The list of officers for 1895 was: Superintendent, Rev. W. F. Brown; 1st Assistant Superintendent, R. C. Knapp; 2nd assistant, Mrs. M. Tipple; Secretary, H. G. Littler; Assistant, Harry Curtiss, Ernest I. Castle; Treasurer, Mrs. H. G. Littler; Librarian, E. Matteson, Arthur Barnes, Rodney Cook; Organist, Miss Hattie Bird; Chorister, Mrs. A. B. Traffarn; Artist, Frank Hynes. Missionary Society, Secretary, Mrs. Lillian Curtiss Vandewalker; Treasurer, Mrs. Jennie Chapman Castle; Teachers, Rev. W. F. Brown, Mrs. Lillian Smith, Miss L. Blenis, Mrs. Adin Phelps, Mr. Lloyd Thomas, Miss Julia Sanford, Miss Mary Munroe, Mrs. George Anson, Mrs. Solon Smith, Dr. Van Allen, G. G. Cook, Mrs. L. Curtiss Vandewalker, D. D. Van Allen, Mrs. A. B. Traffarn, Miss Ida Munroe, Mrs. C. J. Bacon, Frank McAdam, R. C. Knapp, Mrs. M. Tipple, Miss Carrie Park, Miss C. Clark, Miss May Watkin; Sub-teachers, Mrs. M. D. Sanford, Mrs. B. A. Curtiss, Mrs. E. A. Harvey, Mrs. M. W. Wilkinson, Miss Delia Dick, Miss Minnie Sanford, T. C. Ellis, E. A. Harvey, Rodney Cook, Walter C. Stoddard.

The list of 1896 is nearly the same. Walter C. Stoddard was elected superintendent; assistant, G. G. Clark; No. of scholars in school, 460; officers and teachers, 42; primary, 70. The history



of a Sunday school, even with the completest records and the fullest information, how futile to attempt to put on paper a history of what has been accomplished. If one had a perfect knowledge of every teacher who has taught during all these years, and of all the scholars who have been taught; if a minute record of every session of the school had been kept, what was said by the superintendents, the pictures on the blackboard, the hymns sung, the words in which the lessons were taught by the many teachers, the question asked, the answers given. With all this knowledge a complete history could not be written here. There is only one who is competent to write an adequate history of this or any Sunday school. He is keeping the records up yonder, and not until the books are opened shall we know what has been accomplished during these years. What burdens have been lifted, what comforts given, what hope inspired, what sleeping consciences awakened, what souls turned from darkness into light. Seed dropped into desert hearts may not yet have come to blossom, but the word of the Lord shall not return unto him void. The prayers of these years are registered in heaven. The words spoken are treasured in unnumbered hearts. From this school have gone to the west, and to the east, to the south and north, not a few who received their early impressions of truth and God at these altars. The power of their lives is being felt in other fields. The influence of this school is literally reaching unto the ends of the earth. Some word spoken by some teacher may be to-day breaking upon some distant shore in benedictions of peace. The little things are not insignificant. A bit of water freezing, bursts the rock, a spark of fire ignites the powder train, a violet scents the valley, a single drop of water mirrors the whole sky, a bird dipping in his rapid flight, strikes with his wings' tip the topmost flake of snow on the mountain's crown, and starts the mighty avalanche down the mountain's side, a single smile of some teacher may have led a soul to Jesus, a tract given may have brought another. Richard Baxter was saved by a tract. A few flowers may have given great joy to some tired child of earth. A little girl held a bunch of violets in her hand as she died, and the mother treasures the poor withered things yet; but they are all she has now. Results! The power of a consecrated

life cannot be measured by any arithmetical process. These are sums for which exist no expressive numbers.

When St. Francis, who went from the cloister to the town one day for the purpose of preaching, returned at the day's close without having spoken a word, his companion of the journey expressed disappointment that their mission had not been accomplished. "We have been preaching as we walked," was St. Francis' reply. Not all of the instruction of this Sunday school has been given within these walls. Many a life has spoken though no word has been uttered. You have preached though you have taken no text. There has been a living of the gospel, the influence of which cannot be estimated. There is but One who can measure the organic force of a timely pressure of the hand, the weight of a falling tear from the eye of sympathy, the courage which leaps from a loving trustful heart into some chamber of despair, flooding it with new hopes, the new aspirations begotten of contact with a life impelled by the love of God.

Result. We must not seek to determine the full measure of the good that has been done in this school, and out of it, by the consecrated workers, until the day of judgment, and the books are opened, nor measure the reward of such faithful service as has been rendered by these many officers and teachers. The dividends for Christian work are declared as rapidly as the work done. The reward is in the blessedness of doing service. As Lowell says:

"'Tis not the grapes of Canaan that repay,  
But the high faith that failed not by the way."

We wait not for the crown at the end of the race, but are daily crowned with the joy of the Lord, and the sweet sense of peace. The work is taxing, but Oh, how glorious! How divine is the compensation for unselfish service! Not one has expressed this more beautifully than Mrs. Browning:

"Thy love shall chant its own beatitudes  
After its own life working. A child's kiss  
Set on thy sighing lips shall make thee glad;  
A poor man served by thee shall make thee rich;  
A sick man helped by thee shall make thee strong;  
Thou shalt be served thyself by every sense  
Of service which thou renderest,"

So with the consciousness of God's present favor, with thankfulness for the blessed privilege of working for Him, with the joy of knowing that our "labor is not in vain in the Lord," with a tear in memory of the honored and remembered dead, with supreme confidence in the power of God's Holy Spirit, and of our final entrance, if we are faithful unto the end, we go to our work again singing that beautiful hymn of Whittier in our Hymnal:

It may not be our lot to wield  
The sickle in the ripened field;  
Nor ours to hear, on summer eves,  
The reaper's song among the sheaves.

Yet when our duty's task is wrought  
In unison with God's great thought,  
The near and future blend in one,  
And whatsoe'er is willed is done.

And ours the grateful service whence  
Comes, day by day, the recompense,  
The hope, the trust, the purpose stayed  
The fountain and the noonday shade.

And were this life the utmost span,  
The only end and aim of man,  
Better the toil of fields like these  
Than waking dream and slothful ease.

But life, though falling, like our grain,  
Like that revives and springs again;  
And, early called, now blessed are they  
Who wait in heaven their harvest day.

#### WESLEYAN METHODIST.

In 1843, some sixteen members of the Methodist Episcopal Church withdrew from that body, forming a society, calling themselves Wesleyan Methodists. They were: A. Gifford, W. S. Tuttle, A. Raymond, J. Wingate, H. H. Gifford, L. Steadman, E. Gaylord, A. Skinner, and eight others.

In 1864 this society was disbanded, many of its male members having enlisted, and many having fallen in defense of their country's liberty.

A Free Methodist Society was organized in August, 1887.

and purchased the framed church formerly owned by the Wesleyan Methodists. It was remodeled in 1895, and is to-day a flourishing society.

#### MILLERITES.

In 1842 there was a religious body in Camden calling themselves "Millerites." They sprang from one Miller by name, called "The End of the World Prophet." We do not know that any of this faith are now living in the town.

#### TRINITY CHURCH.

The next church to be established in Camden was the Protestant Episcopal. A few families of that faith had come here to locate, and they soon began to feel the need of a church home, where they could join in the services so familiar to them. From the journal of the Diocesan Convention of Western New York for the year 1839, we find that Rev. Nathaniel Burgess, a missionary, came to Camden from Rome, and held three Sunday services, and officiated during Lent of the same year, once a week lecturing on the festivals and fasts of the church. In his report he says: "I found a few families Episcopalians, organized a Sunday School, with a superintendent and four teachers; communicants, twenty-eight." The mission thus organized was called St. Thomas Mission. In 1843, the Rev. Edward Kennicut had charge of the mission. Artemas Trowbridge represented the church at the convention which was held at Auburn, N. Y., August 16, 1843. There were fifty families at this time connected with the mission, one hundred and thirty-eight adults and ninety-nine children. Services were held in an upper room of the academy, which was located on the south side of the village park. But the society was anxious to have a church building of its own, and funds were raised with that object in view. While the members of the mission were putting forth every effort to raise money for the building fund, Mr. Artemas Trowbridge, who was engaged in the mercantile business, went to New York to purchase goods. He called on the Wardens and Vestrymen of old Trinity Church, told them of the small band of Episcopalians in Camden, struggling to build a church home for themselves. From their abundance they generously gave

five hundred dollars, providing the new church should bear the name of Trinity, a namesake of their own. Mr. Trowbridge returned with the needed funds, which warranted the beginning of the new church edifice. Mrs. John Jamieson, a most devout church woman, and one who gave generously, donated the land, just south of T. D. Penfield's residence, where the present edifice now stands. After her death, a marble tablet was erected on the west wall of the church, on the south side of the chancel, to her memory, which was destroyed at the time of the fire. Work on the church was begun in 1843, and on the 28th of February, 1844, it was consecrated to the worship of Almighty God, by the Right Rev. William Heathcote DeLancey, Bishop of Western New York, by the name of Trinity Church. The following day the Bishop held service, and confirmed seventeen persons, and administered the Holy Communion. It was a large square unpretentious building of wood, painted white, with a long flight of steps reaching almost across the entire front, leading from the walk to the entrance door. It stood nearer the street than the present church, crowned with a square tower, from which the sweet toned bell, given by the congregation, sounded the call to prayer. Four or five long windows graced each side of the building, and one each side of the entrance door in front. The large, box-like pews were very comfortable, and were rented by their occupants, as was the custom in all churches at that time. A gallery ran across the east end of the building, opposite the chancel, where a fine organ was placed, the first in the town, a gift of Artemas Trowbridge. The choir was led by Roswell Ballard, and Miss Jane Bright was the organist. The services were hearty and the singing unusually good for a country parish. The chancel was beautifully furnished with royal purple velvet, with heavy fringe, and tassels on the corners of pulpit and desk cushions. The material was given by Mrs. Jamieson. During the building of the church, services were held in the upper room of the Town Hall, and the church society were at the expense of placing seats there for the privilege of using the building.

The wardens and vestrymen at the time of the organization were, Artemas Trowbridge, Senior Warden; Henry Bacon, Junior Warden. John Jamieson, George Trowbridge, Edwin Rockwell, Hiram Miner, Jefferson Colton, Edwin Dunbar, Vestrymen. The latter part of the year 1844, the Rev. Steven Doug-



lass was appointed missionary at Camden and Constantia, in place of the Rev. Edward Kennicut, who was compelled to resign his work on account of failing health. The funeral of Mrs. John Jamieson, who had been a most active member, and one whose loss the church and community mourned deeply, was the first held in the new church. The first wedding was that of the organist, Miss Jane Bright, to Mr. Roswell Ballard. For many years they were connected with the choir, and only severed their connection with the church when they made their home elsewhere. In the early days of the Episcopal Church in Camden there was no railroad communication to or from the town nearer than Rome or Oswego. Before a clergyman was placed permanently in charge of the mission, he must drive all of the way from Rome by stage on Saturday evening for Sunday service. When the Bishop made a visitation, one of the parishioners went to Rome with his private conveyance, brought him to Camden, and after the service drove him to the appointed place for his next service. A private school for girls was opened in the basement of the church. The first teacher was Miss Danforth, from Dover, N. H. Miss Byington, who resided in Camden, succeeded her. The attendance was good and the teachers interested in the progress of their scholars, gaining both their love and respect. From time to time they were succeeded by other teachers, until it was decided best not to rent the basement longer. After the church was fully established the society purchased a parsonage, the residence lately owned and occupied by A. G. Timian, on Washington street. We have before us a printed invitation to an "ice cream party," which we copy: "The ladies of Trinity Church, Camden, will give a social party on Tuesday, the 10th of Aug. in the afternoon, at the Town Hall, where a variety of refreshments will be served, with the fruits of the season. Admittance 12½ cts. Also in the evening will be given a concert of Vocal and Instrumental music with a variety of nice things to please the eye and taste. Admittance 12½ cts. The proceeds are to be devoted to the purchase of blinds for the church. Your attendance is earnestly solicited. Camden, Aug. 3, 1847. By order of Committee." The entertainment was probably a success, both socially and financially, as the blinds were purchased, adding much to the appearance of the church on the outside, and toning the light in a pleasing manner for the eyes of the congregation. In May, 1867, it was

decided to sell the parsonage and use the proceeds towards the expenses of the church. At this time the society was in a fairly flourishing condition, with the Rev. Francis Gilliatt as rector. The high flight of wooden steps had been taken away and the entrance door lowered; the steps leading up each side to the audience room from the interior. But in many ways it was not satisfactory. At a meeting called May 29th, it was decided to sell the building and lot and erect a new church in another part of the town, location not decided upon.

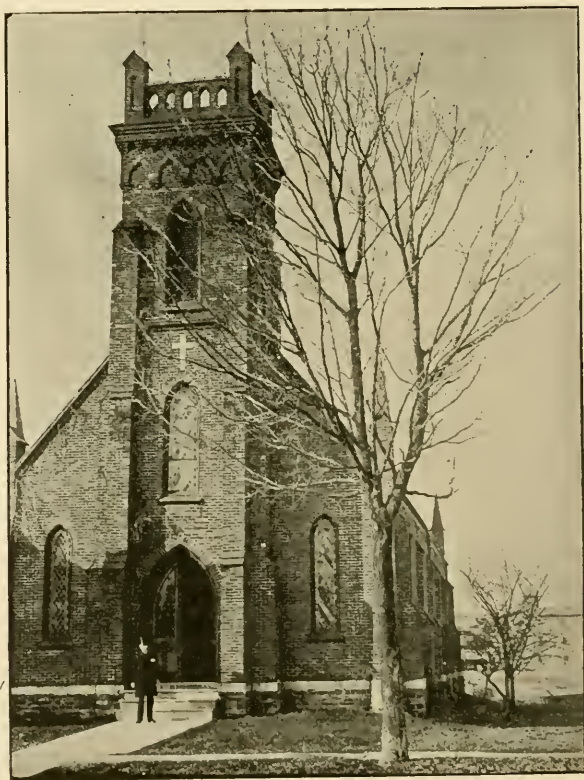
We find in one of the town papers Trinity Church and lot was to be sold at public auction the 15th day of June, 1867. But for some unknown reason the sale was delayed, and on the 22d of June the building was destroyed by the destructive fire which passed over that section of the village, with nearly all of its contents. On account of the prospective sale of the property the insurance, which had run out, had not been renewed.

In one short hour the people saw the building where their most devout prayers had been offered, where their infants had been baptized, where young men and maidens had been united in the holy bonds of matrimony, and where the funeral services of many a loved one had been chanted ere he was carried to his last resting place, and for which they had labored with untiring energy, reduced to ashes with all its contents. But a short time elapsed before the strong love they had for their church awoke an earnest desire to again own a place of worship, and immediate steps were taken to rebuild. They found they had no right to sell the land, which had been given for the use of the society. S. Cromwell, H. A. Case and A. L. Stone, men who had been identified with the best interests of the former church, were appointed a building committee, and active operations were begun towards erecting a new house of worship, with but little else beside a strong faith that God would aid them to the completion of their work.

A subscription paper was circulated; the towns-people assisted them in a noble way, and many contributions were received from members of other denominations, who gave freely to their own churches, but did not forget those who were struggling hard to make good their great loss. In the meantime, services were held in the Town Hall and Wesleyan Church. Work was begun clearing away the debris from the site of the old church, and the work pushed rapidly forward. On the 12th

day of September the corner stone of the present structure was laid. The services were conducted by Bishop Coxe and the rector, Rev. Francis Gilliatt, to whose untiring energy and intense interest in the new structure for divine worship, the society is greatly indebted.

Work progressed satisfactorily; the brick walls were completed, and the long heavy rafters were up to the top of the high peaked roof, but not covered. On the 2d day of November, a terrific wind-storm passed over this section, doing considerable damage, but the severest loss was to the new Episcopal Church. It blew down the west wall and that, together with the roof timbers, fell into the building, injuring the east end and side walls. Several men were at work when, seeing the storm com-



New Trinity Episcopal Church.

ing, they went outside to procure timbers to strengthen the roof. Fortunately for them, the walls fell while they were away. The

damage to the building was between six and seven hundred dollars, which fell heavily on the small society. Again the townspeople and neighboring parishes were called upon and gave freely. With renewed energy the work was pushed forward.

The new church was consecrated February 24th, 1869, by the Right Rev. Bishop Coxe, Bishop of Western New York, assisted by eleven of the clergy of neighboring parishes. The financial statement was read by S. Cromwell, Esq.; the instrument of donation, by the Rev. Francis Gilliatt, former rector of the parish, and the sentence of consecration by the Rev. Van Deusen of Utica. Morning prayer was read by the Rev. Dr. Babcock of Watertown, assisted by the Rev. Clark of Rome, Rev. Miller of Jordan, Rev. Fletcher of Constableville, Rev. Stanton, and Rev. Winslow of Watertown, Rev. Weaver of East Florence, and Rev. Boyer of Pulaski. The sermon was delivered by Bishop Coxe extemporaneously, from the text, "My soul hath a desire, yea, a longing to enter into the courts of the living God."

Six persons presented themselves for confirmation, and the Holy Communion was celebrated. The teachers and scholars of the Sunday School, with the assistance of the rector, purchased the beautiful chancel window with the most appropriate design, Christ blessing little children, and presented it to the church.

At the present time the church is in a flourishing condition, under the charge of C. J. Lambert; not a large society, but all united and working earnestly for the glory of the church militant and the spread of the gospel.

#### SUCCESSION OF PASTORS.

Rev. E. D. Kennicut became rector about the first of September, 1842, and resigned the first of August, 1844. Rev. Stephen Douglass had charge of the parish from August 1, 1844, until May, 1846. He was succeeded by Albert P. Smith, who had charge of the parish from August 1, 1846, until June 1, 1850. S. Chipman Thrall officiated from December 12, 1850, until 1853. Rev. J. L. Harrison, from the 14th of July, 1853, until he resigned July 28th, 1856. J. Winslow (deacon) com-

menced officiating under the Bishop, December 27, 1857, and continued in charge until August 29, 1858. Rev. A. E. Bishop succeeded him January 2, 1859, and remained until October 16, 1859. Rev. Francis Gilliatt had charge of the parish from December 25, 1865, until 1868, when he was succeeded by Rev. James A. Brown, who was rector from November 7, 1868, until February 1, 1870. Rev. Charles P. Boyd (deacon) had charge from October 1, 1870, until Easter Sunday, April 9, 1871. Rev. J. Winslow was rector of the parish the second time, from April 12, 1871, until August 1, 1875. Rev. L. N. Freeman from August 1, until June 12, 1876. Rev. F. O. Grannis, from August 23, until September 11, 1876. Rev. Charles A. Pool (deacon) took charge October 15, 1876. He was succeeded by Rev. Hugh Bailey July 1, 1878. Rev. Mr. Birchmore had charge during the year of 1881. For a few weeks in the summer of 1882 Sidney Cook, a divinity student from Syracuse, officiated as lay reader. He was followed by M. M. Goodwin (deacon), who took charge of the parish in 1883. He was ordained in Trinity Church, Camden, December 13, 1883. Rev. Sidney Cook (deacon) had charge from April, 1884, until April, 1886. In June, 1885, he was ordained in Syracuse. Rev. Joel Davis officiated from August 5, 1886, and continued in charge until he sent in his resignation August 1, 1894. Rev. C. J. Lambert began his labors in the parish October 21, 1894, and is the rector in charge at the present time.

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

In September, 1852, through the efforts of Father Fitzpatrick of Florence, the old Methodist Church was purchased. Previous to this the building had been moved from the place where the Methodist Church now stands to the present site of the Roman Catholic Church. It was owned by a man named Carpenter, of whom the Catholics purchased it. At this time only four families of the Roman Catholic faith resided in Camden. For twenty-four years it was a mission church, being attended by the priest of Florence. Father John Ludden held service once a month for nearly twenty years, coming from Florence for that purpose. Rev. P. H. Beecham, the first resident pastor, was appointed January, 1876. He labored successfully for ten years.



greatly improving the society and adding to the membership of the church. A cemetery was purchased mainly through his efforts. In March, 1886, Father Beecham was succeeded by Rev. J. J. Brennan, who in turn was succeeded by Rev. J. H. McGraw, September, 1887. Ash Wednesday morning, March, 1889, some time after the close of the early service, the church was partially destroyed by fire. The building in its ruined state was sold to Bohem Bros., and Father McGraw, with a small band of helpers, but united in their zeal and energy, at once set about the task of rebuilding. The fine church standing on the site of the old edifice is a monument to his success. May, 1894, Father McGraw was succeeded by J. S. Tiernan, the present pastor. The church is out of debt and is in a flourishing condition.

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Formerly the Congregational and Presbyterian Societies worshipped together in the Union Congregational Church, but when



First Presbyterian Church.

it was destroyed by fire it seemed expedient that each should erect a house of worship. Accordingly on the 25th day of July, 1867, thirty-two members of the Union Congregational Church received dismissal at their own request, and shortly after re-

cured Curtiss Hall for the purpose of holding services. The Sunday and Thursday evening prayer meetings were instituted; also a Bible class, superintended by Mr. Ralph L. Howel, for the congregation. On the 17th day of September, 1867, the following persons were chosen trustees, viz.: John Lambie, Lucius B. Goodyear, James Stark, Giles S. Wetmore and John Dorrance, men whose names have been identified with the church in many ways. The society was organized as the First Presbyterian Church of Camden, under the Presbytery of Utica. Dr. H. Torbert and Philetus W. Laney were installed as ruling elders. Rev. Selden Hains of Rome, ministered to the congregation for the first three months, and was largely instrumental in organizing the society. February 2, 1868, it was decided to erect a church; subscription and building committees were appointed. Hastings F. Curtiss donated the land on the west side of Main street, being part of the site of the Park Hotel, and south of the Episcopal Church. Work was begun the 25th of May, and the corner stone laid June 30th; the first service was held in the lecture room January 3, 1869. The 30th day of the following March, the new edifice, completed and furnished, and free from indebtedness, was dedicated. It is a fine brick structure, containing a good organ. It adds greatly to the improvement of the town, standing to-day as one more monument of Christian faith in the community.

Recently fine memorial windows have been placed in the church to the memory of Dr. Horatio Torbert, and the two Mrs. Torberts, by the widow of George Torbert, son of the first wife, and Willard, son by the second wife, living in Dubuque, Ia. The church contains a fine toned bell, presented by S. F. W. Sanford, M. D., of Ravenswood, L. I. Rev. E. N. Manley was called to the pastorate in November, and the 1st of January, 1868, commenced his labors, and June 30, 1869, was installed as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Camden. He purchased a home and resided here twenty-two years, serving his people faithfully and gaining the esteem not only of his own congregation, but of the community at large.

## SUCCESSION OF PASTORS.

Rev. Selden Haines for a few months. January 15, 1868, Rev. E. N. Manley, until at his own request the pastoral relation was dissolved by the Presbytery April 13, 1886. July 1, 1886, Rev. Albert W. Allen, until April 14, 1890. July 1, Rev. George Benaugh, until November 9, 1891. January 11, 1892, Rev. C. L. Patchell, for a few weeks. January 9, 1893, Rev. Wesley W. Cole, until October 29, 1894. May 1, 1895, Rev. Richard Abbott, who has charge at the present time.

## EARLY SCHOOLS.

We may well suppose that our forefathers, in many cases bringing young children with them when they sought a home in the wilderness, considered education second only to religious worship; and that the establishment of a place where their children could attend school followed closely the formation of a church society. A school-house stood at a very early date, probably as early as 1800, or soon after, upon what is now our beautiful village park, then a barren piece of land, covered with pine stumps. It stood nearly opposite the site of the M. E. parsonage. Unfortunately but few facts can be learned concerning it. That the people of the town were all interested in the establishment of a school, we gather from the old Congregational records, where we find at one time it was a question whether money which had been raised should be expended for the church or school. Miss Putnam, who later married Col. Richard Empey, taught there, commencing May 7, 1821. The school inspectors were Linus Sanford, Joshua Ransom and Billious Pond. On the old roll many names were recorded whose descendants are living in Camden, and possibly attending the present academy. George Curtiss, Hannah Curtiss, Edwin Dunbar, Louisa Dunbar, Charity Dunbar, Wolcott Doolittle, Lucinda Doolittle, Joel Elden, Sarah Elden, Henry Goodyear, Lucius Goodyear, Spencer Johnson, Cornelia Johnson, Rossiter Johnson, Charlotte Johnson, Cataline Preston, Helen Preston, William B. Preston, Erastus Pond, Martha Pond, Adeline Pond, Samuel P. Pond, Maria Peck, Cleantha Parke, Elijah Parker, Katharine Plumb, Clarissa Ransom, George Robinson, Samuel Sanford.

Wallace Sanford, Nancy Sanford, Angeline Sanford, Louisa Sanford, Myron Smith, Sarah Smith, Levi Smith, Harvey Smith, Munson Sanford, Rebecca Smith, Mary Smith, Philander Smith, Franklin Stevens, and many others.

After the new Academy was built, school was no longer held there and the old building stood vacant. The late Mr. Franklin Stevens relates a circumstance which occurred, showing that boys of pioneer days had natures as destructive as those of later generations, though their surroundings were so different. About a dozen lads amused themselves by throwing stones at the windows, of course shattering them, and continuing their work until not a whole pane of glass was left. They were caught doing the deed and reported to the proper authorities; were summoned to appear and answer to the charges made against them, found guilty and sentenced to a term of imprisonment. One, the ringleader, escaped from his captors. As the rest were very young offenders, they were released with a severe reprimand and so thoroughly frightened and penitent they never forgot it.

The old building was moved down on the bank of Fish Creek and converted into a dwelling house; Squire Timothy Woods, mill tender, lived in it.

The new Academy was built during the year 1823. It was located on the south side of the park, near the site where the Nichols & Tiffany store now stands. The contract for constructing the Academy was let to the lowest bidder. Giles Sanford secured it; he immediately began work and had the foundations laid, the sills on, timbers framed, and men all through the town were invited to the raising. It was to be a large two-story building, and much help was needed. A few men prominent in the Congregational Church, Linus Sanford as the leader, forbade them to proceed any further with the building, as the school district had no right to the land. It caused hard words and bitter feelings for a time, but being determined men, and knowing it was for the good of the community at large, they continued their work, and it was finally completed. The new Academy had a hall running through the center, with stairs leading to the second story from the rear, dividing the building into four rooms. We have before us an interesting letter relating to the school, by John A. Dann, a former resident, which we copy:

"In recalling to mind old buildings, many of the older inhabitants will remember the Academy, which stood on the south side of the park. Its construction took place during the year 1823. Mr. Linus Sanford taught the school on the west side of the hall, and Mr. Thomas Segar taught a select school in the second story, in the east room in the winter of 1823-1824. After that a new school-master appeared every winter. Miss Freeloove Southworth opened a school for young ladies and little girls in 1824, and taught geography for the children, drawing, painting and copying from maps, with a pentagraph for young ladies; also painting on velvet for toilet baskets, manufactured from paper and sewing silk. In the dim light of the past I can see a group of happy young girls gathered around their teacher and busy with the pretty work. At intervals through the winter, spelling schools were given by the different schools which were considered a privilege to attend." Aaron Matthews taught school one or two winters here. Miss Flora Stoddard, a daughter of Rev. Eliakim Stoddard, also taught a select school for children some time between the years 1825 and 1830. After a time the stairs from the rear of the hall were taken away and the two rooms on the second floor were thrown into one, the stairs leading to it from the outside. We have a copy of a composition written by Louisa Sanford, who married Andrew J. Stone, giving a description of Camden Academy: "The Academy stands in the center of the village, facing the Presbyterian Church in front and Methodist on the left; it is an old building, with some panes of glass out, which causes us some trouble on a cold day. The steeple is in the center, resembling a haystack, with a flight of stairs on the west side. It is occupied by a district school below and a public school above, instructed by Mr. S. S. Sheldon. When the scholars are out below we have all kinds of music. As you may judge, we have not the pleasantest situation that could be imagined, and so I must confine my description within the school-room. Our school is supported by eighteen or twenty young gentlemen, and as many young ladies, who are pursuing the studies, from the spelling-book to the highest branches of philosophy and Latin, but all the studies do not exceed the compositions we are compelled to write. But to some of our



young students it does not appear like a hard task, for they take great delight in writing about the ladies' large crown bonnets. They had better look at home (I think) and see their hats with high crowns and narrow brims, lined and bound with black, which they think shows their complection to an advantage. But they make a most detestable appearance. I should rather see an old-fashioned Methodist minister's hat with low crown and brim as wide as two hands. I hope no one will take this as an offense, and if any one wishes for more information, I refer them to the young student who mentioned the read shop, for he must frequent it to get his information."

