

Old Houses of Monroe County

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Monroe Chapter, D. A. R.

Contents

Forward

Conservation in a new Field

Clarkson

John Bowman House

Old Jewett House

Old E. Drake House

Henry Martyn House

Stanton-Clark House

Old Captain Warren Place

Old Philip Boss House

Old Huston Tavern

Marble Terrace Farm

Albert Palmer House

Old Forsyth, Patterson House

Henry R. Selden House

Old Baldwin House

Palmer Homestead

Old Gustavus Clark House
Old Crowell House
Nathaniel Rowell House
Old Bellinger House
Old Blodgett House
Lewis Swift Birthplace
Clarkson Congregational Church
Old Hoy House
Old David Moore House
Old Nixon House
Old Prosser House
Old Moore-Hoy Cottage
Old James Moore House
Old Perry House

Hamlin

Timmerman Farm

Ogden

Doty Homestead
Old Adams-Milliner House
Indian Hill Farm
Old Hill House

Riga

Old Baldwin House
Oldest Tavern (Thomson, 1808)
Frances E. Willard

Riga Academy

Churchville Grade School

Sweden

Gallup Homestead

Old Locke House

Frederick P. Root House

Chester White Homestead

Old Dimmock-Stickney House

Ruins of Swamp Road Tavern

Old Guy Chappell House

Reed Homestead

James Jackson House

Ostrom-Morgan House

Old Comstock-Covell House

Asa Rowe House

Reuben Stickney, Jr. House

Old Dimick-Seymour-Allen House

Old Barnett House

Hunt's Castle

Old Hyde-Seymour-Brockway House

Old Burlingame Place

Old Parkes-Palmer House

Seymour Library

Presbyterian Manse

Old Gardner-Bradford House

Records of Revolutionary Soldiers buried in the Town of Sweden

Historic Marker Locations

Bible Records of Bennett and Reed family

Bible Records of D'Lamatter, Spring and Reed families

Cemetery Records

West Sweden Cemetery

Locust Hill or Good Cemetery

Biographies

Judge William H. Brown

Austin Spencer Family

True Family

Gilman

John Dearborn Webster

George W. Willey

James Ferris

Nichols Family

Germain (Germond) Family

Simmons Family (incomplete)

Presented To Seymour Library

By

Monroe Chapter, Daughters Of The American Revolution.

Some Old Houses Of Western Monroe County

Foreword.

Did you ever, in looking over your old photographs, feel provoked with yourself because you did not know who all of them were and now it is too late to find out? Grandma and Aunt Betsy used to tell you about those people but you never wrote down what they said and now Grandma and Aunt Betsy are gone.

It may be the same way about the old houses in your neighborhood. You were told interesting things about some of them – stories you would like to have remembered, - but your memory has failed you again.

It is to remedy this situation in our locality, as far as possible, and provide against what would really be an irreparable loss, that the records in this portfolio have been gathered and set down.

Sources of information have been various; the published histories of Monroe County, particularly, the “Landmarks” which has been a mine of information; the earliest town records and old manuscripts such as letters, school circulars, store ledgers and “title searches”. Also, newspaper articles early and late, dealing with the history of this section, and Wilkinson’s recent history of Clarkson which should be published but never had been and Miss Elizabeth Martin’s history of Brockport. Last but not last, is the word of mouth testimony of descendents of the people who built the houses under consideration or lived in them many years. Some of these descendents are still living in “the old Homestead”. If it is a farm house and the farm is still being worked by the same family it is eligible for a marker and can be known as a “Century Farm”.

The name of the earliest known owner of each house is given, also the name of the present owner. You are at liberty to take a few notes from these records but please do not make copies of them.

This collection is far from being complete. We shall add to it from time to time as we continue our work and we shall be glad to receive reliable information from any who are interested and can supply it to us through the Librarian.

Conservation In A New Field

A friendly form of rustic salutation is “How are you coming?” Some public spirited citizens of Monroe County, N. Y. have begun to ask this question of their old landmarks – those that are left – and whenever possible they follow up this inquiry by a tour of inspection.

In Rochester there is a “Society for the Preservation of Landmarks in Western New York” which, in the few short years of its existence has been doing excellent work. It has salvaged one important landmark in Rochester and plans to restore others both within and without the city’s area.

The town of Clarkson in the western part of the county, is fortunate for being in another field of activity of this sort. Clarkson Corners at the intersection of the Ridge and Lake Roads, both historic early highways, is a most interesting old village, reminiscent of stagecoach days. Business had elbowed out the Old Brockway tavern on the southwest corner and on the southeast corner there were two small buildings, partly in ruins, which may have been old but they were not quaint and were nothing but eyesores. Therefore the suggestion was made that they be cleared away and the space they occupied be made into a little park. So plans were made to carry out this idea.

Ever since our D. A. R. monument at Clarkson had been removed from the intersection of the highways because it had caused an accident, we had no place to put it, and a little park at the Corners seemed an ideal solution. The town hall rightly belonged at the Corners too. It was an old frame building with large small-paned windows, so it was removed to this site after the small buildings had been razed.

A portico with tall columns was added to the town hall and then it was painted a glistening white and two large beds of scarlet salvia sat in front of it as part of the landscaping project.

The committee of citizens who engineered this affair were so pleased with the results obtained and the favorable comments which came in from all sides, that they took up another project of even more importance. This was the restoration of the old Congregational church of the village, built in 1885. On its two-acre plot with the old academy building in the rear on one side, it looks like a transplanted bit of New England. The church was sadly in need of repair and when a careful inspection was made it was discovered that more than a thousand dollars would be needed to put it in condition. The amount has been raised, our Chapter contribution twenty-five dollars of it.

While these local doings I have recorded may seem relatively unimportant, some of us do not think they really are. People in various parts of the country are beginning to realize the value of their early American survivals and are taking steps to preserve them and give them a proper setting. And each community that takes up such an enterprise and carries it to successful completion encourages others to do the same. The W. P. A. needs worthwhile fields of activity, and making little parks at neglected corners is one way to help them which the Clarkson folk had in mind when they inaugurated this work.

Even where a committee to save the landmarks is not operating, there are often instances of individuals doing it. For it seems to some people quite an adventure to buy an old farmhouse, adapt it to modern uses, without spoiling the architecture, and then use as a summer home or year round home.

“But the old fireplaces have been removed” was a plaint heard recently in this connection. That could hardly have happened for you cannot take out a hole from a wall. Another thing seldom removed but only covered up was the old brick sidewalk leading to the front door. If you own an old house maybe you will find one if you try a little excavating in your front yard. The owner of a former tavern in Clarkson dug into some hummocks in the back yard and brought to light a few interesting old flasks and vials that once contained – well you can guess. In the basement kitchen of another house in the village the plaster fell from the ceiling and revealed massive hand-hewn beams that supported the floor above. The owner of the house saw that the exposed beams helped to restore its former atmosphere of an old time kitchen to the room so she was glad the plaster had fallen and did not have it replaced.

Keeping the cellar dry as well as free from trash is another important item in this field of conservation, for a dry cellar is one of the essentials in the preservation of old buildings. This means mending and waterproofing foundations, pulling out saplings that sprout too near them, and keeping gutters and the pipes that descend from them from being choked up with leaves in the fall. But enough of this, for space is needed for a few illustrations of what we have in Clarkson to conserve.

Note; In preparing this series of records of old houses we were impressed by the fact that there was so much to tell about them, only a very small number could be disposed of in a few paragraphs. When we wrote up the Jackson house it appeared to be in the latter category for a hiatus between the first known owner and the present one no old resident we talked with seemed able to bridge. But recently there came to light a series of sketches of early Brockport scenes and characters written by the late J. P. Cornes, which were published in the Brockport Democrat some years ago.

In the fifties, said Cornes, there lived in the stone house now owned by Charles Ellis, a quaint old character whose name was Thomas Bascom. A big man he was with a voice like a fog horn and when he was aroused there was something doing. It was evident from Mr. Cornes' description of "Tom" Bascom that he was one of the earliest collectors in this vicinity. The things he specialized in were old wagons, ploughs, harrows, and everything that pertained to farming; and with his cattle, horses, hogs, sheep, etc., all running loose among his conglomeration of utensils, his old barnyard was the talk of all the country round.

Tom always drove a team of oxen when he came into town and at such times he was sure to draw a crowd, geehawing in a voice that could be heard half a mile away and cracking his rawhide whip.

At one time he had a pet bull which he broke to harness and worked on the farm but had never ventured to drive him on the road until one fateful spring morning. On that occasion he was getting his ploughing done and his oxen and horses were all in use, so he thought he would drive his pet to the village and deliver a load of cornstalks.

All should have gone well, but driving under the railroad bridge frightened the steed and he started on a run down Main Street. Bellowing in fear and rage, he collided with a load of wood, then struggling free from his harness and ancient ox cart, he dashed over the canal bridge headed for Clarkson. The anti-climax came when he was found at last, peacefully grazing with some other cattle on the farm of old Dr. Abel Baldwin north of the Ridge Road.

Many people living in Brockport years ago, those who were contemporaries of Mary Jane Holmes, used to think said Mr. Cornes, that our famous authoress took the character of "old man Middleton" in her first book, "Tempest and Sunshine", from the life of Thomas Bascom.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County --- Town Of Clarkson

Village of Clarkson

John Bowman House - Present Owner Fred H. Gordon

There is an interesting row of old brick houses on the west side of the Lake Road within the limits of Clarkson, New York. This first of these as you enter the village from the south is the large house built for Hon. John Bowman in 1824. William H. Seymour said in his reminiscence that Bowman came to Murray, as Clarkson was first called, soon after he did and he came in 1818. Bowman was a lawyer and prominent in politics. In 1822 he represented Monroe County at a State convention. In 1823 he was a member of the assembly, in 1824-1826, a State senator. There was a history of Clarkson published in the Brockport Democrat in 1890 in which it says the "in 1823 John Bowman (who afterward became the county judge) joined Col. S. B. Jewett in a law partnership." Judge Bowman, as he was always called, married Lovica and they had three sons, William, James and John M. who were registered in Clarkson Academy in 1836-37. The Judge died in 1853 and his son James died the following year. William continued to run the farm, for when the house was built this property included the Perry and Reid farms. William Bowman was also in politics. He was county district attorney sometime after 1847, and supervisor of the town of Clarkson in 1858.

This house and all the houses in this row are supposed to have been built by Lemuel Haskell who was a mason by trade and came to Clarkson in 1819. He had a younger brother who worked with him, according to some authorities.

In about 1875 this house was sold to Clark Allen. The Allens lived here for eighteen years. The present owner is Fred H. Gordon.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County --- Town Of Clarkson

Village of Clarkson

Old Jewett House --- Present owner, H. F. Lowry

This is the second in the row of old brick houses. It was built in 1828 for Col. Jewett by the Haskells. Its doorway is one of the finest.

Col. Simeon B. Jewett was born in Sharon, Litchfield County, Conn. In 1801. In 1820 he went to Skaneateles, N. Y. and studied law in the office of his brother, Judge Jewett. Admitted to the bar in 1823, he came to Clarkson that same year and continued to reside in Clarkson and practice his profession most of his life.

He married Nancy Cook in 1831. In 1834 he formed a partnership with Henry R. Selden under the firm name of Jewett and Selden, which continued until 1858 when Judge Selden removed to Rochester.

Always a Democrat, Jewett early became interested in politics, but he cared more for the success of his party and friends than for his own advancement.

He served as supervisor from 1833 to 1835. He was appointed surrogate of Monroe County in 1845 and served two years in that capacity driving from Clarkson to Rochester to spend two days of every week there. He was appointed marshal of the northern New York district by President Buchanan and held this office four years.

Col. Jewett early became what was known as a Freesoiler, and was identified with that wing of the Democratic Party. He was a man of wonderful executive ability, and as a lawyer had few superiors. He was prominent in all State and National conventions.

He died in Clarkson in 1869. His wife died in 1883. Their only child, Miss Marry W. Jewett, born 1836, continued to live at the homestead until her death in 1903. She left the house with all its treasures to a cousin who lived Kendall, New York, but this other Miss Jewett died soon after receiving her legacy and it passed on to other relations.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County --- Town Of Clarkson

Village of Clarkson

Old E. Drake House --- Present owner Miss Clara Durkee

This is the fourth in the row of old houses on the Lake Road in the Village of Clarkson. The first owner of the land after the original proprietors, was Dr. Abel Baldwin, who owned all this strip from the corner to the south line of the Jewett's. This particular lot was sold by Henry R. Selden, Baldwin's son-in-law to Lenuel Haskell in 1841. Haskell undoubtedly built the house and he sold it to D. Rogers in 1850. In 1859 it was sold to Sally M. Sweat, then she sold it in 1865 to the Drakes.

On a cap of Clarkson dated 1872 the owner of this house is set down as E. Drake. He was Elijah Drake who had formerly lived on the south side of the Ridge Road opposite the road which is named after him, the Drake Road, in a brick house which is still standing. A native of Cayuga County, he had come to Monroe County in 1832. He married Martha E., daughter of Rev. Norris Bull, principal of Clarkson Academy. Their son, John N. was born in 1854. After completing his general education at the Brockport and Geneseo Normal Schools, he studied law in Rochester and returning to Brockport's in 1881 he established a general practice. He was justice of the peace and village clerk and attorney for some years. He also compiled and published a volume called "The Village Charter" which is a compendium of the laws governing all villages in the state. The Drakes traced their descent from Sir Francis Drake, the sea rover, who played such an important part in early American History.

The present owner of this is Miss Clara Durkee.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County --- Town Of Clarkson

In the Village of Clarkson

Henry Martyn House --- Present Owner Ernest Fowler

This is the third in the row of old brick houses on the Lake Road. It has a beautiful doorway and once had an ornamental fence similar to that of the Jewett place, but all the old houses had fenced in yards originally. This house is said to have been built in 1829 by Gustavus Clark for his partner in the mercantile business, Henry Martyn.

Henry Martyn was born in Woodbury, Conn. but grew up in Peacham, Vt. in the fall of 1823 or the winter following, he came to Western New York. He had an uncle living in Avon and through him succeeded in getting a situation as clerk in a small place east of Lockport.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County --- Town Of Clarkson

Village of Clarkson

Stanton-Clark House --- Present owner, Thomas Duryea

This is the fifth in the row of old brick houses on the lake road in Clarkson. It was built about 1840 and sold by David Lee to Gilbert P. Stanton in 1843. Mr. Stanton died ten years later. His widow, Mrs. Harriet Peck Stanton lived in the house but she was for many years an invalid and her sister and children lived with her.

Her sister, Caroline Peck, had married a lawyer who had his office in Albany. His name was James L. Clark. They Clarks had three children, Mary, Charles and Maria. Mrs. Stanton willed the house to her niece Mary who married F. C. Tapley and had two children.

This house contained very rare antiques which were purchased from the Gustavus Clark home when that was broken up. Many members of the State Legislature were entertained here. It is said that this family was related to the Jewetts but not to the Gustavus Clarks.

After the sisters died Miss Marie Clark lived here with her niece, Winifred for some years. In 1914 the Tapley heirs, Charles Clark and Winifred Tapley Warner, sold the house to Frank Cary. Cary sold it to Thomas Duryea in 1924.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County --- Town Of Clarkson

Village of Clarkson

Old Captain Warren Place

Present Owner, S. M. Furnald

This is the sixth in the row of old brick houses on the Lake Road in Clarkson. It is perhaps the largest house in Clarkson and is certainly one of the most beautiful. It was built about 1850 and is a fine example of the classic Revival style of architecture.

Although it has always been called the old Warren place, it was built by another person who never lived in it. He was John M. Bowman, son of Judge Bowman. He was engaged to a young lady whom tradition said was Miss Eliza Bellinger, but he backed out when the house was finished before, and she sued him for breach of promise. Years afterwards, as an old letter reveals, he admitted Eliza had been hardly used and seemed to regret his stubbornness.

Captain James Warren was a native of Columbia County and Came to Clarkson in 1810 with his father, Lyman Warren. The Warren farm was just east of Garland on the north side of the Ridge Road.

Captain Warren had an interest in a transport line and in his younger days was captain of one of the passenger boats on the canal which was considered a very honorable and fine position. In 1843 Captain Warren married Olivia Crary. He was elected supervisor of the town served as many terms as he, and in 1863 he was elected sheriff of Monroe County. He was genial and public spirited. After his death in 1888 his widow continued to live in the house. When she died she left it to a niece living in Chicago who rented it to people. Ara Wilkinson bought it in 1903. It was sold to its present owner in 1931.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County --- Town Of Clarkson

Village of Clarkson

Old Phillip Boss house --- Present Owner Mrs. Almeda Shaffer

This has been generally known as the old Isaac Allen house although Isaac Allen was not the owner until 1867, at which date Allen bought it off Washington L. Rockwell. It is believed the first owner of the house was Philip Boss. He was a pioneer of Clarkson, a cabinet maker by profession, and an amateur artist, who lived in the village between the years of 1817 and 1830. We know little about him until his cabinet shop burned down in the latter year, its contents being destroyed. He must have decided that luck was against him as a maker of furniture, for he moved to Rochester and began a career as a portrait painter. His charges were moderate and that may have had something to do with the large number of orders he received. Although he must have been able to "catch the likeness" or he could not have been so popular. There is one example of his work in Brockport. It really has artistic merit.

Washington L. Rockwell was born in Ohio in 1818. His father, Levi, a native of Massachusetts, went west and bought a large tract of land. W. I. Rockwell was educated in the common schools and was what is known as a self-made and self-educated man. He served as supervisor of Clarkson three terms and in 1876-77 was elected to the State Legislature. He also served as Justice of the Peace for 20 years and had a long and honorable public life.