Miss Adeline Pond taught school in 1833; Miss Lettice Blakesley taught school in 1834. A school was taught in a small house which stood on the site of the Torbert house, lately purchased by C. A. Phelps. One of the merchants, Mr. Ammi Hinkley, had a good private library, and generously loaned any book asked for. This is the first we hear of a library in the town.

The old Academy was finally sold to Barnum Foster between 1840 and 1850, and moved over to Main street, about where W. I. Stoddard's store now stands, and converted into a dry goods store.

Among those who taught in the Academy we find the names of Miss Wealthy Blakeslee, Miss Ruth Warner, Mr. Walter Jerome, and sometimes his twin brother, William. Both became Methodist ministers. Up stairs Rosanna and Marian Reynolds, daughters of a Methodist preacher, who boarded with Mr. Truman Spencer, instructed the children.

Innumerable private schools were started in different parts of the village, and we find many advertisements in the early town papers of different teachers opening schools. In 1843, a young ladies' private school was taught by Miss T. C. Stone, in the office formerly occupied by Esq. Sanford. In addition to the common English and higher branches, she taught drawing and flower painting.

In 1842, we find Elliott W. Stewart taught a select school in the Town Hall. That same year the Camden Institute was opened in the room occupied by Elliott W. Stewart, by Donald G. Frazier, who was formerly principal of the York Lit-

erary and Scientific Institute. It was to begin the 7th of August. He "was prepared to receive gentleman and ladies who wished to acquire an accurate and thorough knowledge of the common and higher branches of a good English education, and also such as desired to qualify themselves for any standing in the collegiate course, for the study of a profession or for business. Tuition same as E. W. Stewart's school."

In the Camden Gazette of 1844, we find the following: "In accordance with a resolution of the county and town superintendents, a temporary Normal School will be opened in the village of Camden on Tuesday, Sept. 24th, and close on Friday, Nov. 1st. Mr. S. R. Sweet, who taught with eminent success the first normal school in the State, has been engaged as principal. The tuition for the term is two dollars; and board can be had from one dollar to one dollar and a half per week."

We copy the following from a publication of a later date: "The Normal School was opened yesterday, in the Town Hall, under more flattering prospects than we had anticipated. It was an experiment with the people in this county, and we feared that it might not be properly appreciated; but its opening tells well for its future progress. Many have already arrived from Oswego County. This school seems to be awakening a new spirit of inquiry among the teachers in this part of the county. We are glad to see this progress; let all attend this school, as the term is short. Those who design to attend should commence immediately."

We find Camden had a high school in 1847, beginning the 13th of May, under the charge of J. T. Clark.

Tuition (for a term of 12 weeks).

Common English branches, \$3.00.

Mathematics and Higher English, Natural Philosophy and Chemistry, &c., \$4.00.

Languages, Ancient and Modern, \$5.00.

Contingent Charges, 12 cts.

Miss A. Howd also advertises a select school to be opened in the basement of the Episcopal Church the same year. The school to continue a term of 12 weeks. Tuition per term from \$1.50 to \$2.00.

For many years Miss Lucy Bowen taught a select school in the house now occupied by L. S. Sanford on Union Street. Mrs. C. Babcock opened a select school on the opposite side of the street, but was later engaged to teach the primary scholars in the Union School. Miss Sarah West, who married Mr. Smith Johnson, and was the mother of our honored townsman, Hon. Russell S. Johnson, was associated with Miss Bowen.

During the year 1835, the subject of district schools was discussed, and a meeting held October 15th. Eliasaph Doolittle, Linus Sanford and Emerson Marsh were chosen trustees. Iri Pond, Sheldon Wilson and Watson Spencer were appointed a committee to select a site for a school-house, and report. Sala Sanford, George Wood and Charles Trowbridge were appointed a committee to make a draft for a school-house. The site was purchased at the upper end of Second street, and the school-house built, the money necessary for the purpose being raised by taxation. The annual meeting of District No. 13 was held the following year, October 11, 1836, in the new building. Two years later it was deemed advisable to procure a library, and Artemas Trowbridge was appointed Librarian. Among the names of those who succeeded him, were Aaron Stone, T. D. Penfield, Linus Sanford, Henry Bacon, John T. Washburn and others. It was decided to employ a male teacher through the winter, who was to board around, and who was to receive two-thirds of the money expended for a teacher, and a female teacher for the summer term, with the same conditions as to board, who was to receive the remaining third for services. It was decided that no religious meetings were to be held in the new school-house. Five dollars had been paid the librarian each year, but in 1847, it was either considered too much, or more than they could afford to pay, consequently it was decided the person who would keep it properly for the least money be engaged for librarian. Enos F. Humaston offered to keep it for \$1.75 a year.

At one time the school was taught by Miss Sweatman, known to later generations as Aunt Clorinda Miller, and many people residing in Camden, as well as those who have gone to other places to live, remember attending the red school-house which stood near an overspreading butternut tree. Only the trunk of the

tree is standing to awaken the fond recollections of happy school days in the long ago.

The school house of District No. 13 was converted into a dwelling house and is occupied by Riley Rush at the present time.

In District No. 1, at the lower end of Second street, another school-house was built, similar in construction to the red school-house of the upper district, where those in the lower part of the town early began to master the rudiments of an education. We find this district also had a library, and that William H. Shepherd was at one time librarian. It was abandoned after the two districts were united in one building, and eventually sold to Mr. Reuben Bettis for a shoe shop, after the fire of 1856 had destroyed his place of business, and it was moved onto the east side of Main street, a front added, where it stood until it was in time destroyed by fire.

In the old record of Union District No. 1 of Camden, we find this entry: "Pursuant to an appointment of William R. Paddock, Town Superintendent of Common Schools, the first regular meeting of Union District No. 1, formed by the consolidation of Districts 1 and 13, in the village of Camden, was held at the Town Hall in said village May 11, 1853. The meeting was called to order by Thomas Stone, to whom was directed and who read the notice for the meeting issued by the superintendent; when, on motion, the meeting organized by appointing Artemas Trowbridge President, and Nelson B. Stevens, Esq., Secretary. After brief and appropriate remarks from the chairman, Dr. H. G. Torbert, D. A. Gatchell and others, explaining the object of the meeting and showing the benefits of the union school system, it was, on motion, voted that the trustees of said district be all voted for upon the same ballot. The following officers were elected: Trustees—Baldwin Tuthill, for one year; Thomas Stone, for two years; and Albro Phelps for three years. Clerk, Roswell S. Ballard; Librarian, Franklin Fifield; Collector, William N. Shepherd."

At this meeting the trustees were instructed to examine sites for a school-house, consisting of one or two acres of ground. It was voted that the trustees be instructed to sell the old

school-houses and the land on which they stood, after they were no longer required for school purposes. After much animated discussion with regard to a proper site for the building, the land lying southeast of Lorenzo Wetmore's residence was purchased of Ranney Parke, containing two hundred square rods of ground, which was satisfactory to all concerned. It was voted to raise \$3,300 for the purpose of erecting a properly constructed school-house and all other necessary belongings. It was carried without one dissenting voice. The following year it was found necessary to raise \$1,300 by tax, with which to complete the building, and make it ready for occupancy. After it was completed the trustees were instructed to have it insured for not less than \$3,000 or \$3,500, as they deemed best. The building was completed in 1853, and school opened with Mr. Jackson as principal, Miss Helen Tuttle, Miss Maggie Bright and Miss ——— as assistant teachers in the several rooms.

During the first year after its completion the building was burned. It was rebuilt in 1855.

It was voted and carried at a meeting, October 7, 1856, "That the trustees allow no concerts or meetings of any kind in the school-house for pay, except school meetings and lectures on school education."

After the Union School House burned, school was opened in the Town Hall. Miss Maggie Bright and Miss Wakefield were the teachers.

In 1856 the new building was completed and school opened with Mr. Call as principal, with a corps of efficient teachers. It continued to increase in the number of pupils until, in 1890, it would no longer accommodate the large number of scholars who wished to attend, at home as well as from adjoining towns. The building was enlarged by a fine and commodious addition on the north-west side, the whole making a building which any town might well be proud to possess. Always a fine school, within the last ten years it has attained a degree of excellence surpassed by few if any schools in larger towns. Prof. D. D. Van Allen and his wife have had charge of it since 1888, and under their care it has a reputation which constantly brings many from other towns, until soon it will be imperative that the



town provide another building. The school is divided into a high school and academic department, with several grades in the lower rooms. The school has a fine library numbering 350 well-selected volumes, and has reached a standing the town may well feel proud of.

### INCORPORATION OF CAMDEN VILLAGE.

Camden village was incorporated June 27, 1834, in compliance with the fifth section of an act entitled, "An act to incorporate the Village of Camden, in the County of Oneida." This meeting was held at the inn of T. G. Chidsey. The following persons were elected the first officers of the corporation for one year:

For Trustees—Lyman Curtiss, Humphrey Brown, Hubbard Tuthill, Ammi H. Hinckley, Aaron Stone.

For Assessors—Rufus Byington, David Johnson, George Trowbridge.

For Collector—Martin H. Stevens.

For Treasurer—Robert H. Burr.

For Constable—Martin H. Stevens.

On motion, the next annual meeting be held at the tavern now occupied by Rufus Byington. Adopted. The meeting then adjourned. Stephen S. Sheldon, Clerk of the meeting.

Same year, July 6, a meeting of the trustees held at the store of A. & G. Trowbridge, present: Humphrey Brown, Lyman Curtiss, Aaron Stone, Ammi H. Hinckley and Hubbard Tuttle. Humphrey Brown was chosen President of the Board; A. Trowbridge was chosen Clerk. Adjourned, to meet at A. H. Hinckley's store.

July 9, the board again meet, and agree to purchase for the use of the village, to aid in extinguishing fires, one ladder, 30 feet long, and two feet in width; two ladders 25 feet long, and two feet in width; two ladders 14 feet long, and two feet in width, with hooks at the top to support them on the roofs of buildings. The limits of the corporation shall be one road district for the present year, and Lyman Sanford, Esq., shall be the overseer, and he shall cause all the highway labor assessed by the overseers for the term to be performed on the roads and sidewalks, except such as has been expended before the organization of said corporation.

The trustees require of every householder residing within the

limits of the corporation, within ninety days from the publishing of this ordinance, to provide and always keep one good and sufficient leather fire-bucket. And further, if any person shall throw the carcass of any dead animal or any offals into the mill-pond or any part of Fish Creek within the limits of the corporation, on conviction of such offense he shall pay the sum of two dollars for the use of the corporation. And further, if any person shall ride or drive any horse on any of the sidewalks in this village, he or she shall forfeit for each offense the sum of one dollar. If any person injure maliciously any ornamental tree planted by any of the sidewalks of the village, he shall forfeit for each offense, on conviction, one dollar.

July 26, the board met, and decided that no cattle or horses should run at large within the corporation limits. Any person finding them could take them to the pound. A person upon claiming his beast, shall pay the pound-master his fees and an additional fifty cents. All swine running at large may be taken to the pound. Aaron Stone and Ammi Hinckley to be a committee to procure ladders for the corporation.

August 18, Board met. No lighted lamps or candles shall be used in any stable or other place where hay or straw is kept, unless the same is well secured in a lantern, under the penalty of one dollar. Nor shall any person carry a lighted pipe or cigar into any shed, barn or stable under the penalty of fifty cents. All ordinances, regulations or motions shall be published by posting a copy of the same at the inns of T. G. Chedsey, Jefferson Colton, and Rufus Byington.

Jan. 27, 1835, Board of Trustees convened. Resolved, That the collector ascertain the names of those who have procured fire-buckets, and those who have not. Resolved, That any person who shall at any time take any of the ladders belonging to the corporation for any other purpose than to extinguish fire, shall be subjected to a fine of one dollar. Resolved, That a lock and chain be procured to secure the ladders with, and that Watson Spencer be charged with the execution of the same, and that Ranney Parke be the keeper of the key. Resolved, That a fine of three dollars be imposed on all who neglected to procure fire-buckets under the ordinance of May 2d, 1837.

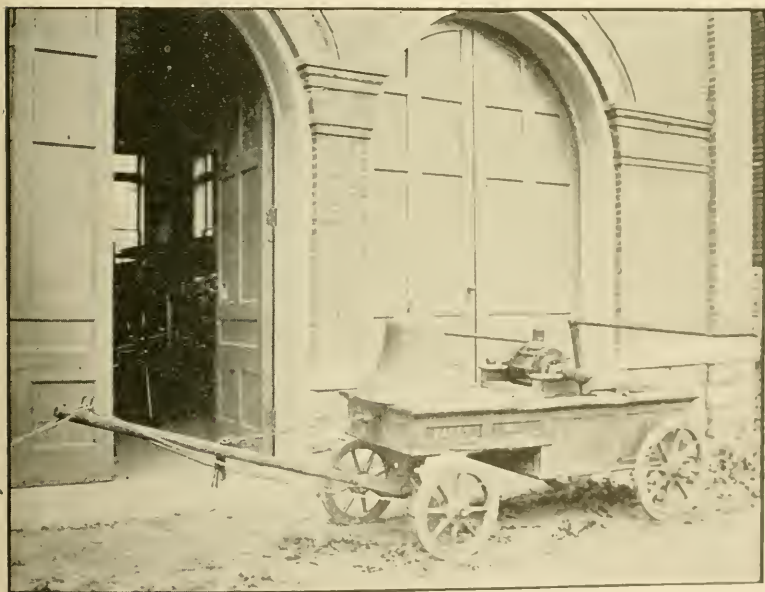
February 6, 1838, Board met. Ordered, That there be a hook and ladder company. Richard Empey was appointed captain, to enlist nie men to serve in such capacity. That Ranney Parke

show cause why he does not make returns of the delinquents of fire-buckets.

February 10, Board met. Richard Empey was excused from serving as captain of hook and ladder company, and William Bird was appointed in his place.

March 10, William Bird, captain of hook and ladder company, made returns of his enlistments: William Bird, captain; William R. Paddock, John A. Bettis, Horace McIntyre, Thomas DeMilt Penfield, Aaron Stone, Hiram J. Miner, Heman Diliman, Cebina Leonard, J. L. Babcock, members.

August 6, Board met. Resolved, That Jacob Sherman & Co. have permission to exhibit theatrical performances for a term not to exceed six evenings, on paying the clerk of the corporation \$2.50 for each evening. It is ordered, That the barn now occupied by Charles C. and Epaphroditus Houghton be used for a pound, and that Epaphroditus be appointed keeper. Voted, That the Trustees be empowered to procure a carriage for the



Old Fire Engine and Old Town Hall Bell.

hooks and ladders, and also provide a convenient place for keeping the same. That the Trustees levy a tax to defray the expenses aforesaid.

March 22, 1839, Board met, &c. Richard Empey is appointed

to procure the carriage for the hooks and ladders. Ordered, That any person depositing their ashes in wood pails, barrels or baskets, or in any unsafe place, on any premises within the corporation, shall be subject to a fine of \$3.00 for every offense.

July 13, at a special meeting of the inhabitants of the village of Camden at the Town Hall, on motion of George Ferris, to raise \$250 for the purchase of a fire engine, it was carried by a vote of 27 ayes, 16 nays.

September 18, 1840, Board met. Richard Empey, Prest. Resolved, That H. J. Miner be paid money from treasury due for the fire engine in consideration of his paying interest until called for by the note given William C. Watson, agent for Great Falls Manufacturing Co. Ordered, That the clerk draw an order on the treasurer for \$200. A petition is sent in from ladies and gentlemen of the corporation, to have the sidewalk cleaned of snow the coming winter. Samuel B. Hinckley was appointed for this purpose, he to be allowed a reasonable compensation for same, and that he clear the snow on the sidewalks from the lower bridge to the premises of John Jamieson on Main street.

June 2, 1841, at a special meeting, Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to make an estimate of the expenses of building a house for the fire engine; also hooks and ladders; same committee to look for a site. Alex. Gifford, Sala Sanford, Iri Pond, committee.

June 5, Board met in session room of Presbyterian Church. Report of committee was had; estimated expenses of building engine, hooks and ladder house, \$195.00, exclusive of site. At this meeting, Richard Empey, James Abrams, Aaron Stone were appointed a committee to look for a location and report expense of site of same.

August 20, at a special meeting Samuel B. Hinckley was appointed captain of fire engine company, with power to enlist 24 men.

August 28, Samuel B. Hinckley, captain of fire engine company returned the following names as members of said company:

Samuel B. Hinckley, Captain; Henry Bacon, Nelson F. Simmons, Martin H. Stevens, Samuel B. Lobb, Alva Knapp, George S. Ferris, Nelson E. Benedict, George W. Wood, Harvey Sweet,

Albro Phelps, James J. Page, Merrit Munson, John A. Bettis, Warren Mix, Abram P. Plumb, W. W. Penfield, Reuben Barber, Hiram Hammond, D. Caine, Chauncey W. McCall, D. Putnam Cox, Albert Godfrey, Alfred A. Hazen, Ranney Parke.

March 25, 1847, Board met. Ordered, That at every alarm of fire in the night time every male inhabitant shall assemble forthwith at the place of said fire, under the penalty of two dollars. Ordered, That at every alarm of fire in the night time, every family shall put at least one lighted lamp or candle in a window next the street, under penalty of fifty cents for each neglect or refusal.

This will give our readers an idea of how the business of the village corporation was conducted in the early days. George Trowbridge was Clerk of the Board of Trustees for about thirteen years.

In the "Camden Freeman" of September 26, 1861, we find, "The new fire bell is now hung, and ready for service." In fin-



Two Fire Buckets.

ishing our article upon the incorporation of our village we give the readers an illustration of two fire buckets used in the early days.



## FIRES IN CAMDEN.

Since 1856 nearly the entire business portion of Main street, in Camden, has been destroyed by fire. Indeed the town has been visited by more than its share of disastrous conflagrations. On nearly every site, new and finer buildings have been erected, adding greatly to the beauty, and increasing the prosperity of the town.

The first large fire in Camden occurred June 26, 1856. It burned the entire east side of Main street from the corner where B. A. Curtiss' store now stands to the old Miner store, now occupied by Adam Robson. The buildings were all of wood, which made them an easy prey to the hungry flames. The town had no means of fighting fire, only the little old engine, with the primitive way of carrying water in pails, and the "bucket brigade" was of little use in extinguishing the devouring element. The passenger train going south, arrived in Camden while the fire was fiercely burning, and perceiving the great danger, ran to Rome and returned in a short time, with a hand-engine. The Romans succeeded in arresting the fire at the Miner store, after the building had been partially destroyed.

The burned district was rebuilt mostly with wooden buildings,



The "Eldorado," built by Warren Mix.

and in 1863 they were again burned, from the site where Curtiss Hall now stands, north to the park. After the fire of 1856 the village purchased a hand-engine, with 700 or 800 feet of hose, and a few hooks and ladders, which were in use many years. After the fire of 1863 the burned district was rebuilt with substantial brick buildings.

In 1864, the "Eldorado," a three-story building of wood, owned by J. D. Cavarly, standing on the west side of Main street, was discovered to be on fire. The south part of the lower story was occupied by J. H. Tracy as a dry goods, grocery and drug store; the north part was rented to J. Phillips for a saloon. The second story was used as a printing office. The third story was occupied by the "Loyal League" for a club room. The origin of the fire was unknown; it started on the first floor. The fire company responded promptly to the call and managed the fire so skillfully the village was saved from a most disastrous conflagration.

August 15, 1866, a fire occurred on South Park street, which burned a wagon shop belonging to A. G. Mott, the paint shop of Julius Allen, the blacksmith shop of Myron and Edwin Simmons; on the latter there was no insurance, and the loss was about \$1,200. In time this part of the village was rebuilt.

The next large fire occurred June 22, 1867. It originated in the barns of the Whitney House, opposite the village park, on the west side of the street. The alarm was given about half-past one in the afternoon. The barns were connected with the house, and the flames spread so rapidly that but little could be saved from the rooms on the second floor. A strong wind was blowing from the southwest, which carried sparks and burning cinders a long distance. The men were needed to work the hand-engine, and in many instances women and children were obliged to ascend to the roofs of their homes and watch lest the wind should carry some burning shingle, and it should cause the building to ignite. The fire raged fiercely in fiendish glee, consuming Trinity Church on the north, and extending south to an alley, just below the site of the present Barnes block, where it was checked. A call for help had been telegraphed to Rome, and again the Romans responded and sent a steamer and hose

carriage. Not until late in the afternoon was the wild revel of the fire fiend subdued, and the people had time to realize their loss. While the energies of the people were taxed to the utmost trying to check the rapidly spreading flames, a thin curl of smoke was seen to ascend from the top of the belfry which crowned the old Congregational Church. The people looked at it aghast, knowing instantly it was doomed. No stream of water could be thrown to so great a height with the facilities for fighting fire they possessed. Little tongues of flame darted in and around the high steeple, now outvieing the sun in brightness, then clouded in smoke, seeming to mock the tear-dimmed eyes of the awe-stricken people with their wild revelry. Soon the flames ran down in earnest, and ignited the building. As the burning timbers of the steeple toppled over, the town clock, which had struck the knell of passing hours many years, for the last time struck two. A dwelling house which stood on Second street, where A. C. Woodruff's residence now stands, and owned by John Owen, caught from the flying cinders, and was totally destroyed. It was only the courage and hard work of wives and children, together with the thick foliage on our beautiful shade trees, which prevented many other homes from sharing the same fate. The following day was Sunday, and the upper part of the business portion of the village was a dreary looking place. The sun was shining on a sorrowing people. Two congregations were homeless. Where the fire raged so fiercely that June day the territory is now covered with fine brick buildings, an ornament to any town.

On the morning of January 4, 1872, fire was discovered in the shoe shop of John Stuart, on the west side of Main Street, which consumed all of the buildings from the corner of Mexico street south to A. G. Olmstead's residence. A fine block now ornaments the corner, erected by J. G. Dorrance and C. J. Wright. Nearly all of the burned district has been rebuilt.

On the 16th of September, 1876, the chair manufactory of F. H. Conant's Sons was destroyed by fire. The flames consumed all of the buildings on the west side of the street. The factory was rebuilt on a more extensive plan and is now, as then, one of



West side of Main Street, burned 1872.



Park Hotel, burned 1867.





the leading industries of the town, and their goods are in demand all over the United States, as well as in Europe and Australia.



West Side of Main Street burned in 1882.

In 1882 fire swept through the west side of Main street, north of Mexico street. The alarm was given about three o'clock a. m. The morning was clear, without a breath of wind. It originated in a building ten feet wide, occupied by Mr. Short as an ice cream saloon, which connected the corner store with the Central Hotel, the property of J. D. Cavarly. The fire department responded quickly to the alarm and worked faithfully, and while the capabilities of the hand-engine were limited, the department did splendid work, and were the means of saving a vast amount of property. From the store in which the fire started it extended both ways, burning the corner store, occupied by J. H. Tracy, around to Fish Creek on the west, consuming everything in its course, and extending northwards to the Barnes block, where it was checked. Among the heaviest losers by this fire were the J. D. Cavarly estate; J. H. Tracy, clothing merchant; Mrs. C. C. Hornung, millinery store; J. M. Peck, druggist; J. Olden, hotel contents; Churchill & Tibbitts, meat market; T. D. Pen-

field, Exchange Building and barn; C. S. Parke, harness shop; L. Duncan, jeweler; E. Edie, restaurant fixtures and furniture, and many others.

August 16th, 1883, fire destroyed the tannery of P. and P. Costello. The alarm was promptly given, and the firemen responded quickly, but the flames spread with amazing rapidity, and it soon ignited all of the buildings. The only one approachable with water was the bark and leather shed. This contained about 40,000 dollars worth of leather, and the efforts of the firemen were concentrated on this building, part of the contents were saved, but much of it in a damaged condition. The tannery was running to its greatest capacity, containing a larger stock than ever before. A car load of leather was waiting to be shipped, which added to the heavy loss. New buildings were erected on the site, and business resumed for a few years, but the firm eventually moved the business to Pennsylvania.

In 1883 fire was discovered in the grist mill of Penfield & Stone, which totally destroyed it. Fortunately there was no wind and the firemen, with heroic efforts, kept the flames from spreading. This fire, as well as nearly all of the others, was considered to be of incendiary origin; but, as in the case of the others, no possible reason could be assigned for such a deed. The following year a new mill was erected on the site, where a larger business is transacted than before.

#### CAMDEN KNITTING MILL.

About half-past two o'clock in the afternoon of March 29, 1893, the alarm of fire was given from the Camden Knitting Co.'s plant, at the foot of Main street. The fire started in the old Costello tannery, on the second floor, and it was thought to have ignited from friction with some metallic substance mingled with the wool. The automatic sprinklers with which the building was equipped, worked well, but had no effect in subduing the flames, the floors being so perfectly saturated with oil from the wool. The fire spread rapidly and raged with such fury that it was with difficulty the employes escaped from the building unharmed. The fire companies responded promptly, but could do little towards saving the burning building. It seemed like pouring water from a sprinkling pot upon a magazine of powder. During the fierce

conflagration, when the fire reached the boiler house, it burned the cord attached to the whistle, which caused it to shriek and make spasmodic trills for more than half an hour, finally belching forth one prolonged cry, like the agonizing wail of a huge monster, gradually dying away as the fury of the flames was spent. All who heard it will recall its echo for many days to come. Within one hour from the time the alarm was given three large buildings were reduced to ashes. A brisk wind was blowing from the south, which fanned the flames and carried the burning cinders broadcast over the village, carrying them fully half a mile from the scene of the conflagration. At this time there were from 250 to 300 hands employed, who were thrown out of work. The loss was estimated to be from \$70,000 to \$80,000. The fire occurred at a time when they were filling large orders.

The business was started in 1879 by Willard J. Frisbie and William H. Stansfield, former dry goods merchants of this town, on a safe basis, with careful and excellent judgment as to the needs of the trade. They commenced the business on the second and third floors of the Barnes block in 1881, and in the same year placed machinery in the Huyke woolen mill, in the valley, where they also manufactured yarn. A fine location was purchased of George Abbott, at the foot of Masonic avenue, in 1883, and a commodious building, three stories in height erected. The entire business was moved to this place. From time to time additions were made to accommodate the growth of the enterprise.

Mr. C. F. Kendall, formerly connected with a similar business in Boston, was interested with Frisbie & Stansfield from the first, and it is largely through his experience that the goods manufactured by the Camden Knitting Mills are so well known all over the country.

During the year of 1887 the site of the Costello tannery, with buildings, was purchased and fitted for the purpose of conducting the business, which had become so extensive as to need more room for manufacturing. The business was operated in both localities four years. During the year of 1891 the buildings on Masonic avenue were leased to the Corbin Lock Co., and the entire business located at the foot of Main street, south of

the bridge, where they erected more and larger buildings to accommodate the ever increasing trade.

After the fire new and commodious buildings were erected on the site, and they are an evidence to-day of the increasing prosperity and growing demand for the goods this firm manufacture. At one time W. H. Stansfield superintended a branch manufactory in Jersey City, but it was considered best to discontinue it, and the business was all transferred to Camden.

The firm have factories manufacturing knit goods in Syracuse and Utica, the latter conducted by George A., a son of W. J. Frisbie. W. H. Stansfield has charge of the establishment in Syracuse.

After the fire of January 4, 1872, Jairus H. Munger and A. G. Olmstead drew up an amendment to the village charter, and sent it to our member of Assembly. It was passed and returned to the Trustees. They established fire limits, and the village began to grow with substantial brick buildings.