Rockwell Married Agnes Talcott in 1846 and that may have been the year he bought this house. Mrs. Rockwell was considered one of the most beautiful women of the State. Her sister lived with them and she conducted a little business of making and selling ladies bonnets in the basement of the house. When the Rockwell's moved into the Selden house next door, Miss Talcott moved her millinery shop there and in both houses there are treasured old bonnet supports or "hat trees" which were used in the business.

In 1867 Washington Rockwell sold this property to Isaac Allen, another prominent early settler. In 1885 it was sold to James K. Vosbury and then to others. Charles Yelland was the last purchaser.

A daughter of Charles Yelland remembers that when a small child, she made occasional trips to the garret and there she found numbers of "painted pictures" stowed away under the rafters gathering dust, they were representations of people, landscapes and dear knows what all. Now, alas they are all gone and no one knows who could have destroyed them or carried them away. As the house was occupied for some time by tenants, they were probably responsible. Undoubtedly the pictures were the work of Philip Boss.

Some Old House Of Monroe County --- Town Of Clarkson

The old Houston Tavern --- Present owner, Harold Lemke.

This house with the two-story porch and interesting fan and side light doorways, one above the other, is supposed to have been built about 1825. It stands on the south side of the Ridge Road about a mile east of Garland.

In the year 1821, or soon after, Isaac Houston, from Hanover, New Hampshire, came to the town of Clarkson and took this land. He seems to have bought out other pioneers who came still earlier. He was soon operating a tannery in Dog Hollow, just east of the house. He was also a lumber dealer.

In 1824 he married Polly Avery Adams, a neighbor who had come from Vermont, and after this house was built they began tavern-keeping. Their tavern became very popular and horses were changed here. Isaac and Polly had seven daughters.

The eldest daughter died young. The others all married into families prominent in this locality.

Isaac Houston was elected supervisor of the town of Clarkson in 1845 and 1846. His busy life was terminated suddenly in 1852.

Travel on the Ridge Road after the middle of the century had fallen off but Polly Houston applied for a temperance license and continued to entertain the public as opportunity offered.

She lived on in the old house many years and her daughter marry who had married Andrew J. Gallup, lived in the cottage with the Christmas trees just west of the old tavern. After Mrs. Houston's death at an advanced age this daughter and son-in-law moved into the old house and it became known as the Gallup farm.

Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

Brockport, New York

Some Old Houses of Monroe County – Town Of Clarkson

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

Marble Terrace Farm

This old house on the south side of the Ridge Road about a mile west of Clarkson Corners, was built by Ambrose Sanford. To tell about the Sanfords one must go back to Rhode Island whence they came.

Soon after the Revolutionary War a little group of families living in or near Providence, Rhode Island, decided to emigrate to New York State. They were the Perrys (of the same stock that produced two famous sea captains), the Sanfords, Martins and Stantons. They settled in New Lebanon, a fertile valley in Columbia County, along the line of the Boston and Albany Post Road. This was in 1785 and they all continued to live there near the border of Massachusetts until 1812 when the fame of the Genesee Country greatly increased the flow of emigration from New England along this stage route on which they lived.

Edward Perry, a cousin of the hero of Lake Erie, was then fifty-two years old and his wife, Susannah Stanton Perry, was forty-five. But having adventurous blood in their veins, they decided to trek westward and some of their nine children elected to accompany them.

So the Perrys journeyed westward and when they reached the Genesee River at the fording place, they tarried there nearly a day to be the first to cross the river on the new bridge. There was no Rochester then, so they went further and took up claims on or near the Ridge Road, recently discovered to be a natural highway with a great future before it as a stage route.

Edward and Susannah settled on the north side of the Ridge on the west corner of the present road to Troutburg, and though they had acquired a large tract, much of it was bog and not considered fit for farming. But that did not matter for they planned to make it their business to entertain the public. Two of their sons also became tavern keepers, one at Gaines, another at East Gaines. But the war with England disrupted all their plans for a time. A few days before the Battle of Lake Erie Captain Oliver Hazard Perry galloped along the Ridge Road on a big black horse and he stayed overnight with his Perry Kin at East Gaines. He was probably returning from a conference with his superior officer stationed on Lake Ontario.

Edward and Susannah built their tavern with a fireplace in every room and there were huge barns adjoining it to accommodate relays of horses for the stage coaches. They had a daughter, Lucretia, married to Ambrose Sanford who had come with his parents from Rhode Island to Lennon, Columbia County when only six years old. The Sanfords continued to live in Lebanon but as an investment perhaps, Ambrose had taken up a claim on the Ridge Road east of his father-in-law's tavern and this was the Marble Terrace farm.

Some relatives of Ambrose came on to take charge of his claim. They chopped over a few acres, started a truck garden, and were soon raising enough corn and beans to take them thru the winter. But more than once thieving Indians who lingered in the neighborhood, made off with their stores and this so discourage the pioneers they gave up and returned East.

Ambrose had a son who had reached his majority and on his eighteenth birthday his father offered him a present. "If you will go out to the West and take charge of my farm there" he said "that farm shall be yours".

The son whose name was Ambrose Jr. came in 1823 to Clarkson resolved to profit by the experience of his cousins. Their living quarters had been on the north side of the Ridge Road. But on the south side there was a sharp declivity ending near a stream of running water, all within the borders of his own land. Here he determined to build a dugout in the bank which would be large enough to serve both as his dwelling and a place to store his crops so that he could easily protect them from marauders.

For seven years Ambrose lived alone developing his farm and working on his combined root cellar and residence, for his plans for the latter were rather elaborate and could not be carried out all at once. It was lined thruout with fieldstone masonry with a fireplace on one side for heating and cooking, and the south wall, being exposed, had windows and a door. Only a few yards beyond the doorway a brook enlivened the scene.

In 1830 one of his aunts, left a widow, came to keep house for him, and she brought with her a parrot that had been given her by one of her sea faring relatives. This wise old bird could do many remarkable stunts and it often perched on the dashboard when Ambrose went out in his buggy and rode around with him – an exotic note in Clarkson.

After thirteen years as his housekeeper, "Aunt Angelina" died but Ambrose was able to get his sister, Susan Ann, to take her place. Susan Ann Sanford had married Egbert H. Campbell whose health had broken down and the doctor had prescribed an out of door life for him. So, with their little daughter, Lucy, the Campbells came to stay with Ambrose. A few years later they bought a farm of their own and about the same time Ambrose took a plunge and married Elida Boss.

Elida was the daughter of Philip Boss a successful portrait painter then living in Rochester though he had previously lived in Clarkson. He painted a portrait of Ambrose which is very good. Elida must have been painted too by her father but there is no known portrait of her in existence. She died in 1859 and is buried in the old cemetery across the way from the Sanford farm.

A few years after her death Ambrose married again. His second wife was Emma Augusta Blodgett; she died in 1874. When Ambrose himself died in 1881 he left his farm to his sister Susan Ann Campbell; she left it to her son and it is still in that family.

His neighbors had a little joke about the way Ambrose Sanford built this house. He built the basement, living in it some years, then the first story when he married Elida and added the second

story when he married the second time. When, after Emma's death, he built it the lantern or cupola on the roof they surmised he might be looking around again. They were right for he made another venture. But Ambrose did not get on well with his third wife. There is no mention of her on his monument and apparently he wanted her forgotten.

The Genealogy of a Rose

As told by Virginia Chappell Bush.

When the first Perrys came to America (Edmund of Devonshire), they brought a growing cabbage rose. It was easily propagated and, because it was a bit of old England, each member of the family took a slip.

When Edward and Susannah Perry came in 1812 to Clarkson they brought their white rose bush and set it out near their tavern on the Ridge Road. The tavern though much altered is still standing and perhaps the rose bush is there too. Later, Grandmother Campbell ("Susan Ann"), took a slip from that rose and brought it to the Sanford farm where she planted it between the house and the creek. It is still flourishing there. Someone set out a red rose so near it that they are intertwined but can be distinguished at blossom time.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County --- Town Of Clarkson

Village of Clarkson

Albert Palmer House – Present owner, James Gallup

This house on the south side of the Ridge Road at the east end of the village is one of the oldest houses in Clarkson. From a study of old deeds, which are like Chinese puzzles, it appears that it was built about 1821, or earlier. The first owner, and perhaps the one who built it, was William Groves, one of the earliest lawyers in Clarkson. An old resident of Clarkson, Miss Barker, said that James Seymour built it, but a brother of his, who lived to be a hundred, couldn't remember about it.

This house has a central chimney, which is one evidence of its age, and an especially fine doorway with a "constitution eagle" at the center of its fanlight tracery.

William Groves was supervisor of the town from 1827 to 1829 and was elected again to office a few years later. About this time he transferred his interest in the property to a Mr. Bush who sold it to Albert Palmer in 1846.

Albert Palmer was a son of Joel Palmer, pioneer, and he married Mary Mershon whose people came from New Jersey. Their youngest daughter is still living in the house with the present owner, James Galleys. This Miss Ellen Palmer has told how her people moved into the house just before the Groves moved out. She said that Mrs. Groves was a Southern lady and wanted to go back to the South to live.

So far as we know, only three families have lived in house in more than a hundred years; the Groves, Palmers, and Gallups.

Many of the oldest houses built in this locality have recessed porches and this house has one of them on the east side.

Village of Clarkson

Old Forsyth, Patterson House – Present owner – State Land Bank

This house is on the south side of the Ridge Road, a few hundred yards west of the Corners. It is a frame house in two parts; it really looks like two houses of about the same size joined together diagonally in a curious way. But it has a quaint aspect and looks very old – which it undoubtedly is. David Forsyth built the first part, probably before the war of 1812. For a tradition had been handed down to the effect that, during the war, it was a “garrison house”. An old blacksmith who lived and worked in Clarkson, told a boy, who has now reached an advanced age, that it was a place where the people of the neighborhood could rally when they feared Indian attacks. And they did fear them, all along the Ridge, during the second winter of the war.

One might suppose that any of the old brick houses of Clarkson would have offered better protection than a frame house, but there were probably no brick houses, in the town before the war, certainly, none at the Corners, and a “garrison house” in Batavia at this period was surrounded by a high palisade of logs set upright in the ground close together. Such a stockade was probably built around the Forsyth house, if this interesting tradition was founded on fact.

David Forsyth came to Clarkson in 1810, and he was the one “who first cleared the woodland from the Corners one-half mile west on the south side of the Ridge Road.” At the first Clarkson town meeting, held in 1820, he was elected “poundmaster”. In 1848 or '49, he moved to Michigan, having sold out to Matthew A. Patterson from Columbia County.

Matthew A. Patterson came to Clarkson in 1846. he was a direct descendant of Elder Brewster of Plymouth Colony who came over in the Mayflower. The house remained in possession of the Patterson family until very recently.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County --- Town Of Clarkson

Village of Clarkson

Henry R. Selden House – Present owner, Mrs. Hermance

This venerable looking brick house standing on the north side of the Ridge Road next to the house on the northwest corner at Clarkson was built by Dr. Abel Baldwin. It was stated in the history of Monroe County that Dr. Baldwin, who was then a tavern keeper, built a brick house at the Corners in 1819. It has always been supposed that the present brick house on the corner was meant, and that he built this house under consideration at a later date, but careful examination of the facts seem to lead to a different conclusion.

It need not be doubted that Dr. Baldwin gave his only child, Laura, this house when she married Henry R. Selden in 1834, but perhaps he did not build it for his daughter. By 1834 the style of the house would have been distinctly old-fashioned. It was a much older type of house than the one on the corner that Dr. Baldwin built for himself, and that really means a great deal. It might have been the tavern that he turned over to Silas Walbridge in 1825 for five years, when he, Dr. Baldwin gave up tavern keeping and turned his attention to farming. For at some early period, he moved the frame tavern, built about 1816, away from his corner to a new location on the Lake Road.

Henry R. Selden was born in Lyme, Connecticut in 1805. He followed his brother to Rochester, then a village in 1825, and studied law in the office of his brother, Samuel L. Selden, and his partner, Addison Gardner. In 1830 Henry R. Selden was admitted to the bar and immediately began the practice of his profession in Clarkson. He became the partner of Simeon B. Jewett. It has been said that in the early days Clarkson was the seat of justice for all surrounding country.

Mr. Selden conducted a small law school on his premises, and Theodore Bacon, one of the ablest of Rochester lawyers, received his training in Clarkson under Henry R. Selden and afterwards became his son-in-law. The Seldens had 12 children, six of them died in early childhood.

A son, George Baldwin Selden, was an inventor and designed one of the earliest automobiles, obtaining what was known as the "Selden Patent" which enabled him to receive a royalty from all the manufacturers of motor cars for some years.

Henry R. Selden early became identified with politics and was elected lieutenant-governor in 1856. Later, when his brother, Samuel L. Selden, retired as judge of the court of Appeals, he was appointed to the vacancy. He left Clarkson for Rochester in about 1857. He was considered one of the leading jurists of the State and also became one of the early promoters of the telegraph. He died in 1885.

After Judge Selden moved to Rochester, successive owners of the house were Washington L. Rockwell, Henry Clark, and Dr. Hermance.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County --- Town Of Clarkson

Village of Clarkson

Old Baldwin House – Present owner, Charles Maw

This spacious brick house stands on the northwest corner at Clarkson Village. It was built by Dr. Abel Baldwin who came as a pioneer to Clarkson, then called “Murray Corners”, in the year preceding the War of 1812. Originally from Norwich, Vt., he had been living at Saratoga, New York a few years and practicing his profession there, and he continued to practice medicine on first coming to Murray. In the year 1815 or the year following, he built the first framed public house at the Corners, and the tradition is that it was used as a barracks for militia who were training at Murray, or for bodies of troops who were passing through on their way to the Niagara Frontier.

The war had stopped all settlement and improvement but after it was over, settlers came in rapidly and, according to Dr. Baldwin, whose reminiscences are given in Turner’s History of Monroe County, there was a great deal of travel upon the Ridge.

History states that in 1819 Dr. Baldwin built a brick house, which has always been supposed to be this one on the corner, but according to the best authority it was only a wing at right angles to the main portion of the house that he built then. In the early days houses were often built piecemeal and certainly the front of the house, its principal unit, appears to be of a later period than either this ell at the rear or the old Selden house next door, of that were stripped of its Victorian porch and brackets under the eaves. Dr. Baldwin had plenty of land, he was the largest land owner in Clarkson, and tavern keeping was very profitable.

So he may have built the brick house next door at a much earlier date than is usually given for it – built it for a tavern, and it was in this house just west of his residence on the corner, which was occupied then, by his frame tavern, that the first town meeting was held in 1820.

In Everts’ History of Monroe County it is stated that Dr. Baldwin “kept tavern until he retired to a farm in 1825.” Now, his farm was right there at the Corners, nowhere else, and he continued to live at the Corners until he died as the old town books bear evidence. So what is more probable than that, he had the frame house moved to another located in 1825, and built for himself and family, the main part of this substantial-looking brick house that still stands on the northwest corner. In Wilkinson’s History of Clarkson it says “the wooden building that stood on the Maw corner which was also a tavern was moved south of the hotel (Brockways) and became the George Bower house.”

Dr. Baldwin had married Laura Smith and they had one child named Laura. Tradition says that the wallpaper in the hallway of the Baldwin residence with its gay and fascinating design, is as old as the house and was imported from Holland. Now this story is much more convincing if it relates to a house built in 1825 after the canal was in operation, than to one built before that period when a long expensive wagon haul was necessary to bring anything to Clarkson.

Dr. Baldwin died in 1863. His daughter was his sole heir. She sold this house to Charles Silliman. Charles Maw purchased it later and is the present owner.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County --- Town Of Clarkson

Village of Clarkson

Palmer Homestead – Present owner H. Fletcher

This spacious old brick house has been in the palmer family for more than one hundred years. It stands on or near the site of the first log cabin at the corner, which was built by James Sayre, the first settler, who came here as early as 1804.

Joel Palmer was originally from North Branford, Connecticut. He settled first at Lima, New York, but came to Murray, now Clarkson, in 1811 and bought of James Sayre all the land in this northeast corner. Sayre went west.

Palmer commenced in a small way the business of tanning and currying. His was the first tannery in town, and Dr. Baldwin said, the first on the Ridge Road. Palmer served in the War of 1812 under Captain Aretas Haskell, who raised a company in Clarkson. He had an exemplary character and was always called Deacon Palmer. For several years he lived with his family in a log house, but in 1825, he built the brick house pictured above. He married Phebe Barlow, also from Massachusetts. They had nine children. Russell Palmer was the youngest. Russell's daughter, Grace married H. Fletcher.

Deacon Joel Palmer managed his tannery and a shoemaking shop as long as he lived and was a popular tavern keeper.

There is a deep spring on this farm which in the early days made it a favorite camping ground for Indians. It is said that the last Indian wigwam in Clarkson was seen here. Just a family passing through.

Village of Clarkson

Old Gustavus Clark House – Present owner, F. E. MacFarland

This old residence on the south side of the Ridge Road, near the east corner, was built at an early date soon after the War of 1812. It is of brick, painted yellow. Wilkinson, in his history of Clarkson, says of it “It was one of Clarkson’s show places in the early days. It was called “The Manor house.” There was a stone wall along the front and also along the east line by the school yard. There was a cook house or something near where the Sedgwick place now stands. The west room was the fancy chamber. There was an old hall and staircase and fireplace. Some of this was removed when the Lorbacks remodeled it. House extended farther back than it does now.”

Asa Clark, father of Gustavus Clark, was from East Haddan, Connecticut. He emigrated to Geneseo in 1802 and soon removed to Avon. He had several sons. One of them, Gustavus, was a clerk with Minor and Hall at Geneseo as early as 1806. Afterwards, he was in the employ of James K. Guernsey of Lima, under whose auspices he commenced business in Clarkson. He kept a general store and was very successful. After some years he took Henry Martyn as a partner. His wife was a daughter of John Pierson, one of the pioneers of Avon. The Clarks were great “socialites” and gave many gay parties in the early days. They had two sons and a daughter.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County --- Town Of Clarkson

Old Crowell House – Present owner, Frank Petrie

Not much is known of the early history of this cobblestone house on the north side of the Ridge Road at the western end of town. It may have been built as early as 1830, although most of the cobblestone houses were built at a somewhat later date, but its general effect and special features, such as the fireplace have a very old look. And it is unexcelled in quaintness and charm. It was described not so long ago in a newspaper article, as a “low, rambling wisteria covered stone house – reminiscent of Shakespeare”, for “One instantly recognizes a similarity of outline and ivy grown chimneys to Anne Hathaway’s cottage.”

The first owner is believed to have been a Dr. Crowell, whose office was in the diminutive west wing. Some years later, there was a Peter Crowell mentioned in a letter as a resident of this section.

A journal or newsletter containing local history was written by an occupant of the house in the early days. It was last seen in Holley. Can anyone give information concerning it?

Monroe Chapter D. A. R. Brockport, N. Y.

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings, Chairman. 1936

Old Houses of the village of Clarkson, N. Y.

Nathaniel Rowell House – Present owner, Levi P. Thompson

This old house on the north side of the Ridge Road in the village of Clarkson, was built by Dr. Nathaniel Rowell who settled here as a pioneer in 1810 or 1811. Nathaniel Rowell was born in New Hampshire in 1781. He studied “Physic and Surgery” and received his diploma at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire. He practiced a few years in Brookhaven, Long Island and then came to this destination in Western New York. He was accompanied by his brother, Elijah Rowell, or one brother followed the other. It is not known but both of them lived with their families in the same house.

Dr. Nathaniel Rowell was not only a physician and a pioneer farmer, but a writer of prose and poetry and many of his productions were published when he lived on Long Island. After his death in 1827, one of his sons had a small volume of prose and verse written when he lived in Clarkson, published in Rochester. A copy of this book is still in existence. Another early Clarkson physician, Dr. Tozier lived in this house in the fifties.

Monroe Chapter D. A. R. Brockport, N. Y.

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings, Chairman. 1936

Old Houses of the village of Clarkson, N. Y.

Old Bellinger House --- Present owner, George Wood

This cobblestone house with a wide cornice showing Greek Revival influences, was either built in the 1840's or at an earlier date and then given a new roof or "face lifting" treatment, somewhat later. The original entrance was on the side. The front door and portico are entirely modern. It is on the north side of the Ridge Road about three fourths of a mile west of Clarkson Corners.

This is regarded as the old Bellinger place. John Frederick Bellinger came from Herkimer County and settled in Clarkson in 1825. He married Ann Marcellus of Schoharie County. In a list of the students of Clarkson Academy dated 1837 there are Catherine, Eliza and Mary Bellinger. A long letter written by Catherine to her Aunt Eveline Marcellus who lived with them but had gone East on a visit is still in existence. Catherine was a very lively young lady.

Charles Bellinger, a brother of the girls, was born in 1839. He also received his education at Clarkson Academy. He had another sister Laura, only a few years older than himself.

The family had a music room – mentioned in the letter to "Aunt Eveline" – and they must have been interested in art, too, for Philip Boss, their neighbor, was said to be an intimate friend, and he painted a charming portrait of Eveline Marcellus which is still in existence.

Some time in the sixties James E. Mershon, who was a brother of Mary Mershon Palmer, became the owner of this house. The Mershons lived here many years. A son, James E. Mershon, Jr., married Cora M. Reed of the town of Sweden. A daughter is Mrs. Amidon of Brockport.

Monroe Chapter D. A. R. Brockport, N. Y.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County – Town of Clarkson

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

Old Blodgett house --- Present owner, Gifford Morgan.

The Blodgett property, on the east side of the Lake Road, is one of the oldest in town. Elijah or Eli Blodgett was born in Brimfield, Massachusetts in 1753. At the beginning of the 19th century he came to the Genesee Country, as Western New York was then called, and settled first in Oakfield, north of Batavia. But he soon left there and was of the first two settlers, according to Monroe County history, in the town of Clarkson.

James Sayre came and settled at the corners in 1804, and later in the same year Eli Blodgett came and took up land in the town. His deed for the mill site was not recorded until 1809 but settlers did not receive the deeds for their land until it was paid for in full.

It was Eli's son John who built the first mill on the property, in 1820, and it is said that he also built the spacious brick house, which is still standing. The mill did a large business in the early days and it was enlarged from time to time. John married Lucy Barlow, a sister of Mrs. Joel Barlow. They had two sons, Norman and Lester, perhaps others, for it is said they had nine children. Norman inherited the house and the mill. He rebuilt the mill sometime in the sixties or seventies and made it a modern type of flour mill.

A son of Lester Blodgett said that in the early days his father would pile sacks of flour on the back of his horse and ride around the wood roads in the "black North" dropping a sack of flour on the doorstep of every sick family. That was a time when they all had the ague there.

Henry Morgan lived here as early as 1906. The place was afterwards purchased by Gifford Morgan. Some years ago the mill burned down, but recently the stream which supplies the mill pond has come back to life and water rushes over the dam. A pioneer log cabin, removed from its original location in the town of Bergen, has been erected here, with an outside chimney of fieldstone added, and the old time atmosphere of the place has been as far as possible restored. This little historical park, as it might be called, is intended to be a bird sanctuary.

Monroe Chapter D. A. R. Brockport, N. Y.

Some Old Houses of Monroe County --- Town of Clarkson

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings, Chairman

Lewis Swift birthplace --- Present owner, Mrs. Franklin Cotter

This house on the east side of the Lake Road, about a mile north of Clarkson Corners, doesn't look over a hundred years old but nevertheless the oldest part of it is, for it was the birthplace of the famous astronomer, Lewis Swift. He was born in 1820 and named after his father who was a justice of the peace in the year this son was born. Lewis Swift senior was one of the pioneers of Clarkson, coming here in 1812.

The son early became remarkable for his love of natural science. He attended Clarkson Academy, an excellent school, and finished his course there in 1838. Then he applied himself to farm work, though being "passionately fond of books and reading critically", he continued to educate himself.

He was twenty-two when he invented a horse hay rake. When he was twenty-six his father died, and thrown upon his own resources, he studied magnetism and electricity and for four years lectured on these subjects in Canada and the western states. He returned to farming in 1850 but soon began again to give lectures, this time on the wonders of the microscopic world, which he illustrated by means of a calcium light.

All of his apparatus was constructed by himself and parts of it were of his own invention. In 1854 he established a hardware store in Cortland County. But he had become interested in astronomy, and building his own telescope, he began to make observations.

In 1862 the great comet of that year was discovered by him. For years he eagerly scanned the heavens and became famous as the discoverer of comets. In 1872 he moved his hardware business to Rochester where he mounted his telescope on the roof of Duffy's cider mill on State Street. Then one of the wealthy men of the city, H. H. Warner, offered to build for his use an observatory. It stood until recent years, a gray stone building next to the Warner residence on East Avenue.

Lewis Swift received many honors. He wrote on astronomical and other subjects and was a member of various scientific associations. He died in California in 1913.

What changes he must have witnessed during his long and remarkable life!

Clarkson Congregational Church

The Church of Clarkson Corners was organized at a Council as a Congregational Society on the fourth of September, 1816, and it was not until the year 1825 that a house of worship was created.

At the Council the following presented themselves for the purpose of being formed into a Church: Joel Palmer, Theodore Ellis, Mary Perry, Polly Day, Phoebe Palmer, Patience Ellis, Ann Swift, John Phelps, Calvin Green, Mart McCrackon, Desire Wheland, Laura White, Charlotte Cummings, Sally Reed and Betsey Phelps.

They were examined as to their religious experiences and doctrinal knowledge. They gave satisfaction after agreeing to the Confession of Faith and Covenant. The constituting prayer was made by Rev. Williams.

It was voted that Joel Palmer be clerk of the Church. The first Deacons were Joel Phelps and Levi Smith. The by-laws were adopted at the meeting held at the school house, Aug. 26th, 1817.

In 1830 the Church became Presbyterian, but in 1853 it returned to its original form of government. However, in 1869 Presbyterian form of government was adopted. In 1910 the Church became Congregational and has since so continued.

The first services were conducted in the School house until the edifice was erected. In 1825 a substantial building was erected 4th by 5th at the cost of \$3,500. The bell was cast in 1846, and for many years besides being used for Church services it was tolled at the time of a personal death.

In the book, *Erie Water*, by Walter D. Edmonds mention was made of Clarkson in the following paragraphs on pages 482 and 483:

“As they rolled down on Clarkson village, they saw rigs hitched along the streets. The meeting house was a plain frame building with a double door. Jerry slowed down, not to disturb the horses, and they took the crossing at a walk.

Through the open window the exhorters voice came to them profoundly nasal in the closing prayer, and, as they went by, Jerry looked in.

The upright figure of the preacher, garbed in black – the white hand outstretched above the bowing people – the closed eyes in the lifted faces with the sunlight full upon them – the voice sonorous down the tilted nose, came out to the passing wagon...“Bless and Prosper”...They carried the words with them.”

Monroe Chapter D. A. R. Brockport, N. Y.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County - Town of Clarkson

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

Old Hoy House – Present owner, J. Hoy

Monroe County history records that in 1808 Robert Hoy came from New York City with a family of eight children, whose names are all given, and settled on the Ladd Road one mile north of the Ridge Road.

The Hoys were related to the Moores, and these families with others, founded on the Ladd Road what was called in early days, the Moore-Hoy settlement. The name Hoy was in the Old World spelled “Huoy”. These people came to America from Ireland in about 1800, but they were Scots and followers of Knox who had to flee their country during the Scottish Rebellion. Later, when they came to the New World, they lived for a while in the vicinity of Manhattan.

Where the Hoys located, east of the present Ladd Road, there were copious springs and it was a swampy place because the heavy clay soil did not absorb the surface water, but, looking towards the future, it was a fine location. Robert Hoy, like the other pioneers, had to make a long journey to LeRoy to enter his claim at the Land Office there.

A descendent of the Hoys claimed James, eldest son of Robert, as her grandfather, and said he was grown up when they came here and had a family of his own. She said he used to tell how Braddocks Bay Settlement was the nearest place to get provisions at first, and he had to go there by a blazed trail through the forest. One of her great uncles, when they began to grow wheat, would start out before daybreak and drive the ox cart laden with twenty five bushels of wheat to Charlotte. He could sell it there for twenty five cents a bushel.

When his father had gone, “Grandpa Jimmy Hoy” ran the farm and when he died, in this house he had built, near the springs, “Grandma” stayed on there with three of her children, Wilts, Sam and Amelia. “Wilts” – his real name Wilson – had been injured in logging operations and was almost a cripple. When “Grandma” died the house was left to him and he has his sister Effie come so there were two brothers there and two sisters.

“Aunt Effie” was quite unusual. Like Debbie Wordon Perry, who may have been her teacher, she knew the properties of herbs and dosed and poultice all who applied to her for aid, often with excellent results. She was a great authority on family history, a useful accomplishment, as she lived in a neighborhood where nearly everyone was related. Moreover she was a prime favorite with all the children, and used to call them in when she saw them going by, to sample her cookies or gingercake or delectable homemade crackers. At one time she told a little boy, now grown old, that she had made only a small batch of cookies that day – but he remembered how they filled a fourteen quart milk pail.

The brothers and sisters were great readers, and neighbors or friends who dropped in of an evening to see how they were, would usually find them grouped around a table all poring over books by the light of a kerosene lamp.

In spite of the way they kept fresh air out of the house for more than six months of the year, to conserve heat, as everyone did, the Hoys lived to a ripe old age. When they had all died but Effie and she had moved away to the home of an adopted son, the people who cleaned out the old homestead found in an unfinished part of the second story – “All the darned herbs and roots you ever heard of! Yes sir, there was bunches of dried catnip, sweet flag, wintergreen and sassafras – and wild cherry bark – dear knows what all!” It was “Aunt Effie’s” medicine chest and had been gathering dust for a long time.

“Whilts” left the house and farm to his only son, Delmar, and when Delmar died they were bought by his nephew, the present owner, so they have never been out of the family. The house, now overshadowed by a large walnut tree, is occupied by tenants.

Monroe Chapter D. A. R. Brockport, New York

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County * Town of Clarkson

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

Old David Moore House – Present owner, Emery Cowan

This old cobblestone house east of the Ladd Road, about two miles south of the Ridge Road, is supposed to have been built at least a hundred years ago. A notable thing is that it is set so far back from the road, and it is like a number of other of the oldest houses on this road in that respect. Some explain it by saying that the pioneers selected their home sites with relation to the water supply, they wanted to be near springs and running water; another explanation is that the road was a morass a good part of the year and they built their log cabins a long distance back to keep out of the mud. Later, when they built of frame, brick or stone, the mud was still there and they chose to stay out of it.

David Moore, son of one of the pioneers, was the first owner of this house. It is said that he built it, and this may be taken literally or in the usual way. Certainly, to assemble the materials for a cobblestone house was, in itself, quite an undertaking. And this is a large house, too.

David had four sons and as many daughters, and the young people had numerous cousins living across the road and north and south of them. There was great excitement in this locality many years ago when a blazing meteorite whizzed into the cornfield of Wilson Moore across the road. It happened rather early in the summer about nine o' clock in the evening and the meteorite plunged into the ground the other side of the creek. Everyone around was so scared they thought the world might be coming to an end. The green corn was burned to cinders within a radius of ten feet of where it fell. This fragment of a star, a twisted lump of metal, white in color, is now to be seen under a locust tree at the side of the old cobblestone house.

David had two sons and a nephew who died for their country at Gettysburg and he made a journey South to bring back their remains so they could be buried in the little family cemetery across the road. When David died, late in the seventies, his youngest son, William bought out the other heirs and was the next owner of this house, but he did not live long and the mother bought it back. After living there some years she died and her daughter Anna who had married a Northrup was the next owner. Another son-in-law succeeded Anna as the owner of the place. He was George Arnold and for some years this was known as the Arnold farm.

Monroe Chapter D. A. R. Brockport, New York

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County - Town of Clarkson

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

Old Nixon House – Present owner, Charles H. Armer

This attractive old farmhouse on the west side of the Ladd Road, but quite a distance from it, for it must be at least a quarter mile back from the present highway, was built by Samuel Nixon who came here with his wife, Susan, who was probably a Moore or a Hoy, in 1809. They traveled horseback for the country was a wilderness, and selected this location near a wide and beautiful winding stream, a branch of Salmon Creek that flows into the Lake, for their pioneer cabin. But in this isolated spot they had neighbors for there was a hut nearby on the bank of the stream, where Indians were living.

Those Indians must have fled before many years had passed for not beavers but humans built a dam across their stream at this point, and a saw mill was erected. It was the work of Samuel Nixon and his associates who were the Moores and others.

The mill provided lumber for building this house and also for other homes of early settlers in the neighborhood. The oldest part of this one dates from 1815.

Lumbering soon became the chief industry north of the Ridge. Perhaps we should say logging, though primitive saw mills were moved from one place to another up or down stream. Some of the giant trees felled were wanted later used for masts on ships. All of the timber cut down was drawn laboriously by ox team to the lake shore where it was either loaded on schooners and sent to Canada or poled or floated to our shipbuilding yard at Sackett's Harbor. Because of the difficulties of transportation this lake trade never reached large proportions

The Nixons had three sons and three daughters all born on this farm. Samuel Nixon died in 1844, leaving a life lease on the farm and house to his widow. After her death in 1865, Henry, one of her sons, bought out the other children, but does not seem to have lived there long if at all. In 1875 Charles H. Armer bought the property, and in 1910, when he died, he left it to his son, Charles H. Armer, Jr., whose Daughter, Mrs. Merton McCormick and her family are the present occupants of this house. The very large house just south of it was built by Henry Nixon in the seventies or about that time. He married Eliza Moore, a sister of J. Maxwell Moore, Called "J. Max" by everyone, who built the other large house across the way.

Monroe Chapter D. A. R. Brockport, New York

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County * Town of Clarkson

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

Old Presser House – Present owner, James Kerwin

A little hamlet on the Ridge Road a mile east of Clarkson Corners is now called Garland but in the early days it was “Ladds Corners”, being named after an early settler there; and the trail or road leading north from this point to the lake was known, until the days of automobiles, as Ladds Road. It is still called Ladds Road by a good many people.

The first house on you left when you turn to go north by this route is a large cobblestone house such a distance back from the highway that you cannot get more than a general idea of what it looks like unless you turn in at the driveway. It was built by Jonathan Prosser, a native of Albany County, who came to this town in 1818 and settled on this location. The Prosser family were of studious taste and used to quote Latin frequently in their conversation.

A school teacher at Ladds Corners in 1831 wrote her nephew in Vermont urging him to leave “Sugar Hill” immediately and come on and get a job in Clarkson. She told him that Jonathon Prosser, a farmer living nearby, wanted a “steady young man” and would be like a father to him.

It is not known in what year Jonathan assembled the cobblestone and built this house, but it was probably in the latter eighteen-thirties. Cicero, his oldest son, born in 1821, was educated in Clarkson Academy, and in 1855 married Ellen M. Nixon, daughter of Samuel and Susan Nixon who came to this locality in about 1810 as pioneers, when the country north of the Ridge Road was an unbroken wilderness.