#### THE WATER WORKS.

Camden Water Works were established by the corporation in 1886. The many springs and small streams of pure water abounding in the eastern part of the town, on the hills, served to make the gravity system preferable to all others. The reservoir is situated about three miles from the village, allowing 170 feet fall, with 76 pounds of pressure to the square inch. From fifty to sixty hydrants are scattered through the corporation, with several miles of pipes connecting them. The city water is largely used in the homes of the towns-people, and is considered pure and healthful.

Since the extensive system of water works was introduced, but few fires have occurred and the town has sustained but small losses therefrom, with the exception of the Camden Knitting Mill plant, which was almost like pouring water upon oil, from the nature of the material used in manufacturing.

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#### MERCHANTS.

##### TIMOTHY WYLDE WOOD.

T. W. Wood was Camden's first merchant and postmaster. His home and place of business was the same building. It was situated on what is now the corner of Main and Mechanic streets, on the property owned by Charles McCarty. Then, as

now, the few inhabitants were eager to get their mail. It is related that in meeting Mr Wood on the street he was often asked if there were any letter. He always replied in a gruff voice, "Do you suppose I carry the mail in my pocket?" He was the first Justice of the Peace, and held the courts in the parlor of his house until 1820. Mr. Wood came from Stanwix (now Rome) to Camden in 1801. He came with his family, which were conveyed in a cart drawn by oxen. There being no road, the line was followed by marked trees. He followed the business of surveying, was a carpenter and millright. Soon seeing the needs of the settlers, he opened a general store. Loaf sugar being scarce, he would sell it only for the sick. In 1816 there were genuine hard times for the inhabitants; Mr. Wood invested a large sum of money for those days in flour, and sold it in quantities of 50 pounds to a customer, not allowing any one person more.

The Indians often came to his home, and they were very friendly. Mr. Wood traded rum and tobacco for furs. They were allowed to lay about the fire at night. They called his wife, Mrs. Wood, "Wood's pretty squaw." Mr. Wood was born in Nottinghamshire, England, April 8, 1757, and died September 10, 1835. Squire Wood was buried at the extreme south end of Second street; later, his remains, with others, were removed. He emigrated to America in 1792, and settled in New York city, where he married, May 5, 1797, Susanna DeMilt, widow of Peter DeMilt, and daughter of Richard J. Warner of New York. Mrs. Wood died January 15, 1826, aged 53 years. By her first husband she had two children, a daughter, Jane, who married Fowler Penfield, and a son, Thomas, who died early in life. The remains of this early settler, his wife and those of her two children, rest in Forest Park Cemetery. Mr. Wood was naturalized in New York city, 1795. He owned mills and water privilege in Camden. The children of Timothy Wood and Susanna Warner, were: Peter, who married Miss Sophia Tuttle of Oneida Castle; George W., married Jane S. Sweet; Hannah, married Seth Blake; Susanna, married Higley Stevens; Mary, married Charles Wheeler; Sarah Elizabeth, married Ammi Hinckley.



## AMMI HAMILTON HINCKLEY.

Ammi Hamilton Hinckley and his brother, Samuel Bradford Hinckley, were early in the century prominent men of Camden. They were sons of Jared and Hopestill Brewster Hinckley. Mrs. Hinckley was a lineal descendant of Elder William Brewster, the fourth signer of the Mayflower compact. The descendants of these men may well be proud of them and their Mayflower ancestry. Their birthplace was Windsor, Vt. Ammi H. Hinckley was born July 9, 1800; married December 24, 1828, to Sarah Elizabeth Wood, born at Camden, April 2, 1812. She was the daughter of Timothy W. Wood. Nine children were born to them, viz.: Frances Jane, Mary Ellen, Henry Bradford, Sarah Elizabeth, Martha Ann, Henry Augustus, Charles Ammi, Kate Hopestill, Lillie Regai. Mr. Hinckley died in Camden March 9, 1856; Sarah, his wife, died at Clinton, N. Y., June 28, 1874. Their remains rest in Forest Park Cemetery. The exact date of A. H. Hinckley's coming to Camden can not be ascertained. He was one of the earliest merchants, establishing a general store, containing dry goods and groceries. Prior to 1833 he was Colonel of the 68th Regiment, 13th Brigade, of New York State Militia, as is found by commission papers signed by him, belonging to Martin Stevens. He passed through every grade, from corporal to colonel, and no man in Oneida County was more prominently known or more highly respected. He once refused nomination for member of Congress. He was magistrate for many years.

## SAMUEL BRADFORD HINCKLEY.

We are led to believe that as the name of Bradford is retained in this family, they must be descendants also of Massachusetts' first Governor, who came over in the Mayflower, and was the second signer of the compact. If we are right in our supposition, the descendants of these men may be doubly proud of their ancestors. William Bradford started in life with a record, and left one. From the day of his advent into the world, where he was eventually to become so important a factor, he associated himself with William Brewster. William Brewster was William Bradford's dearest friend and wisest guide. Samuel Bradford

Hinckley was born in 1802; married Miss Catharine D. Henderson of Sand Banks, N. Y., in 1828. They came to Camden to reside in 1830. Seven children were born to them, viz.: Jared H., Elizabeth J., Ichabod Brewster, Samuel Bradford, Briggs T., Marion G., and Catharine Cornelia. Samuel Bradford Hinckley died September 17, 1850; his wife Catharine D., died April 26, 1878, aged 68 years. The remains of both rest in Forest Park Cemetery. Mr. Hinckley was a man highly respected, and was appointed to offices of trust. He was Supervisor in 1839, and again from 1844 to 1845, besides holding other offices. Was in the mercantile business with his brother for several years and postmaster at the time of his death.

#### ARTEMAS TROWBRIDGE.

Artemas Trowbridge came to Camden in 1824 from Litchfield Conn., having been engaged there in the mercantile business. His birthplace was Pomfret, Conn.; born in 1789. He was one of the pioneers in the general mercantile business of the place, and largely identified with the early improvements and progress of the village of Camden. He remained in trade until 1850, owning the property on the south corner of Main and Mexico streets, which he rented until the spring of 1865, when he sold to D. G. Dorrance. November 8, 1865, J. G. Dorrance commenced business on this corner, and remained until 1876, when he sold to George H. Smith and D. G. Dorrance, Jr. Smith & Dorrance remained in business together only three years. George H. Smith has occupied the store since 1876, and is still its occupant. Mr. Trowbridge was largely instrumental in the establishment of Trinity Church of this village. He filled the office of warden for many years. In 1864 he removed with his family to Newark, N. Y. In 1877 he again removed to Palmyra, a town near. March, 1813, he was initiated into Masonry at Bridport, Vt., and shortly after advanced to the Royal Arch. He filled various offices in Lodge and Chapter with credit. At different times he was honored with the appointment of Deputy Grand Master of his district. At the time of his death he was an honorary member of Palmyra Lodge No. 248. He died at his home in Palmyra, November 21, 1879, aged 90 years, being the oldest Mason of the lodge

where he was initiated. His wife was Miss Eliza Leaworthy of Westmoreland. The children were, Susan, Mary A., Maria, James L., William W., Lawrence DeF.

#### GEORGE TROWBRIDGE.

George Trowbridge came to Camden from Pomfret, Conn., in 1826, and was engaged in the mercantile business with his



George Trowbridge.

brother Artemas for a number of years. The store then stood on Main street, nearly opposite Washington. Later, this building was moved down on to the corner of Main and Mexico streets. He was identified with the schools of this town for many years, holding the office of School Superintendent. He was an active, energetic and influential citizen. He was land agent not only for lands in Camden, but also in Florence and Vienna. He was born at Pomfret, Conn., August 11, 1796; died September 23, 1888. His wife, Juliana Allen, was born at Providence, R. I., May 26, 1805, and died March 24, 1892. Their remains rest in the family plot in Forest Park Cemetery. Their children were: Charles Edward, Julia A., William Henry, Elizabeth P., and George Frederick. The homestead Mr. Trow-



Trowbridge Homestead.

bridge built in 1827, corner of Main and Washington streets, is owned by his children, and outwardly is the same as when first built.

#### TRUMAN SPENCER.

Truman Spencer was a merchant hatter, coming from Litchfield, Conn., in 1828, and settling in Camden through the influence of Artemas Trowbridge. His residence was where now stands the Harding home, and his hat store, shop and factory was just north. He was born in Litchfield, January 3, 1806, and was married to Miss Electa Merriman of the same place, April, 1828, and three days later started for the then Far West. In 1839 Mr. Spencer built a three-story building in the business portion of the village, on west side of Main street. This building was not only used by Mr. Spencer, but was rented for various kinds of business. David Sears occupied a portion for his jewelry business; Mrs. Froud and Samantha Plumly, milliners; William Bird, tailor shop; several lawyers' offices were in the building. On the third floor was the office of the "Camden



Truman Spencer.

Gazette," E. C. Hatten, editor. This building was called Spencer's Exchange. Truman Spencer died December 7, 1854; his



Spencer's Exchange.



wife, Electa, died October 5, 1862, aged 59 years. Their remains rest in Forest Park Cemetery.

### HIRAM J. MINER.

Hiram J. Miner came to Camden in March, 1830, through the influence of Rev. Louis F. Loss, then pastor of the Congregational Church. He made arrangements with Dea. Erastus Upson for the rent of his tin shop, and purchased of him his few goods. (The farmers in the vicinity at this date were most of them poor, and paid for their goods in rye, Indian corn and lumber, which constituted the staple produce in and around Camden.) Goods were purchased in New York, came by canal from Albany to New London, and from thence to Camden by teams. Mr. Miner opened his store May 6, 1830, for trade. The first article sold was a copy of the New Testament at 25c., which he considered a good beginning. He boarded at Deacon Upson's and slept under the counter. The store was the front end of the tin-shop 18 by 22 feet. The Deacon, meantime occupying the rear for his business. At this time there were three other mercantile firms in the place, Ammi H. Hinckley and brother, Samuel B., A. & G. Trowbridge and Cavarly & Sheldon. Almost everything wanted by the inhabitants could be had at some one of these stores, although kept in so small quantities that one customer would sometimes break the merchants' assortment. The nearest bank was in Utica. Most of the bread used in those days was of rye and Indian corn. Mr. Miner was the first to offer wheat flour by the pound or barrel. His first purchase in this article was a lot of three barrels, superfine, from Utica, the cost of which at his store was \$6.00 per barrel, sold at \$6.25. The first customer who ventured on so large a supply as to take a whole barrel was Reuben Bettis. His first barrel of salt was sold to Mr. Flannagan of Amboy. In 1832 Mr. Miner purchased the entire premises of Deacon Upson, together with a small dwelling house adjoining. In 1839 he built the store now occupied by A. G. Robison; the cost was about \$4,000. He was appointed postmaster in 1841, and resigned the office in 1847. Mr. Miner had associated with him in business during his stay in Camden, his brothers Isaac and Heman. Hiram J. Miner left Camden



Store built by H. J. Miner.

in 1849, selling to his two brothers, and going first to Utica and then to Fredonia, N. Y., where he opened a private bank July 4, 1850. His wife was Miss Adaline Hungerford of Vernon Center.

Following the Miner Bros. the Cook Bros. occupied this building (Melzer and Martin); later Judson N. Strong and others, John F. Mix and A. G. Robinson here established a tin shop and hardware store. This building stands to-day, the oldest building block on the street, a monument of the architecture of nearly 60 years ago.

#### BARROWS' STORE.

Some time about 1812 Mr. Barrows had a store in Camden on the west side of Main street, about where the present Presbyterian Church stands. It was a small wooden structure, and is supposed to have been the second store opened in the place. Later, nearly opposite Mechanic street, on Main, was a general store kept by one of the name of Hurlburt, who sold out his stock to a Mr. Merriman. Prior to 1824 Deacon Erastus Upson had a tin store and a few articles of merchandise in a building which he owned that stood on what is now the north corner of Miner avenue and Main street.

## MAJOR J. D. CAVARLY.

Major J. D. Cavarly and wife, with one child, came to Camden in 1828. Mr. C. became a prominent citizen and business



Major J. D. Cavarly.

man. He was one of the early merchants. His store was situated on the north corner of Main and Mexico Streets, and the home was north on Main Street. His stock in trade consisted of dry goods and groceries. In 1830 the firm was Cavarly & Sheldon. In 1843 it was Cavarly & Osborn (the latter a son of Deacon David Osborn). This firm advertised drugs, in addition to dry goods and groceries. Mr. Cavarly was from New London, Conn.

Benjamin F. Beard, called Capt. Beard, was a citizen of Camden prior to 1829. He was a merchant, highly respected and interested in all that pertained to the advancement of the village.

## WILLIAM R. PADDOCK.

William R. Paddock was one of Camden's earliest and most influential citizens. He was widely known and highly respected throughout the county. He was born in Vienna in 1812, being

at the time of his death 70 years of age. When 17 years of age he came to Camden, and entered as a clerk in the boot and shoe store of Wimple & Cook. After clerking for several years, in company with Don A. Gatchell, he engaged in the grocery business. He was Justice of the Peace for many years. He married Miss Cordelia Hallock of Westmoreland, N. Y. They had but one child, Albert, who married Miss Dell Waterman of Camden; they removed to Clinton, Iowa, where one son, William, was born. Mr. Albert Paddock, a lawyer by profession, is a man highly respected in Clinton, as is shown by the many offices of trust he holds.

### FRANCIS SNOW.

Francis Snow, born at Belchertown, Mass., is of Mayflower ancestry, he being a descendant of Nicholas Snow, who came to America in the ship "Ann," 1627. Nicholas married Constance, daughter of Steven Hopkins, who was the fourteenth signer of the compact. Hon. Nicholas Snow was the founder of Eastham, Mass. Francis Snow came to Camden in 1842. Soon after coming he opened a barber shop in T. D. Penfield's shoe shop; later, the same year, his shop was located in Spencer's Exchange. Below is a portion of his first advertisement:

"NEW BARBER SHOP. THIS WAY!

EMPORIUM OF FASHION.

All who want your noddles dressed,  
The modes de Paris—latest,  
At Snow's you'll get it done the best,  
And shavings! Oh, the neatest."

Mr. Snow has been engaged in various kinds of business in the town. At one time he was in company with J. D. Cavarly in the dry goods and clothing business. He married Miss Sarah Johnson, a most estimable lady, who died June 17, 1894. Five children were born to them, viz.: Marion, Jennie, Lois and William. A daughter died young. The only one living in Camden is Lois, who married Mr. C. F. Kendall. They have two children, Lois Marjory and Charles Hallett. Mr. Snow resides with this daughter.

Barnum Foster, prior to 1842, was one of Camden's merchants. He dealt in foreign and domestic dry goods, groceries, crockery, &c., east side of Main street.

J. M. Jamieson had, as he advertised Jan. 28, 1842, a cheap cash store, east side of Main street, near the Public Green. Not only dry goods, but hardware, crockery, bonnets, family groceries, paints, oils and dye stuffs.

David Sears, prior to 1842, kept a jewelry store in Spencer's Camden Exchange Building

J. L. Babcock had cabinet-ware and furniture for sale in 1843. He was to be found a few doors below Miner's store, where he established his business in 1840.



Cottage Store.

Hugh McCabe and brother Thomas, were merchants on the east side of Main street in 1858, occupying the Cottage Store, built by Orson Norton. These brothers came from Clinton, N. Y., to Camden. Hugh left Camden in 1867.

Ambrose Curtiss, in 1861, purchased the property, corner of Main and South Park streets, of Parker Hallock, and in 1862 erected the present brick block owned and occupied by his son, Byron A. Curtiss.

#### FIFIELD BROS.

F. F. and F. D. Fifield were brothers, born in Warren, N. H., F. D., in 1820. The family came to Williamstown in 1836. They



were in Williamstown until 1848, at which date they removed to Camden and entered into co-partnership in the hardware trade. In 1856, in company with James E. Tripp, they conducted for some years the foundry and machine shop at the foot of Main street, now used for the same purpose by Wood & Percival. The firm was changed by the withdrawal of F. F. Fifield from the business, which continued under the management of Tripp & F. D. Fifield until about 1878. F. D. Fifield died suddenly of heart disease, September 14, 1881, aged 61 years. Francis F. Fifield married Miss Mary Frisbie. This estimable couple resided for many years corner of Second and Union streets, now the residence of J. H. Gambol. F. F. Fifield conducted the hardware business alone after the dissolution of the firm in the machine shop. In 1883 he removed to Newark, N. Y., where he spent the remainder of his days. He was a prominent business man in Camden for 34 years. He died at Newark, May 9, 1893, aged 76 years. His remains rest in Forest Park Cemetery, Camden. This couple had no children of their own, but two estimable ladies spent their childhood and the years until their marriage in their home and care. Mrs. Fifield came to Camden after the death of her husband, and made her home with her niece, Mrs. W. H. Dorrance. In delicate health, she survived her husband but a short time, passing away in 1896, and was laid to rest by his side. Mr. Fifield was one of the original members of the Presbyterian Church, and for many years a ruling elder.

#### GILES B. MILLER.

Giles B. Miller purchased the dry goods business of Hastings F. Curtiss in 1859. Mr. Curtiss, at this time, was in business on the west side of Main street. Mr. Miller commenced his business on the east side of the street, in the store occupied at present by Daniel Crimmins as a clothing store. Mr. Miller was the first occupant of this brick block. December 1, 1873, W. J. Frisbie and W. J. Stansfield entered into co-partnership, purchasing the stock of goods of Giles B. Miller. They remained in trade until April, 1884, when they sold to Phelps Bros. (sons of the late Albert Phelps), who continued the business until 1890 in this block. They then removed to their own store on

the west side of the street, where the business is still continued. Miss Ella DeVoy established the millinery business for Frisbie & Stansfield in 1878, and remained with them until 1884, when she purchased their stock in the millinery line of goods, and still continues the business in the Phelps block. Miss Maggie Robison entered the store of Giles B. Miller in 1871 as saleslady. She was with Frisbie & Stansfield while they were in the dry goods business remaining when they sold to the Phelps Bros., and is still a faithful employe of the latter.

#### ABBOTT STORE.

Abbott store was built in 1853 by E. S. Dunbar, Lyman Raymond and George Abbott. The business was carried on under the firm name of Dunbar, Raymond & Abbott, commencing in the fall of 1852. This partnership was of short duration, and George Abbott carried on the business alone until 1857, when he was associated for two years with his brother-in-law, L. L. Clarke, under the firm name of Abbott & Clarke. From May 1, 1859, to April 1, 1882, he again carried on the business alone. On the latter date he took as a partner his oldest son, Anthony W., which partnership continued until July 19, 1890, under the firm name of Geo. Abbott & Son. He then retired from the business on account of failing health, and it has since been conducted by his sons, Anthony W., and George H., under the firm name of George Abbott's Sons. It was first kept as a store of general merchandise, but the present firm deal in coal, lime, groceries and building material.

#### JUDSON N. STRONG.

Judson N. Strong was one of Camden's merchants; born in Bolton, Conn. He came from Chicago to Camden in 1864, having been in the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad, in their office. He entered into partnership in this village with Charles and Edwin Spencer in the dry goods and grocery business. Later he was engaged in the produce business. He died at the home of his son, Arthur, in Windsor, Conn., October 24, 1894, and was buried at Manchester, Conn.

## QUINCY BARBER.

Quincy Barber was identified with the business interests of Camden for 46 years. He was engaged in several business enterprises. For eight years he was a member of the firm of Williams, Locke & Barber, who conducted a shoe store. He was engaged in the manufacture of sash, blinds and doors, with Gardner, Wakefield & Co. Later, and at the time of his death he was associated with ex-Postmaster B. T. Hinckley in the grocery and produce business. He died June 2, 1895, aged 72 years.

## EDWIN A. HARVEY.

Edwin A. Harvey was one of Camden's most influential citizens. He descended from a distinguished Connecticut family which furnished three Governors, several eminent jurists and a general of the United States army. He was reared on his father's farm in Vienna, N. Y., and attended school during the winter months. After leaving school he engaged in various occupations, and in 1864 removed to Camden. Here he started in partnership in the grocery and provision business. In the following year he bought out his partner's interest and conducted it until two years before his death. Mr. Harvey was a public-spirited man, and always had the interests of the village at heart. His generosity, particularly to the poor and suffering, was proverbial. In politics he was an ardent Democrat. He served several times as Trustee of the village, was a member of the Board of Education and Treasurer of the Board of Water Commissioners; also Treasurer of the village, and was Vice President of the First National Bank of Camden for twelve years; a member of Philanthropic Lodge, No. 164, F. and A. M., and was its treasurer for many years. He became a member of the M. E. Church in 1872, and acted as its trustee for some time. He married Miss Caroline, daughter of Artemas Peck, of this town. His wife and five children survive him. E. A. Harvey died July 6, 1896, aged 54 years.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### EARLY TAVERNS OF CAMDEN.

The first tavern or inn in Camden was built by Elihu Curtiss, and kept by him. It stood in what is now Miner avenue. The old well is yet in existence under the piazza of the Whitney House. The old tavern stood about half way in the street. It now stands on Third street, and is occupied as a dwelling. Woodard Perkins, in speaking of this building, said it was running in 1803, and was the first painted building he ever saw in Camden.

### BYINGTON TAVERN.

From records in Oneida County Clerk's Office it is found that in 1815, Heman Byington purchased of George Scriba a piece of land situated in the south of the village, east side of Main Street, near the bridge crossing Fish Creek. Upon this piece of property Mr. Byington built a tavern in 1816. By his will this property was conveyed to Patience his wife, and to his sons Rufus and Ira Byington. Will dated May 3, 1831. In 1835 Rufus Byington and Mary his wife, Ira S. Byington and wife Harriet, conveyed it to Elam Burton. January 9, 1837, it was the



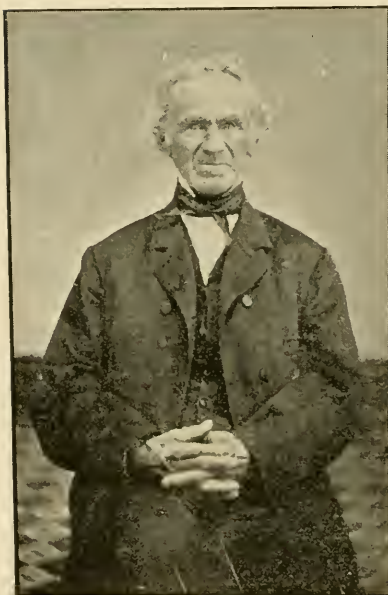
Reed's Hotel.

property of Hubbard Tuttle. March 17, 1838, it was conveyed from Hubbard Tuttle and wife Hannah, to Nancy Thatcher for \$2,000. April 29, 1850, Nancy Thatcher conveyed it to George

Wood in consideration of \$1,700. In 1857 George W. Wood and wife Jane S. Wood conveyed it to Joseph Wheeler for \$1,700. Same year, June 24, 1857, Joseph Wheeler and wife Caroline, conveyed it to Charles Wheeler. In 1859 Charles Wheeler sold to John S. Remington. October 19, 1861, John S. Remington and wife Harriet conveyed it to James A. Woodin. March 17, 1862, James A. Woodin sold to Seymour Scoville, consideration \$1,000. September 13, 1864, Seymour Scoville and wife conveyed the property to James A. Woodin. In 1875, August 15, James A. Woodin and wife conveyed the property to George W. Reed. We give an illustration of the building as it was when burned in 1886. This old landmark was rented to many individuals; we give the names of those only who held title to it. Mr. Byington must have been a man universally respected, as in our researches where his name is found, it is prefixed with "Esq."

#### RANNEY PARKE TAVERN.

Where to-day stands B. A. Curtiss' brick store, corner of Main and South Park Streets, was early in the century a tavern. A



Mr. Ranney Parke.



Mrs. Ranney Parke.

long wooden structure, and as remembered by some living to-day, had a piazza its entire length on Main Street. From early private papers we find that Ranney Parke purchased this property the



20th of October, 1817, of Lucius Tuttle, who resided at that time in Wolcott, Conn. This property was deeded earlier to Wm. Tuttle and Ephraim Smith, by Jesse Curtiss and his son Elisha (the latter was father of Gen. Lyman Curtiss). It is supposed these parties built the building. Later it was occupied by others. While the property was in the possession of Mr. Parke, he made many improvements, among which was the addition of a ball-room. This the Masons used as a meeting place for several years. In this room was held shows and various entertainments. We believe it was Camden's first Opera House. In 1827 Mr. Parke sold this property to Emerson Marsh. It was rented for a time to Jefferson Colton. Later this building was converted into a dwelling house and store. Ranney Parke came from Chatham, Conn., in 1794; he was married to Miss Phoebe Parker of Vienna, N. Y., in 1817. Nine children were born to them, viz.: Esther R., Byron P., William Short, Harvey S., Amanda F., Amanda F. 2nd, Caroline M., Phoebe S., and Willard M. In 1827 Mr. Parke built the home on Second Street, now owned and occupied by Dr. Bacon. He removed to Ruscoe, Ill., July, 1865. Ranney Parke died at his residence in Ruscoe, September 6, 1877, aged 88 years. His wife, Phoebe Parker, died also at Ruscoe, August 26, 1888, in the 93d year of her age.

## COLTON TAVERN.

Jefferson Colton was born in Louisville, Otsego Co., N. Y.,



Colton Tavern.

January 28, 1809. He came to Camden in 1830, and purchased of Hopkins Stevens a building which he used as a cabinet shop

and salesroom. Mr. Colton converted it into a tavern. It stood opposite our present park, on the west side of Main Street. In the fall of 1838, on account of failing health, Mr. Colton sold this property to Levi Brainard, who came from Norway, N. Y. Mr. Brainard enlarged and improved the building. After two years of rest, Mr. Colton's health so improved that he purchased his old property, and remained proprietor of the tavern until 1847, two years before his death, which occurred May, 1849. He was then living at the corner of Main and North Park Streets. He was a man of decided characteristics—firm, frank and outspoken. He considered his word a pledge to be fulfilled; his hospitality was proverbial; always in sympathy with the poor and afflicted; associated in all good works for the improvement and advancement of his home village; always looking on the bright side of life, although for many years in poor health. Davis S. Barrett kept this tavern for a short time. In 1847 Mr. Colton sold to Wm. McCune, who sold to A. B. Hildreth, who sold to Moses Whitney.

#### CAMDEN HOUSE.

The tavern called for many years the "Camden House," and which stood on Main Street on land now owned and occupied by B. D. Stone, was intended for a Masonic Hall, as that organization put up the frame. George L. Coe purchased it in 1829, the Masons reserving the right to the second floor of the main part of the building as a meeting place for all Masonic purposes, giving Mr. Coe the right and title to the whole premises. Mr. Coe constructed what for those days was a spacious and convenient tavern stand. He sold to T. G. Chidsey. In the spring of 1838 this property was sold to Jefferson Colton, and for a time while he owned it, the tavern was kept by S. Crouch. Mr. Colton, in 1842, sold the property to Junia Seymour, who came to Camden from Monticello with his wife Mary (called Polly) Smith, who was born in 1806, and died in 1857. Junia Seymour born in 1806, died in 1872. Their children were: Dwight Clinton, Burge Wiles, Mary, Emma Sophia, James Delos, Or-risa, Clark B. (twins), Andrew Jackson, Mary Estella, George Washington, Maria Louisa, Lovina D., Albert Junia. The Cam-

den House was burned in 1860, at that time kept by Fred Jones, who came to Camden from Boonville, N. Y.

From "Camden Gazette" of June 22, 1842, we copy Mr. Seymour's tavern advertisement:

"TO THE PUBLIC.