The Prossers owned considerable land on both sides of the Ladd Road and it was either Jonathan or Cicero who donated the large plot for Garland Cemetery.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County - Town of Clarkson

-Old Moore-Hoy Cottage-

The earliest known owner of this picturesque fieldstone cottage on the west side of the Ladd Road was J. Maxwell Moore. He was the youngest son of the pioneer, James Moore, and it may have been given to him by his father when he married Abigail Lawrence. Their eldest son, Philetus, was born here, but sometime between 1853 and 1858, these Moores moved to a new location on the east side of the Ladd Road, farther north, opposite the old Nixon farm.

The next owner of the stone cottage, with its quaint interior woodwork, was T. W. Carson who married Gracie Hoy. The Hoys were pioneers across the road when the country was a wilderness. There was a story about one of the Hoy children being tied to a sapling while its mother aided the men some distance away in digging stumps out of a field. When she came back to see if the child was all right she found a great bear sniffing around it. On the Hoy land opposite this cottage was a brook which was called a salt lick because its banks were white with brine in some places and the wild deer came to lick it up.

The Carsons were succeeded as owners of the stone cottage by Pat Mahoney and Mrs. Mary Burch. The latter sold it recently to some city people who have restored it, with the best of intentions but not with entire success.

To return to the Maxwell Moores; who moved to another location not far away. (Next sentence illegible.) Their youngest son, Wilson, started a newspaper and magazine subscription agency before he was twenty, with headquarters in his home on the farm. The business expanded so rapidly that more room was need for it and the present very large mansion of twenty rooms was built.

But the need for a more central location for the subscription agency was soon apparent, so in a few years it was removed to Brockport. Wilson H. Moore was the first to introduce the clubbing system of subscribing to magazines. He also branched into other lines of business and organized the Moore Shafer Shoe Manufacturing Company which was very successful. He married May Scrantom who is a charter member and past regent of our D. A. R. Chapter.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County - Town of Clarkson

-Old James Moore House-

In 1810 there was quite an increase of settlers in the town of Clarkson. Among those listed in Monroe County history were James, Adam and Henry Moore who settled two miles north of Ladds Corners, now Garland. The ancestors of these brothers were Scottish Covenanters who had fled from persecution to the North of Ireland before coming to America. They came with several other families who had been their neighbors in Scotland, the Huoys and Maxwells among them, and most of them had biblical Christian names. They remained in the vicinity of Manhattan until the spring of 1808 and then sailed up the Hudson River to Albany where they outfitted themselves with ox teams and covered wagons and started on their trek westward. When they reached the Genesee River that forded it above the falls and drove on to Garland on the Ridge Road where a son named David was born to Agnes Wilson Huoy Moore. She was the wife of a cousin of the Moore brothers who was in their party. Of course there was no Garland then. The place was called Ladds Corners and the Ladd Road, a rude trail through the forest, stretched northward several miles.

James, who had married Nancy Huoy (Hoy), took up land on the west side of this road immediately south of the present hamlet of Otis, and not many years passed before he built the large frame house pictured above. It stands about a quarter of a mile back from the highway.

On this side of the road are streams, one of considerable size, flowing in a northeasterly direction into Lake Ontario, there is one in the rear of this house – apparently it was thought more desirable to be near a stream than the road, but the outstanding feature of this section north of the Ridge was the density of the forest. And so it was inevitable that the first industry here should have been logging.

Felling trees and rolling logs was an employment that required great strength but the Moores were men of powerful build and great physical endurance. The logs were drawn on sledges in winter to the lake shore where sloops from Canada would pick them up, or they were lashed together into rude rafts and floated or poled to Sackett's Harbor where a ship building industry had been started during the War of 1812. It is said there were magnificent oak trees north of the Ridge. As they were needed for masts and spars they were unfortunately the first to go. A granddaughter of James Moore said that when he was logging he sometimes had to go eight miles to find pasture for his horses. He used to chop down trees one day, the next day get his logs ready and the third day go after his horses and then draw the logs to the lake shore where a sloop would call for them. He was so strong he used to lift logs onto the sledge without help from anyone. But at one time, struggling with a greater weight than usual, he suddenly went blind. When he died they burned up his papers. There were a number of small legacies in the North of Ireland which he or his heirs might have collected but the proof of this was in the letters and papers destroyed.

He left a number of sons and daughters. The eldest son, Wilson, lived on the farm all his life. Working with his brothers and cousins, he continued in the lumber business though the work changed in character after the Erie Canal opened in 1825.

The way to market was now south instead of north and most of the timber cut down was sawed into planks before being drawn to the canal to be shipped to points in the East.

The son of a neighbor across the road who had worked with the Moores gave a colorful account of the way things used to be.

There was a stone wall bordering the Moore farm where it met the highway, and between this stone wall and the distant farmhouse at the end of winter – the farmhouse was nearly a quarter mile back from the road – were continuous wood piles. They ran in parallel lines either side the long driveway. Nothing but wood, wood, wood, as far as you could see!

The work in the forest of chopping down trees and trimming the logs was all done during the winter. Then there was a lull in the activities until the canal was opened sometime in May. The planting had to be done first, then followed another busy season of drawing wood to the canal.

Although there were so many Moores in this locality none of them are left. For a number of years the farm was owned by the Welches. This snapshot was taken from the driveway. The ancient house would be a mere speck if taken from the road.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County

Town of Clarkson

Old Perry House

There were three groups of Perrys “not related to each other” among the early settlers of this neighborhood. Two of the groups claimed relationships with Oliver Hazard Perry, hero of the Battle of Lake Erie, and on learning of this, a member of the third group jocularly remarked that she ought to claim relationship too. “Why not?” she asked “We’re all related if we go back far enough”.

There were three Perry brothers from Vermont who settled along the Lake Road north of Clarkson Corners: these were the Perrys who Philip Boss used to come back to visit after moving away from Clarkson. And beyond them, on the Lawton Road, lived Franklin B. Perry in the house shown above. He came from St. Lawrence County and said he had no relations here, but he may have been connected with those Perrys who kept tavern on the Ridge over the line in Orleans County.

There was still another family of Perrys who settled on the old Ladd Road, town of Clarkson, of whom we have more of a record. Samuel A. Perry came to the Genesee County, as a young man shortly before the War of 1812. He was the son of Samuel C. Perry who had fought in the Revolution and, on returning to his home, which was in Taunton, Mass., learned that he was entitled to 160 acres of land in Western New York. Being worn out by military service and in feeble health, he sent his eldest son to locate a farm for him west of the Genesee River.

After a long journey Samuel Jr., reached Ladds Corners on the Ridge Road and turning north finally reached a place where the Lawrence Road of today crossed the Ladd Road. After making a clearing and building a log house and cattle shed, he returned to New England to bring back his aged father and mother and two younger brothers, Worden and Robert, to their new home in the wilderness.

Deborah Worden Perry, the mother, had acquired considerable knowledge of the properties of herbs and her services were much sought after. For there was a great deal of swamp fever and illness among the pioneers of the “Black North” as this heavily timbered region north of the Ridge was then called.

Soon after the arrival of the Perrys, war broke out between our country and England and Samuel Jr., enlisted in Aretas Haskell’s company at Clarkson. He was awarded the post of Quartermaster Sergeant and had charge of sending supplies across the river to our forces at Queenstown Heights. Oliver Hazard Perry who destroyed the enemy’s feet in the Battle of Lake Erie his cousin.

When the war ended, Samuel returned home by the Ridge Road, then little improved and hardly more than a well marked trail through the forest. But on the bank of the Eighteen Mile Creek he espied a choice farm site which he thought he would like to own sometime in the future. Next

year he married Ann Hoy, aged fifteen – nothing unusual about that in those days! – and some years later, in 1824, his father died and was buried in a little private cemetery on the farm, which has since been plowed over.

Some details are lacking but after his father's death Samuel acquired the farm he had always wanted ever since he had first seen it on his way home from service in the army. It was one the "turnpike" north of Lockport and moving was an arduous undertaking in those days.

Yet Ann must have thought her mode of travel superior to the ox cart journey that had brought her to the Genesee County. She rode to Lockport on a canal packet taking with her the younger children and perhaps a few chickens, ducks and geese. Samuel and the two oldest boys, Charles and Philetus when on foot along the Ridge Road driving their stock before them.

These Perrys brought up six sons and six daughters all of them reaching maturity. Philetus Perry soon returned to the Ladd Road, town of Clarkson, Monroe County, and for a time took charge of the James Moore farm. He married Mary Jane, a daughter of James Moore.

The old Perry farm at the corner of the Ladd and Lawrence Roads had passed into other hands, and in recent times the old farmhouse had its long rear extension cut off and the forepart remodeled so you might think it a modern bungalow.

One of Philetus' sons, Mr. Frank M. Perry, whose hobby is family history, supplied most of the material for this historical sketch.

Monroe Chapter D. A. R. Brockport, New York
Some Old Houses Of Monroe County – Town Of Hamlin
Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

In 1759 five brothers with the name of Timmerman emigrated from Switzerland to the Province of New York. They became a prominent family in the Mohawk Valley where the name was sometimes spelled “Zimmerman”. One of these brothers settled near Fort Plain; they were descendents of Dominie Ehle who was a missionary preacher to both the white and red inhabitants of the Mohawk Valley for more than fifty years.

It was in 1837 that Solomon Timmerman and family boarded a canal packet and, with friends and relatives seeing them off, began their long, slow journey to a village in the west called Brockport.

They settled first on the Lake Road in the town of Hamlin, but two years later moved to the Redman Road in the town of Hamlin. The western part of the town was only sparsely settled then, and travelers who came their way were always hospitably entertained by the Timmermans. Occasionally, about once a year perhaps, the way-farers were Indians. These Indians knew Solomon was their friend and so they prepared to spend the night under his roof.

A daughter of the family who was then a little girl, used to stand looking on, shyly but with the liveliest interest, while they spread out their blankets on the floor around the kitchen stove. They didn't talk any but she always remembered their grunts of satisfaction as they prepared themselves for a night's slumber. They were never found in the kitchen at morning for they had slipped away silently at dawn. Years and years afterward this story was told to me by Solomon's granddaughter whose mother was the little girl who looked on and told her about it.

Some people seem a little incredulous when told this story. But James P. Cornes tells in his reminiscences how Indians came annually to Brockport until after the Civil War and he adds that in the middle of the last century the country around Brockport was mostly woods. Woods and Indians seem to go together, and if there was uncleared land near Brockport, there was certainly more of it in Hamlin.

Solomon managed his farm with the help of his sons and he was also a skilled cabinetmaker. His idea was to lay by a nice sum of money so that he could retire from active life and devote all his time to studying the scriptures. He wanted to understand and interpret rightly the prophecies in the Old and New Testaments and he went about this work very thoroughly. He made an elaborate and curious chart and accumulated a whole chest full of papers relating to the subject.

He was a Universalist and his family and the Whipples of Lake Road, drove into Orleans County on Sundays to attend a Universalist church in Kendall. In those days people who believed that everyone would be saved were considered extremists to say the least.

The first house Solomon Timmerman built on coming to Hamlin is still standing on the east side of the road beyond Sandy Creek. It is the ancient lean to type of house that is always picturesque and it was here that the Indians came for a night's lodging. The other house larger and more ornate was built by Solomon in 1852. It is on the west side of the road about a quarter of a mile south of the other one but still north of Sandy Creek and the present Roosevelt Highway. We give pictures of the two houses.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County – Town Of Ogden

Doty Homestead --- Present Owner, Clarence Doty

This large frame house with Classic Revival details, was built facing the Erie Canal, which was not nearly so wide as the present barge canal. There was a State road bordering the waterway so that the house faced both the canal and the highway, and overlooked an animated moving picture most of the time.

In 1811- or 1819 as another account says -, David Doty, the pioneer, came here from Albany County with his four sons, and two members of the family settled in the town of Ogden and two in the town of Sweden.

The Ogden-Sweden Town Line Road, where it crosses the Canal, has the land taken up by David Doty on both sides of it. The original Doty house where the pioneer lived is still standing on the west side of the Town Line Road in Sweden just north of the canal. It was his son, David Doty Jr., who is supposed to have built this house pictured above in the town of Ogden. Old Mr. George Gallup who died some years ago, said that his house (a cobblestone house on the Gallup Road), was built in 1840 and this Doty house was built as year earlier than his, - so this one was built in 1839.

David Doty Jr., married Mehitable Leonard and they had nine children. One of them, George W. Doty, born 1839, lived with his parents in this house. He was a successful teacher and prominent in temperance work. He married a Miss Allen of Parma and they had three children. One of the children, Clarence Doty, is the present owner of the house and “Century Farm”.

Monroe Chapter D. A. R. Brockport, New York
Some Old Houses Of Monroe County – Town Of Ogden
Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings
Old Adams-Milliner House – Village of Adams Basin

An old timer whose word could be relied on said that Adams Basin received its name because a father and son, Abner and Marcus Adams, established themselves here as merchants when the canal opened. They constructed a “basin” which was a slip or inlet where boats could unload or take on cargoes, hence the name “Adams Basin” given to this small village which sprang up around the center of trade.

Strangely enough, when the histories of Monroe County came to be written, there was no mention of the Adams or Adams Basin, and early maps showed no traces of them until, by good fortune, a very early map dated 1852 came to light. What the old timer had affirmed was now supported by evidence. For the owner of the house pictured above, at the corner of Washington Street and Lyell Road, together with several acres of land and a saw mill not far away, was set down as Marcus Adams.

A visit to the peaceful village cemetery yielded more information; Abner Adams, born in Alford Mass., died here in 1847 aged 76 years, and Hannah, his wife, of Berkshire County, Mass., also died at Adams Basin two years later.

Marcus Adams was buried here too, but he died at “Suspension Bridge”, now a part of the city of Niagara Falls. He died in 1868 at the age of 68, and his “relict”, Mary Stanley, born in Smyrna, Conn., died at Suspension Bridge in 1872. James Adams, one of the prominent citizens of Brockport, is said to have belonged to this Adams Basin family. He married Laoma Brown, a granddaughter of Hiel Brockway.

By 1858 J. Pettingell, well known in the town of Ogden, had come into possession of this beautiful old mansion and the adjoining acres. But he sold out in about 1863 to Joel P. Milliner, a lumber dealer from Rochester.

The latter was born in 1812, had married Sarah Harnden and they had nine children. The aged father of Joel, Alexander Milliner, now a member of his family, was a remarkable character. Alexander, born in 1760, had served as a drummer boy in Washington’s bodyguard in the Revolutionary War. There was a sketch of his life in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle of February 15, 1932 from which some interesting items are culled.

He lived to be 105 years old and until the end his mind was clear. He was fond of reading and kept abreast of current events yet never ceased to enjoy beating his ancient drum, and he was

the official drummer at all pioneer meetings and patriotic gatherings. In his old age he used to like to tell what he remembered about General and Mrs. Washington. The latter once patted him on the head and told him he was a fine boy.

Joel P. Milliner was a member of the State Legislature and a founder of the Rochester Savings Bank. He died in 1886. The house was for a long time occupied by his youngest daughter, Mrs. Charles L. Gallagher. She was an artist and at one time had a studio in the Powers Block, Rochester.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County --- Town Of Ogden

Indian Hill Farm --- Present Owner, Samuel V. Way

Located at the corner of Dewey and Bangs Roads, Indian Hill Farm is the site of the old Willard Homestead, an interesting landmark, which was torn down only a few years ago. The present Way house is built on its foundations.

There has been an Indian encampment on this hill, hence its name, but the first white settlers here were the Willards.

Oliver Atherton Willard, born 1784 in Massachusetts married Katherine Lewis. They had four children born in Wheelock, Vt., but in 1816 the family emigrated to the "West" and settled in this locality, called the "Gilman Settlement" because a few of the families had come here the year before under the leadership of several brothers by the name of Gilman. Descendants of the Gilmans still live in the neighborhood and they are well versed in local history.

The house on the hill top – it is merely a limestone ridge, - was built in 1826 by Oliver Willard who cut and dressed the stone himself and apparently did all the mason work, though he may have had help – but just when this spacious residence was completed, before there was time to move in, Oliver died at the early age of forty-two.

The oldest son of the family, Josiah Flint Willard, married Mary Thompson Hill a few years later, and became the father of Frances E. Willard.

The great temperance leader often came here to see her Grandmother Willard. She also visited "Grandfather Hill" in the home across the way a little down the road.

This house remained in possession of the Willards until 1869 when it was bought by the Ways who were also a pioneer family, although they had first settled in the town of Sweden.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County --- Town Of Ogden

Old Hill House --- Present Owner, Lewis R. Decker

This house on the north side of the Dewey Road was built in 1826 by John Hill, pioneer, who settled on this farm in 1816.

He was born in Durham, N. H., in 1772 and in 1796 he married Polly Thompson and they lived in Dansville, Vt., until they moved to Ogden. They had eight children, two boys and six girls. One of the daughters married Josiah Willard and became the mother of Frances E. Willard.

The house was built of brick brought in ox carts from LeRoy, N. Y. It is said that Polly Thompson Hill mixed the mortar for the bricks.

John Hill died in this house in 1858. Polly had died earlier. The oldest daughter had married Calvin Gilman, son of David Hilman, pioneer, who lived across the road. After Mr. Hill's death, or before, this Calvin Gilman bought out the other heirs and took possession of the old homestead with his wife, Maria Hill Gilman. The Gilmans were strong anti-slavery people and their home became a station on the underground railway. Calvin Gilman died in 1883 at the age of 81.

After his death the house was occupied by tenants for some years and then it stood deserted for a longer time. By 1929 it was in a dilapidated condition, but as its architecture had never been altered, it interested some city people, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis R. Decker, who bought it. They restored it very successfully, and they are the present owners and occupants.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County --- Town Of Riga

Old Baldwin House --- Present Owner, Robert Vallance

This old red brick mansion on the south side of the highway between Rochester and Buffalo, just west of Riga Center, was probably built at an early date, for the style of stepped-up gable ends was apparently not used by builders after the 1820's. And the pioneer of this land, Samuel Baldwin, settled here with his family as early as 1807. He had purchased the land the year previous, having come with his friend, Elder Brewster, from their home in the Berkshires, on a prospecting tour. An interesting account of their coming and of their observation on the country are given in Turner's Pioneer History of Monroe County.

Samuel Baldwin was born in 1766 in Woburn, Mass. and he married Lois Chamberlain of Dalton, Mass. They had eight children. Samuel died in his home in the town of Riga in 1843. Some years later the fourth son and fifth child, Loren Baldwin, came in possession of the house. Loren married first --- Palmer, second, Christiana Thoms from Maine. He died first and his widow survived him for some years. On her death in 1919 the house came into the possession of an older brother of Loren, Samuel C. Baldwin, who sold it to Robert Vallance, the present owner.

Oldest Tavern

Built by J. Thomson, 1808

First Framed house and first postoffice in Town of Riga

Thomas Adams Homestead: At Riga Center (2 ½ miles south of Churchville) Town of Riga,
Monroe Co. On corner of state road and Fitch Rd., facing the former.

Present Owner, Mr. Thomas Willard Adams.

“The first stove in town was opened at the Center in 1808 by Thomson and Tuttle. Joseph Thomson soon after erected a frame bldg., the first in town, and opened it as a tavern. Not far from this date a postoffice was established at the Center, with a line of stages passing through. The first postmaster to be appointed was Joseph Thomson”

The above citations are from the “History of Monroe County” by Everts, Ensign and Everts, page 186, first column. Please see also “The Pioneer History of Monroe County” by Orasmus Turner, under Town of Riga, Page 502.

Frances E. Willard

Great temperance leader was born in house standing on this site, Sept. 18, 1839. The Willards left this home for Ohio two years later.

Village of Churchville, Town of Rige, Monroe County, 100 ft. from Buffalo Rd., on main business street of Churchville.

Frances E. Willard was born in house sketched above (from old faded photograph which is only known photograph of original house in existence) Sept. 18, 1839, but lived here two years, for in 1841 the family moved to Oberlin, Ohio. Frances E. Willard's father, accompanied by her mother and herself, died in this house Jan. 24th, 1868. See a “Great Mother” pp 67 and 71. The house was completely altered and made over in the seventies. It stands about 30 ft. back from the street. The business block to which it is attached on north side is also built of brick. The owner of both business block and house, Mr. Stewart, thinks that very little of the original “birthplace” is left, but it is hard to tell. In “Glimpses of Fifty Years” by Frances E. Willard, there is a picture of the house opposite page.

Owned by Mr. Craig D. Stewart

Riga Academy

Built in 1811. Used as tavern until 1846 when Academy was organized here. Popular and flourishing school for boarding and day scholars.

Riga Center, Town of Riga, Monroe County, on State Road.

Owned by Judge Lynn, Lamberton Pk., Rochester.

This stately old building was originally Joseph Thomson's Tavern. In 1846 it was purchased by the trustees of the newly organized Riga Academy as a home for the latter. It was a flourishing school for a little more than five years. At the end of that time it was closed for some unexplained reason, but a few years later it reopened and was again a successful school.

A copy of the school paper called the Riga Ed Banner, and a school paper, both dated 1860, are in existence. The latter states that in 1859 the school had 122 pupils. Many people in this vicinity speak with pride of the fact that their parents or grandparents received their education at Riga Academy.

Founded 1843, Churchville Grade School --- Occupied this building until 1895. A fine example of the lost art of building with cobblestones.

In the village of Churchville, town of Riga, Monroe County, on Route 33 on slight elevation nearly 100 ft. back from street.

Now owned by Grange. Official in charge, Mr. Allen Hill.

In 1843 a large school building was erected at Churchville, and a graded school established under supervision of three teachers. It has been sustained in a flourishing condition ever since. Since 1895 it has been used as an Assembly Hall, until taken over by Grange.

It is mentioned in the "History of Monroe Co." by Everts, Ensign and Everts, paged 186, as quoted above.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County --- Town Of Sweden

Gallup Homestead --- Present owner, Charles Gallup.

This old cobblestone house is said to have been built in 1840 on the Gallup Road. It was built for Eli Gallup who came from Albany County in 1830 and settled on this site in the town of Sweden. He married Sally Crary, and his death occurred here in 1882 in his ninety-second year. He had a son, Andrew J. Gallup, who was born in Albany County in 1825. Andrew, in about 1848 married Mary A. Houston, whose father, Isaac, was a prominent lumber dealer, and they lived on the Ridge Road just west of the old Houston Place. Another son of Eli, George, who was born in Sweden in 1834, inherited the old homestead, and in 1860 he married Dilla E., another daughter of Isaac Houston. Their son, a grandson of Eli is the present owner of the place.

Mr. George Gallup, senior, could remember when the house was built, or had been told about it. He said the cobblestones were only the outer layer, they were selected to be all nearly the same size as possible, and measured by the eye. The cut stone used came from the quarry south of Sweden Center. There has never been a crack in the house since the time it was built, but the mason and the carpenter died in the poorhouse.

Such excellent work as they did and even their names are forgotten. This is one of the old stone houses where the masonry of the rear walls is as good as on the front.

This farm may be eligible for a marker as a "Century Farm".

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County --- Town Of Sweden

Old Locke House --- Present Owner, Leo Keenan

This large house on the south side of the Beedle Road was built at an early date, probably in the 1820's, by Nathan Locke, a son of the pioneer, Elisha Locke, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. Elisha Locke and sons came as pioneers to the town of Sweden soon after the year of 1812, taking up land adjoining the Lake Road.

Nathan Locke, one of Elisha's sons, married Esther, daughter of Ezra and Abigail Witcher Kittridge who emigrated from New Hampshire, where Esther was born in 1804. While Esther and her numerous brothers and sisters were still very young, their parents brought them in winter in a sledge drawn by oxen to Western New York. They stopped in Bloomfield but in the spring came on to the town of Sweden in what is now Monroe County although all this land west of the river was then in Genesee County with the court house in Batavia. They took up a claim on the south side of the Beedle Road where Nathan Locke, some years later, after he had married Esther Kittridge, built the house pictured above.

Nathan literally built this house with his own hands, but his health suffered afterwards and he died a few years after it was completed. It is built of limestone, quarried nearby, though not actually quarried, for it lay very near the surface of the ground. He cut it, dressed it, and laid the blocks in place with hardly any assistance.

Nathan had a son Elisha who had three sons and a daughter. The youngest son, George, became a successful dentist in Brockport, practicing there for many years.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County – Town of Sweden

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

Frederick P. Root house – Now Destroyed

This very large farmhouse, or country mansion, on the Root Road was built in the middle fifties when the “Italian Villa” style which it featured, was perhaps the newest thing in architecture. It resembled the Rowe house in size and general appearance but the addition to it was on one side of the main unit instead of in the rear as with the Asa Rowe residence. Being two feet longer one way, it was also a trifle larger. And thus did Squire Root (he was called “the Squire”) win his bet with supervisor Rowe as to who should have the biggest house!

Frederick P. Root was a self made man. The oldest of eight children, he was born in Saratoga County in 1814. His parents had emigrated from Hebron, Connecticut in 1811, and after staying a few years in the eastern part of the State, they located in the town of Sweden, at that time a part of Genesee County.

This south eastern part of the town was then a dense wilderness and clearing one hundred acres a Herculean task. Frederick’s school days ended when he was sixteen because of his father’s failing health, and when the latter died two years later the cares of a large family fell entirely on his shoulders. But he continued to devote every moment of his spare time to reading and study, and took a scientific as well as practical interest in agriculture.

Having some knowledge of mechanics, he invented in 1843, a grain separator and cleaner and some years later, a wheel cultivator, both of which were extensively used by farmers. It may have been while he was in Washington getting his patent for the grain separator, that he met there McCormick soon to follow him to this locality. For McCormick had been told by Elias B. Holmes, so the story goes, that Brockport was the center of a fine wheat producing country and Backus and Fitch would probably make his reaper for him. They made a few and the first one completed, it is said, was given a trial on the farm of Frederick P. Root. It was another Brockport firm, Seymour and Morgan, who first produced McCormick’s reaper in quantity.

In 1839 Mr. Root married Marion Phelps of New London, Connecticut. There were three children, a son, Aaron Root, and two daughters, one of whom is well remembered in Brockport as Mrs. Ward Dewey.

In 1856 Mr. Root built the large brick house pictured above. It cost twelve thousand dollars, a much larger sum than today, and he paid for it with the income from one year’s farming operations! How did he do it? He was lucky enough to own seven hundred and fifty acres, though not all in one place. One hundred of them were sown to wheat and they produced three hundred bushels which sold for three dollars and three cents a bushel, over nine thousand dollars. Then,

from his flock of sheep he obtained two thousand pounds of wool and this sold at a dollar a pound. Of course, there were probably lesser items raising the amount earned to twelve thousand or more.

The house had a large cistern in the garret which collected and held the rainfall on the roof and the water pressure sent it down to faucets in the rooms below. Many of the rooms had fireplaces but a furnace was soon installed. The basement was finished off with plastered walls, and the house had as many as thirty-six rooms in all, not including the clothespresses.

Dances were given for the daughters and their young friends, in the large drawing room, which could hardly have been eclipsed in size by the tavern ball rooms of a slightly earlier period. It was also the scene of receptions where Brockport society people met prominent politicians from Rochester. But this was too large a house for a modern servantless household. It became a white elephant and burned down about ten years ago.

Mr. Root wrote for publication many articles on the subject of agriculture and delivered many lectures before farmer's association in which he was prominent. He also wrote on local history. He represented his district in the State Legislature and died at the advanced age of ninety-two.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County – Town of Sweden

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

Chester White Homestead – Present owner, Mrs. Williams L. White

This old and picturesque frame house on the West Sweden Road was built by Chester White, one of three brothers who came to this locality in about the year 1820 or 1821.

His family had come from England during the French War and left their first home in Massachusetts for Madison County, New York, in 1796. In about 1820, hearing of the newer country of Western New York, then rapidly filling up, they came to the town of Sweden, and took up the land still in possession of the family. They have always been prominent and successful farmers.

Chester White, who built the house on the West Sweden Road pictured above, married Sally Howe. He died when quite young and left his widow with a family of children which their eldest son, Leonard, helped her to bring up. Many years later one of Leonard's children, William Leonard White, bought out the other heirs and owned the farm. He married Elle Remington and they had a son, Herbert. William Leonard White died in 1936.

It was the usual outcome for pioneers to live in a log cabin for several years, and if it was snug and comfortable they might continue to occupy it a long time before building permanently. There is no record of when this house was built but, judging from the style of its architecture, it was not earlier than 1830. It resembled the Amos Stickney house and also one of the Bangs houses on the Dewey Road. The Bangs were pioneers in the town of Ogden. These long, low houses are so similar, they may have all been the work of one builder. Certainly they are not the type of house that was "raised" by the community, and it is fortunate that none of the three have ever been remodeled.

This Chester White farm is undoubtedly eligible for a marker as a "Century Farm".

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings - 1938

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County – Town of Sweden

Old Dimmick-Stickney House --- Present owner, Grover Stickney

This house of great architectural merit, on the southwest corner of the White and Redman Roads, was built at an early date to replace a still earlier brick house that had burned down.

It was built by Jeremiah Dimmick. His descendants said he used to work late into the night carving the Greek details under the eaves, but most of them were taken off when the house was fixed over about seventy years ago. The front windows were cut down at that time and the east wing changed from a carriage shed to a part of the house.

The Stickney's, early pioneers who had settled first on the lake road, bought the place sometime in the fifties. On a map dated 1852 or 1853, the name is J. Dimmick. On the next map of the county published in 1858, there are three Stickneys on the land this side of the road, this corner lot being taken by Reuben C. Stickney.

This is a limestone region, hence stone for building purposes was close at hand. There were here three handsome stone houses in a row and also a frame house – the frame house was built for Electa Stickney Young, a daughter of James Stickney who lived in the center house built of stone. Reuben C. and Darwin were his sons who lived in the east and west stone houses. The west stone house was unfortunately demolished not very long ago.

In about 1920 some people from Trumansburg or Interlaken, central part of the State, came in their car and wanted to see the house pictured above. They said it was their Grandfathers, Jeremiah Dimmick, who built it and they would like to buy the farm back, but it was not for sale.

Some years ago, when the maple trees along this route were cut down, Darwin Stickney set out apple trees along their route in their places. They are now large trees with spreading branches which give a country road a very picturesque appearance.

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings – 1938

Some old Houses of Monroe County – Town of Sweden

Ruins of Swamp Road Tavern

These ruins are on the north side of the Swamp Road, perhaps a mile east of Sweden Center. The ground is higher here than the low marshland towards the east and one can see why this used to be called “the tavern on the hill.”

It was built “well over a hundred years ago” by a man from New Hampshire whose name was Pattee or Patty. There was a later proprietor by the name of Johnson.

Until recent years the roof was on it. There were two stories and a basement with a bar in the basement, and a ballroom taking up all of the upper story. The floors are gone but one of the ballroom fireplaces can be seen high up in the east end wall, and a window in the north wall has some of its small panes of glass still in place. An old resident of Sweden Corner remembers coming here to dances when he was very young.

Today it seems strange that a large, substantially built public house should have been located on a narrow little-used road with few habitations. As its name indicates, it runs through a swamp, but way back in the early days this road was part of a stage route between Sweden Center, older than Brockport, and Church’s Mills, now Churchville. It connected the Buffalo Road and the Ridge Road and the coaches made regular stops at this tavern. It would be surprising yet likely to be true, that this lonely Swamp Road was for a time a link in the most direct route from the South to Niagara Falls!

It is said that the Inn was a favorite stopping place for people going to mill, but a regard for the truth compels us to state that, after changes in management that came with the years, certain of its Patrons have it a bad reputation. They drank heavily, they often quarreled, and during one of their midnight brawls, a peddler stopping at the inn was murdered.

It was rumored that the peddler was sometimes seen returning to the scene of his violent death. The place acquired the reputation of being haunted. In time it was deserted. No one wanted to stay in a haunted house.

For some years the old building was used for the storage of produce. Then it began to fall into ruins, a signal for those who wanted a few stones for mending foundations or for other purposes, to come very privately, and help themselves. The weeds have grown tall around it but the vine-draped walls still rise with a stately air, and may do so for many more.

In recent times the picturesque ruin came into use again. It served as a shelter for house parties of a very informal nature which were held annually by a group of Italians who came to gather

hops in the neighborhood. Most of the windows were boarded up but there was still a roof over above their heads, letting in cheerful glimpses of blue sky, and perhaps these new comers had never heard of the ghost.

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings – 1938

Some Old Houses of Monroe County – Town of Sweden

Old Guy Chappell House --- Present owner, Grover Stickney

It is probable that this large brick house was erected soon after 1832. Guy Chappell built and he did not come to the town of Sweden until that year. A native of Great Barrington, Mass., he was born in 1801. In about the year 1820 he came to Western New York and purchased a farm in the wilderness, but his pioneering began in the town of Riga. He married Clarissa, a daughter of Thomas Richmond. In 1832 the Chappells came to the town of Sweden and settled in this location on the north side of the present White Road.

In earlier times the roadway was bordered with fine maple trees; it is not unlikely that they were survivals of the “forest primeval” but some years ago all of them were cut down because they were wanted for firewood. There is still a patch of woodland on the south side of the road, but the land adjoining this house is now level farm land, no trees to speak of, and such a large house needs masses of shrubbery to “tie” it to the landscape. It has an unusually long extension in the rear – looks like woodshed, carriage house and tool shed combined. The woodshed was usually built at right angles to the house but this one trails out behind.

The Chappells had several children, a daughter, Clara, married George Way, son of the Pioneer, Samuel V. Way. Sometime in the fifties or before, the family left their farm on the White Road and moved to a red brick house still standing on Adams Street, Brockport. Guy Chappell owned a considerable tract of land in what is now the southeast corner of the village, and Chappell Street is named after him. Chester Hart, son of the Pioneer James Hart, bought their farm. But some years later, Willard Way, whose parents were George and Clara Chappell Way, bought the farm back. He lived in this house until he died. Then it went to his daughter, Mrs. Clara Blaisy, who sold the house in 1921. After that the property changed owners several times.

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings – 1938

Old Houses of Monroe County --- Town of Sweden

Reed Homestead – Present Owners, Estate of Cora Reed Mershon

This interesting old house in the style called Victorian Gothic, on the east side of the Lake Road, corner of Dewey Road, was built by John B. Reed in 1850. He was a son of the pioneer, John Reed, who settled in the town of Sweden as early as 1808.

The pioneer located 900 acres in the southern part of the town. His first farmhouse was said to be a house on this site which, when this house was erected, was moved back in the lot close to the woods and used for tenants. It burned down a few years ago.

The elder Reed was the first supervisor of the town and continued to serve in that capacity from 1814 to 1820. When he died he left his land on the west side of the Lake Road, 300 acres, to his daughter who had married Asa Rowe, a son of Abel Rowe, a pioneer in Greece. The son, John B. Reed, had all the land east of the Lake Road. He married a daughter of Joseph and Lucy Hill Emerson who settled in the town of Riga in 1809. They had four daughters, Mrs. Seymour H. Root, Mrs. George H. Rowe, Mrs. Fred J. Root, and Cora who, after she married Edward Mershon, continued to live at her father's. John B. Reed died in 1869 and the Mershons kept the homestead and it became known as the Mershon house.

Its Gothic flair is not the only thing about this house that interests. Since it has never been modernized, the fine old handwork is much in evidence. There are long French windows or doors, which you can open to step from the south parlor onto the verandah, and the verandah is shaded by tall evergreen trees, which are probably older than the house itself.