Friends and Fellow-Citizens:

The practice of inn-keeping, or keeping a public house for the entertainment of travelers, has been followed from time immemorial, and that such houses have been a place of resort for the most illustrious and august personages that ever appeared on this terrestrial ball, we have indubitable proof if we credit the sacred historian (so called). The God of Israel condescended to call his servant Moses at an inn, and the reputed babe of Bethlehem would have been born in an inn had it not been thronged with company on the night of his birth. An inn, according to the ancient etymology of the term, is a public house designed for the entertainment of travelers and strangers. A tavern is a place where wines and liquors are sold; but the laws of our land consider the terms synonymous, and we may reasonably conclude that the ancient inns were early converted into taverns, for we learn from the same high authority that Moses commanded the people to tithe the increase of their flocks and fields, and eat it before the Lord; and if the place of worship was too far to carry it, they were allowed to turn it into money, and to lay out the money for whatever their soul did lust after; for oxen, sheep, wine or strong drink, and to rejoice with their household; hence we may conclude that wine and strong drink were sold near the place of worship. That these inn or tavern-keepers were honest, upright men, we may infer from the trust committed to one of them by the gentleman journeying between Jericho and Jerusalem. The example of the Samaritan is worthy of our imitation, and the two pence left with the landlord at that early period no doubt was equivalent to a large treasury note of these days. It also admonishes us that a tavern-keeper ought to possess all the moral qualifications of a Christian bishop. We find Paul meeting his brethren at Appii Forum and the 'three taverns.' Again we find Paul boarding at a tavern in Corinthus, kept by Gains. This

landlord no doubt belonged to the church, as the church generally met at his house.

Having selected these few quotations from a number of others of the same high authority, I shall leave them for theological criticism, and the consideration of a large and respectable portion of the community, who manifest a zeal, but not according to knowledge. After serving the public a number of years in the arduous capacity of tavern-keeper, I retired from the field with those self-approving sensations which virtue's votary feels when he sums up the thoughts and actions of a well-spent day. But in the course of human events, I have been induced once more to embark again in this responsible business. This I shall do (with permission) calm as a voyager to some distant land, and full of hope as he. Having purchased the convenient and well-known tavern stand in Camden village formerly kept by Mr. J. Colton, and lastly by Mr. S. Crouch, I shall endeavor, by adding to my former limited experience, a few of the more prominent moral qualifications, to keep a tavern on the most approved principles; that is, by giving strong drink to those that are ready to perish, and wine to those who are heavy of heart. To name a public house in these days appears to be as necessary as to name a ship. As for the name, it is called the 'Camden House,' which I shall not attempt to alter; and from the peculiar construction of the house, together with its location, as it stands near the centre of one of the most beautiful and respectable villages in western New York, and nearly opposite the far-famed German Doctor Seewir's office, it is emphatically the Camden House. As for myself, I shall earnestly strive by unremitted application, to merit a share of that blessing which consequently results from watching at wisdom's gate, and waiting at the post of her door. Here then I shall be found at my post, firm as a Camden patriot, ready to receive all classes, from the sturdy mastiff that howls at the treasury door, to the most starveling turnspit that barks on the farthestmost verge of our frontier. Having respectable and long-tried competitors in this village, I shall not dream of halycon days, or suffer my vanity to soar into regions of golden humbugs, but shall be content to gain my bread by the sweat of my face. As I am not constituted a judge in Israel, should any come

neither eating or drinking, I shall not infer from thence that they have a devil; should others come eating and drinking, I shall not denounce them as gluttons, wine-bibbers and friends of publicans and sinners; and claiming those inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, I shall be ever ready to grant them to others, circumscribing my political and religious creeds within the following distich:

For forms of government let fools contest,  
What'er is best administered, is best;  
For modes of faith let graceless zealots fight,  
He can't be wrong whose life is in the right.

The usual style of thanking for past favors and soliciting future patronage has become so hackneyed by prostituted learning, that I shall dispense with it, being so well known, that I cannot gull the public with unmeaning epithets. I shall now close this epistle by subscribing myself the public's humble servant.

Camden, March 24, 1842.

J. Seymour."

#### ABBOTT HOUSE.

The Abbott House was built about 1853, by Isaac and Daniel Rhines, who were its first landlords, succeeded by Eben Abbott, Sen.; at his death, in 1857, succeeded by his son Eben, Jr. and later occupied by Samuel J. Andrus, H. H. Woodruff, William Moses, H. H. Woodruff again, Wm. Ryder, James Cunningham. Sold about 1876 to Wm. Erwin, and by him conducted some two years, and by his brother James, then by William again for about two years, or until 1880, when it was purchased by the present landlord, M. G. Ronan.

#### MALONE HOTEL.

Built by Amos Pond; was later owned by Frank Gray, and still later by William Moses, who sold it to the present owner, Patrick Malone.

#### WHITNEY HOUSE.

Was originally the private residence of John F. Mix, who sold to Moses Whitney. The latter enlarged it, and converted it into a hotel. In 1876 this property was conveyed to D. G. Crimmins, who has enlarged it, and made many improvements.

#### PATRICK DURR

Purchased the Dr. Wright residence, and converted it into a hotel. It is at present the "American," and its proprietor Mc-Daniels.



## WELCH HOTEL.

In 1860 Welch kept a hotel for a short time at the head of Main Street. This property was purchased by A. B. Hildreth.

## COMMERCIAL HOUSE.

Joe Lewis, from Florence, purchased a small dwelling-house west side of Main Street, fitted it over into a small hotel; later it became the property of John Olden. While in his possession this building was destroyed by fire. Mr. Olden then erected another building for a hotel on this spot, which was purchased of his widow by C. L. Roberts, who is its present proprietor. Mr. Roberts has made many modern improvements in this building, and converted it into a convenient hotel.

## SPENCER'S EXCHANGE

Was arranged for a hotel by A. B. Hildreth, and kept by his son Charles. It also had other occupants, viz: Fay, Kernan and John Owens.

## WILES HOTEL.

In 1860 John Wiles converted the J. D. Cavarly home into a hotel. In 1867 Moses Whitney purchased the business of Mr. Wiles. Amos Kenfield was proprietor at one time, and John Olden when it was burned. John Wiles came to Camden in 1858. His wife was Miss Mary Casler. Children, Isabel, Joanna, Walter, William and Mary.

## CHAPTER XVII.

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### FACTORY VILLAGE.

The hand of time has been heavily laid on the valley at the foot of Third Street, not to destroy, but to make changes, removing those who first began the different manufactories in that busy part of the town, to a better land. Fire has passed over it, but in most cases, it has only tended towards the erection of larger buildings, and the increase of business. At the beginning of this century, it was a quiet spot, disturbed only by the song birds, and the ripple of the waters flowing peacefully through the land. But the white man came, and gazing upon it, immediately saw the possibilities of the future.

Squire Timothy Wood purchased all of the land on Main Street, north of the bridge, to what is now Miner Avenue, across to the foot of the hill at the south end of Third Street, as well as a large share of the water power, about 1800. He built the first saw-mill in the valley, which was later owned and operated by John Richmond. A primitive affair it was, but it was equal to the work required of it.

The next account we can find of this property is in 1863, when we find recorded "Alvah Raymond bought the land and water privilege of Roswell Ballard and his wife Jane." He immediately removed the old structure, and built a more modern mill, with increased facilities for business. Fire destroyed it, but it was rebuilt, and the business conducted by Mr. Raymond and sons. During the year of 1864 Mr. Raymond bought the old Ballard homestead, at the top of the hill, at the lower end of Main Street, where he continued to reside until his death, and where his son James lives at the present time. April 2, 1891, the property came into the possession of A. G. Robson. It is now owned and operated by Herbert Giles.

Alvah Raymond was one of our most respected citizens. He was born in West Monroe, Oswego County, February 18, 1815, he was a millwright by trade, his work extending over a wide territory in Central New York. He was married in 1837, and

came to Camden in 1860 with his wife and four children. After the mill property passed out of his hands he devoted his time to moving buildings, and was considered an expert in the business. He possessed an iron constitution, and met with many accidents that nearly cost him his life, and which made him a cripple. But he was ambitious to the last. His children were Aaron A. and James S. Raymond of this village, and Mrs. A. D. Shaw of Waterville, and Sarah, deceased. His death occurred February 16, 1897, surviving his wife but a little more than a year.

### THE WOOLEN FACTORY.

The first woolen factory was established in the valley, but the exact date can not be ascertained. As early as 1842 it was in the possession of James Wright. In a publication of that year we find this advertisement: "Wanted, 15,000 pounds of wool, at the Factory Village." He moved the original building back, and built a new one, and with improved machinery "was prepared to please all customers."

Samuel Olmstead and John Sears at one time put in machinery in the old building, and started a last factory, but after two or three years discontinued it. Later it was fitted for a dwelling house, and occupied by several families at different times, but finally used only for a store house. The new factory was purchased by Roswell Ballard about 1850, and the business conducted successfully by his sons Roswell and Charles. It was a very common occurrence for wagons to arrive at the factory, coming from the surrounding country, bringing large bundles of wool to be carded into long white rolls, which the busy housewife would later spin into stocking yarn for the winter's supply, or left at the factory to be woven into cloth.

During the year 1860, Roswell Ballard met with a terrible accident. He was caught in a belt while attending a machine, and his arm torn completely off at the shoulder. This was followed the ensuing year by the destruction of the factory by fire, which was a total loss. It was rebuilt, but greatly to the sorrow of the community, in 1865 he sold the property, and moved to Waterville, Oneida County. Conradt F. Huyek purchased the factory, and continued the business of "roll carding, cloth dressing, and

custom manufacturing." His sons, Leonard and Garry, were associated with him in the business.

June, 1873, the building was again destroyed by fire, a total loss to its owners. It was again rebuilt. P. D. Penfield of Rome, formerly of Camden, was for a short time interested with Mr. Huyck in the business. Later, A. Voorhees and A. B. Powell were associated with Mr. Huyck. April, 1885, Wakefield, Gardner & Co. purchased the property, Mr. Huyck retaining a five years lease of the upper floor for roll carding.

In 1886 Q. Barber purchased an interest, and the firm was known as Wakefield, Gardner & Co. Later, N. S. Wakefield sold his interest to George Dana. Gardner finally withdrew, leaving the business to George Dana, who is sole proprietor at the present time. The business, after it passed out of Mr. Huyck's possession, was changed. Every detail of woodwork needed for building is manufactured here, with a large stock of lumber in the yards.

#### THE FOUNDRY.

The first foundry was built in the valley at the foot of Third Street, in 1832, by Horace McIntyre and James Barber. During the year 1837 or 1838 it was purchased by the firm of Wood & Phelps. The men were George Wood, father of A. G. and D. T. Wood, and Albro Phelps, father of Theron and Byron A. Phelps, all living in Camden. These parties continued in business together until 1853, when the death of Mr. Phelps occurred, and Mr. Wood continued the business alone until 1858, when his son A. G. Wood entered into partnership with him. Ten years later George Wood withdrew, leaving his two sons, A. G. and Henry D. Woods, to continue it.

In 1881 William G. Percival was admitted, and Wood Brothers and Percival commenced the manufacture of the famous turbine wheel, of which Mr. Percival was the inventor. The death of Henry D. Wood occurred October 18th, 1883, and three years later A. G. Wood and W. G. Percival bought out the interest of the estate of Henry D. Wood. In 1882 they bought the old Eagle Foundry at the foot of Main Street, just north of the bridge, and transacted business at both establishments. The Eagle Foundry was originally owned by Josiah Wood, who sold

the property to Tripp & Fifield, of whom it was purchased by Wood Brothers and Percival. The parent foundry in Factory Village was burned September, 1884, and the entire business was transferred to the Eagle Foundry, the ruins of the burned buildings left to mark the spot of what "had been."

### PLANING MILLS.

Another industry which was started in the valley was a planing mill, built by Hiram Hammond and Aaron Stone in 1838. In 1840 Charles Allen came from Scotland, settled in Camden, and purchased an interest in the planing mill, and the business was continued under the firm name of Hammond & Allen. In 1850 Mr. Allen's brother, William, bought out the share of Mr. Hammond, and the brothers carried on the business for many years. William Allen died, and Mr. Silas Frazer, who had come to Camden to reside, purchased an interest in it, and it went under the firm name of Frazer & Jones for three years, when Mr. Allen again resumed the business alone. At one time the building was burned, but it was immediately rebuilt, and the business carried on as before. This was the only original sash and blind factory in town for many years. Mr. Charles Allen, after a long life, remaining in business almost to his last days, died in May, 1894, aged 75. Mr. Charles Wheeler occupied the lowest story, where he had a turning lathe, and made broom handles, mop handles, clothes pins, and other articles usually made in such establishments.

In 1852 Daniel P. and Samuel Cox started a planing mill in the valley, between the Woolen Factory and Fish Creek. Two years later Andrew J. Stone was taken in as a partner, and for many years the business was continued under the name of Cox & Stone. In 1871 the firm name was Stone, Williams & Co., successors to Cox & Stone, the members of the firm being Andrew J. Stone, George Williams, James Grossart and Jacob Rush, Mr. Cox having withdrawn, and with his family gone to Clinton, Iowa. In 1879 Messrs. Stone and Grossart retired, leaving Williams and Rush to continue the business. In 1884 Mr. Williams withdrew, and the business was conducted by Mr. Rush alone. His sons, Howd and Horace, eventually succeeded him for a time, when Howd Rush sold his interest to L. Smith, who



finally withdrew, leaving Horace Rush to carry on the business alone, which he has done up to the present time. Like all of the other manufactories in the valley, it has been destroyed by fire, and rebuilt. The fire occurred in 1861, which also consumed the Woolen Factory.

#### F. W. CONANT'S SONS' CHAIR MANUFACTORY.

Mad River rises in Lewis County, and flowing through the town of Florence, enters Camden at its north-eastern boundary, and flows nearly south-west, until it unites with Fish Creek below the village. In summer it is a peaceful stream, flowing through the pleasant valley, in places, a mere thread of silver, but in the spring and fall, swollen by the melting snows of the northern country, and heavy rains, it rushes with lightning rapidity, sweeping away bridges and all obstacles, overflowing its banks, making of the meadow lands broad rivers, and in many places washing out new and permanent channels. Our fathers rightly named it Mad River. This stream was largely utilized for running sawmills in the early days of this century, and later, large manufactories have taken the places of the primitive mills. The valley at the head of Second and Third Streets has seen the rise of many industries, and has been a busy place during the present century. It was included in the early purchase of Samuel Royce, and consequently became the property of Bartholomew Pond, when the land in this part of the town came into his possession. He built a saw mill at a very early date, the first building in the valley. As early as 1822, Riley Preston had a cloth dressing and carding establishment on the east side of the road. When the business was discontinued, the building was moved to the west side of the road, a little farther north, and converted into a dwelling house. It has long since fallen to the ground beneath its weight of years.

In 1836 all of the land in the valley was sold to Richard Empey. He built a grist-mill on the west side of the road, on the south bank of the river, which he operated, together with the saw-mill. March 1, 1847, Shepherd Marvin purchased the property, but sold it October 12, 1852, to Edward N. Hills and Alexander Gifford, from whom Francis H. Conant purchased it March 1, 1854. He converted the building into a chair and furniture

factory, enlarged it, and started a business, which increased rapidly as the years went by. His oldest son, Walter N. Conant, was associated with him in the business for a time, but eventually went West. In the fall of 1876 all of the buildings on the west side of the street were destroyed by fire. At that time the business was conducted by F. H. Conant and son, Eugene H. Conant being the junior member of the firm. After the fire F. H. Conant withdrew from the business. Larger buildings were erected, with increased facilities for manufacturing goods, the firm being designated as F. H. Conant's Sons, E. H. and G. F. Conant being the sole proprietors. The reputation of this firm is almost world-wide in their line of business, which at the present time is the exclusive manufacture of chairs.

This extensive business has grown from a small establishment. Mr. F. H. Conant and Malchus Harrington purchased the oil mill of J. C. Sperry situated where the Grove Mills were erected later, some time during the year of 1852. They manufactured chairs only. The business was continued two years, when Mr. Harrington sold his interest to F. H. Conant, and in a short time it was transferred to the present site, where the business has since been continued.

On the north side of the stream, F. H. Conant built a tannery, which he operated for a time, but sold to Jacob More in 1864, who with increased facilities, carried on the business until sometime during the late summer or fall of 1865, it was destroyed by fire, and the land came into the possession of Mr. Conant, where now the lumber yard is situated.

January 28, 1866, Leonard Wood and Capt. Bochner purchased land of Mr. Empey on the east side of the road, where they built and operated a distillery until September 9, 1869, when it was sold to John Lambie. May 22, 1871, F. H. Conant purchased the property, and the building was converted into a paint shop, and the distillery business discontinued. The many industries in the valley have had their rise and fall, and the chair manufactory at the present day covers the site of nearly all other structures.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### PROFESSIONAL MEN.

#### DR. JOEL RATHBURN

Was the pioneer physician of Camden. He first came to this town about 1801. He married and settled on the Seventh in 1802, where there is farther notice of him. Those who were associated with him about that time were Dr Freeman of Williamstown, Dr. Beach of Ammsville, and Dr. Daniel Chatfield of Vienna, all members of the Philanthropic Lodge of F. & A. M.

#### DR. JOSHUA RANSOM.

Was the second practicing physician in town; he came about 1807 or 1808. He was always an energetic and hard working man, and was successful in his profession. He was a great hearted friend, whose busy life was a blessing not only to the village but the surrounding country. He built his office on the site now occupied by "Wood's Five Cent Store." He died with consumption about 1830. Notice of him elsewhere.

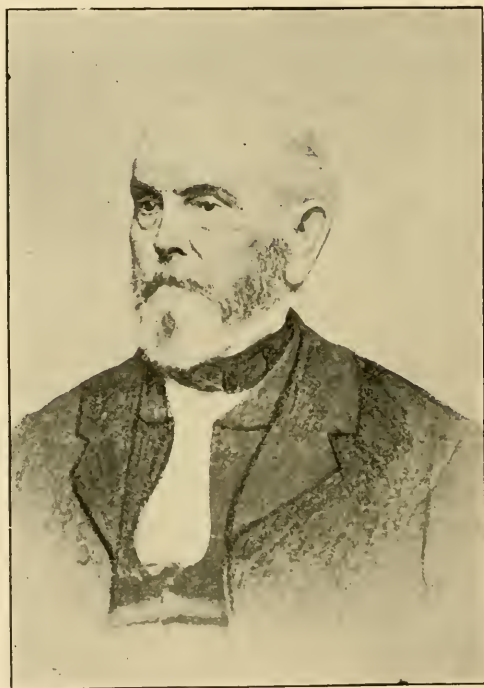
#### DR. WHITMAN RANSOM.

A brother of Dr. Joshua Ransom, and a son of Joshua Ransom the elder, studied medicine with his brother, and evinced no mean skill in his treatment of serious cases of illness. Was much employed by residents of Camden, and socially a favorite. Although not of Camden at the time of his death, it is meet that he should receive a brief sketch. It was with regret the citizens of Camden heard of his intention to make his home at McConnellsville, where he saw a field for larger practice than here. Alche Parker, a niece of Judge Israel Stoddard, whose family he had felt a sincere interest in, and had watched their course in life with a father's care, removed early from Camden to McConnellsville to make a home for her brother, Dr. Abiram Parker. In 1817 Dr. Whitman Ransom met Miss Alche when she was but fifteen years of age. The wily little Cupid led his heart toward her; and they were married February 20, 1817.

and began life in earnest. November 15 of the same year Dr. Ransom was stricken with typhoid fever and died, leaving a desolate wife, a mother and a widow within a year. He died in the 25th year of his age, cut down in the beginning of a useful career. A stone is standing in the Mexico Street Cemetery, inscribed "Dr. Whitman Ransom, died November 15, 1817, in his 25th year." The little daughter born to Dr. and Mrs. Ransom became the wife of David Mattoon of Albany, and mother of Mrs. C. A. Phelps of Camden, and Mrs. Fitzpatrick of Albany.

HORATIO GATES TORBERT, M. D.

Was born in New York City January 27, 1802; died in Camden October 4, 1869, in his 68th year. His father, Dr. Samuel Tor-



Horatio Gates Torbert, M. D.

bert, was a physician of long practice. In 1804 he bought a tract of land in Williamstown, and built the first grist mill, which was in operation until burned February 20, 1897. We find in a "Western Recorder," printed in Utica in 1825, this obituary: "Died—In Williamstown, on Friday, the 20th of May, Dr. Sam-

uel Torbert, aged 61 years. He has left a widow and six children, and many friends and acquaintances to lament their irreparable loss. He was blessed with a sound mind and a wonderfully strong constitution, having enjoyed uninterrupted health until a short period before his death. He was born and educated in the State of Pennsylvania. He removed to the City of New York, where he was distinguished as a physician; and from thence he removed to this town. Previous to his death he observed to his companions and friends that he felt entire reliance on the merits of Christ Jesus for his salvation, to whom he had made a profession some years since. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

Dr. Horatio Torbert turned his study to medicine; he read with Dr. Harrison, Health Officer of the port of New York, and was graduated from the Medical University of that city in 1822. A visit to his father in Williamstown in 1824 became the occasion of his settling in Camden. In 1828 he married Clarissa, daughter of Dr. Joshua Ransom. She died in 1839, leaving three children. In 1841 he married Louisa, his first wife's sister; she survived him 26 years, dying August 25, 1895, aged 76. She was the mother of three children, Willard H. Torbert of Dubuque, Iowa, the only one living. Clarence D. Torbert died in 1866, aged 18. Theodore Torbert died in Dubuque, Iowa, September, 1876, aged 24. George Torbert died April 3, 1895, aged 65. Maria Torbert Bickford died March 22, 1893, aged 60. Dr. Torbert was a faithful husband and father, and a beloved physician. He was an efficient deacon in the Union Congregational Church for many years. After the organization of the Presbyterian Church he was a leading member and a prominent ruling elder.

#### DR. DAVID ELY

Came to Camden prior to 1826; he was in the office with Dr. Joshua Ransom for about two years. After Mr. Ransom's death he built an office in his yard, where he had built a capacious home on the south side of Main Street, now owned and occupied by Mrs. Frazee. He married Angeline Upson, sister to our fellow-townsmen Ballard Upson. He was a member of the First Congregational Church, his name being entered on the records in



1830, with his friend Capt. Baird. He was a man of strict integrity, and was one of the chief executive officers of the church. He was a practicing physician here for 25 years, then moved to Rochester in 1853, where he died, much respected, June 7, 1875, aged 76.

DR. JOSIAH S. WRIGHT

Read medicine with Dr. Thomas Spencer of Fenner, N. Y. He was a botanical physician and surgeon of the Thomsonian school. He came to Camden sometime in 1830, and married Marion, daughter of Curtiss Johnson, in 1838. She was born in 1816, and died in 1840. Dr. Wright married Miss Maria Bucl for his second wife; after her death he married Lerdiska Wheelock for his third wife, who survives him. Dr. J. S. Wright died March, 1887, aged 76. He was a practicing physician for many years. One son was born to him by his first wife, Curtiss J. Wright, formerly of Camden, now of Utica.

DR. JOHN A. SEEWIR.

Known as the Swiss doctor, came to this country in 1836, and became a resident of Camden in 1837. We find in an old account



Dr. John A. Seewir.

book: "Rented the Mad River house to the Swiss doctor, March 1, 1837." The said house was the one painted yellow, that was in

the valley near Conant's chair factory. Soon after he bought a house on Main Street, with his office in the yard, which goes by the name of Dr. Seewir's office to the present day by some of the old inhabitants. He first secured the confidence of the people, and many years his practice was large and remunerative, which must have caused a little jealousy, as he frequently had a notice in the paper that some evil disposed person was acting as agent without his consent. His oldest son, John, studied with his father. He was a resident of Lawrence, Kansas, where he died. The children were: Elizabeth Seewir, who died February 12, 1853, aged 23. Julius died in Syracuse, May 21, 1861, aged 25 years. Two children died in infancy. The only one living is Mrs. Maria Cummings of Syracuse. Dr. J. A. Seewir was born in 1798, and died Saturday, January 7, 1854. He was buried from Trinity Church, the 10th; sermon preached by Rev. J. T. Harrison. Mrs. Seewir survived her husband thirty-two years. She was also a native of Switzerland, and a lovely type of mother and friend. The writer remembers the lovely flower garden that was between the house and the office, and this dear old lady diligently working among her roses, in which she took so much pride. Now this same plot is used for beans or potatoes, which was once a delight to the passers by. Mrs. Seewir died at her daughter Maria's in Syracuse; was brought to Camden for burial, and laid beside her loved ones, which had gone before. She died August 8, 1886, aged 84.

#### DR. F. BROWN.

A physician from Asia, established an Infirmary on the third floor in the old Exchange Building, in the fall of 1842. His stay was short, for the lack of confidence in his Asiatic treatment.

#### DR. ROBERT JAMIESON

Was born in Paisly, Scotland, April 10, 1810. He turned his attention to medicine, and graduated at Glasgow University, June, 1833, where he received a prize for excelling in his class. He practiced in Paisly eight years. Through the influence of some of his friends in his early boyhood days, who had come to the new world, he sailed from Glasgow on the 7th of June, 1842, on the ship "Wandsworth," landing in New York July 20. Went

directly to Amboy, N. Y., among old acquaintances, where he was very successful in several cases of severe sickness, which paved his way for a successful practice in this village. He settled in Camden, and then sent for his family in Scotland.



Dr. Robert Jamieson.

Dr. Robert Jamieson was married to Janet Wilson of Paisly, June 26, 1836, in the West Relief Kirk, by John Thomson minister. May 29, 1843, Mrs. Jamieson with her children and mother sailed from Glasgow on the ship "Caledonia," arriving in Camden August 25. Their children were Samuel, Matthew, Jane, William, Elizabeth, Janet, Ella, Marion and Agnes—only four living at the present time. Mrs. Jamieson's father, Mr. Wilson, was a manufacturer of shawls at Paisly, and died there, his widow came to this country with her daughter, with whom she spent the rest of her days. Dr. Jamieson practiced in Camden 14 years with great success, winning many grateful friends by his skill in relief from all diseases. In the winter of 1857, on going to visit a sick person in Florence in a severe snow storm, he contracted a cold, settling on his lungs, from which he never recovered. He died in New York, August 24th, 1857, and is buried in the Jamieson family plot, Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, N. Y.

The four surviving daughters are Jane, Ella, Elizabeth and Minnie, all of Brooklyn, N. Y.

JOSEPH GARDNER, JR., M. D.

Bought out Dr. Ely, and was a physician and surgeon here for a number of years; he married Miss Potts of Williamstown in 1847. To this place he removed, and made his permanent home.

Dr. J. Gardner, Sr., and wife lived here for a few years. They emigrated from England to this country in 1831, with 11 children. They both died in Osceola.

HURLBERT WOODRUFF, M. D.

Was born in Watertown, Conn., April 1, 1825. He graduated at Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., in 1847, and the same year was married to Calista Abbott, in Trinity Church, New Haven, Conn. He removed to North Salem, Westchester Co., N. Y., and there commenced the practice of medicine. In 1851 he removed to Camden, N. Y., and in company with Walter Merrick opened the first drug store in this village. He continued the practice of medicine at Camden until his death, which occurred November 2, 1881. Mrs. Woodruff was born in Middlebury, Conn., and died in Camden November 27, 1895. Their children are, Mrs. E. A. Wagner of Troy; Arthur, Homer and Eben of Camden.

DR. JOSHUA TRACY

Graduated from Geneva Medical College February, 1845. He has never been a practicing physician here.

DR. BICKFORD

Was born at Peterboro, Hillsboro Co., New Hampshire. He graduated at the New York Medical College, and commenced practice as a physician and surgeon in Camden, May, 1851, where he was successfully employed until failing health obliged him to retire. In his professional employment he held several offices of trust. He represented Camden in the Board of Supervisors in 1859. In 1861 he was appointed postmaster; this office he held until his death. He left a wife and two children; his wife survived him 24 years. His son Horatio died August, 1884. Dr. A. Bickford died September 4, 1869, aged 43 years. The only one remaining of this family is Mary, wife of Charles Wetmore. When

the Doctor moved to Camden, his father, mother, and brother Sidney came with him, and an adopted sister, now Mrs. Orson Woods.

#### DR. ROBERT FRAZIER

Was born in the town of Bethlehem, Albany Co., N. Y., February 7, 1817, and died in Camden May 10, 1891, after one week's ill-



Dr. Robert Frazier.

ness from broncho-pneumonia. His father, Robert Frazier, married Mary Moore, of Scotch descent, at Bethlehem. Dr. Frazier was graduated from the Vermont Medical Academy in 1838, and immediately after commenced practice at McConnellsville, Oneida Co., N. Y. Here he met Miss Theresa McConnell, whom he married in 1844. In 1857 he removed to Camden, where there was a wider field of practice. Seven children were born to them, one son and six daughters. The death of their only son and two very bright daughters was a heavy bereavment to them. Dr. Frazier became a very influential man; for twenty years he was president of the Board of Education, and also the president of the first Board of Water Commissioners. He was of an intelligent mind, an enthusiastic member of the Burns Association. He had a vigorous intellect, and uncommon memory. As a man,



he was upright, sincere and honest, and was held with high esteem. His death was sudden, and the community was unprepared for the shock. The death of this truly valuable physician was an event most deeply afflictive and painful. His widow and three daughters are residents of Camden, and one daughter resides in Rome, N. Y.

#### DR. McLAUGHLIN.

Pursued his studies, and graduated in Philadelphia in 1867, and was a practicing physician here until his early death, October 1887, aged 46. He left a widow and three children.

Since 1869 there have been several other physicians that have located in Camden, Dr. Turk, Dr. Seudder, now of Rome, and two German doctors, and Dr. Jackson, now of Fairbault, Minn., and Dr. Stockwell.

Dr. G. A. Stockwell since his residence here has been a great traveler, and was a writer for a magazine, and now is the editor of a medical journal.

#### DR. BRADY

Was graduated from Queen's College, Kingston, Canada, April, 1891, came to Camden June following. He now resides in Rochester.

The physicians of the present time are: Dr. Leonard, who came here in 1869. He was graduated from Miami College, Cincinnati, Ohio, March 14, 1856, and has been a very successful physician and surgeon.

#### DR. DUBOIS

Graduated from the University of Buffalo in 1866, commenced practice here in 1869, and has his share of patronage.

#### DR. A. SMITH

Graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, and located in Camden, in 1880, where he practices his profession.

#### DR. TOWSLEY

Graduated in New York College, became a resident of Camden in 1887.

#### DR. BACON

Graduated from Albany Medical College, settled in Camden May, 1887.

## DR. BORLAND.

Graduated from the University of the City of New York, came to Camden July, 1895.

## DENTISTRY.

The first record is from an advertisement in the first volume of a Camden paper, 1842: "Dr. Herrington of Syracuse will remain in Camden one week at Colton's Hotel for dental work.

June 22, 1842"

Doctor Wakefield, a dental surgeon, was here a few days.

1843. Dr. A. C. Woodard came for a few days.

As early as 1852, Dr. A. T. Van Valkenburgh was a permanent dentist here: his office was over Warren Mix's store on Main Street. In the same paper it refers to his being Deputy Sheriff of that year. Dr. Van Valkenburg was a resident here for many years. A few years ago he moved to Canastota, where he now resides. His son, the only child living, has followed his father's profession.

Dr. Otis Doten has been a practicing dentist for 25 years.

1881. Dr. H. F. Winchester had an office in Barnes Block. Several others have been here for a short time—Drs. Willard, Heminway and Hungerford.

Dr. Mandeville came here in 1887, and remained nearly four years, then returned to Adams, where he now resides.

Dr. Frank Miller, son of P. B. Miller, graduated from Philadelphia Dental College in 1891; commenced practice here the same spring; removed to Whitestown in 1895.

Dr. Van Allen graduated at Philadelphia College in 1891, came to Camden from Canada June 5th of the same year.

Dr. Budlong also graduated at Philadelphia in 1878; bought out Dr. Miller in the fall of 1895, and removed here from Sandy Creek.

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LAWYERS.

The first in town as a permanent resident was Judge I. Stoddard. He was what they termed a pettifogger, trying small cases. He was equal to the settlement of all strife and contention that seldom appealed to courts for arbitration.

James Southworth was the first lawyer who came here prior to 1824. After a number of years he removed to Illinois.

D. M. K. Johnson was born in Cazenovia in 1815. He came to Camden soon after he was admitted to the bar, in 1837. He removed to Rome in 1844. Was a prominent lawyer in this section.

James Abrams was here as early as 1841 or '42.

Jairus H. Munger was born in Fenner, Madison Co., N. Y., October 7, 1812, died in Camden October 28, 1878. He commenced to read law in 1837 with Benj. P. Johnson of Rome. He was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of this State in 1841. Not long after he came to Camden, and opened a law office with Elliot Stewart, and the firm went by the name of Munger & Stewart. Later we find that he had an office alone in the Camden Exchange Building over Truman Spencer's hat store, in August, 1843. In 1843 he married Irene Gillette of Fenner. Mrs. Munger lives with her daughter Mary. She married Prof. Massey, now of Dunkirk, N. Y. Their two sons, Henry and Charles Munger, are residents of Herkimer, N. Y.

Stephen Cromwell was admitted to the bar in New York State in 1844, located in Camden, and entered the office of D. M. K. Johnson. He succeeded, and conducted an extensive business until 1887, when he retired. In 1845 he married Jeanette, daughter of Elihu Gifford of West Camden. Three sons were born to them: James, William and Charles. James is the only one living, and resides in Glen Ellen, California. Mrs. Cromwell died in 1884. Mr. Cromwell married the second time Mrs. Susan Owen of Utica. Mr. Cromwell died in 1895. His second wife survives him. Among those who read law with Mr. Cromwell were Ivers Monroe, L. J. Conlan, now one of the Judges of New York City, Hon. Wm. H. Steele of Oswego, and Geo. F. Morse of this village.

Ivers Munroe became a resident of this town in 1846. He entered as a student the law office of Stephen Cromwell. Was admitted to the bar in 1848, and entered into partnership with his able instructor. The firm went by the name of Cromwell & Munroe for 20 years. Mr. Munroe moved to Clinton, Iowa, and remained there several years. On account of impaired health,

he returned to this State, and settled in Oneida, where he still resides.

Nelson Stevens was born in 1827 in Connecticut, and died in Seneca Falls in 1892. He was a resident of Camden for many years. He learned the printer's trade, and did considerable editorial work for our early papers. He occasionally contributed articles under the nom de plume "Boz." He studied law with J. H. Munger, was admitted to the bar at Oswego in 1849. In 1852 the name of the firm was Munger & Stevens. He practiced his profession in this county for nearly 20 years. He moved to Lockport in 1867, and from there to Seneca Falls in 1884. He married Hannah, daughter of Erastus Upson. She died in 1893, leaving four children: L. B. Stevens of Buffalo, N. Y.; F. N. Stevens, Tina and Mamie of Seneca Falls.

Kiron Carroll was born in Springfield, Otsego County, January 26, 1820. He graduated at Union College with honor, and studied law with Judge Carey of Cherry Valley. In 1850 he became a resident of Camden, and practiced law for seven years. He married a daughter of Ami Hinckley while here. Subsequently he moved to Rome. He died suddenly while on his way to take the early morning train from Rome to Camden to attend the funeral of his brother, George K., to whom he was very much attached. His wife and two sons survive him, and are residents of Michigan. Kiron Carroll died January 5, 1878, aged 57 years.

Geo. K. Carroll was born in Springfield, N. Y., April, 1832; he became a resident of Camden in 1853, and entered the law office of his brother, K. Carroll, as a student. He was admitted to the bar in 1855, and practiced law here over 20 years. Was a member of the Assembly in 1872. He married Caroline Linkfield in 1855. Mr. Carroll died very suddenly January 2, 1878, aged 46, leaving a wife and four daughters, Ada, Theresa, Genevieve and Grace. Ada married F. L. Wager of Rome. Theresa married A. C. Woodruff, one of Camden's leading lawyers, they have two children, Carroll and Lawrence. Genevieve married Prof. C. V. Parsell of Ithaca. Grace married A. H. Middaugh of Rochester.

There were other lawyers practicing here for a short time.

M. M. Baldwin, Henry Garber, Wm. B. Williams, Charles B. Howell, Marvin Milliken, V. V. Becker, W. W. Harmon and Egbert Moore. The present lawyers are A. C. Woodruff, who was admitted to the bar in Buffalo in 1873.

Hon. J. C. Davies was admitted to the bar in 1878, and located in Camden the following year, opened an office with Frank Budlong. The firm name was Budlong & Davies, now it is Davies, Johnson & Coville. Mr. Davies was elected to the Assembly in 1887. He is now Deputy Attorney General. He married Elma, daughter of J. G. Dorrance, September 9, 1890. They have three children, Marjora, Gladys and Dorrance.

Hon. Russell Johnson was admitted to the bar in 1886, elected to the Assembly in 1890 and 1891.

Geo. T. Morse read law with Stephen Cromwell, and was admitted to the bar in 1880. He married Jennie, the eldest daughter of the late John and Elizabeth Hume, October 14, 1885. Mrs. Jennie Morse died May, 1895, leaving two little children, Hume and Alice.

P. H. Fitzgerald was admitted to the bar at Binghamton, September, 1888, and married Miss Anna Shanly in 1894.

George J. Skinner was admitted to the bar December, 1894. He married Miss Shorey in 1895. He holds the office of Town Clerk, 1897.

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### WATSON SPENCER.

Mr. Watson Spencer was another old resident of Camden. He was born in Vermont in 1796. Was the son of Mr. Israel Spencer, a physician. At the age of five years, Watson Spencer came to Williamstown, Oswego County, N. Y., with his father. When ten years of age he came to Camden to reside, making his home with a family named Warner. Four years later he took up the blacksmith's trade. In early manhood he married Caroline, daughter of Bartholomew Pond, and worked at his trade with industry and success. He lived in the house on the east side of Main Street, which was many years later purchased by E. A. Harvey, and materially changed into a larger and much finer residence. His blacksmith shop stood near by, and was eventually converted into a dwelling, now



known as the Nelson House. He continued in the business until 1862, when he retired from active life, with a well-earned competency. His wife died during the year of 1838. The year following he married Miss Eliza Wilson of Camden. Her death occurred in 1865. He married again in November, 1866, Mrs. Mary Spencer of North East, Pa., who was left a widow the second time, Mr. Spencer's death occurring in 1869, aged 73 years. He left no children or descendants.

#### ALEXANDER WAUGH

Was one of the pioneers of Camden, emigrating here about 1800 from Connecticut, and located in the northern part of the town, near what is known as the Bates District. His wife's maiden name was Elizabeth Throop. Their children were all born in Litchfield, Conn., Dan, Norman, Freeman, Irene, Rhody, and Elizabeth. Alexander Waugh and wife are buried in Hamilton, N. Y. Daniel, his oldest child, married Irene Smedley in 1794, and were among our early settlers. About 1811 he moved to Lewiston, N. Y., where he died January 30, 1812. His wife died in 12 days after, leaving eight children. They were brought back to Camden by their uncle Norman, and found homes among their relatives. Norman was the second son of Alexander. He died at Scriba, New York, in 1821. Freeman was the third son of Alexander. He moved to Wisconsin. Gideon, second son of Daniel, married Minerva Miner at Scriba. They had 6 children. This family roved about, and in the year 1833 they went in a sailing vessel from Oswego to Ohio, and settled in the northwestern part of the State. He was the third settler in the town of Henrietta. A town was set off from Henrietta, Gideon Waugh suggested the name of Camden in honor of his early home in Camden, Oneida County, N. Y. His son James, born August 24, 1833, was the pioneer baby of Camden, Ohio.

## CHAPTER XIX.

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### BANDS.

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#### CAMDEN SAXHORN BAND.

In the year 1855 men of musical talent were anxious for a band. Much discussion arose as to the best plan for promoting its organization. It was believed by those interested, that money enough could be raised among the citizens of the town, to equip it in a desirable manner. One evening, in the store of J. D. Cavarly, several of the representative business men were congregated, and the subject was renewed. One man said he would subscribe liberally to the support of the object. He was not a rich man, but generous. Another blessed with prosperity and plenty, but careful in spending his money, considered that it would be perfectly safe to promise as much again as the first one would give. Good, shrewd business men thought it wise to secure proof of this promise, so repaired with him to a near-by law office, and had his agreement put into legal form. In a quiet way estimates of the amount necessary to properly provide them with instruments, music, &c., were made, and it was thought one hundred and fifty dollars would be sufficient. Fifty dollars of the amount required was placed in the generous man's hands, and then one hundred claimed from the other (more careful one). It was rather hard to give it up, but there was his written promise, and do it he must, and did. Immediately Mr. Clark Sperry was chosen to go to New York to purchase necessary instruments. It was enough to secure all but the "big bass drum," which Mr. George Wood generously gave them as a private contribution. It was organized under the name of the "Camden Saxhorn Band." They secured the services of Prof. (perhaps Joseph) Arnott of Utica, who was a composer, and instructor of the Old Utica Band. For a time they met for practice at the store of

Jacob Wiggins, where Dorrance & Smith were in later years, at the south corner of Main and Mexico Streets, owned by Artemas Trowbridge. Nelson B. Stevens was their leader. We are pleased that through the courtesy of Messrs. John A. Bettis and Joshau H. Tracy we can state these facts. We give members' names and their instruments, as below:

First soprano, N. B. Stevens; second soprano, J. H. Tracy; third soprano, Wm. Bird; first alto, Augustus Stone; second alto, Jacob Wiggins; tenor, Wm. Wells; baritone, A. T. Van Valkenburg; bass, J. A. Bettis; double bass, Robert Robertson; cymbals, Roswell Ballard.

They were told by George W. Wood that when they could play their first tune, without notes, they should be given a supper at the hotel. This they soon accomplished, the number being an arrangement of the "Marseillaise Hymn." They were accordingly dined at the hostelry of A. B. Hildreth. This was the first "Saxhorn" band hereabouts, and created much interest among the residents. Mr. Wm. Bird's death was the first in the ranks, and the organization attended the funeral in uniform, the horn used by the deceased being placed upon his casket. Fitting selections were played in the march to and from the cemetery, and pausing before his place of business in their return, an appropriate farewell selection was rendered. In an old record of the Congregational Sunday School of 1856 it is resolved to "invite the Camden Saxhorn Band to join in a celebration the Fourth of July, and favor us with music."

A few years later changes were made, Mr. Wiggins and J. A. Bettis removing to other localities; and Jacob Rush and Charles H. Ray filled their places. We copy from an issue of the "Camden Journal" of 1862, the following, which does not agree as to the age of the "Saxhorn Band" with the statement we make:

"The Camden Saxhorn Band gave their 16th Annual Band promenade concert, January, 1862. We understand the Saxhorn Band have under consideration one or more propositions to join the army of the Potomac."

We are right, however, in the date of its organization—1855. The above mentioned promenade concert was a financial success, and netted them fifty dollars, which was used for the purchase of a superior bass instrument, played by C. H. Ray.

June 6, 1861. Copied from a "Journal" of that date. "The Band! The band fairly outdid itself on Wednesday evening last, on the occasion of the departure of the volunteers. The execution of 'Ever of Thee,' elicited especial praise. The arrangement of the piece being remarkably beautiful and artistic, was fully sustained in its rendering by the players. Several other pieces were hardly inferior in beauty and harmony. After the departure of the train the band proceeded to the Park, where were played several fine selections, those mentioned among the number, to the immense gratification of a large concourse of listeners. We will be pardoned for calling attention to the performer on the small drum, young in years, but advanced in perception. Scarcely old or tall enough to sustain his instrument, Master George Ballard played it in a manner that made practical drummers envious. He is evidently the gem of the organization. Their deserved reputation is rapidly extending. Their ability is certainly exceeded by no band in Central New York, if we except the Utica Brass Band, and we are pleased to notice a growing appreciation abroad."

#### CAMDEN BRASS BAND.

The Camden Brass Band was a continuation of the Camden Saxhorn Band, taking its new name in 1861. The accompanying illustration was taken by B. T. Hinckley, January 1, 1868. Its members were as follows:

Charles R. Bessee, Charles N. Hildreth, Willard W. Williams, Theron Phelps, George J. Williams, Chauncey Phelps, Robert Robertson, Wm. C. Wells, Augustus G. Wood, A. T. Van Valkenburg, Briggs T. Hinckley, Jack Garrity, Jacob Rush, Wallace W. Mix and William Cook.

In 1870 they procured new uniforms, at an expense of fifty dollars for each suit. To say that they made a fine appearance is needless. Each one of the members was an accomplished performer on his particular instrument, and rendered delightful music. This was considered the most excellent band in Central and Northern New York, having frequent calls to Watertown, Pulaski, Oswego, Syracuse, and Rome, which latter place called them for several years to play at the County Fair—a three days' engagement each time, Central and Northern New



CAMDEN BRASS BAND,



York, as well as Camden, were justly proud of the Camden Band, and no excursion or large celebration was considered complete unless it was in line. Excursions to the Thousand Islands, as well as Oneida Lake, and Frenchman's Island, were favorite trips, and each summer the band gave their friends opportunity to join them in visits to these well-known resorts. Most appropriate for the occasion, when on an excursion to Lake Oneida, was a selection played with rare good taste—"Moonlight on the Lake." This arrangement was a favorite number with the Camden Brass Band, and each member seemed to give expression and feeling to his music, making the whole charming to listen to. After a few years several members moved from town, and in 1881 the organization disbanded, to the regret of all, and Camden was without a band for many years.

In the summer of 1883 the Camden Cornet Band was organized with the following membership and instrumentation: Geo. H. Abbott, solo alto and director; W. J. Hull and Carl Boehler, cornets; Edgar Durst and Fred A. Voorhees, altos; A. M. Leonard and Henry Bouck, tenors; Geo. L. Traffarn, baritone; Joseph A. Hull and Riley M. Rush, basses; C. S. Parke, small drum; Albert E. Gunther, bass drum. To this membership was added within a year or two, Winfred E. and Martin L. Jones, cornets, and Geo. H. Rush, tenor, the latter taking the place of A. M. Leonard, who thereafter played piccolo.

After a successful existence of five or six years, the organization died a natural death, the moving from town of several of the members contributing to its collapse.

In 1886 the late Charles H. Ray organized and directed for a few weeks what was later christened the Camden Brass Band, with the following membership and instrumentation: Charles H. Ray, E flat cornet and Director; Lewis E. Smith, B flat cornet; Howd B. Rush, John K. Littler and Chas. A. Thompson, altos; Frank Moyer and A. H. Percival, tenors; Richard Collins, baritone; Benjamin Jackson, William Hynes and Horace J. Rush, basses; Clark J. Meeker, small drum; Charles W. Graves, bass drum; John H. Cook, solo B flat cornet; and T. A. Farnsworth, B flat clarinet, joined the band a little later, and the following winter George L. Traffarn was engaged as solo cornet player

and director. This organization had a life of three or four years, when it followed in the wake of its predecessors, leaving yet another set of instruments, uniforms and accoutrements as monuments to its memory.

In the early '90's a band was organized, the membership being confined exclusively to members of the local lodge of the Order of United American Mechanics. This band, however, was short-lived, and never attained to any considerable proficiency, mainly through lack of interest on the part of the members.

In 189— the Camden Military Band was organized by W. J. Winchell, who directed it for a time, being succeeded by Fred Anson. In July, 1895, the band secured the services of George L. Traffarn as director, and has retained him in that capacity up to the present time (1897). The membership and instrumentation is now as follows: George L. Traffarn, solo B flat cornet and director; Sperry B. Snow, solo B flat cornet; Charles Gibbs and William Sanford, E flat clarinets; A. Raymond, B flat clarinet; S. B. Hinckley, John Daly and Leonard Van Winkle, cornets; Charles Edic, Earl Randall, William Rush and Clinton Phelps, altos; George H. Williams and Robert H. Robertson, trombones; William Tabor, baritone; Joseph H. Orr and Robert F. Robson, basses; Edward St. Mary and Clarence Doten, drums. The following are additional officers, elected annually: Secretary, J. H. Orr; Treasurer, Charles Edic; Executive Committee, Charles Edic, Charles Gibbs, R. F. Robson.

This is an organization of the young men of the town, who play exceedingly well. The weekly concerts in the village park, given on Monday evenings, from the band stand (erected by the enterprising ladies of Camden in 1895), are occasions of rare enjoyment, attracting large, enthusiastic crowds of listeners, who are proud of the musical talent Camden possesses. Children gather in large numbers, and with them it is a gala day—a time when they can give play to their youthful spirit, dancing about to their hearts' content, the music giving time and animation to their steps. We trust this organization may enjoy a long life.

## CHAPTER XX.

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### NEWSPAPERS.

The first newspaper published in Camden, so far as we have learned, was called the "Camden Gazette," and its editor, E. C. Hatton. The paper was a weekly publication, the first issue May, 1842, and the office in the building called "Spencer's Camden Exchange." It was quite a live paper for the times. There was not much of personal mention, in the numbers we have seen. We have copied such articles as seemed of interest. The first column was devoted to advertising the sheet, and the second contained matter as follows:

"The Muse's Bower."

"It is the gift of poetry to hallow every place in which it moves; to breathe around nature an odor more exquisite than the perfume of the rose; and to shed over it a tint more magical than the blush of the morning."

Then follows an article which we believe to be of local history, in the form of a story of some romantic interest; but lacking the papers containing the beginning and the end, we can not give it, as we would like to do. Then follows a column of matter on husbandry. In the ladies' department is an able, original article on music. A quotation from Shakespeare introduces the subject, which is treated in a manner showing the writer to have been of no ordinary intellect. It gratifies us to know and give the name of the author—Nelson B. Stevens, "Boz" his nom de plume. The second page is of foreign and American news; one column, however, devoted to local matters, which could not have interested Mr. Hatton's local reporter deeply, or else there was nothing to mention. We give the only one we find.

"Found—Last Monday night a poor drunken loafer picked up in the street—no 'sense' in his head, no 'cents' in his pocket, powerful 'scent' to his breath, 'sent' to the penitentiary."

Camden in those far-away days had a spirit of enterprise and pride, as will be seen from the column we quote:

"Our Success—Business—Camden—Its Neatness—Spring—Rides—Ladies, etc., etc."

"Scarcely had the sun of our hopes—bright though it may be—dared to anticipate such splendid schemes of success, as have in reality crowned the issue of the first number of our 'Gazette.' Although we printed a large edition, we found it necessary to refuse to sell single copies within a few hours after the edition was worked off, and we have now in the office barely a hundred copies, which will not more than suffice the demand of new subscribers the present week. This exceeds our most visionary expectations, and we are compelled to believe that the folks in our goodly village of Camden are as public spirited as those in any part of the world; and as we have in us the elements of success, there is no doubt but that our present enterprise will be a triumphant one. Business channels are getting a little more clear, and money a little easier. Our merchants have been doing a brisk business since the arrival of their spring supplies, which has called to the village many of the surrounding farmers, whose visits are sensibly felt in the pockets of many of our business men, and instead of the elongated visage and care-dimmed eye with which we have been wont to meet for months past, we are greeted at every turn by faces illuminated by the light of smiles, beaming with the cheering rays of hope, and bearing the impress of anticipated prosperity. Spring is fairly upon us—her pleasures, her anxieties, her flowers, her tears, have all in their turn held rule over our senses, and we are now in the blooming lap of May. Grass is as large as it was twenty days later last year, and fruit trees are in their gayest drapery. Farmers are getting on finely with their spring work, and silver-tongued hope promises the husbandman another abundant harvest. The wheat crop looks particularly favorable, and grass, if the weather continues its assistance, must come in very heavy. Our village, perhaps never looked better than it does at present. Everything in the shape of rubbish has vanished before the pride of its citizens, vacant lots have been converted into beautiful gardens; by-places into grass-plots, the old fashioned post and rail have given way to the tasty, open work, ornamental fence, and all objects in art whereon old time has left the prints of his finger, have been rendered new by the painter's art. The shade trees

which line her walks are putting forth their broad leaves of green and crimson; and a thousand grateful odors are showered from the blossom-covered occupants of her garden lawns. The ear of improvement has received a new impulse, and no part of the village susceptible of being bettered by its touch has been suffered to go unnoticed.

With spring comes a thousand pleasures and recreations, beautiful only in their season. A ride on horseback is not among the least of these; we mean with half a dozen young ladies—to rise with the sun, and outstrip the gale in speed on a gay courser through some neighboring field, o'er the moist and dustless earth, ere the sun has dried the pearly locks of morning in his beams. Then we meet nature unmarred by the hand of man—and in the glittering dew-drop, the song of birds, the gush of streams, and the sweet harmony of nature, we find food for reflection. The benefits of such recreations are numerous—besides their promoting a healthful circulation of the fluids, and producing more decidedly the secretions of the system, it gives one more vigor for business, and prepares the mind for more arduous duties. It softens and cultivates the finer feelings of our nature; makes smooth our rugged asperities; dissipates the temptations of folly, and the deafening clash of interest gives way to an influence which our grosser senses may not investigate. Walking, perhaps, would answer most of these purposes; but then, there is no poetry in walking, and besides, every loafer walks; we want something full of life, gayety, animation—where the zephyr's most trifling touch causes excitement. But in riding do not permit your horses to pace: were it not for taking air you might as well be at home, or in your counting room, or office, as to travel at this unnatural, lounging gait. Those who are too much confirmed in their attachment to such easy motions as are produced by a pacing horse, had better stay at home and swing on a gate. Take this advice, and you will enjoy health and a clear conscience. The gentlemen will make better beaux, and better husbands; the ladies be prettier and make more agreeable companions." (Ed.)

In 1847, April, much space is given in the "Gazette" to the subject of intemperance; and we conclude public feeling must



have been very strong against license. An article on scandal was written for this paper. We give the clipping in full.

"Private scandal should never be received and retailed willingly, for though the defamation of others may, for the present, gratify the malignity or pride of your heart, yet cool reflection will draw very disadvantageous conclusions from such a disposition. In scandal as in robbery, the receiver is always thought as bad as the thief. O, think of this, you who assemble together to injure and defame the character of your neighbor, remember the eye of God is upon you, and for all these things He will sooner or later bring you to judgment."

In 1844 and 1845 we find the "Gazette" edited and published by Munger & Stewart.

In 1847 the "Camden Gazette" was published by E. M. Higbee, a complete file of that paper being in existence. It contains but few local items, its columns being devoted to foreign news, and that of our own country, which compare favorably. Every number has the latest news of the Mexican war, which was a topic of interest to the whole country. At this time many meetings were called for the purpose of building a plank road from Rome to Oswego, and the railroad from Rome to Oswego was an assured fact.

Van Amberg's circus was also advertised in one number, but no subsequent mention is made of it, so it probably did not appear. In 1848 it was published by Edwin Pickard and Henry Hill, who in the same year dissolved copartnership, Mr. Higbee resuming the business. In a September issue, 1848, a meeting was announced as follows: "A meeting of the stockholders of the office of the 'Camden Gazette' will be held on the 28th instant, at 7 o'clock P. M., at said office. A full attendance is particularly requested, as special business will be brought before them."

In 1849 the "Oneida Mirror" was published by Edward Pickard. In 1852 the "Northern Light" was edited and published by Ira D. Brown. We give his message to the people of this vicinity:

"To the readers of the 'Northern Light.'—The connection of the undersigned with this paper closes with this number. The causes which have led me to withdraw from the 'Light' are

pretty well known to the readers thereof, and further explanation is unnecessary. In taking leave of my readers, and of Camden, I have no regrets to express, except that the connection I have had with this paper has not proved more gratifying to my readers, and more profitable to myself. I am not hypocrite enough to return thanks for the patronage which has been bestowed upon me, when I think no thanks are due. The most of those who have patronized me have done so only because they could not help it, and paid me only because they were obliged to. Still it must not be forgotten that a few faithful friends have stood by me during my brief sojourn here, and rendered me all the assistance in their power. It is now painful to part with those friends, and I shall remember them with gratitude so long as I live. The 'Light' will be hereafter published by Merriitt & Stone, two young printers whom I earnestly recommend to the citizens of Camden as every way deserving of better treatment than I have had. The editorial department will be conducted by N. B. Stevens, Esq., a gentleman for whose abilities I have a high regard. It is probable then that this change will please the majority of my readers, and that they will have no cause to regret my withdrawal. Hoping this may be the case, I bid them farewell.

Ira D. Brown.

Camden, June 11, 1852."

This copy is from the twenty-sixth number of Volume First, so his editorship in Camden was brief. We find in an issue of the "Camden Freeman" of 1862, that "because of ill health he is about to sever his connection" with some Oswego paper, and going south in search of health.

"Camden Courier."—E. O. Farrell, editor. October 1853.

In 1861, "The Monitor." by E. Henderson.