There was no furnace put in originally, but one was soon added, and the registers have margins of firestone which were thought necessary for safety.

It might be mentioned that the Reeds, Rowes, Gilmans, and other families on the southern part of the town, seem to have had their affiliations with Churchville and Riga rather than Brockport.

Descendants of John Reed still have charge of the Mershon place and are the owners, so this may be a "Century Farm".

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings – 1938

Some old Houses of Monroe County – Town of Sweden

James Jackson House – Present owner, C. L. Ellis

This old house on the southern outskirts of Brockport, the west side of the lake road, was probably built early in the eighteen-twenties by James Jackson, the pioneer who lived here, born 1779. His wife was Celia Whitney, and their daughter, Emilie married Henry Platt Gardner, one of Brockport's early business men, in 1833. The Jacksons had a son named Adelbert who was called "Del" for short, and there was also a Levi Jackson.

The farm on which the house is situated was part of the original Brockway estate. The house is built of fieldstone with frame additions at side and rear. It is interesting as an example of early masonry work and has never been spoiled by injudicious remodeling.

The front of the house is of cut and dressed stone laid in regular courses, the side walls of irregular-shaped fieldstones carefully fitted together, while the rear wall of the house of "builder's rubbish" which means – stones of all sizes and shapes embedded into mortar or cement. This is the usual way in which the early stone houses of this locality were built. Rubble in the rear, dressed stone in front, while the irregular but careful masonry of the side walls really looks the best.

Although it is now rather run down in appearance, being used by tenants and for storage purposes, this house, when in a "spruced up" condition has been very much admired. The present owners say that sometimes people driving by in their cars have stopped in front of the house, for no other reason, apparently, than just to gaze at it.

OSTROM – MORGAN HOUSE

Village of Brockport – Town of Sweden – State of New York

This dignified Victorian residence on the corner of Main and South Streets was once known as the Ostrom mansion. It was built in the middle fifties by a gentleman from Medina. This Mr. Ostrom had a son in Union College and a daughter in a finishing school in Utica who would soon take their places in society, and the young people and their mother probably agreed that a fine home for them to return to would be very desirable.

Following the usual custom here in the early days, of living in a near-by cottage while their large brick house was being erected, the Ostrosms had a frame house put up on the south side of South Street where they had a good view of the building operations and were near enough to supervise and direct the work of the cabinet makers and other skilled craftsman who finished the interior.

At that the latest thing in architecture was this square type of house which Mr. Ostrom had built. With its flat spreading roof and cupola it was often called the “Italian Villa” style. This was the first of its kind in this locality but it was soon imitated and one can see several examples of it here in Brockport, on a smaller scale. The ceilings on the first floor of this house are very high. Fortunately it has not been modernized much though in minor details there are some changes in its appearance. Originally, there were long casement windows upstairs and down which opened in, not out. As it was impossible to make them weathertight they were removed and replaced with the usual kind. They were used though – the casement windows – as doors for the bookcase in the Brockport Reading Room and Library.

Mr. Ostrom and his wife did not live to enjoy their fine home in this village very long. Their daughter, Julia, shone for a time as a society belle here and then she married a Mr. Eldridge of New York City and went to live there. Her brother went off to Albany Law School and the mansion would have been deserted had not Mrs. Eldridge allowed Dr. S. M. Olden and his daughter to rent rooms at the side of the rear of this large house to use for living quarters and for the doctor’s office and reception room. This arrangement seemed satisfactory and might have lasted a long time but an indiscretion on the part of Miss Olden precipitated a climax.

It seems that Mary – that was her name – wanted to give a party, a regular party with dancing. At this time many of the ball rooms in the old taverns were still in existence and some of them were being used. A large room seemed to be the requisite for a dancing party and here, right at hand, were spacious parlors with ceilings that were more than twelve feet high. Why not use them? Mary thought there could be no valid objections so she went ahead with her plans to open up the front of the house.

It was early fall so no heat in the large rooms was necessary. Mary never doubted that she would be allowed to use the rooms but at the last moment she had misgivings about doing it without permission. So she wrote Mrs. Eldridge and to her astonishment and chagrin received a

peremptory telegram denying her request. How could she change her plans at the eleventh hour? Mary imprudently decided it would be less embarrassing to offend Mrs. Eldridge than to turn away her guests so she gave the party as scheduled. And shortly afterwards Mrs. Eldridge informed Dr. Olden by letter that he and his daughter must leave the premises. People thought she was far too severe on the Oldens.

Not long after Julia Eldridge offered the place for sale. It was bought by Mr. James O. Guild in 1864 who sold it in 1867 to Mr. Dayton S. Morgan of Brockport and since that time, it has remained in the possession of the Morgan family.

Dayton Samuel Morgan, the founder of the old home as it stands today was the sixth in descent from James Morgan, the first American ancestor of the family, who was born in Wales in 1607, and came to this country with his two younger brothers Miles and John, arriving at Boston in April 1637. His parents, Samuel Morgan, born September 17, 1789, and Sarah Dayton, of New Jersey, were married in 1816, and came from Connecticut to Herkimer County in that year. Afterwards they moved to the town of Ogden, Monroe County, where on November 19, 1819, Dayton Samuel was born.

His mother died when he was quite young, and his father, having taken a second wife, and having suffered severe reverses in the financial panic of 1836, the young Dayton was thrown upon his own resources at an early age. First teaching school as a means of livelihood, then changing from that to a clerkship in the office of the Erie Canal Collector, in 1842 he decided that he was better fitted for a business career, and became associated with Elias Whitney, a merchant of Brockport, with whom he remained until 1844. At that time he was invited to enter partnership with William H. Seymour who was a successful merchant of Brockport and one of the wealthiest men of this section at that period.

The firm of Seymour and Morgan was thus founded and in connection with a large mercantile business they established the Globe Iron Works and began the manufacture of stoves and agricultural implements. In the following year the Hon. Elias B. Holmes, of Brockport, a member of Congress, while in Washington, met Cyrus H. McCormick, of Walnut Grove, Virginia, who was taking out patents on a reaping machine of his own invention, and was looking for a firm to manufacture them for him.

Mr. Holmes told his of the Globe Iron Works, in Brockport, which was already working on agricultural implements of that nature. He spoke of the sterling qualities of the men in charge. Mr. McCormick came to Brockport with his plans and had conferences with the firm of Seymour and Morgan which resulted in few changes and improvements which were made in the Mechanism. For the harvest of 1846, one hundred of these reapers were manufactured and put upon the market. They were not entirely successful, however, and eventually Mr. McCormick became discouraged, gave up, and left Brockport for the west. But Seymour and Morgan persevered, corrected this mistake, made that improvement, and in 1851 introduced a machine of their own design known as the New Yorker, which proved to be not only the first successful reaper ever built, but one which

gained a world wide reputation. This led to inevitable infringement upon the Seymour and Morgan patents by other manufacturers, McCormick included. The interminable litigation that followed was carried on by Mr. Morgan, alone, Mr. Seymour having sold out his interest in the business to Mr. Morgan before the struggle was under way. It was a battle that lasted for years, involving large sums of money and engaging as counsel some of the most prominent lawyers in the country. Among these were Abraham Lincoln, Edward M. Stanton, William H. Seward, Judge Henry Selden of Rochester, New York and others.

The struggle finally ended in success for D. S. Morgan and Co., as the firm was now called and the business flourished, furnishing employment to hundreds of men, until the day of Mr. Morgan's death, April 9, 1890.

In 1868 Mr. Morgan married Susan M. Joslyn of Brockport, and they made their home in this mansion, formerly owned by the Ostroms. Mrs. Morgan, a graduate of the Brockport Collegiate Institute, had musical and literary tastes and was active in church and social affairs; the family are Episcopalians. In 1872 she was one of the founders of the Brockport Reading Room, and later, as regent of Monroe Chapter D. A. R. who was instrumental in founding one of the first playgrounds and athletic fields of the time.

Mr. Morgan had other interests than that of his manufacturing business in Brockport. He was in 1869, one of the organizers of the Central Cross Town Street Railroad in New York City and for many years was one of the directors of the Company. He was Vice-President of the Central Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad. At one time he owned large tracts of land which are now a part of the city of Chicago. He was largely influential in bringing the State Normal School to Brockport, and he was for many years President of the Local Board of Managers of that institution.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Dayton S. Morgan; George Dayton Morgan, William Peters Morgan, Sara Morgan Manning, Susan Morgan Macy, Henry Morgan, Gifford Morgan and Gladys Morgan Richards were all born and spent their youth in this house.

Not the least interesting feature of the Morgan Homestead is the cupola where anniversary pilgrimages are made especially at Christmas time, from the oldest to the youngest, every one inscribes his name and date upon the plastered walls leaving a unique and interesting record of the past family festivities.

Four generations of the Morgan family have enjoyed the gracious hospitality for which the house has become the symbol during the seventy-six years. It has been the scene of weddings, receptions, dances as well as of social affairs for the church and other local organizations. These entertainments are still carried on by Mrs. Sara Morgan Manning who since the death of her husband, Dr. Frederick Arnold Manning of New York City and her son Arnold Manning has made her home with her mother. Since the death of Mrs. Dayton S. Morgan the "Homestead" belongs to Mrs. Sara Morgan Manning.

The house, with its large rooms the ceilings of which are fourteen feet high, contains many antiques and family heirlooms, and Mrs. Manning has sought to preserve in the parlors and other rooms, its charming Victorian style and atmosphere.

The furnishings of one of the second-story rooms, because they were such a perfect example of a mid-Victorian bed-room, were borrowed by the Memorial Art Gallery of Rochester, in 1934, for their Centennial Exhibition called "A Century of Interiors". Even the chandelier, the heavy walnut window cornices, the carpet and furnishings were loaned by Mrs. Manning for the exhibit. Other rooms in the old house contain furniture dating from the seventeenth century. It is really a treasure house as well as a notable example of architecture of the period when it was built.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County – Town of Sweden

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

Old Comstock-Covell House --- Present Owner, the Covell estate

On the north side of the Covell Road, a short distance east of the Lake Road, stands a frame house, the oldest part of it built in 1818, and nearby stood the original log cabin.

The pioneer who settled here and built the cabin was Anselm Comstock, son of Abner Comstock, born 1727, who was a sea captain sailing between our country and the West Indies. Old Lyme, Connecticut was where the family lived. Anselm, the son, married Betsey Jewett of the same place in 1790. He served in the Revolutionary War and came to the town of Sweden in 1816, taking up a large tract of land on the east side of the Lake Road.

On the wall of his log cabin were fastened the wooden works of a clock which had been taken out of its case when it was brought from Connecticut. When the frame house was built this clock was moved into it for it was a good time keeper and clocks were a luxury then. Some years later, but more than a hundred years ago, a handsome cherry case was made for the clock, and it still stands seven feet tall in the same dining room of the same house cheerfully ticking away the hours. Those old clocks with wooden works are a rarity now and quite valuable as antiques.

The sixth child of the Anselm and Betsey – there were nine of them in all – was Harry Jewett who had been born in Old Lyme in 1806. He grew up in the town of Sweden and Married Mary Peters Loomis in 1834. Anselm, the Revolutionary soldier, died in 1845 at the age of eighty-three.

Harry J. and Marry P. Comstock continued to live in the homestead and they had four children. The oldest daughter was Jane Amelia who married Captain James B. Root. The second daughter, Martha Adelaide, born 1841, married Hosea Town Covell in 1864.

Hosea Town Covell was the son of Edward Covell, a prominent pioneer of Ogden, who had come with the Gilman family, his first wife being Mary Gilman. She died in 1822 and Edward Married Rhoda Town in 1824. It was their son, Hosea, who married Martha Comstock. Martha Inherited the William Root farm of two hundred acres and Hosea Covell took care of both the Comstock and Root farms.

The Covells had five children. Their daughter, Mary married Dr. George Locke, a leading dentist of Brockport, the only living son, Rutherford, is operating the farm, and Miss Leah Covell, a daughter, is living in the old homestead.

This is a “Century Farm” eligible for a marker from the State Agricultural Society.

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings - 1938

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County – Town of Sweden

Asa Rowe House --- Present owner, Asa Rowe estate

This very large brick house on the south side of the Rowe Road was built by Asa Rowe in about the year 1853.

Asa Rowe was born in the town of Greece in 1805. He was the son of an early pioneer who has settled in the town of Greece on the Ridge Road, the year before. When only nineteen, in 1824, Asa commenced tavern keeping on the Ridge Road. In 1828 he married Ruby Reed, the daughter of John Reed of the town of Sweden.

Besides keeping a public house, Asa Rowe carried on a farm and established a greenhouse and nursery. He was one of the first nurserymen in Monroe County and is mentioned in the chapter on horticulture in a recent agricultural history of New York State. He served as supervisor of Greece three terms and was one of the building committee of the old court house.

In 1842 the Rowes moved to the town of Sweden for Mrs. Rowe had inherited a large farm from her father. Although not continuing in the nursery business after coming to this town, Asa Rowe was always a collector of rare plants and shrubs. The boxwood in the Seymour Library garden was obtained from him. He was supervisor of the town of Sweden in 1850.

The Rowes had six children. A granddaughter, Mrs. Albert H. Davis and her family are the present occupants of the house.

This would undoubtedly be eligible for a marker as a "Century Farm".

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings - 1938

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County – Town of Sweden

The house where the first town meeting was held and the oldest house in town not a log cabin ---
Recently Razed

The home of Reuben Stickney, Jr., where the first town meeting was held is believed to have been this “old Patten house” at the corner of the Lake and Swamp Roads. It stood on a little ridge of land extending east and west, known in early times as the “Hog’s Back” or “Lighthouse Hill”. Half hidden by a big clump of lilac bushes, it had stood there considerably more than a century, yet it “had” to be torn down about a year ago to widen the little-used swamp road.

Since it was clapboarded on the outside it had always been supposed to be a frame house but when the wreckers went to work the discovery was made that the frame house frame was filled, in the ancient New England way, with a solid mass of stones and clay mortar.

Reuben Stickney Jr., was a major in the War of 1812 and this might have been a garrison house. The barn, still standing, is said to be older than the house, and “it took two barrels of whisky to raise it.”

Reuben Stickney Jr., did not stay many years in the town of Sweden for he joined the stream of emigration moving farther west.

The next owner seems to have been James Hart from New Hampshire, who in 1815 married Sally Pattee or Patty, also a native of the state. Hart seems to have been originally in the potash business but somewhat later had a cider mill at Sweden Center. And Mrs. Hart used to tell the boys who hung around the mill how her brother had come from the East and built the tavern on the Swamp Road so he could be in her neighborhood. She had another brother who, it is thought, ran the ashery on the Swamp Road which was there in the early days. From the lye obtained, soap was manufactured on the premises and sold to firms in Rochester and other places. Before the Civil War, or about that time, both Patty brothers were keeping hotels in Avon, New York.

When they were old, the Harts went to live with their daughter, Mary Kirby, and William – always called “Billy”. Patten acquired this old house we have described which was razed a year ago. Very recently “Lighthouse Hill” was also leveled.

Everything the least but picturesque or expressive of another era seems always in danger. An effort was made to save the quaint, historic little house to use for a museum, but it was necessary to move it to another location and because of its solid walls, that could not be done.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County – Town of Sweden

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

Old Dimick-Seymour-Allen House --- Village of Brockport

Present owner, Mrs. Alfred C. Thompson

On March 3, 1836, Hiel Brockway transferred to Daniel L. Burnett, Jr., a considerable tract of land within the limits of the present village of Brockport. It was bounded on the south side by College Street, on the west by Utica Street, on the north by Monroe Avenue, and on the east by lots belonging to Daniel Burnett on Main Street.

This was an era of land speculation. Industry was mostly on a small scale and land seemed the safest investment especially when, as in this case, it was on the borders of a prosperous and growing village.

This parcel of land had already been divided into building lots but Burnett could not have waited to sell off the lots individually, for in the same year, 1836, he disposed of the entire tract to one Henry Carpenter. Three years later, in 1839, Carpenter conveyed the same premises to Henry R. Selden of Clarkson.

In 1837 there had occurred one of the worst financial panics in the nation's history and its effects must have lasted several years. Henry R. Selden, who achieved distinction as a lawyer was said to have declined the nomination for vice-president on the same ticket with Abraham Lincoln in his later years, may have contemplated coming to Brockport to live, but he never did. He continued to stay in Clarkson until he moved to Rochester in 1858.

In 1850 Selden sold this property to Ansel Chappell who soon bargained it to Samuel Robbins. The individual lots were now being sold and in 1852 Robbins sold three adjoining lots on the north side of College Street comprising three fourths of an acre, to Jeremiah Dimick.

This Jeremiah Dimick had been living several miles south of Brockport in a stone house of classic design and it was related of him that he used to sit up half the night carving Grecian details for his cornice and the elaborate dentils underneath. As for the house still standing in the center of his lot on College Street, he may have built it or he may have added to and improved a house already there as was often done. Certainly the two story wing on the east side of the house shows his handiwork. For it had an exquisite little front porch whose columns and frieze and cornice are really works of art.

Jeremiah Dimick died in October 1853, so he did not have very long to enjoy his new home but the family continued to live in it for nearly twenty years.

The Dimicks had retired from farming but village life in those days was decidedly rural. Nearly everybody kept chickens and the campus at the end of College Street was used by “thriftyly inclined” Brockporters as a free pasture for their cows. Perhaps this practice began after the first Collegiate Institute was ruined by fire in 1858, but the campus was still a grazing ground twelve years later, according to Prof. Lennon, one of the early members of the faculty of the Normal School which succeeded the old Collegiate Institute in 1868.*

The Dimicks had some neighbors by the names of Holmes. Their “Brown Cottage” stood diagonally across the street and it soon developed that Mrs. Holmes was an authoress. On coming to Brockport she continued to write and published her first book here, “Tempest and Sunshine”, which created quite a stir in the village.