"Camden Freeman."—L. Henderson, editor. March, 1862.

"Camden Freeman."—C. Sink, editor. July 17, 1862.

"Camden Freeman."—L. Henderson, Editor. July 24, 1862.

"Camden Journal."—J. H. Munger. March, 1864.

"Camden News."—Giles and Franklin, editors. March 27, 1867.

From different issues of 1848 we take some notices and items:

"Whereas my wife has left my bed and board without cause or provocation, and I forbid any person harboring or trusting her on my account, as I shall pay no debts of her contracting, nor allow any to harbor her.—Parley Draper.

Camden, August 14, 1848."

In several advertisements and articles this vicinity is called the "Fish Creek Nation."

Camden, August 28, 1848.

Borrowed, from the residence of the subscriber, while he was away on a visit between the 17th and 24th of this month, a new wood-saw, and if the borrower has got his job done, please return the same, and he shall be rewarded in the next world, if not in this. Mine instead of yours. John Sanford."

"Fosgate's Cordial, an effectual remedy for many ills, for sale by F. Snow."

"Travelers may now go from Boston to Washington, D. C., in thirty-seven hours."—1842.

In the "Camden Freeman" of 1861, in June, we find the following: "We can not avoid being enraptured with our beautiful shade trees. They gracefully arch every street, and shade every desirable walk in the place. Majestically lifting their heads over the neat white cottages beneath, silently throwing out their tender shoots towards the warm sunshine, growing with our growth, but becoming more beautiful and strong as we become wrinkled and infirm, they stand noble and worthy monuments of our departed friends. New supplies and tender care by us will be gratefully remembered by those who come after. We could not do without our beautiful maples. Deprive us of them, and nature would be shorn of her smiles. Take away the mantle of a bountiful Providence, and our village would be left naked and forbidding."

In 1864 J. H. Munger established the Camden Journal, and continued it till his death in 1878, when his son, Charles S., conducted the business till its consolidation with the "Camden Advance" in 1883, the publisher, W. C. Stone, Mr. Munger removing to Herkimer. The Advance-Journal is a bright sheet, newsy, interesting, and up to date in every way. It was established by Mr. Stone in 1873, and is at present the only publication we have in the newspaper line.

In the winters of 1860 and '61 a course of lectures was given—talent contributed by professional men of the town. All desiring to sustain the course gave the modest sum of twenty-five cents to become members of the association. We regret that we can find no list of lecturers. In December, 1861, a course of lectures was arranged for '61 and '62, and from a paper of that date we take as follows:

"We are happy to announce that the executive committee of the association have secured Curtiss Hall, and made all necessary arrangements for an attractive course of lectures here during the winter; and we hope and believe the public will show their appreciation of this effort to furnish them with literary entertainment, and profit, by greeting with overflowing houses the several lecturers who generously contribute of their time and talent to sustain the course. Notices will be given of speakers from time to time.

Ambrose Curtiss, Pres.

N. B. Stevens, Sec'y."

Opening Lecture by the

1. Rev. Lemuel Clark, January 6, 1862, at 7 o'clock. Subject, "The Distinctions between Automatic Excellence and Moral Desert."
2. J. Parsons Stone, January 11, 1862. Subject, "Culture."
3. Rev. C. Sink, January 15, 1862. Subject—"Modern Spiritualism."
4. Dr. Robert Frazier, January 23, 1862. Subject—"Merit."
5. Hugh McCabe, January 29, 1862. Subject—"Liberal Studies in Relation to the Wants of a Free State."
6. Stephen Cromwell, February 5, 1862. Subject—"Burr and Hamilton."
7. Rev. G. B. Rowley, February, 1862.
8. J. H. Munger, March 3, 1862. Subject—"Thomas Jefferson: His Life, Services and Opinions."

The men spoke to crowded houses, and the association met expenses, we are glad to say. Of two lecturers in the course of ten we have no mention.

## POST OFFICE.

The post-offices of the United States were located at accessible points. Frequently small villages were granted postal facilities; the mails were transported in sulkies or on horseback until the use of coaches. In 1807 the first post-office in Camden was established, and the appointment given to Timothy Wood; he held the office 23 years. The next postmaster was George Ferris, who was appointed in 1830; at that time postage on letters was 18 cents. The office was then and for a number of years afterwards accommodated in the stores of the office holders. Mr. Ferris' store and the office was where G. Shepherd's grocery store is now. He lived in a little yellow house nearly opposite. The next postmaster was Hiram J. Miner; he was succeeded by Wm. R. Paddock; next S. B. Hinckley; then Ambrose Curtiss. Aaron Stone received the next appointment; then Dr. A. Bickford, afterwards Martin Tipple and wife held the office 12 years. The office was removed where it has remained through several appointments, to the present time by Heman Snow. His deputy was Judson N. Strong. After holding the office four years, James Owen succeeded; then the next postmaster was Briggs Hinckley. D. Crimmins is the present postmaster.



## CHAPTER XXI.

### MASONIC LODGE.

September 9, 1816, Philanthropic Lodge, No. 188, F. & A., was organized under a charter from the Grand Lodge of New York, of which De Witt Clinton was Grand Master, by whose order Right Worshipful Brother Joseph Enos, G. V., installed the following officers: Oney Hines, W. M.; Asa T. Smith, S. W.; Joshua Ransom, J. W.; Heman Byington, Treasurer; Lyman Mathews, Secretary; Joel Rathbun and Wm. West, Stewards; Wm. Hempstead, Aaron Bailey, Deacons; Jeremiah Merrels, Tyler. Brothers present, Warren Beach, Asa Barnes, Linus Sanford. Voted that the Tyler receive 50c. a night for attendance, also 50c. for every candidate initiated. Voted that the time of opening Lodge shall be on the Thursday preceding the full moon in every month, at 2 o'clock P. M., and close at 7 o'clock P. M. Lodge closed in due form. Among the names of the brothers of that year we find Dr. Samuel Freeman, Ezekiel Cady, Elijah Eggleston, Joshua Godfrey, Joel B. Smith, Wm. Plumb, John Kinne, Stephen H. Kinne, Oliver Kinne, Warren Beach, Elijah Perkins, Elisha Parke, Reuben Smith, Samuel W. Johnson, Jesse Penfield. During the year 1816 the Lodge had no regular place of meeting. The body often met in private houses in Camden, Vienna and Taberg, until June, 1817, at which time they had permanent quarters in a chamber of Br. Heman Byington's tavern, where they continued to meet until the spring of 1818, when they removed to a room in the tavern of Ranney Parke, located where B. A. Curtiss' store now stands. In April, 1820, the Lodge donated \$10 towards the erection of the M. E. Church. Among the names of its members at this time is Samuel W. Johnson, Reuben Smith, Gaston G. Comstock, David N. Castle, Warren Preston, Dr. Daniel Chatfield (and later, 1827 to 1834), Israel Stoddard, Lyman Curtiss, Dr. H. G. Torbert, and Artemas Trowbridge, who was for several years W. M. of the Lodge. Chas. Trowbridge was also W. M. for two years.

In 1820 Antimasonry was rampant here: meetings were se-

cretly held in private houses. The last three initiations before the Lodge closed its doors was in the brick tavern of Albert Phelps, below the village. In 1849 the Lodge reopened for instruction. The first time the Lodge opened under a dispensation from the Grand Lodge was April 5, 1850, for the purpose of attending the funeral of Br. Wm. Plumb. The first initiation under the dispensation was that of H. H. Frisbie, who removed to Kentucky. July 24th of same year was the first communication held under the renewed warrant from the most worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of New York. The Lodge number was then changed to 164, and since then it has had a steady healthy growth. Gaston G. Comstock was the first member buried belonging to this Lodge, with Masonic honors, in 1818.

#### ANCIENT LODGE I. O. O. F., NO. 154.

This organization was instituted May 7th, 1845, with the following officers: Noble Grand, Aaron H. Thompson; Vice Grand, Rufus Byington; Quarterly Sec., Orange Dayton; Permanent Sec., Aaron Stone; Treasurer, David Sears.

According to records, the lodge was abandoned in 1856. The present Lodge of Odd Fellows, No. 718, was instituted October 11, 1894. Membership at the present time 54.

#### ROYAL ARCANUM.

Instituted August 22, 1889. Present membership 61.

#### THE ORDER OF AMERICAN MECHANIC, NO. 65.

Instituted June 8, 1892. Present membership

#### THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

Instituted January 16, 1895. Present membership 46.

#### KNIGHTS OF MACCABEES.

Instituted September, 1895. Present membership 40.

#### IMPROVED ORDER OF RED MEN.

Instituted May 9th, 1895. Present membership 31.

## CORALLINE SOCIETY.

One of the oldest literary societies of the town, if not the first ever organized in Camden, whose membership consisted entirely of ladies, was the Coralline Society. On the evening of February 1, 1866, an informal meeting was held at the residence of J. H. Munger, Esq., on Church Street, for the purpose of forming a literary society. One week later, a complete organization was effected, fourteen young ladies becoming members. They selected the name of Coralline Society, gaining knowledge as the coral increases, little by little. Miss Flora Potter was elected President, Miss Cynthia Tuthill Vice President, Miss Sarah Phelps Secretary, Miss Augusta Squires Assistant Secretary, Miss Libbie Jameson Treasurer. From the Secretary book we copy the following: "The object of this organization is to acquire that most valuable accomplishment, reading aloud, and purify our taste in literature, and to acquaint ourselves with the standard authors of the day." After the meetings were formally opened, some one who had been appointed to that office, would read from "Irving's Life of Washington" part of the evening, and the rest of the time was spent reading "Ivanhoe," with a sociable time to discuss the matter read. In later meetings, other works were read, both prose and poetry, and the time thus spent was found to be both profitable and enjoyable.

The membership increased until 34 names were on the roll call. They were all enthusiastic workers, and gave many enjoyable entertainments for the purpose of raising funds to establish a loan library, and to conduct a lecture course. Some of the finest talent in the lecture field at that time appeared before a Camden audience, under the auspices of the Coralline Society. The course was opened for the winter of 1866-67 by the Rev. Henry Millburn, the blind preacher; his subject was "What a blind man saw in England." January 5, 1867, L. M. Hewlet lectured on "Hits of the Times." January 24, Prof. Upson of Hamilton College delivered a lecture, and the last of the course for the season was given by L. J. Bigelow, whose subject was "Heroic Womanhood." The following winter Prof. Upson was again engaged to deliver one of the course. B. F. Taylor's name appears as one of the lecturers. Mr. Pierson gave an illus-

trated lecture, taking for his subject "School from the Scholars' Side." A. D. Shaw delivered one of the course. Anna Dickinson was also engaged for March 19th, but on account of a severe snow storm she was unable to reach Camden, so the lecture was postponed until April 13th. Woodin's Hall was engaged for her lecture, and it was a large audience which greeted her, as she stepped upon the platform. She generously gave back the sum of 25 dollars to the ladies' treasury.

This society also established a loan library, and from time to time added books as they accumulated funds for that purpose. At the first it was located in the jewelry store of Robert Johnson for several months. Librarians were appointed from the members of the society, and it was opened at stated intervals to the public. The charge was five cents per week, and two cents a day additional for all books kept over two weeks. Later it was placed in the store of Gamble & Upson, where the post-office was located. July 30, 1868, it was moved to George Abbott's store, and A. W. Abbott engaged as librarian. At that time the library consisted of one hundred and sixteen volumes.

After the churches burned, in 1867, many of the charter members were actively engaged in church work, which occupied nearly all of their time, and their interest in the Coralline Society diminished. New members joined to take their places, but in 1868 few of the original names appeared on the roll call, and during that year the society died a natural death, the books being divided among the remaining members. Only seven of the names recorded in the secretary's book are still living in Camden, viz.: Miss Clara Curtiss, Emily Shepherd More, Helen Abbott Mann, Carrie Phelps Conant, Charlotte Johnson Gamble, Emma Phelps Frisbie, Susie McGuinn Aird. Nine have passed away from earth, and the rest are scattered in different localities.

#### THE CAMDEN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Was formed December 6, 1890. The towns-people had for some time felt the need of a Public Loan Library. In response to a call through the "Advance-Journal" (the village paper), asking all ladies interested in an organization of the kind to meet at the home of Mrs. W. T. Stevens, some forty ladies responded.

A brief statement of the formation of such organizations was given by Mrs. W. J. Frisbie, after which Mrs. C. H. Guile was chosen chairman, and Miss Annie Shanley secretary pro tem. The following officers were elected by ballot to hold office one year:

President, Mrs. Elizabeth T. Pike; Vice President, 1st, Mrs. W. T. Stevens; Vice President, 2d, Mrs. Jane F. Williams; Secretary, Miss Tessie M. Durr; Treasurer, Mrs. M. B. Osborn. An executive committee was also chosen.

Being organized without either money or books, it was decided that by the payment of \$1 a year each lady became a member of the Association. Thirty-nine ladies became members.

List of members from December 1, 1890, to December 1, 1891.—Mrs. Martha S. Adams, Mrs. Ida B. Becker, Mrs. Ella S. Conant, Mrs. Caroline P. Conant, Mrs. Grace S. Cook, Mrs. Susan O. Cromwell, Mrs. Philoma W. Curtiss, Mrs. Grace S. Case, Mrs. Elma D. Davies, Mrs. Emma F. Dorrance, Mrs. Ellen L. Dorrance, Mrs. Nancy E. Edie, Mrs. Nellie D. Ewart, Mrs. Emma P. Frisbie, Mrs. Charlotte J. Gamble, Mrs. Caroline P. Harvey, Mrs. Mame H. Harding, Mrs. Phoebe J. Miller, Mrs. Maria B. Osborn, Mrs. Irene N. Stevens, Mrs. Lida T. Stoddard, Mrs. Jane S. Strong, Mrs. Jane F. Williams, Mrs. Mary A. Stansfield, Mrs. Harriet M. Phelps, Mrs. Fontella H. Farnsworth, Miss Tessie M. Durr, Miss Lelah Miller, Miss Annie Shanley, Mrs. Lois S. Kendall, Mrs. Jennie H. Morse, Mrs. Elizabeth T. Pike, Mrs. Clara H. Stoddard, Mrs. Louisa W. Stone, Mrs. Helen H. Wolcott, Mrs. Julia C. Upson, Mrs. Helen A. Mann, Mrs. Etta S. Gunther, Mrs. Ellen B. Dorrance.

The organization met with much encouragement. The public saw the ladies were thoroughly in earnest, and realized what the work was they had undertaken. Mrs. Emma P. Frisbie contributed the first books, 13 in number; others followed with gifts of books. 80 volumes were contributed by W. C. Stone from his loan library. (This gift was very encouraging to the ladies, and received by them with great pleasure). An additional number was donated from the Presbyterian S. S. Library. These had been put aside for want of new binding, which were soon placed in shape for loaning. A book social at the home of Mrs.



Irene N. Stevens added a number more. The ladies, upon consultation, decided that the organization were in possession of a sufficient number of volumes to put them in circulation. August 1, 1891, 218 volumes were upon the shelves, and on this date the room in B. A. Curtiss block (back of the hall stairs) was opened to the public. The furnishing of the room was lent by the members. The book shelves borrowed from the M. E. parsonage. December 6, 1891, by individual gift, the number of volumes had increased to 549. The ladies have worked with much zeal, and at this date the association has deposited to its credit in Savings Bank, toward a building fund, \$500.95. This fund is the economical earnings of cents, nickels and dimes. October, 1894, the library having outgrown its little room, took quarters in larger rooms across the street, in the Opera House Block, and in January, 1896, removed to permanent quarters in the New Town Hall. From the report of Mrs. Grace S. Case (the efficient librarian since August, 1894) the number of volumes on the accession book, including papers bound, is 1422. Circulation of volumes for the year 1896—11,822. Average weekly circulation, 226 volumes. The present flourishing condition of the library is the result of earnest hard work by the ladies of the Association, particularly the former librarian (Mrs. Grace S. Case), and is looked upon with pride by all citizens of Camden. Following are the list of officers elected at the last annual meeting, July 2, 1897: President, Mrs. Nancy E. Edie; Vice President, Mrs. M. Tipple; Secretary, Mrs. H. L. Borland; Treasurer, Mrs. W. J. F. Van Allen. During the year 1894 the library was placed under the State Regents at Albany, making it free.

#### CURTISS HALL.

After the fire of 1863, which destroyed the east side of Main Street, Hastings F. Curtiss, one of our most prominent and public spirited townsmen, erected a brick block, and finished the second story as a hall for public use. Prior to this, the upper room in the old Town Hall had been used for entertainments, as well as for various other purposes. The new Hall was far superior to this, and was considered a spacious room, and adequate to the needs of the town. Mr. Curtiss generously donated the use of it many times for church purposes. Some

of the finest talent in the concert and lecture fields appeared upon this stage, and choice and appreciative audiences have assembled before them.

Time can never efface from the memory of the older people of the present generation, the many enjoyable social gatherings held here, the fairs, festivals, band concerts, amateur theatricals, singing schools, concerts, &c.; and at the present day there is no place where the young people enjoy a social party more.

### CAMDEN OPERA HOUSE.

As the town prospered, and the conveniences of city life were adopted within its limits, such as electric lights, public water works, modern and beautiful homes, and business structures, an Opera House was considered necessary, and in keeping with other improvements. The town had grown so rapidly that a building was needed with a larger stage, and a greater seating capacity.

November 7th, 1892, twenty-two of our citizens organized an Opera House Company, with E. H. Conant as president, who from the first inception of the enterprise, gave it his personal attention, and to him, largely, is credit due that Camden possesses such an attractive edifice. The company did not invest their money so much with the view of large returns, as to provide a suitable place of amusement in our model village.

January, 1893, a lot was purchased of Penfield & Stone on the west side of Main Street, north of the "Advance Journal" office, 51 feet front, and extending to the bank of Fish Creek in the rear, and arrangements were immediately begun for the erection of a building. The plans were drawn by Leon H. Lampert of Rochester; the contract for the building was awarded to Raymond Bros. of Camden, and ground broken about the first of June. The stockholders were E. H. Conant, G. F. Conant, D. J. Crimmins, W. T. Stevens, A. H. Maloney, E. Edie, B. A. Curtiss, A. C. Woodruff, W. C. Stoddard, Gardner & Dana, C. M. Tibbitts, Library Association, Camden Knitting Mill Co., Elizabeth T. Pike, A. G. Robson, W. C. Stone, E. A. Harvey, James H. Gamble, Penfield & Stone, J. G. Dorrance, Daniel Crimmins, Harold T. Conant.

We copy the account of the opening, which occurred Thurs-

day night, January 18th, 1894, from the "Advance Journal." "Last Thursday evening was the opening of this grand enterprise. About six hundred persons attended the performance of the great Swedish play, 'Ole Olson.' The transition from the rainy and disagreeable atmosphere outside, to the interior of the Opera House was like a sudden change into fairy land. It was very possible to imagine you were visiting some city play-house—it was so dazzling in its freshness and rich beauty. The auditorium and balcony were soon a sea of expectant and happy faces, and praises without stint were showered upon the beauty, arrangement and convenience of the place.

The house was manned as follows: Ticket seller, W. C. Stone; ticket taker, main floor, D. H. Stone; gallery, Clarence Doten; ushers, main floor, George Frisbie, Frank Mann, Charles Edie, Myron Simmons, H. J. Kittrick; gallery, Robert Robson, Arthur Barnes; stage director, E. J. Gatley of Rome; assistants, Charles Parke of Camden, Sidney Gilbo of Rome; keeper of check room, Arthur Parke. The permanent stage director will be Mr. Parke."

Since the opening of the Opera House the towns-people have had rare opportunities of hearing many fine theatrical companies from New York, as well as excellent rendering of fine musical programmes. It is conceded by professionals who come here, to be a gem in its way, and to far surpass amusement halls in many larger places.

#### CAMDEN BANKS.

The first bank in Camden was organized under the laws of the State, and began business March 1, 1848. The officers were Hiram J. Miner, President, and William B. Storm, Cashier. Among its stockholders were Hiram J. Miner, Lyman Curtiss, Hiram Smith, Stephen Cromwell, W. B. Storm, Edwin Rockwell and Orson Norton. Lyman Curtiss succeeded Mr. Miner as president. The bank was located on the second floor of the Miner store, but later moved to the second floor of the Trowbridge store, which stood on the south-west corner of Main and Mexico Streets. It ended in failure the latter part of the year 1854.

During the year of 1859 Hastings T. Curtiss opened a private

bank, occupying for a time the small office on the second floor, directly over the room in which he carried on the banking business for a number of years, and which is now occupied by Gamble's shoe store. March 1, 1867, he entered into partnership with J. B. Carmen. One year later, H. T. Curtiss withdrew, and was succeeded by A. Curtiss, the business being continued by A. Curtiss and Carmen until they failed March, 1876.

Mr. Daniel G. Dorrance, who was for many years extensively interested in banking pursuits, together with his son J. G. Dorrance, established a bank in Camden May 16, 1876, which was succeeded on January 26, 1880, by the First National Bank of Camden, N. Y., with a capital of \$50,000. Its officers were Daniel G. Dorrance President, A. T. Van Valkenburg Vice President, J. G. Dorrance Cashier. Edwin A. Harvey was Vice President from January 13, 1885, until his death July 6, 1896. After the death of D. G. Dorrance, which occurred March 26, 1896, J. G. Dorrance was elected President, and Daniel J. Dorrance, his son, was appointed cashier, occupying these positions at the present time.

## CHAPTER XXII.

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### MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS.

In the early history of our country, owing to its unsettled state, it was necessary to maintain an army, which could be relied upon in any emergency. By the laws of the State, when a young man reached the age of 18 years, he must be enrolled as a military subject, and continue such until he reached the age of thirty-five years. Each town must organize a military company, and if there were not men enough within its territory, then two or three towns would unite in forming a company. The earliest military organization we can learn of in Camden is the 68th New York Militia, commonly known as "Stoddard's Regiment." In the records of the War Department at Washington (which are very incomplete) there are but three muster rolls of this regiment. It was made up from the towns of Camden, Vienna, Annsville and Florence, and composed largely of sons of the brave men who fought for freedom. The names upon the muster rolls of field and staff are as follows: Israel Stoddard, Major, served from October 6th, 1814, to October 31, 1814; Ephraim Smith, Adjutant, served from October 6th, 1814, to November 16th, 1814; Samuel W. Johnson, Quartermaster, served from October 6th, 1814, to November 16th, 1814; Joel Rathburn, Surgeon, served from October 6th, 1814, to November 11th, 1814; Lyman Huntly, Surgeon's Mate, served from October 6th, 1814, to November 11, 1814; Daniel Fellows, Quartermaster, served from October 6th, 1814, to November 13th, 1814. The muster rolls of the two companies are as follows: One company was known as the Camden Co., of which Nathan N. Elton was Captain Jehiel Higgins, Ensign; Samuel Morse, Captain; Isaac Graves, Corporal; and the following among the privates: Beri Blakesley, Enoch Strong, Asa Lamphere, Merrit Parker, John L. Nichols. The other and final company bears the following names: Martin Wright, Captain; Silas Cook, Corporal, and the following names among the privates: Calvin Dawley, Edwin Barnes, Fowler Penfield, Thomas Empey, Daniel Wilcox, Amos



Johnson. As the regiment was known as the 68th New York Militia, the officers received their commission from Governor Daniel Tompkins, holding the office at that time; he was largely instrumental in organizing military organizations in the State, to take up arms against the British. Major Stoddard was subsequently commissioned Colonel.

During the latter part of the war of 1812, Stoddard's Regiment went to Sackett's Harbor, but were not called into active service. They remained in camp two or three months, living in idleness, and longing to be at home, where they were so much needed both by their families, and the necessities of a home-making in a new country. Ship fever and smallpox became prevalent in camp, and soldiers were dying by the score almost daily, and to add to the other hardships their rations were quite limited. It is little wondered that they became discontented at this almost unbearable state of prolonged hardships. Realizing the trials his men had to endure, Col. Stoddard went to Gen. Collins, the general in command, and asked that under the circumstances his men might be discharged. The General flatly refused to allow it. Col. Stoddard returned to his men, and told them the General was not willing to grant his request, but he thought they would all soon be discharged. He said, "Don't one of you go home, but if one goes, all go." As he said this, he turned his horse's head towards home, and all followed closely behind him, and reached their homes in safety. But two or three days elapsed before the regiment was mustered out at Smith's Mills, Jefferson County.

We can learn little more concerning this regiment until 1822. At that time the brigade inspector was Major Eli Savage of New Hartford. He was a man of splendid physique, and when seated on his fine large horse, was an object of admiration, especially to the boys, who would watch intently for his arrival. After Major Savage resigned, Major Pratt was appointed to that office, he was succeeded by Barnum P. Foster, who made a thoroughly good officer. He was the last one to hold the office of Brigade Inspector of the 68th New York Infantry. These officers received eight dollars per day while on duty.

About this time Nelson Dawley of Annsville was appointed

Colonel, succeeded by Uri Hill. Richard Empey was appointed Lieutenant Colonel June 27th, 1827, by Dewitt Clinton, Governor of the State of New York. He was later commissioned Colonel of the regiment, and made a fine looking, as well as a most efficient officer. His staff were, Lieutenant Colonel, Rufus Byington, Major, Woodard Perkins. After Col. Empey resigned, Rufus Byington was promoted to fill the vacancy, and Martin H. Stevens was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel, Eli Brigdes succeeded in the office of Major. Cyrus Stoddard was appointed by Governor Seward July 16th, 1842, Colonel of the 68th Infantry. The chaplain was Rev. E. W. R. Allen of the M. E. Church; Adjutant, Levi S. Wilcox; Quartermaster, Israel Dean; Drum Major, Israel Stoddard; Fife Major, Miner Parke. Colonel Cyrus Stoddard was the last colonel of the old regiment. Alexander Rae of Vienna was Lieutenant Colonel, and John A. Bettis Major. The following discharge paper we copy from the original document.

State of New York—Brigade Orders.

Brig. Gen. H. S. Beardley has accepted the resignation of Col. Cyrus Stoddard of the 68th Regiment, 13th Brigade, 13th division of the militia of the State, and he is hereby at his own request honorably discharged from the said office.

August 12th, 1844.

H. S. Beardley, Brig. Gen.,

13th Brigade of Infantry.

About this time a company of invincibles made large demonstrations, which is said to have made the old military training, at least, unpopular.

During the year 1825 or 1826, a man bearing the name of B. F. Beard, a hat-maker, came into the town. He was a tall fine looking man. He conceived the idea of organizing an independent Infantry Company, and he accomplished his purpose. He procured enough volunteers to form a good sized company, and drilled them night after night, until they were well-versed in military tactics. Their uniforms were white trousers with red bottoms, and bell buttons on the side, blue trimmed coats, high leather caps, with white feather and red tip. When they made their appearance in public, they were a fine looking company.

and much surprise was manifested to see them so well drilled. Eventually Captain Beard left town, and other officers were appointed from time to time, until the Company finally disbanded.

At one time, many years ago, there was a rifle regiment in Camden. They made a fine appearance with their rifles, gray coats, and caps with green feather. Gen. Lyman Curtiss was commander of this regiment. Another company was called the Old Camden Militia Company. Pliny Barnes, who lived in the Seventh township, was captain for a time. Some of the names connected with this company were J. C. Sperry, Sherman Sperry, Andrew Sperry, Solon Cook, Sylvester and Horace Wilson, Alben Rathbone, Sherman and David Osborn. The last captain of the Camden Military Company was Asahel Allen, who made a very good captain. The names of some who belonged to the band of martial music in the Camden Company were Reuben Root, Linus Stevens, Miner Parkes, fifers. The snare drummers were J. F. Mix, Julius Cook. Jeremiah Bailey was the bass drummer. He wore a white roundabout coat trimmed with red. Samuel Whaley was bugler. At this time peace had settled over the eastern States, and it was no longer necessary to maintain these military organizations, it was a useless tax upon the people. Military affairs had had their day, and the attention of the residents of cities and towns was turned toward developing the resources of the new country, and building up a great nation. Nearly all of the local companies were disbanded.