A local historian has dug out the curious fact that the crowing of roosters so annoyed Mrs. Holmes, by robbing her of her needed sleep in the early morning hours, that she bought all there were of them in the neighborhood. Then she disposed of those roosters so they would crow no more.

In 1869 Mrs. Ruth Dimick sold this property to the eldest son of William H. Seymour, Henry Seymour, who had just married Isabel Randall. Miss Randall was a teacher of drawing in the new Normal School and an artist of some ability. The Seymours lived there until 1874 when Mrs. Seymour died and an only child had died too. Then Henry Seymour sold the house to George H. Allen, one of the pioneers of Brockport who had recently become a member of the firm of Seymour and Morgan, manufacturers of reaping machines.

The Allen family occupied this house many years. They had a son who practiced law in New York City and three daughters who lived much of the time at home. Mary and Elizabeth Allen took an active part in all cultural activities in the village as their mother had done before them. The youngest sister, Margaret, was something of an invalid and had to be taken care of. When Elizabeth, who was a fine musician, died in 1917, Mary Allen who had been operating a tea room in Redlands, California, returned to Brockport and opened the “Blue Pitcher Tea Room and Gift Shop”, popular for many years with the people of Brockport.

Two years after Miss Mary Allen died, in 1931, this house and lot were sold to Dr. Alfred C. Thompson, retired principal of the Normal School.

The house had been modernized somewhat on the exterior a long time ago. It was now modernized within, though with care to retain anything of aesthetic value, and was restored as far as possible to its original appearance on the outside. Mrs. Thompson and her sister, Miss Mary Cook are residing there at the present time. Dr. Thompson died in California in the winter of 1937.

*Semicentennial, State Normal School, p23.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County – Town of Sweden

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

Old Barnett House. Village of Brockport

George Flint Barnett, a young man of twenty-two, born in Oneida County, came to Brockport in 1826. Two years later he brought his young wife, Catherin Lyell Thorpe, to this village. They made the journey from West Galway in Saratoga County to Brockport on a canal packet bringing with them their goods and chattels. These consisted of a cherry chest of drawers and haircloth trunk packed with their belongings, and bread trough or dough box which they used as a chest, having stowed into it a baked ham, boiled chicken and other good things to sustain them on their journey which was to take nearly a week. The dough box was supplied with wooden paddles and also used for butter making. It is preserved as a relic of pioneer times in Seymour Library.

The Barnetts lived for three years on Clinton Street then, in 1831, they moved to State Street where the family has lived ever since. One the corner of Main and State Streets there was then a brick house facing Main Street owned by Major Pond. His lot ran back a long ways and he sold off enough of it to George Barnett for land to build on. Major Pond's corner lot was presumably sold when he left town, to Elisha Baker who owned the property for many years. A son of the latter was killed in action in the Civil War and his widow was awarded the job of postmistress in Brockport. This Mrs. Baker lived in the cottage just east of the Barnetts that became their tenant house. But to return to earlier days-

When he came to Brockport, Mr. Barnett was a builder of houses; he built his own and several others. But with the versatility that distinguished many of the early settlers, he changed to another field of activity in the early forties. There was a great deal of interest here at the period in reaping machines. Cyrus McCormick had come to town with his patent ready to sell patent rights on the machine he had developed. Improvements were suggested and George Barnett was one of those who thought he would try his hand at invention. His model was a good one but the court ruled it infringed on McCormick's patent so the manufacture of it had to be discontinued. In 1850, however, Mr. Barnett went into the business of making agricultural implements of which "the Empire Grain Drill" was the most important. The firm of Whiteside and Barnett continued until 1886 when Mr. Barnett retired.

The Barnetts were a family who took an interest in all the finer things of life. They ere great readers and Miss Francis Barnett, the younger of the two sisters who lived at home, was a talented artist who taught drawing and painting at the Normal School. She had her sister Mary who had a keen sense of humor and ready wit, were intimates of Mary Jane Holmes and of the Kent family who lived in Brockport before Mr. Kent became famous in the field of photography. During the eighties they went to Europe with the Kents and spent some time in Italy studying the works of art. Their home contained many souvenirs of their travels and was always an interesting place to visit.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County – Town of Sweden

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

“Hunt’s Castle”

Old Billy Tripp owned a productive farm on Colby Road just west of where Salmon Creek winds thru a deep ravine. His daughter had married a Doctor Hunt and after some years she left him and returned to her father’s home bringing with her an only child, a girl still in her teens.

“Billy” was reputed rich; he had made money on his farm and had been left a large sum by a brother of his who died. But he was quite content to live in the old homestead, a farmhouse of modest size; he allowed his daughter to fix it up some, but that was all.

His granddaughter, Emma, was a girl who didn’t fit into her environment very well. At least, she made no effort to be popular with other girls, though there was one exception – she liked to take Nelly Mershon out to ride. Emma was always fond of driving, and when they reached Brockport, she would treat her friend to ice cream and make extravagant purchases of cake and candy. She didn’t know where to stop when she was spending money.

Mrs. Hunt and Emma should have been happy in that cozy little farmhouse and they probably were. Still, they began to be envious of neighbors who were building new homes, large and pretentious ones, which threw the ordinary farmhouse in the shade. It was a period of general prosperity among the farmers and the most successful of them felt the urge to build show places. It was not far away that Squire Root built his imposing mansion which was said to be the largest private residence anywhere around, even larger than that of Asa Rowe which was built in the same style with flat roofs and a copula. Mother and daughter longed to join in this friendly rivalry and build another show place but hard-headed Billy Tripp gave them no encouragement whatever.

Emma may have been building castles in the air while the years passed, for when at last her grandfather died, leaving them a fortune, she declared she was really going to have a castle, or something like it. Nelly Mershon urged her to buy a lot on the Lake Road where the grand palace or castle they were going to build could be seen by more people. But both Emma and her mother were determined to stick to the home acres.

In 1860 construction begun; first, however, their farmhouse was moved to the south side of the road so they could see from their windows a castle rising on its former site. There was a new architectural style with mansard roof and tower which seemed to meet Emma’s requirements. The builder was a Mr. Gill from Chili or thereabouts, but Emma was constantly on hand overseeing the work of the masons and carpenters. She would only have the finest materials used in this castle of her dreams; if she saw a board with a knot in it, out it must go!

She wanted a ball room and a dining hall with ceilings fourteen feet high. This was not so unusual for in Brockport there actually were houses with ceilings as high as that. And she wanted a spiral staircase leading from the ground floor up to the tower, and plate glass windows and all the interior woodwork must be of the finest black walnut. This might have been procured in the woods nearby for there were plenty of nut trees there then.

One carpenter's work seemed superior to that of the others, and after the walls had been raised and covered by a vast roof, Emma set him to the task of making inside blinds and outside doors, allowing no other carpenter to help him. While he was hanging the front doors all by himself, though they were about ten feet high and of solid walnut, one of them fell over on him and he died soon afterwards.

Mother and daughter moved into their castle without waiting for it to be completed. They enjoyed having people come to admire their splendid establishment but they had no idea of giving banquets or balls or doing any kind of formal entertaining. Mrs. Hunt didn't care for it, neither did Emma, and besides, Emma was too erratic and self-willed to have many friends.

She used to climb into her lofty tower to watch the hired men at their labors on the farm. If they dawdled they would very soon hear about it. She was the subject of much gossip because she was so venturesome and independent, and she acted as though she didn't care a rap what people said about her. She wore a long sealskin coat a good deal of the time, and rubber boots with it – an odd combination – and she often carried a revolver.

A lady who was invited to ride with her one afternoon, felt something cold and smooth beside her on the seat and saw that her hand was resting on a revolver. In concern she asked why it was there. "For safety" replied Emma "because I have lots of money with me". And to prove her words she pulled her whip out of its socket and revealed a large roll of bills snugly tucked under the whip handle.

On the advice of her dressmaker she married Charley Wilder but he didn't turn out to be the good helper Miss Lue Osburn predicted. Emma bought him a fine team of horses and new lumber wagon, but Charley preferred couldn't get interested in farming; he preferred to drive to town and spend Emma's money. She stood it for a few years and then banished him from the castle. After that, she hired a manager, but he was allowed to live at the castle so there was more gossip about Emma. Why people began to call her "Calico Jack" is something of a mystery. She drove a large spotted horse that must have been rather conspicuous; perhaps it might have been called a "calico" horse.

There came a time when money ceased to be plentiful at Hunt's Castle and Emma and her mother were deluged with bills they couldn't pay. At length creditors began carrying away their household goods. It wasn't pleasant but worse was to come, for the sheriff finally evicted them from their beloved castle and ancestral lands.

They went to Rochester where poor Mrs. Hunt died in obscurity. But Emma never could be obscure; she rounded out her picturesque career as a private detective.

The property was sold to Martin Bier who sold it again to the Arnolds, a pioneer family of that locality who are still in possession. Hunt's ball room was occasionally rented for the evening and one who attended the dances that were given there remembers seeing piles of lumber in one of the rooms – a reminder that the castle was never finished.

But it still stands, deserted now and weatherworn; a wild tangle of vines between it and the plowed fields. The windows are barred, the front steps gone, and only owls and bats live there. 'Tis a romantic survival of other days.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County – Town Of Sweden

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

Old Hyde-Seymour-Brockway House

This substantial-looking brick house on the south side of Holley Street near Main is one of the oldest in Brockport. The first known owner was Philo Hyde who, in 1829, married Hiel Brockway's eldest daughter, Alice. She had first married Stewart Brown at the age of fifteen and had one child, a daughter, named Loama Brown. It might be conjectured that Brockway had built this house and presented it to Alice for he had been generous to other daughters in that way. However that may have been, it is recorded that on September 7, 1833 Philo Hyde and his wife conveyed this property to William H. Seymour for the sum of \$1800 (!) Alice Brockway Hyde may have become an invalid and that could account for their selling this large house. She died at the early age of thirty-two.

Hyde was a skilled cabinetmaker who created beautiful furniture for the early homes of Brockport. When this house was sold to the Seymours, a large handsome mahogany sideboard went with it, and perhaps other pieces. It might be mentioned here that this house when built had the corbel type of roof – a modified stepped-gable effect – which was the popular style in the early twenties for all brick and stone buildings. Although there was no Holley Street then the house was built facing the North and yet it was approached from the East by a long gravel path from Main Street. The path led to a side porch and side door, but you could go around the corner to the front entrance.

Mrs. Seymour, who took a great interest in what would today be called landscaping, obtained a great quantity of boxwood from Asa Rowe, horticulturist, who lived several miles south of Brockport, and he had it set out in two long rows bordering the gravel path. This small evergreen shrub, with its subtle but exquisite fragrance, was much used as a border for paths and gardens in the early days of Brockport and Clarkson.

The Seymours lived in this house about ten years and they had a son, Henry Seymour, and a daughter born here. The daughter, named Mary, died at the age of twelve.

Pelatih Rogers from Columbia County who built the house on State Street that is now a library, was an uncle of Mrs. Seymour. Sometime in 1835 he wanted to go West. He had been buying numerous pieces of land in this vicinity and was somewhat involved financially. Real estate was then considered the best type of investment, and William H. Seymour bought the State Street house off him and offered it for rent when the Roger family left town.

In about 1845 the Seymours sold the house they had been living in to Edwin Brockway and moved into their residence on State Street where Mr. Seymour could be near his business interests which were all on the east side of Main Street. They may have decided they were on the wrong side

of the village for them and things ought to be righted. Edwin Brockway was a son of Hiel whose boat-building and warehouses were all on the west side.

On a map of Brockport dated 1861 this house is listed as belonging to the heirs of E. Brockway; on a later map dated 1872 the owner is set down as William H. Bunn. This same year Bunn sold off some of his land, for he deeded to J. H. Kinsbury a lot on the corner of Main and Holley Streets where the latter built a house that is still standing.

It was ten years later when R. Dwight Dewey, who was then the owner of the property, sold it to Samuel Johnston, head of the Johnston Harvester Company which had been doing a flourishing business here since 1868. The Johnstons lived on State Street on the residence vacated by the Allens when they moved to College Street. Curiously enough, Mr. Johnston bought this house on Holley Street only a few months after the disastrous fire which nearly ruined his reaper manufacturing works. Whether he had already decided to move his business to Batavia is not known, but he bought this house for a wedding present for his daughter who had married George H. Raymond. He deeded it to her on October 19, 1882, only a week after he bought it off R. Dwight Dewey.

There was still plenty of money to spend for Mr. Johnston had the roof entirely altered, "modernized" the front entrance, and added a Queen Anne verandah to bring its appearance up to date. But the house was not easily spoiled.

The Raymonds, moved to Buffalo in a few years, disposed of the property in 1890. In about 1895 the house came into the possession of Mrs. Catherine Curvin whose family occupied it many years. Frank Curvin, a son, operated a printing press in the barn and took orders for handbills and pamphlets of various sorts. When their mother died, Frank and his sisters sold the house to Mrs. Sarah Cutom who is the present owner.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County – Town Of Sweden

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

Old Burlingame Place – Village of Brockport

The stately house with the tall columns built by Brockway on the north side of Holley Road nearly opposite “The Uplands”, was bought at an early date by Stephen Baldwin. He was a brother of Dexter Baldwin according to two old timers whose memories were good.

One of these old timers was a grandson of Hiel Brockway who wrote his daughter, Mrs. Allen Arnold about it when she asked for historical information for Muss Martin – and a grandson of Hiel ought to know.

This Stephen Baldwin moved to California in the fifties. Whether he went with his brother or later cannot be determined, but he did very well in the jewelry business in one of the gold rush towns. Following his as owner was Marcus Spaulding. J. P. Cornes said of the Spauldings “They owned the house and farm and were reputed wealthy. They only came here in the summer time, their home being in New York City and they simply occupied the space as a summer residence.” Both these families, the Baldwins and the Spauldings, left Brockport so long ago that now one living in recent times remembered them, and this house has been known for years as the “Old Burlingame Place”.

It was either the Kenyons or the Bowerman’s, however, who owned this property after the Spauldings. Nathan Kenyon is set down as the owner on a map of Brockport dated 1872. He owned a large tract at the western end of the village and Kenyon Street is named after him. He sold his land in Brockport when he moved with his family to Michigan.

Prof. Herman G. Burlingame was one of the earliest members of the Normal School Faculty, coming here in 1868, and he bought this house a few years later. He was a fine mathematician and that was his specialty as a teacher but he took a great interest in all that related to the college and through his influence many new features were added to it. He taught here for more than twenty-two years, until the year before his death which occurred in 1891. His brother, Truman Burlingame, taught mathematics in the Academic department for some time.

In about 1900 Mrs. Burlingame sold the property to Myers Young. A relative of his kept house for him; she died in 1903 and her daughter Stella succeeded her as housekeeper. When Myers died in 1919 he left his beautiful place to Stella King who did not keep it long however.

She sold it to a family by the name of Dow who did a good deal to improve the property, painting the house, restoring the outside blinds, etc. But the Dows decided to move to California and sold the place in 1924 to Mr. and Mrs. Everett Reynolds, Mr. Reynolds was a son of Dr. Linus

H. Reynolds who served Brockport and vicinity as a physician for thirty years, dying at the age of seventy in 1891. Mrs. Everett Reynolds is the present owner of the property.

A few years ago, Mrs. Reynolds told us, two gentlemen called who said their name was Burlingame and they wanted to see the house. After they had been shown all over it, in every room, they went out in the yard to look for their initials which they had carved long ago on the tree trunks.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County – Town Of Sweden

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

Old Parkes-Palmer House – Village of Brockport, New York

For many years the south line of the village of Brockport, east of the Lake Road or Main Street, was the boundary line of Park's farm. This line is now South Avenue.

The Parks were an interesting family who came here in early times before they was any Brockport, from Wyoming, Pennsylvania. There was a hunter and trapper by the name of John Parks who was living near the Genesee River when the earliest settlers arrived. Orasmus Turner who wrote the "Pioneer History of Monroe County", called him the "Bluestocking of the Genesee Valley". Perhaps he meant "Leatherstocking" for this young man resembled the hero of Cooper's famous tales. Turner told how, one day Parks came down the Lake Road from LeRoy into the wilderness of the present town of Sweden, and soon after descending the long slope northward from Beech Ridge, he saw that although in other places the frosts had killed the vegetation, here was a favored spot where the foliage was still green. He thought this would be a good place for his aged parents to come to. This is what it said in the history and it is recorded in the old land sales books that in 1808 one Edward Parks took up land bordering the Lake Road; land which was immediately south of the present village of Brockport. It is now within its limits.

Edward Parks resembled his brother (?) in being skilled in the use of firearms. When he brought his family here the country was still in a wild state with only a few cabins in the woods, and he found good hunting nearby. There was a large pond about where Alderman's Box Factory now is and many wild creatures came to this pond to drink. Valuable pelts could thus be obtained for which there was a market, and bounties could be collected for killing wolves. The tradition was handed down that Edward Parks paid for his farm in this way. He had a daughter who married Humphrey Palmer.

In his reminiscences of his boyhood here in the eighteen-fifties, James P. Cornes wrote the following – "There was a old gentleman names Parks who was a noted hunter and a great lover of children. He was always willing to help the young boys have a good time. He was the owner of several guns among which was an old smooth bore rifle, this he used to loan the boys." And they all took to the woods on Saturdays for, says the writer, "Squirrels, pigeons, quail, woodcock, snipe, in fact all kinds of small game were plentiful." It may be hard to visualize it but there were woods on all sides of Brockport then and hunting and fishing took the lead of all other sports.