In the early part of the nineteenth century, regimental training was the greatest day of the year. Holidays were not as common then as now; the weeks and months were made up of days of wearisome toil; the brightest bit of sunshine was the anticipation of a holiday, when the daily tasks could be laid aside, and the people, old and young, could enjoy to the fullest extent, the short time given them for recreation and general training. What a day that was for Camden! And the other great day was the Fourth of July! There was more patriotism then than now. People did not need greased poles, and balloon ascensions, or a flaming poster to tell them how the Fourth of July was to be celebrated. The spirit of patriotism was burning brightly in the breasts of these hardy sons of freedom, and fresh oil was

added to the flame by rumors of the unsettled state of the country. General training day brought out nearly all of the people from the surrounding towns, which made quite a large gathering. Sweet cider, ginger-bread and molasses candy was for sale, and a boy with twenty-five cents could not only purchase enough of these to supply his own wants, but could treat his friends generously.

Previous to the general training day, each town had its company training; also all of the officers of each company met in Camden for officers' drill. The first Monday in September was general training day. Col. Israel Stoddard's regiment used to form in the business part of the town, march up Main Street, turn to the right, and enter a field, which was Deacon Billias Pond's meadow land, and through which Second Street was later laid out. This was the parade ground, until the town increased to such an extent, the land was needed for building lots to accommodate the new comers. Later the parade ground was the land north of Col. Israel Stoddard's residence (nearly opposite Forest Park Cemetery), which gave them plenty of room, before the tracks of the R. & W. R.R. were laid through the ground. The later companies used to drill on the village green, and when drawn up in line reached from the corner where B. F. Hinckley's store now stands, diagonally to the corner of Main and North Park Streets. Military discipline was not very strict at this date, and the men used to have quite easy times. Their afternoons were mostly spent lying in the shade of the Congregational Church.\*

#### THE CAMDEN GRAYS.

When the late civil war broke out, nearly all of the towns of any importance organized military companies, for the purpose of quelling riots or any local disturbances which were likely to occur during the unsettled state of the country, also ready to go to the front if needed. The Camden Grays, a company of the most reliable young men of the town, were organized September 20th.

\*The authors realize this is not a very full account of the early military organization of Camden; but no pains have been spared to procure facts concerning them, but without the success they would like. The account we have given, we consider authentic; many of these facts have been gathered from the records in Washington, while for others we are indebted to John Bett's, Col. Cyrus Stoddard and Samuel Woods.

1861, belonging to the 40th Regiment, 21st Brigade, 6th Division of the New York State Militia, with Richard Savery of Taberg as Colonel, and Louis Roth of Rome Lieutenant Colonel, who later succeeded Col. Savery. This company was under the efficient command of Capt. A. S. Edgett, with L. Henderson 1st Lieutenant, and N. Salladin 2nd Lieutenant, but who later was commissioned 1st Lieutenant. Their uniforms were gray, with deep yellow stripes on the sides of the trousers, blue caps, with gold trimmings.

We have before us an invitation to an exhibition drill and promenade concert of the Camden Grays, which was held in Curtiss Hall, Friday evening, February 21st, 1862. The committee of arrangements were Capt. Edgett, Lieut. Henderson, Lieut. N. Salladin, Sergeants M. Tipple and A. Bickford. The invitation committee were Corporal J. P. Stone, Sergeant R. Robathan, Charles R. Bessee. Room managers, A. T. Van Valkenburg, John F. Wolcott. The Camden Saxhorn Band was engaged to give the concert, which was to begin at seven o'clock P. M., after which a drill was given by the Camden Grays, followed by the Gansevoort Light Guards of Rome, who introduced their favorite zouave drill. Dancing followed.

During the riot in New York City, on account of the Conscription Act, the Camden Grays were called to assist in quelling the disturbance. When they reached Palatine Bridge, they received orders to halt, and about two hours later, were sent back home, the trouble being over. They arrived in Camden the next morning. It was a sore disappointment to many of the young men that they were not allowed to help maintain peace, and soon after they enlisted and marched to the front. June 5th, 1868, after the country had again settled down to peace and prosperity, the Camden Grays were disbanded.

#### THE G. A. R.

The first branch of the G. A. R. in Camden was organized in the fall of 1869. The majority of the charter members originally belonged to the 117th Regiment. It was called W. Bradford Willis Post, after a comrade who died for his country. The late Amos Soper was Commander of this first organization. Their meetings were held in the old Town Hall; the room used



for the purpose was the one occupied by the firemen. About two years after their organization they disbanded.

The J. Parson's Stone Post was organized in this town May 12th, 1884, with twelve charter members, C. H. Ray Commander. It was given this name in honor of one of Camden's most promising young men, who enlisted in the 117th Regiment, was captain of a company, and died in the service of his country. At the present time there are eighty-two members connected with this organization, in good standing, with Mr. Dana Ward as Commander. They have well-furnished rooms in the third story of the Penfield Block, on the east side of Main Street, where their meetings are held, and many enjoyable entertainments given.

A Woman Relief Corps has been in existence many years, in connection with the J. Parson's Stone Post.

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Soldiers of the War of the Revolution, 1812, Mexican, and the Rebellion of 1861, who went from Camden, or are buried there.

The first list of loyal hearted men buried here, went in defense of their country in 1776, caused by England overtaking the colonies without any representation in parliament.

Elijah Bailey was in the Sixth Regiment of Connecticut Line of 1777 to 1871, under Col. Wm. Douglas and Major Ely Leavenworth. Enlisted from Milford as private February 23 for three years, discharged December 2, 1780. Pensioner in New York 1818, died 1838.

Jonathan Barnes was in Sanford's Company, 5th Regiment, Connecticut Line of 1777-1781, March 18th, 1781. He was drummer under Col. Philip Burr Bradley. He is buried in Florence not far from the line of Camden.

Zophar Barnes was in the war of 1776. Died in Camden 1842.

David Brown went from Durham, Conn. Enlisted January 1st, 1780, taken prisoner near Fort George, N. Y. He was born in 1760.

Ichabod Brown went as private in Capt. Edward Roger's Company, Second Battalion Wadsworth Brigade, Col. Gay's Regiment from Cornwall, raised in June to reinforce Washing-

ton at New York, recruits from Farmington, Simsbury, Windsor, Hartford, Conn. Enlistment from June to December 25, 1776. Died 1850.

John Cain in Col. Marinus Willet New York Regiment, Capt. Garret, Putnams Co.. Enlisted July, 1780, discharged at Fort Plain on or about the 1st of April, 1781. He then reenlisted in the same company and regiment, and served as Sergeant. Died 1840.

Abel Collins. In the 3d Regiment, Connecticut Line, 1777 to 1778. Capt. Judd's Company. Enlisted from Hartford, Conn., March 4th, 1778, discharged August 8th, 1778; he was a wagoner. He camped at White Plains with Washington's army. Col. Sheldon's Regiment. Died, 1838.

Oliver Cook. Enlisted at Litchfield in 1776 for four months, afterwards re-enlisted at Harwinton under Capt. Ard Buell and Col. Sheldon's Regiment. Died, 1838.

Serajah Comstock enlisted January 1, 1781, to December 31, 1781, in the Third Regiment, Connecticut Line, under Samuel B. Webb, Capt. Parson's Company. Pensioner in 1818; died in Williamstown 1826.

Benjamin Curtiss. In Col. Elisha Sheldon's Light Dragoon, 1777 to 1783. He was in the Sixth Troop. Enlisted March 6, 1777; was a farmer from Salisbury. Pensioner in 1818; died 1823.

Jesse Curtiss. In 1774 when Congress resolved on non-intercourse with Great Britain, he was appointed with two others as committee to see that no tea, molasses, sugar, coffee, spices, &c., were brought into town, and sold at Waterbury, Conn. He went to the Lexington Alarm in 1775 for 25 days. May, 1775, he went as Captain until December, next as Major for a regiment formed in Waterbury, Conn. Died 1821.

Daniel Dean. Enlisted in the Continental Regiment, 5th Company, from May 8 to December 18, 1775. Re-enlisted in Gen. Erastus Wolcott's Brigade from March to June, 1777, at Peekskill. In Col. Hooker's Regiment, Capt. Bray's Company, from April 3 to May 10, 1778.

Joel Dunbar enlisted and went as drummer November 25, 1775, in the Continental Regiment of Connecticut. Re-enlisted in 1776 in Col. Elmore's Regiment, at German Flats. Died, 1827, at Camden.

John Elden was a Britisher. He deserted and joined our army, and remained there until honorably discharged. Died, 1828.

Eliphalet Johnson was in the militia at Saratoga. Enlisted August 29, 1777; discharged October 23. They were ordered to reinforce Gen. Gates at Saratoga in 1777. He was in two battles, September 19 and October 9. Upon their dismissal after the surrender of Burgoyne, Gen. Gates spoke of them as two excellent regiments from Connecticut. They were commanded by Col. Jonathan Latimer of New London, and Thaddeus Cook of Wallingford, Conn. Died 1818.

Joseph Johnson, brother of Eliphalet, was in the Lexington Alarm April 19, 1777. He was from the town of Windham; served four days. He enlisted May 6, 1775; discharged December 18, in Gen. Wooster's Regiment, Capt. Benedict Arnold 5th Company.

Joseph Johnson, Connecticut Line, 1777 to 1781, recruited mainly in Windham and New London Counties, Col. John Durkee 4th Regiment. Private in Capt. Webb's Company. Enlisted from Canterbury, February 23, 1778, for the war. Appointed Corporal March 1, 1778, discharged March 1, 1780. He died 1830; buried in Mexico Street Cemetery.

Levi Munson. Was in the Lexington Alarm, April, 1775. September 1, 1775, he enlisted in the Quebec Expedition, under Benedict Arnold, New Haven, Conn.; discharged June 21, 1776. He re-enlisted January 1, 1777; he was commissioned 2d Lieutenant; he resigned September 8, 1780, died 1814.

Bartholomew Pond first belonged to the minute men and volunteers, afterwards he enlisted for one year, April 1st, 1776, in Col. Elmore's Regiment; died 1850.

Berial Pond enlisted for one year in Col. Elmore's Regiment, 1776. Re-enlisted in Capt. Wilcox Company in the corps of artificers, 1777 to 1783; died 1836.

Iri Pond was in Jesse Curtiss' Company, Gen. Hooker's Regiment; stationed at Peekskill from April 5 to May 25 in 1777.

Jesse Penfield. First under Gen. Wooster in the First Regiment, 8th Company of Capt. Phineas Porter. He enlisted November 28, 1775, in the Continentals. Afterwards in Col. Elisha

Sheldon's Light Dragoon, 1777 to 1783. He re-enlisted February 15, 1778, and was in the army until the close of the war; pensioner in 1818; died 1834.

Daniel Parke. In the Lexington Alarm from the town of Chatham. Enlisted in Col. Parson's 6th Regiment, first call for troops, from April, 1775, to April, 1776. He was also at Valley Forge; died 1836.

Aaron Rice. In Bradley Battalion, Wadsworth Brigade, under Co. Philip Burr Bradley, in Capt. Couch's Company. This company was ordered to be raised May, 1776, for the general defense of New York State at Fort Washington. He was taken prisoner with the whole garrison November 16.

Jonah Sandford in Col. Hooker's Regiment, Capt. Jesse Curtiss' Company. Enlisted April 9, 1777; discharged May 21; was a pensioner; died 1824.

Lemuel Steadman. In the 2d Battalion, Woodsworth Brigade, under Col. Gay in Capt. Stanley's Company; enlisted as private June 24, 1776; re-enlisted in the Miscellaneous Roll, Lemuel and Samuel Steadman in Capt. Bray's Company, under Gen. Gates in the vicinity of Ticonderoga from July to November, 1776.

Wm. Stevens enlisted in 1775 in the 6th Regiment under Col. Parsons. He was in the 9th Company; re-enlisted from July 1 to December 18, in the Continental Regiment 1777 to 1781.

Capt. John Wilson enlisted in Col. Seth Warner Regiment January 2, 1779, which was raised at Litchfield County, Conn.; died 1839.

Samuel Woods. In 5th Regiment under Col. Waterbury in 1775; re-enlisted in the 8th Company, Capt. Joseph Smith; enlisted May 8, discharged November 2; died 1837.

Timothy Wood enlisted for three months June 20, 1778, in Col. Enos' Regiment on the Hudson in Capt. Bissel Company; died 1835.

Theophilus Whaley enlisted near Lake George; died in 1827.

Ashbel Upson, Sen., enlisted at Plymouth, Conn., served two years under Col. Baldwin and Capt. Wilcox; died 1831.

Jonathan Harvey was 16 years of age at the time of his first enlistment in 1777, he served 8 months as private in the Connecticut State Troops. In 1780 he enlisted in the same State for

9 months, serving as corporal. He also served one term in the militia, and two months as sergeant. He is buried just over the line in the town of Vienna, in the family lot. He was grandfather of the late E. A. Harvey.

After thirty years, England still persisted in acts of tyranny, until it became unbearable. June 18, 1812, an act was passed in the House of Representatives, by a vote of 79 to 49, and in the Senate by a majority of 19 to 13, to declare war against Great Britain. Their principal reason was the imprisonment of American seamen by the British.

#### SOLDIERS OF 1812,

#### And Date of Their Death.

Isaac Allen, 1848; Mr. Beckwith, —; Isaac Barnes, 183; John Bryan, 1858; Solon Cook, 1876; Nathaniel Chapman, 1884; Clark Crawford, 1875; Charles Curtiss, 1854; Lyman Curtiss, 1868; Ibrri Curtiss, 1840; Seth Dunbar, 1850; Ebenezer Doten, 1856; Honuel Gifford, 1882; Elijah Gaylord, 1891; James Harris, 1881; Gilbert Hyatt, 1887; David Johnson, 1872; Calvin Johnson, 1844; Street Barnes, 1853; Nathaniel Keeler, 1873; Abel Munson, 1831; Jacob Park, 1827; Eleazer Peck, 1848; Fowler Penfield, 1857; Benjamin Phelps, 1840; Rosetter Preston, 1876; Dr. Joel Rathburn, 1820; Seth Rice, 1886; James Rowell, —; Alvero Mathews, 1885; Col. Israel Stoddard, 1859; Capt. John Smith, 1860; Garret Smith, 1883; Martin Smith, 1875; Hiram Smith, 1860; Sala Sandford, 1866; Ephraim Sandford, 1860; Linus Sandford, 1842; John Skinner, —; Wright Skinner, 1830; Elijah Perkins, 1833; Erastus Upson, 1850; James Whaley, —; Junius Woods, 1865; Leonard West, 1888; Capt. Samuel T. Woods, 1824; Reuben Whaley, 1850.

The War with Mexico was caused by a disputed boundary line. Only three that ever lived here, as we can find, were among the soldiers—Luther Skinner, died 1807; Leonard Woods, died 1875; Newell Pangborn, —.

Half a century after the war of 1812 was the late civil war for the preservation of the Union against secession.



List of the soldiers from Camden, together with their Regiment,  
and date of their death.

- Adams, Earl S., 117th, 1862.  
 Adams, Charles, 117th.  
 Adams, Marcus M., 117th.  
 Adams, Augustus, 14th, 1875.  
 Allen, Henry B., 117th.  
 Allen, Julius, 50th, 1873.  
 Allen, F. Fairbanks.  
 Alden, Rev. James, 1864.  
 Ashpole, John, 1864.  
 Allen, Albert B., 22 months in rebel  
 prison.  
 Barnes, Henry, 117th  
 Barnes, A., 81st.  
 Barnes, Marshall, 32d.  
 Barnes, D. Potter, 22d, 1874.  
 Becker, Van V., 146th, 1863.  
 Beebe, Jacob, 117th, 1862.  
 Beebe, Nathan, 15th.  
 Beebe, Charles, 32d.  
 Beeman, Richard, 183d.  
 Betson, Thomas, 32d, 1862.  
 Belknap, Seth.  
 Blakeslee, George.  
 Bristol, Joseph, 117th.  
 Brosmer, William, 2d Art.  
 Brown, Jr., Thomas, 146th.  
 Brodock, Peter, 2d, 1864.  
 Brodock, Moses, 117th, 1894.  
 Burton, Delos, 50th.  
 Burnham, Richard.  
 Burnham, William, 146th, 1863.  
 Burnham, Addison, 93d.  
 Burnham, Harrison, 93d.  
 Butler, O., 15th.  
 Cain, Frederick, 15th.  
 Cain, Hiram J., 8th Cav.  
 Carlton, Henry, 15th.  
 Caswell, Henry, 146th.  
 Cleveland, John, 15th.  
 Clifford, Robert, 117th, 1865.  
 Cook, George W., 117th.  
 Coe, F., 15th.  
 Coe, Wallace, 93d.  
 Coon, Jairus, 2d.  
 Corey, Norman, 15th.  
 Collins, John, 15th.  
 Collins, Anthony.  
 Cobb, Frederick, 117th, 1862.  
 Cobb, Allen, 15th.  
 Cook, Elijah, 32d, 1864.  
 Cole, Richard, U. S. N., 1865.  
 Cole, James U. S. N., 1863.  
 Conant, Francis E., 108th, 1862.  
 Coy, Henry, 1895.  
 Chamberlain, J.  
 Chrisham, John, 140th.  
 Craig, James, 117th.  
 Craig, Alexander, 32d, 1882.  
 Craig, David, 3d.  
 Craig, A. W., 146th, 1863.  
 Crawford, George, 146th.  
 Crandall, F., 15th.  
 Curtiss, Elhanan, 146th.  
 Costello, Edward.  
 Dana, Alfred, 81st.  
 Davidson, William, 61st.  
 Dimond, Frederick, 140th, 1864.  
 Dimond, Lawrence, 32d, 1862.  
 Dexter, John, 117th.  
 Driscoll, William, 194th.  
 Drought, Arthur, 2d Art.  
 Dunbar, Delaney, 8th.  
 Drury, William H., 15th, 1873.  
 Dimond, Adam, 15th.  
 Drought, George, 2d.  
 Drought, John, 93d.  
 Elden, Bronson, 146th.  
 Empey, Lafayette, 1864.  
 Evans, Henry, 146th.  
 Evans, Evan J., 14th.  
 Elden, Walter W., 14th.  
 Eaton, William H., 15th.  
 Farley, William C.  
 Fritz, Alexander, 2d.  
 Foskett, Eldridge, 117th.  
 Fenton, William, 117th, 1893.  
 Ford, Jabez, 15th.  
 Falkner, William R., 146th.  
 Frazee, Hiram, 2d Artillery.  
 Grosbeck, John H., 14th.  
 Godfrey, George, 15th.  
 Gaylord, David.

- Gaylord, George M., 114th, 1864.  
 Gibson, Alonzo, 146th.  
 Gibson, Orson, 146th.  
 Goodrich, Henry, 117th.  
 Goodrich, Peter, 93d Infantry, 1892.  
 Goodman, Ephraim, U. S. Artillery.  
 Gifford, James H., 14th.  
 Glenn, James, 147th.  
 Howd, Frank.  
 Harrington, Truman, 1891.  
 Harrington, Irvine, 117th.  
 Harrington, Myron, 146th 3d N. Y.  
 Houghton, John, 146th.  
 Howland, Philip, 15th Eng.  
 Hughes, John.  
 Henderson, Lester, 2d Artillery.  
 Hart, James, 32d.  
 Hungerford, A.  
 Hunt, W.  
 Hinkley, Briggs T., 14th.  
 Irvine, D. N., 14th Infantry.  
 Johnson, Bradford, 3d.  
 Jones, George, 3d Artillery, 1865.  
 Johnson, George, 1870.  
 Johnson, Robert, 1883.  
 Johnson, Lucius, 1862.  
 Jeffry, H., 117th.  
 Jones, George W.  
 Kniffen, Daniel, 146th.  
 Killips, James, 146th.  
 King, John, 116th.  
 Kelly, Charles, 15th.  
 Kent, John, 7th Artillery.  
 Kelly, William T., 15th, 1864.  
 Kinnie, Orlando, 14th.  
 Lambie, Capt. Gavin, 146th, 1863.  
 Littler, John, 8th N. Y.  
 McGowen, Francis, 2d.  
 McGraw, Nelson, 18th.  
 Morse, Edwin, 146th.  
 Morse, Orson, 117th.  
 McIntyre, Bruce, 117th, 1872.  
 Miller, Smith, 81st, 1885.  
 Miller, Perry B., 117th.  
 Mabie, Edmond, 117th.  
 Morse, John, 146th.  
 Mergandoller, John, 15th, 1885.  
 Myers, George, 15th.  
 McLaughlin, W. H., 14th.  
 Murphy, Millard, 2d.  
 Nisbit, Archibald, 32d.  
 Orth, John M., 117th, 1887.  
 Osborn, John, 110th, 1862.  
 Olmstead, Fayette.  
 O'Rourke, John, 110th.  
 O'Rourke, Henry, Oswego R.  
 Osborn, Ambrose, 110th.  
 Osborn, Chester.  
 Parks, Franklin H.  
 Platter, Matthew, 50th.  
 Pilkington, William H., 146th.  
 Patchen, Daniel N., 146th.  
 Parsons, Albert W., 117th.  
 Parks, William S., 146th, 1865.  
 Peck, Reuben W., 117th, 1864.  
 Parsons Hiram, 32d Infantry, 1862.  
 Parke, Ranney T., 15th.  
 Podd, Nicholas, 146th.  
 Porter, Benjamin, 146th.  
 Pond, Capt. A. P., 14th, 1894.  
 Peterson, A. R., 1892.  
 Phalen, Patrick, 117th.  
 Perkins, Joseph.  
 Quance, Gilbert, 157th.  
 Redmond, Nathaniel, 117th.  
 Ruscoe, Edwin, 146th.  
 Robothan, Robert, 117th.  
 Rogers, Henry, 146th.  
 Ray, Charles H., 189th, 1887.  
 Remore, James, 32d.  
 Rae, Matthew, 14th.  
 Shaw, Melvin,  
 Sanders, Sylvester, 1864.  
 Sanders, Harvey, 117th.  
 Smith, Thomas, 14th.  
 Snow, E. N., 97th, 1865.  
 Snow, Ebenezer, 81st.  
 Skinner, John N., 117th.  
 Skinner, Robert, 117th, 1863.  
 Skinner, Luther, 145th, 1897.

- Skinner, Alva, 146th, 1864.  
 Skinner, James, 32d.  
 Skinner, W. W., 2d.  
 Scoville, Joseph, 15th, 1895.  
 Steadman, Benson, 32d.  
 Stewart, James, 15th, 1873.  
 Shephard, Nathaniel, 93d.  
 Scoville, James, 97th.  
 Sperry, William F., 117th.  
 Seymour, James, 81st.  
 Stanton, E., 50th.  
 Sandford, Charles, 81st.  
 Sandford, Raphael, 81st.  
 Secor, Francis, 146th, 1864.  
 Secor, James, 146th.  
 Swanson, James, 146th, 1864.  
 Swanson, John, 146th.  
 Starkweather, L., 146th, 1864.  
 Starkweather, H. W., 146th, 1863.  
 Smith, Solon, 117th.  
 Spencer, George, 117th.  
 Simmons, Theodore, 517th.  
 Sullivan, Orrin, 146th.  
 Stephens, George, 117th.  
 Stone, Capt. J. Parsons, 117th, 1864.  
 Simmons, W., 1st N. Y. H.  
 Starkweather, C. W., 117th.  
 Schofield, S., 146th.  
 Sweet, H6race, 8th.  
 Soper, Capt. Amos, 189th.  
 Sears, H.  
 Snow, P.  
 Scoville, Albert, 146th, 1864.  
 Sanders, Stephen, 146th, 1864.  
 Trask, Francis, 146th.  
 Tuttle, William, 117th, 1864.  
 Tallman, Jacob, 146th.  
 Tye, George, 1888.  
 Tracy, Samuel, 81st.  
 Tipple, George.  
 Tye, Henry, 1889.  
 Teachout, S., 117th.  
 Trowbridge, Henry, Mass, Reg.  
 Voorhees, Albert, 146th, 1864.  
 Worden, B. J., 117th.  
 Wolcott, John F., 50th, 1864.  
 Wood, Dewitt, 117th.  
 Woods, Orson C., 146th.  
 Willes, Wm. B., 117th, 1864.  
 Wilkens, Andrew, 117th.  
 Wilson, John, 32d, 1862.  
 Wheeler, Joseph, 146th.  
 Waldron, Joseph, 117th.  
 Wilson, Joseph, 149th, 1864.  
 Woodruff, Theo. M., 15th.  
 Wilson, John W., 15th.  
 Waldron, Martin, 15th.  
 Wilson, Leonard.  
 Ward, James.

The 29th annual re-union of the 117th N. Y. V. was held in Camden August 20th, 1891.

The 31st anniversary of the 146th N. Y. V. was held in Camden October 10th, 1893.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

### FOREST PARK.

In speaking of our beautiful Forest Park, we feel that too much can scarcely be said in praise of those who have been most instrumental in acquiring it for the use and benefit of our towns-people. It is rarely that a village of Camden's modest pretensions is so richly possessed of natural woodland contiguous to its boundaries. Visitors among us are most enthusiastic in their admiration of its charms and express surprise that we are so favored. Come with us to this lovely place—into nature's solitudes, and let us seek inspiration, where her voices only are heard. The giant trees, the rustling branches stirred by the breath of the Divine—music of water, which has been since the hand of the Omnipotent fashioned its course: warbling of birds, like a symphony from heaven's grand orchestra: chirrup of chipmunk: barking of squirrels: drum of the partridge: the hoarse, fault-finding note of the crow—the little flowers at our feet: dainty maiden-hair fern: those of a larger growth, seeming to be a production of the tropics—a thousand other beauties, demonstrating the power and love of the Creator, are here to be found. Here we may roam at our will, and gain recreation and instruction from nature's teachers. This tract of woodland was owned by the heirs of the late Dr. Joshua Ransom as late as 1833. (Earlier date we have not found).

It was purchased from the Ransoms by the late Alva Raymond in 1860, and was for years known as Raymond's Woods. It became a popular resort for those who enjoyed "sweet communion with nature" long before its purchase as a public benefit. The late Dr. Robert Frazier found much delight in visiting its quiet sweetness and beauty: never wearied of speaking its praise, and not infrequently he was accompanied in his rambles by gentlemen of similar tastes—Mr. J. N. Strong, Job Batchelor, A. G. Wood, J. G. Dorrance, B. A. Curtiss, and others. It is quite likely that in the minds of these "lovers of

the beautiful," the idea had originated of securing the land for a pleasure park long before a means of doing so could be devised.

June 25, 1891, the Trustees of the Cemetery Association, its members being—Job Batchelor, President; G. H. Smith, Secretary; A. G. Wood, Treasurer; J. G. Dorrance and Dr. H. G. Dubois, matured a plan for its purchase. Having some surplus funds in the treasury of the Association, and the land being for sale, they desired to secure it from the axe of the woodman, but could not act except by petition of the owners. A paper was drawn up, setting forth their aims, and presented to each claimant of cemetery plots for his signature. Some objected, but the majority favored the move, and accordingly about sixty-two acres of the territory was purchased of A. G. Robson (for in the course of events it came into his possession) at an outlay of sixteen hundred dollars. As we understand the matter, the Trustees are obliged to use one half of the yearly receipts in the improvement of the cemetery grounds, which is done. The accumulation of funds over and above one half, they utilized in acquiring Forest Park—the



Approach to Forest Park

good sense of their expenditure is surely to be commended. This tract of land is reached by a drive running along the boundary of the present cemetery at the foot of the high ground which skirts its northern limits. This drive is perhaps a fourth of a mile in length, and leads directly to the Park, which lies



ritory is east, and back of the cemetery. The wisdom of their purchase was emphatically questioned by many, but by the more progressive men and women of the community they were sustained. It is quite probable that aside from the fine system of waterworks (which found its opposers also) nothing has been done more to the comfort and pleasure of our residents than the provision of this admirable resort. Now to its improvement. In June of 1892 it was suggested to the ladies of Camden that they endeavor by some means to raise funds to aid in making the Park attractive. Ever ready to lend assistance in all good ways, they accordingly met and organized into a "Forest Park Improvement Society," and immediately commenced active work. Their first step was to call upon every woman or girl in town soliciting contributions of five cents and upwards. In this way one hundred and forty-six dollars was realized. This was paid over to the Treasurer of the Cemetery Association. This same summer a clam bake was given by the gentlemen of the village, netting them forty-six dollars, and an excursion to the Thousand Islands, which added eighty-two dollars. With these amounts the drive around the park was made, and much done in trimming trees and clearing out unsightly logs and stumps.

The Trustees extended the courtesy of naming the drive to the ladies of the Park Improvement Association. They met,



Entrance to Woodland Avenue.

and after deliberating upon several names proposed, decided by ballot—"Woodland Avenue" receiving the highest favor. Thus it was placed on record in the Trustees or Secretary's book.

It is meet to speak of Mr. Andres Meeker in this connection as one whose good taste and earnest effort has helped to develop the beauty of this spot. He saw, and still sees, possibilities of future improvement and embellishment, accomplishing great ends, with a very wise outlay of means. His was the artist's eye that first saw the course of a drive through it, and attended to the trimming of the trees, the cutting away of unsightly brambles, &c. In the summer of 1893 the ladies instigated a "bee," calling upon all male residents of the town, asking that they contribute a day's work, or the price of it (one dollar). A hearty response was given, and a day fixed upon for the event. Men were seen hurrying to the scene with saws, axes, hoes, and such implements as were needful, while teams, wagons, and



Drive at foot of hill east of the Cemetery

drivers were not at all in the minority. The ladies were ready at the hour to give the laborers a hearty meal in the form of a picnic, and the interest taken by all in the matter of park and the dinner, was evidenced by the zeal with which they worked. This year something over forty-five dollars was paid by the ladies for blasting stumps with dynamite. In April of 1894, the young people of the town gave a "Female Minstrel" entertainment, one hundred and twenty-six dollars and ninety cents added to the treasurer's record. This fund was to be used toward building a pavilion for shelter in the park. Plans were submitted by two or three local architects, but the expense was in excess of the sum deemed wise to expend, and

there the matter rests as yet. A balance left from one of the season's lecture courses was divided between the Library and Forest Park Associations, giving to the Park fund about sixty-eight dollars. This and other small amounts made a total deposited in the bank for the pavilion fund a hundred and ninety-six dollars, or a little more. From this amount the expense of putting in the water has been paid, and building a bridge over Fish Creek on the foot path to the Park. This, or perhaps the year following, a narrow strip of land was purchased of Richard Gardner (paid for by subscription from the citizens), in all perhaps four or five acres, which affords a shorter route to the Park for pedestrians. This commences in the valley at the foot of Third Street, crosses Fish Creek east of the factories in that locality, and intersects Woodland Avenue not far from the entrance. The drive is about three-fourths of a mile in extent, shaded and arched by luxuriant foliage. Large



East Side Drive.

numbers of our citizens advantage themselves of its cool, restful quietude, and doubtless many a brilliant idea has had its inception within the confines of this sylvan retreat. Here we can "look through nature up to nature's God," and commune with Him whose hand ever fashions the beautiful. The same Trustees are in office at present as were at the time of its purchase, except that a vacancy was left when Mr. Batchelor was removed by death, and Mr. Andres Meeker chosen to fill it. In 1897 another tract of land, forty acres in extent, lying adjacent to Forest

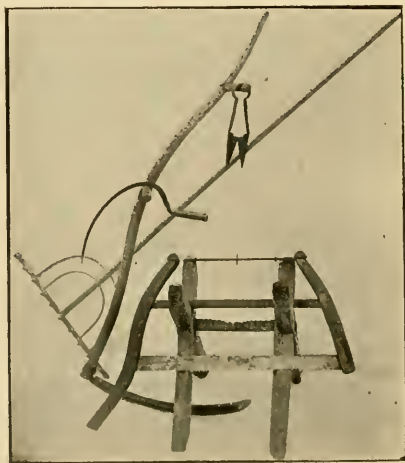
Park, and joining it on the east, was obtained by the Trustees of the Cemetery Association. This was, in early times, a portion of the Daniel Parke estate, at his death becoming the property of his son, George, thence to his heirs, and finally purchased by the Cemetery Association from Andres Meeker. This land is generously timbered with a growth of pine, and a portion was known as "the pines." Our former townsman, the Hon. P.



The Pines.

C. Costello, now of New York City, generously offered to give one thousand dollars to build a drive through this territory, and otherwise improve it, if the towns-people would purchase the land. As before, the Trustees of the Cemetery Association did not feel at liberty to make this business arrangement without the consent of the lot-holders. To obtain their minds in the matter, a petition, as before, was circulated by W. T. Stevens, who labored untiringly and zealously in favor of the purchase. The former experience was repeated: some objected, but a majority were in favor of acquiring it, who encouraged the Trustees to secure it. Parties were negotiating, or taking steps to obtain it, with a view to cutting off the timber for lumber, thus removing a valuable pleasure resort, when their aims came to the knowledge of one who had desired to see it in the possession of some one who would preserve it in its pristine beauty. It was Mr. Meeker who had this in mind, and its accomplishment he has lived to see. Seven hundred and seventy-five dollars was

the purchase price. Mr. Costello's promised gift to the town was already in hand, when the land became a part of Forest Park. It was understood that Mr. Meeker should build the drive, and be allowed the timber which he cut in its course. Immediately, operations commenced, and a fine carriage drive twenty feet wide, and about a mile and a half in length is the result. This is named "Costello Road" as a courtesy to the generous donor. All praise to the level-headed business men who are the Trustees of the Cemetery Association; to Mr. Costello for the princely gift to his fellow townsmen; to Mr. Meeker for his interest and labors in our behalf. The benefits of their ability and generosity will remain to future generations, and a grateful memory will live long after they have passed away. Would there were more who could and would foresee the needs and pleasures of those contemporary, and those who come after them, in some such useful substantial manner. It is better to build while we live to see the results of it, than to leave a fund for some one to direct the use of after we are gone. It often happens that our desires are unfulfilled, and it never meets our purpose. These men stand in the light of public benefactors to the village and town, and our people will not cease to appreciate the benefits of their thoughtfulness and foresight.



Early Implements.



## CHAPTER XXIV.

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Following is a list of the Supervisors representing the town of Camden from its organization as a town down to and including the present year.

|                           | Value Real<br>Estate. | Value Personal<br>Estate. |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1799. John W. Bloomfield. |                       |                           |
| 1800. John W. Bloomfield. |                       |                           |
| 1801. John W. Bloomfield. |                       |                           |
| 1802. John Rogers.        |                       |                           |
| 1803. John Humiston.      |                       |                           |
| 1804. John Humiston.      |                       |                           |
| 1805. John Humiston.      |                       |                           |
| 1806. Israel Stoddard.    |                       |                           |
| 1807. Israel Stoddard.    |                       |                           |
| 1808. Israel Stoddard.    |                       |                           |
| 1809. Elihu Curtiss.      |                       |                           |
| 1810. Elihu Curtiss.      |                       |                           |
| 1811. Phineas Tuttle.     |                       |                           |
| 1812. Phineas Tuttle.     |                       |                           |
| 1813. Seth Dunbar.        |                       |                           |
| 1814. Seth Dunbar.        |                       |                           |
| 1815. Seth Dunbar.        |                       |                           |
| 1816. Seth Dunbar.        |                       |                           |
| 1817. Israel Stoddard.    | \$222,030             | \$10,189                  |
| 1818. Israel Stoddard.    | 222,030               | 8,421                     |
| 1819. Israel Stoddard.    | 105,844               | 10,035                    |
| 1820. Israel Stoddard.    | 102,744               | 8,663                     |
| 1821. Israel Stoddard.    | 103,194               | 9,262                     |
| 1822. Israel Stoddard.    | 186,820               | 10,044                    |
| 1823. Israel Stoddard.    | 106,603               | 9,263                     |
| 1824. Israel Stoddard.    | 134,178               | 10,102                    |
| 1825. Seth Dunbar.        | 121,160               | 6,327                     |
| 1826. Israel Stoddard.    | 123,124               | 7,776                     |
| 1827. Israel Stoddard.    | 122,525               | 7,667                     |
| 1828. Israel Stoddard.    | 124,586               | 6,200                     |

|       |                      | Value Real<br>Estate. | Value Personal<br>Estate. |
|-------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1829. | Seth Dunbar,         | 124,301               | 4,482                     |
| 1830. | Seth Dunbar,         | 135,300               | 5,414                     |
| 1831. | Seth Dunbar,         | 141,900               |                           |
| 1832  | Israel Stoddard,     | 141,014               | 6,860                     |
| 1833  | George L. Coe,       | 145,157               | 10,429                    |
| 1834. | Lyman Curtiss,       | 144,860               | 8,650                     |
| 1835. | Garrit Smith,        | 149,990               | 7,230                     |
| 1836. | John Smith,          | 154,250               | 6,150                     |
| 1837. | Samuel B. Hinckly,   | 151,040               | 6,260                     |
| 1838. | Samuel B. Hinckly,   | 156,314               | 6,220                     |
| 1839. | Seth Dunbar,         | 170,090               | 7,510                     |
| 1840. | Don A. Gatchell,     | 169,480               | 5,040                     |
| 1841. | Junius Woods,        | 169,980               | 9,590                     |
| 1842. | Junius Woods,        | 170,770               | 11,400                    |
| 1843. | Samuel B. Hinckly,   | 176,570               | 9,040                     |
| 1844. | Horace Dunbar,       | 180,620               | 9,240                     |
| 1845. | Horace Dunbar,       | 175,110               | 8,860                     |
| 1846. | Ambrose Curtiss,     | 177,320               | 7,930                     |
| 1847. | Ambrose Curtiss,     | 180,200               | 11,980                    |
| 1848. | Horace Dunbar,       | 184,685               | 10,400                    |
| 1849. | Edwin S. Dunbar,     | 183,380               | 117,430                   |
| 1850. | George W. Wood,      | 180,500               | 170,300                   |
| 1851. | Thomas D. Penfield,  | 452,590               | 164,840                   |
| 1852. | Thomas D. Penfield,  | 347,260               | 149,390                   |
| 1853. | Thomas D. Penfield,  | 343,850               | 127,600                   |
| 1854. | E. S. Dunbar,        | 337,720               | 113,100                   |
| 1855. | Jairus H. Munger,    | 311,250               | 17,560                    |
| 1856. | Horace Dunbar,       | 306,490               | 4,230                     |
| 1857. | Horace Dunbar,       | 303,220               | 3,600                     |
| 1858. | Alfred Chamberlain,  | 294,849               | 9,300                     |
| 1859. | Thomas D. Penfield,  | 293,589               | 9,550                     |
| 1860. | Albert Bickford,     | 294,040               | 7,750                     |
| 1861. | Thomas D. Penfield,  | 276,115               | 13,750                    |
| 1862. | Pliny Phelps,        | 290,405               | 14,400                    |
| 1863. | Patrick C. Costello, | 293,970               | 13,000                    |
| 1864. | Patrick C. Costello, | 300,370               | 14,000                    |
| 1865. | Patrick C. Costello, | 296,550               | 8,350                     |
| 1866. | Patrick C. Costello, | 318,850               | 9,250                     |

|   | Value Real<br>Estate. | Value Personal<br>Estate |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1867. Henry S. Waterman,                        | 316,250               | 12,850                   |
| 1868. Henry S. Waterman,                        | 338,450               | 12,350                   |
| 1869. Benjamin D. Stone,                        | 341,880               | 9,150                    |
| 1870. Benjamin D. Stone,                        | 348,940               | 10,150                   |
| 1871. Curtis J. Wright,                         | 350,220               | 10,500                   |
| 1872. Curtis J. Wright,                         | 354,170               | 7,800                    |
| 1873. Spencer J. Upson,                         | 353,530               | 6,650                    |
| 1874. Spencer J. Upson,                         | 345,335               | 4,250                    |
| 1875. Byron A. Curtiss,                         | 346,240               | 3,900                    |
| 1876. Byron A. Curtiss,                         | 1,329,144             | 140,750                  |
| 1877. Thomas D. Penfield,                       | 1,107,810             | 116,800                  |
| 1878. Thomas D. Penfield,                       | 892,410               | 106,750                  |
| 1879. Thomas D. Penfield,                       | 868,260               | 77,250                   |
| 1880. Thomas D. Penfield,                       | 870,890               | 88,170                   |
| 1881. Thomas D. Penfield,                       | 875,460               | 84,850                   |
| 1882. Benjamin D. Stone,                        | 880,610               | 80,370                   |
| 1883. Benjamin D. Stone,                        | 896,753               | 77,150                   |
| 1884. Chauncey M. Phelps, Total                 | 1,031,963             |                          |
| 1885. Chauncey M. Phelps,                       | 1,072,288             | 170,007                  |
| 1886. Thomas D. Penfield, Total,                | 1,014,593             |                          |
| 1887. Jabez Ford,                               | 851,200               | 13,600                   |
| 1888. Jabez Ford,                               | 926,000               | 73,600                   |
| 1889. Andrew W. Craig,                          | 876,810               | 29,250                   |
| 1890. Andrew W. Craig, Total real and personal, | 916,167               |                          |
| 1891. Orson C. Woods,                           | 832,110               | 60,800                   |
| 1892. Orson C. Woods,                           | 839,130               | 64,150                   |
| 1893. William H. Gifford,                       | 843,610               | 62,900                   |
| 1894. William H. Gifford,                       | 859,740               | 62,550                   |
| 1895. William H. Gifford,                       | 1,004,003             | 32,150                   |
| 1896. William S. Peck,                          | 879,540               | 62,900                   |
| 1897. William S. Peck,                          |                       |                          |

Following are the Supervisors serving more than one term

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| John W. Bloomfield | 3  |
| John Humiston      | 3  |
| Israel Stoddard    | 15 |
| Elihu Curtiss      | 2  |
| Phineas Tuttle     | 2  |

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Seth Dunbar .....         | 9  |
| Samuel B. Hinckly .....   | 3  |
| Horace Dunbar .....       | 5  |
| Ambrose Curtiss .....     | 2  |
| Edwin S. Dunbar .....     | 3  |
| Thomas D. Penfield .....  | 11 |
| Patrick C. Costello ..... | 4  |
| H. S. Waterman .....      | 2  |
| Benjamin D. Stone .....   | 4  |
| Curtis J. Wright .....    | 2  |
| Spencer J. Upson .....    | 2  |
| Byron A. Curtiss .....    | 2  |
| Chauncey M. Phelps .....  | 2  |
| Jabez Ford .....          | 2  |
| A. W. Craig .....         | 2  |
| Orson C. Woods .....      | 2  |
| William H. Gifford .....  | 3  |

## CHAPTER XXV.

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### GLEANNINGS.

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#### Married.

At Camden, N. Y., by the Rev. Henry Smith, May 28, 1828, David Johnson and Miss Laura Wilson. (Parents of Mrs. James H. Gamble).

Isaac Porter established the first brick kiln in Camden in 1804. It does not appear where it was located.

In 1842 when John Jamieson built the house at present the home of Mr. Eugene Conant, an unusual ceremony took place. After the frame was erected, the rafters in place, and all ready, James Jamieson, a son of the builder, mounted upon one of the timbers, broke a bottle of champagne, pouring it on the wood, christening the structure "The Cottage," a name it still bears. It was a matter of much comment, and in those days, when champagne did not flow as freely as now, was considered a "waste of material" by men of judgment.

When the famous Dan Rice first started in the circus business, Camden was one of the towns in which he first exhibited in 1820. Nearly one half his audience were Oneida Indians. At that time they were very numerous in this vicinity, as they went from their Fish Creek Reservation north, to Oseola and the Salmon River country, for fishing and trapping.

In early times, before Second Street was extended north, what is now Washington Street was then a foot path, and was called "Pig Alley."

It was a primitive pastime for the early white settlers in Camden to place coppers on a stump, which stood in front of the Colton Tavern, and give them to the Indian who shot at and hit the mark. A copper was seldom missed by the arrow of the red man.

When our informant was a young girl, her father had some dealings with the Indians, which occasionally brought them to the house. A string of bright beads which she wore about her neck, was removed and carried away by one of them, to the re-



gret of the child, but it was thought best to let it pass without making trouble, so she did not recover her treasure.

Early settlers kept their coals with which to start fires buried in the ashes through the night. In the family of Mr. Abram Hennis, who dwelt in the "Oak Opening," they were allowed to "die out" by the children, who in the absence of their parents, did not know how to keep them alive. To get a fire to cook their suppers, they must go to a distant neighbor's through the forest, for a shovel full. In making the trip a black bear crossed the path of the child, and both being frightened, fled in opposite directions. We believe the child to have been Katharine Hennis (the late Mrs. James Jones). Matches were an unknown article in those days. Older people understood how to get a spark from a flint, but children could not do it.

An Indian and a white man once ran a race through Main Street to the bridge, at the foot of it. The prize was a jug of rum, and the white man won it. He was quite sober at the start, however, which could hardly be said of the competitor. The poor red man had been made tipsy by the friends of the winner, previous to the start.

It is related that in 1814 Jonathan Barnes was in need of material for bread for his family. Going to his rye field he procured some, thrashed enough to get a half bushel of grain, took it to Cropper Mill, got it ground, returning home at 9 o'clock at night. His wife made a short-cake. He had not tasted a mouthful of bread for three days. This was the best he ever ate, although it was as black as his boot.

"Pat No-Doubt," as he was known, came from Ireland to Camden about 1850, as he often told the children, "on horseback, between two ships." He had an insatiate love for whisky, and after taking a "drop too much of the craythur," would relate exaggerated stories. Upon one occasion he ran into the bar-room of a public house, out of breath, and much excited, declaring that a thousand boys were pursuing him. "Oh no, Pat," said the proprietor, "there are not one thousand boys in the town." Then said Pat, "there are five hundred, and no doubt of it." "Not as many as that, Pat," replied the inn-keeper. "Well, then there were one hundred coming after me as fast as

ever they could run, and no doubt of it." "You are mistaken, Pat, there could not have been one hundred boys after you," "Then there were fifty," rejoined the son of Erin. "No, not fifty Pat, for had there been, I should have heard them," said the landlord. "Well then it was Lem Smith's boy, and some other one, and you need not doubt it." From this time on he was called "Pat No-Doubt," and was never known by any other name.

The first house built on Church Street was the Munger house built by William York in 1842, and soon after the Upson house was built.

The first house on Second Street north of Union Street was built by Freeman Washburn, now owned and occupied by W. I. Stoddard.

The first house on Third Street was built and owned by Horace McIntire.

In the early days of our town a worthless specimen of humanity, fond of drink, and a decided distaste for labor, spent much time at the lower tavern. He was offered a dollar if he would stand all day on a pine stump opposite the tavern—the proposition made him by Capt. Baird. He accepted it, and stood all day long in the bitter cold air, chopping vigorously to keep warm.

## CONCLUDING CHAPTER.

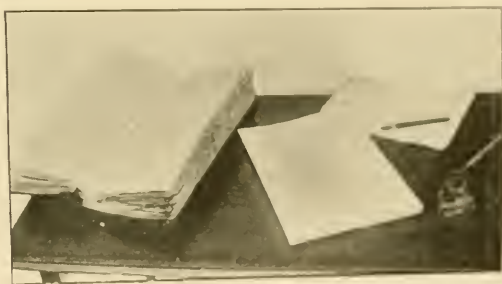
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The work necessary to the making of this book has been performed with the greatest pleasure, though prosecuted some of the time under circumstances of disadvantage and discouragement. Now that it is done, we have no apologies to offer, nor regrets to express, save that those who form the subject of this volume have not received from our pens as high commendation as they deserve. It must be remembered that early in our work, we asked, through the columns of the "Advance-Journal," for items of local pioneer interest from every one. If any are omitted, it surely is not our fault. Undoubtedly, with all care taken, such will be the case. Some will be found to have been unmentioned, and perhaps undue prominence given to others—due alone to the interest, or lack of it, by their descendants.

Mistakes and misapprehensions in a work of this kind are unavoidable, especially in such matters as were never before brought into history, and derived from so many different sources. Especially will the reader be gratified with the faces of honored citizens, familiar still to some, and greatly revered by all. Many pictures that enrich these pages have been long cherished as priceless treasures by relatives and friends. They will be warmly welcomed in many homes, and will give to future generations a more vivid realization of the days and scenes with which they were connected. The public will join with the authors in thanks to those persons who have so generously aided in the reproduction of these valuable pictures. Others which were greatly desired it has been impossible for various reasons to secure.

As some of the records of events come down to the present time, it seems but fitting that our pictures should include a life-long living representative of the town, Hon. Thomas De Milt Penfield, which his friends and constituents will highly value. Grateful thanks are due to the many friends who have given the writers invaluable information. Below we give the names of some who have aided us in the work: Mr. H. M.

Chapman, Dr. A. H. Smith, William Swanson, Harry Goodyear, Lucius Goodyear, Ambrose Byington, Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Stoddard, Pliny Phelps, Mrs. A. S. Parker (deceased), Martin H. Stevens, M. P. B. Cook, Mrs. Barber, George Phelps, J. H. Tracy, W. H. Gifford, Mrs. Sarah Allen, Mrs. Hubbard Judson, and many others. With this, our labors end in this direction. We earnestly hope the book will meet with the approval of its readers, and candidly admit that it has entailed more of time and research than we had an idea of when first considering it. Something more than two years have been given by each of the authors to compiling it. The time has been willingly given and we cordially submit the result of our efforts to the reader.



## HISTORY OF FRENCHMAN'S ISLAND.

From an issue of the "Camden Journal" of 1877, we copy the following, which may interest readers of to-day; also to preserve to our community the history of a spot so many visit living in Camden. As follows:

"As much interest is being manifested this season in this pleasant summer resort, we copy the following interesting sketch from the "Utica Herald," of September 17, 1859, kindly furnished by H. A. Case, Esq.:

"Frenchan's Island, situated in Oneida Lake, about three miles west of Constantia village, Oswego County, contains twenty-eight acres of land, and derives its name from a historical incident of no little interest, which has been made the theme of much elegant romance in books and pamphlets. Even history has lent the weight and authority appertaining to its name and general character to the narration and embellishment of pretended facts, gathered from the vague and uncertain traditions current in the neighborhood of the island, without any regard to their authenticity, when real facts were published thirty years ago, and were familiar in all well-informed circles of society in this country. We propose to vindicate truth, and revive real facts, by presenting a brief outline of them. During the French Revolution, and after the overthrow of the monarchy and the succession of the Robespierre reign in 1793, the nobility were brought to the block by scores every day, and their property confiscated.

The spirit and energy of the revolution was directed against rank, property and social order. Flight, therefore, was the only security for life among the higher classes, and the emigration to this country was immense. Families of high distinction left their homes and property without a moment's preparation; and in the train of exiles to the United States were crowned princes and dukes of the royal household. In the general rush came a young nobleman with a young and beautiful wife. They landed on our shores, and followed the trail of emigration west, until they reached Oneida Lake, which then lay in the great thoroughfare of trade and travel. Attracted by the beautiful island and the primitive forest with which it was covered, they



landed on it, erected a neat cabin, and made their home there. At the period of their arrival on the island, George Scriba, proprietor of Scriba's Patent, had commenced a settlement at Constantia, which he called Rotterdam, in 1793, and had a large number of mechanics employed there, in erecting dwellings, mills, stores and public houses. The inmates of the humble dwelling upon the island became at once the objects of curiosity and speculation among Scriba's settlers, and the navigators of the lake. A light canoe lying at the island's home indicated that its owner was in communication with the main shore on the north bank of the lake, and is said to have sold gold and silver trinkets to a blacksmith at Constantia, for double the price of old iron. Boatmen navigating the lake had seen a young lady of surpassing beauty, habited in a foreign garb, laboring with her own hands in a little garden, and also heard the notes of a violin when passing at the hour of nightfall. The dwellers in the most magnificent palaces, and the members of the most polished society of the Old World, seemed to realize in the profound solitudes of nature the very natural desire for 'A lodge in some vast wilderness; some boundless contiguity of shade.' As time rolled on, the place of their residence became more and more extensively known. Of its duration we have not at hand any authentic data, but infer, from contemporaneous results, that it must have been a year or two. At length Chancellor Livingston, who acted as minister at the French Court, under the commission of the Continental Congress during the revolution, which post he resigned at the close of the war, and before the treaty of Paris in 1783, heard of the exile, and made a tour to Oneida Lake. His visit there is described in an article entitled 'The Exile,' published in 1830, in a book called 'The Scrap Table,' compiled from matter previously published in newspapers and pamphlets, from which we derive many of our facts, authenticated by the Chancellor himself. He went to the island alone in a skiff, and landed near the door of the cabin, and the manner of his reception as an entire stranger, and the interview that followed, in which the Chancellor made himself and his business known, were of the most touching character; but the limits assigned to our article will not admit of details. The reception, which was rather beliger-

ent, was soon followed by explanations, and a most affecting scene. When the conversation reached that point of amicable relations, at which the Count of St. Hilary introduced his lady with all the titles of nobility attached to her name, the Chancellor exclaimed, 'Heavens! can it be possible? Do I indeed, behold the daughter of Clairmont? Is it in the wilds of America that the belle of Quartier St. Germain holds her levee?' The lady and her husband looked astonished. 'Do you not remember me?' continued the Chancellor. 'Have you forgotten the Champs Elysees and the fete given in honor of your birthday, in which I participated so largely as your father's American friend?' As if awakened from a dream, the lady threw herself upon her husband's arm, and wept. The Chancellor was so moved by the plaintive tones of her voice, and the unaffected expression of her grief, as to shed some natural tears in spite of himself. After mutual explanations, and a welcome to the hospitalities of the cabin, the Chancellor expressed his happiness at having found the very persons about whom he had been so deeply solicitous, and ended by offering them an asylum under his own roof, and the society of a family who would be devoted to their comfort. After hearing a relation of the horrid tragedies they had witnessed, their escape from Paris to England, and their arrival in New York, and the misfortunes that had driven them into solitude, the Chancellor seized the hand of the Countess, and urged her not to delay her departure for a moment. 'The hospitality I have shared in your father's home shall, in all but its splendor, be returned in mine; come on the banks of the Hudson, and await tranquility, and the restoration of your fortune.' The Chancellor ordered up his batteau, and took them off with their most valuable effects, to his splendid mansion on the east bank of the Hudson, which he named Clairmont, as he did the first steamboat that navigated the Hudson, in honor of the lady's family. Here occurs an interregnum in the written history of Count St. Hilary; but subsequent facts justify the inference, that upon the restoration of order in France, under the iron rule of Napoleon, they returned to Paris. One morning in 1803, Chancellor Livingston appeared at Paris by appointment, with a number of Americans, on the banks of

the Seine, to witness a second experiment or attempt of Robert Fulton to navigate the river with a small steamboat in which the Chancellor was interested. 'It was presently seen,' says the Chancellor, 'coming along with tolerable speed, and all were proud of the ingenuity of our countryman, and were intently gazing upon this specimen of his talent, when a dashing equipage came rolling along, and drew up near the place where we stood.' 'Eh bien,' said a lovely woman in the prime of life, seated on the back seat of the carriage. 'Oui, Oui,' replied a gentleman who sat next her, on whose breast a red ribbon was displayed. A recognition immediately took place, and the Chancellor says, 'In an instant I was at the side of the fair Genevieve, and the Count St. Hilary. Our mutual adventures were quickly related. I learned that fortune had smiled upon the interesting exiles. They were again in affluence and ease, and as one who had known them intimately on the banks of the Hudson, I was the object of their marked attention and unvarying friendship. I was soon, although an undistinguished traveler, in the enjoyment of a brilliant society, and the received guest in a circle never to be forgotten.' To return to 'Frenchman's Island.' The sudden manner in which the cabin and its furniture was left, gave rise to all sorts of conjectures and stories among the dwellers upon the lake shore. Some believed the islanders had been murdered and thrown into the lake, others that they had run away. The blacksmith at Constantia was grieved that he had not purchased more of the Countess' jewels, which by virtue of his art, he estimated at double the price of old iron. The remains of the cabin and fruit trees planted by St. Hilary are still to be seen on the island."

To keep the historic importance of this romantic spot in the minds of our residents, it is deemed wise to reprint it in our book. From time to time newspaper accounts have been given of it, but such are destroyed. We wish to record it.

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