Edward Parks died in 1856 aged eighty-two. His son-in-law may have been operating his farm for some time. This Humphrey Palmer who had married Sarah Parks in 1825 was a nephew of Isaac Palmer whose farm adjoined the Parks farm on the south. Isaac had come from Madison County here in about 1813. But Simon Palmer, brother of Isaac and father of Humphrey, had come earlier,

in 1808, and taken up a quarter section of land some distance west of the Lake Road. Humphrey was a child of seven when his family brought him here. His father made pearlsh and was one of the earliest manufacturers of brick in the county.

The year after his father-in-law died Humphrey Palmer bought this old Park's farmhouse, built of brick and now coated with stucco. It had been altered inside and out but is undoubtedly one of the oldest houses in Brockport.

The Humphrey Palmers had six children. After they had lived their allotted time and their estate was divided in the early eighties, this house fell on Edward, the eldest son. His wife was Sarah Parmele and they had a daughter who died soon after reaching maturity.

Another son, Addison, married Almira Chadsey and they lived many years in the house on College Street now belonging to the Shays. They had two children, a son William and an adopted daughter, Harriet Chadsey, who was a niece of Almira. When Harriet grew up she married E. H. Brigham. For many years she had been an active member of Monroe Chapter, D. A. R.

Sarah, the only daughter of Humphrey Palmer married Alonzo Hinman and had two daughters. The oldest, Adele, married a Mr. Fowler and her son is A. V. Fowler, well known business man of this locality and a noted collector of antiques.

Edward Palmer died in 1909 leaving no direct heirs, and this property was sold in a year or two to Miss Bertha Coleman who, while seeking to preserve every desirable feature of the old house, made a number of changes in it. Miss Coleman was an artist; she taught drawing and painting classes in Brockport Normal, now a State College, for thirteen years, not including a year when she was given a leave of absence for study abroad. And she spent many of her summers working in outdoor classes on the New England Coast under well known sea and landscape painters. But she also took a great interest on local history and had the ability to interest others in the subject as she as an original and gifted speaker.

She was at one time State Historian for the D. A. R. and later, was elected Regent of Monroe Chapter. But she overexerted herself, trying to do too many things, and failing in health, was not able to service the effects of an accident, she died while serving her second term as Regent and the following year, in 1925, this property was bought by the county superintendant of district schools, Mr. Fred W. Hill, who has also been called father of the Traveling Library in New York State. It was chiefly through his efforts that Monroe Traveling Library was established in 1923.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County – Town Of Sweden

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

Seymour Library – Village of Brockport, New York

Pelatah Rogers had come with his family from Columbia County to Brockport and he had this house built while they were all living in a frame house next door on the corner of State and Mechanic Streets, the latter is the present Park Avenue.

A brick house took a long time to build in those earlier days and it seems to have been the custom in this locality for those wanting substantial brick dwellings to have a cottage built nearby to live in while the work in the big house was going on. This one, finished in 1826, had taken two years to build.

You wouldn't have recognized Seymour Library if you had seen it then for it was built in a picturesque style reminiscent of early Dutch town houses, a style suited only to Masonry construction and very popular in the 1820s and perhaps earlier. About half a dozen old residences in Brockport were of this type originally and all have been remodeled but one, the Presbyterian Manse.

In the cellar of the Library solid-looking hand hewn beams supporting the floor above can still be seen. There were fireplaces built in the principal rooms for burning wood and no provision made for any other kind of heating. Indeed, there was not a coal fire or cook stove in any house in Western new York in 1820 says one writer who had studied this period and a few years later the situation was about the same. When the only provisions for heating rooms seemed so rudimentary why did people want high ceilings? Perhaps "Keeping up with the Joneses" had something to do with it. The ceilings on the first floor of this house are ten feet high, on the second floor, nine feet.

It took six months to do the elaborate woodwork in the parlor. It was painted white with the exception of the doors which were expertly stained and grained to represent mahogany. The front door was one of those charming fan-and-side light affairs with quaint settles either side of the entrance on the outside. This house built for Pelatah Rogers and called "Roger's Folly" in a novel in which it figured, must at any rate have looked very cheerful and satisfying to the eye. Built of red bricks with white trim and set amid its box borders and other shrubs, with an ornamental fence in front all painted white, with classic urns on the posts, it certainly looked more like success than anything else.

The Rogers had several attractive daughters. Sarah, the eldest, married a Mr. Bartlett and went to live in Peoria, Ill. At about the same time, in 1835, Pelatah himself felt the urge to go West and, having borrowed money of William H. Seymour who had married his niece, Narcissa Pixley, he decided to settle his obligations by transferring this house to the Seymours.

Several years earlier Peletiah had written to his niece that he could secure the appointment for her as a teacher of the first public school to be opened in Brockport. So she had come on and stayed with the Rogers while teaching, and in 1833 she had married a neighbor of theirs, the younger brother of James Seymour. The latter lived in Brockport a few years before moving to Rochester.

William and Narcissa – called Nancy for short – rented this house for about ten years before they came to live in it. And it was while they were renting that it was used as the scene of one of Julie P. Smith's novels. This Brockport girl who became an author was the daughter of a Mrs. Palmer who lived for a time after she became a widow, on the opposite side of State Street in what was known as the "Yellow Boarding House". It burned down long ago.

Julie Palmer married Morris Smith, a well-to-do business man of Hartford, Conn. She followed the lead of Mary Jane Holmes in writing novels and sometimes putting local characters in them. Julie P. Smith's novels were published but they were written in a rather involved, fanciful style and never attained a great popularity. It is hard to find any of them today so we can give no particular about "Roger's Folly".

It was about 1846 when the Seymours came here to live with two children, Henry and Mary. Mary died in 1849 at the age of twelve. And while Henry was going off to acquire an education at Canandaigua Academy and later at Williams College and Albany Law School, a small sister and brother, Ella and Jamie, were making things lively at home.

But in those days there was plenty of work in the household to do and children are expected to share in it. The Seymours did not keep chickens for they had a farm a few miles away which they liked to visit often. But they kept a cow in their barn to provide the daily milk supply and it fell to the lot of Jamie to drive the cow to pasture and bring her home again late in the day. There were other chores too. Every autumn was a time of great preparations for winter. Home grown vegetables were stored in the cellar, and that little pink pig that had been brought from the farm in the spring to be fattened on sour milk and table leavings through the summer, was now perforce, butchered by the hired man and made into sausage, ham, lard and head cheese. There were evenings when all hands were busy paring and quartering bushels of "pound sweets" and a half peck or so of quinces and lemons. These were for the cider apple sauce made from a receipt that came from the old home in Connecticut. You can see that housekeeping was some job in those days and Nancy was thoroughly competent and could keep up her end of it.

The children enjoyed the outings their mother sometimes gave them. In pre-Civil War days there were no resorts on Lake Ontario except for fisherman but Avon Springs was a famous watering place. They drove there in a carriage by way of LeRoy and "put up at Congress Hall near Lower Spring". The "Hall" was a large hotel with two stories of Piazzas and great columns running up the front. Before the "War between the States" many Southerners came to Avon and so did people from the East. For a few days, while drinking the waters, a pageant of fashion and elegance could be enjoyed; then the family drove home again.

In 1865 this house was completely remodeled by an architect from Rochester. People were beginning to employ architects and not always to their advantage. But Mr. Henry Searle used the new Mansard roof style in this instance probably because it was asked for. He advised painting the exterior of the house a light gray and it has been painted light gray ever since. A furnace was put in at this time.

We have said nothing of Mr. Seymours Successful business career for that has been told about in Miss Elizabeth Martin's "Story of Brockport" and in the county histories. But something really should be said about his personal life which spanned a century.

He was born in Litchfield, Conn., in 1802 and his early youth was spent in that historic village then quite an educational center. Among his playmates were the Beecher boys. At the age of sixteen he "came on to the West" to assist his elder brother, James, who had started a general store at Clarkson. When the Erie Canal was opened to Brockport in 1823 their business was transferred here but James soon moved to Rochester, leaving their affairs in William's capable hands.

William's practicality was balanced by kindness and benevolence and a love of good literature. He could quote long passages from Shakespeare and from Byron's *Childe Harold*, and by reading the newspaper he kept up with all that was going on in the world though he was not overfond of travel.

As he advanced in years his eyesight failed some but his daughter, Mrs. Sylvester, read aloud to him daily and they both particularly enjoyed the *New York Evening Post* which became a sort of family institution. One day when he was over eighty his daughter remarked that it would be nice to go to Europe and see some of the castles and palaces they had been reading about in the foreign news – and to her surprise and delight he agreed with her.

It did not take long after that for Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester to arrange the trip and they had a wonderful summer abroad and not the first one either. They went again to spend some months in London, taking excursions from there to many historic places, and looking up genealogical data.

At home, after he retired from business, Mr. Seymours life followed a regular and pleasant routine. He believed in physical exercise and used to climb two flights of stairs every day to reach the billiard room in the third story where his son James would join him in a game, or, if James were not at home Mr. Baker would take a hand. Henry, Mr. Seymour's eldest son, had married and lived in Washington D. C., and in Northern Michigan summers.

Mr. Baker, the local photographer, was a particular crony, coming to lend a hand at billiards or the evening game of whist whenever he was needed.

Mr. Seymour liked to talk about the early days and compare them with the present; the changes he has witnessed during his lifetime, seemed incredible. Remarkably free from bodily infirmities until his very last years, he died in 1903 at the age of one hundred and one.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County – Town Of Sweden

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

Presbyterian Manse – Village of Brockport, New York

In 1823 two young men from Hanover, New Hampshire, came to locate in this village. Newcomers then could be called pioneers then for only a year or two earlier there was no Brockport at all.

The digging of the Erie Canal had proceeded as far as this point and until the Mountain Ridge at Lockport could be cut through and locks constructed, Brockport was to be its western terminal, and that caused a great business boom here.

Thomas Roby and Ralph Gould, the two young men referred to, started a general store on Main Street and soon were doing a flourishing business although they encountered keen competition. In 1829 Thomas married a sister of James and William Seymour who had come on from Litchfield, Conn., where her family lived, to visit her brothers. Her first name was Clarissa. Ralph also married and the two business partners both bought land on State Street and soon were building substantial brick houses which are still standing; the one on the west side of the Presbyterian church was built for the Robys.

When Brockport was settled there must have been a good deal of community raisings of small frame houses as well as of barns; they were put up in short order when everybody helped. But building a brick house – a sign of permanence and respectability – was a slow operation in those unmechanized days and not always was it done all at once. The rear of this Roby house may have been the oldest part of it. Before it was remodeled in the present century it was very quaint with dormer windows in the roof; few houses here had them.

The main portion of it was fortunately never remodeled. It is the only surviving example in Brockport of an individual and picturesque style of architecture which was very popular in this country from about 1812 or perhaps earlier, through the eighteen-twenties. But when “Classic Revival” came into fashion it “went out” and people looked on it with disfavor, not appreciating its fine roof lines and generally admirable proportions.

An old timer once told us – There was a brick walk that led to the Roby’s front door with a border of mixed flowers on either side of it. Then there was a beautiful garden on the west side of the house with gravel walks between the flower beds and, beyond that, a vegetable garden that included an asparagus bed. Like other residences on State Street this had its service side and its garden side of the house, so the barn – nearly everybody had one then – must have been in northeast corner of the backyard. After Mr. Roby died some of the land on the west side of the lot was sold to the Barnetts next door. The Barnetts, by the way, had a stone smoke house in their yard.

people used their yard then and also planned them, as landscape gardeners do today, for outdoor pleasure and recreation.

The Roby's had a son and three daughters who followed each other in rather rapid succession. We know very little about Clarissa; only two small details have come down to us. She wanted some curls, probably those becoming ringlets that hung down either side of the face, hiding pretty ears, at this period. And Thomas' brother Joseph was to bring some to her next time he came to Brockport from the East.

One evening soon after her youngest child was born, Clarissa walked out to see the garden. Her slippers had thin soles, there was dew on the grass; she caught a severe cold, became very ill, and never recovered.

Thomas had two sisters, Mrs. Eliza Partridge and Charlotte. They were intellectual in their tastes and Charlotte was very little and frail but she bravely undertook to manage Thomas' household for him and bring up his children. At the end of five years Thomas married again. But Charlotte stayed on in the family and had a school for her nephew and nieces which small Elizabeth Martin also attended. This school was kept in a second story room with a fireplace in it on the east side of the house.

Thomas Roby died in 1847 at the age of 47. "The girls" had already been sent to boarding school and now they were given more opportunities of that sort to prepare them for teaching. In 1857 Mrs. Roby married again and went to Lockport to live; The house was sold, and Charlotte moved across the street to "The Partridge Nest" as the house which Joseph Roby had built for his eldest sister was called.

As for this house, it was bought off Mrs. Roby Woods by J. D. Decker, a graduate of Yale who came to Brockport in 1858 to practice law. He sold it before 1872 to James Smith whose daughter Sarah is remembered by some of our older residents. The Smiths lived here a long time. When her father died near the end of the century, Sarah inherited this place and not wishing to keep it sold it to William Jessup. The Jessups lived here for a few years and then, when they left town in 1904, sold the property to the Presbyterian Church to be used for a parsonage or manse as it is called. Rev. Emery D. Webster and his wife are the present occupants.

Some Old Houses Of Monroe County

Town Of Sweden

Compiled by Miss Helen M. Hastings

Old Gardner-Bradford House – Village of Brockport, New York

Years and years ago when Brockport was one of the boom towns strung along the Erie Canal, Clinton Street was considered one of the best residential sections of the village. The houses were nearly all of them on the south side of the street and faced the canal, except where warehouses which huddled close to the bank obscured the view. There was something to see when you lived close to the Erie Canal in its heyday, before the days of railroads, for there were freights or passenger boats going by all the time. And when the season of navigation ended with the coming of winter, the waterway was used for skating and probably for sleighing which was also a popular winter sport.

The large brick house on a Clinton Street lot deeded by Hiel Brockport in 1830 to Mitchell C. Gardner, was first occupied by the latter and a younger brother, Henry Platt Gardner. They were two of the eleven sons of Adam Gardner who came to this locality at a very early date before Brockport or the Erie Canal had come into existence. The two young men had a black-smith shop where they made the iron work for the canal boats Hiel Brockway was building in a shipyard nearby.

Henry Platt Gardner married Emolia Jackson in 1833 and they had a son born in this house named Henry Whitney Gardner who was the father of the Gardner sisters of Park Avenue.

The Gardners left Brockport to take up farming and succeeding them as owners of this house were some people with French names. Charles and Ulysee Sanoye of Hoboken, N. Y. and later, Joseph Feytil of New Orleans, Louisiana. The latter deeded the house to Adele Sanoye, also of Hoboken, in 1863. Probably Adele did not come here to live for she immediately sold the property to William Bradford.

Mr. Bradford came to Brockport in 1851 from Exeter, England. He had married Charlotte Challice and they had six children. He was of an inventive turn of mind and when he came here to begin manufacture tools for the farmers which he made after his own designs. They were the “Bradford Cabbage Digger”, the “Bradford Bean Planter” and the “Bradford Potato Digger”. A man of high character, he was interested in everything that concerned the welfare of the community. The Bradfords did not live in this house in their later years. They sold it to their son-in-law, Abraham Smith, in 1877, and went to live with their son in a house on King Street.

Abraham Smith came here from England as a young man. He attended Brockport Collegiate Institute and in about 1867 started a bakery on Main Street continuing in that business for more than fifty years. He married Elizabeth Bradford and their three daughters and a son were born in

this Clinton Street house. Some years later, the Smiths moved into a house on King Street which adjoined the Clinton Street premises in the rear. The Bradfords and the Smiths owned most of the land on King Street at one time.

Miss Lena Smith had been in charge of Brockport Community Center several years when her untimely death occurred in 1930. Another daughter, Adah Joan, is head of a department in the County Clerk's Office, Rochester, N. Y. This son is superintendent at Industry, a State Institution for delinquent boys.

In 1911 Sybil L. Millard obtained a quit claim deed from the Bradford and Smith families on this Clinton Street house and from that time to the present it has been in the possession of the Millards. Mrs. Millard, and after her death, her son Charles and his family, valued the old fashioned character of the place and have refrained from modernizing it in any way. The recessed porch, called a box porch in the early days, is interesting, and the parlor and front hall have very beautiful woodwork. The original small paned windows of the house remain and give it a look of distinction. (The youngest daughter, Elizabeth married William Jessup.)

Mrs. Frank B. Miller, Regent

Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

Brockport, N. Y. 1937.

Compiled by Mrs. George H. Adams and Mrs. Edward Stewart

Records of Revolutionary Soldiers buried in the town of Sweden, N. Y. and nearby towns with picture of Town Clock placed in Methodist Church in Brockport, N. Y. and beautiful bronze tablet erected on façade of church, June 20, 1914, by Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

Inscription on Bronze Memorial Tablet

To the Honor and Glory of our Patriotic Ancestors, the Known and Unknown, who gave their services and lives for their Country, in the war of the American Revolution, 1775-1783.

Monroe Chapter D. A. R

Brockport, New York 1936

Compiled by Mrs. George Adams, Mrs. James Brennan and Mrs. Edward D. Stewart, members of
Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

Revolutionary soldiers buried in Brockport, N. Y. and vicinity. Records taken from inscriptions on
gravestones and pension records.

Allen, Reuben – Private in First Regiment U. S Infantry Paced on pension roll April 23, 1832 –
pension commenced March 29, 1832 – Died and was buried in Sweden, N. Y. Aug. 28, 1832.

Blossom, Peter – Born Barnstable, Mass. Dec, 4, 1756. Died Hamlin, N. Y. 1841. Married Hanna
Goodspeed April 30, 1780. Enlisted July 7, 1772 in Capt. Micah Hamblin's Co. Served five months
and twenty-four days. Enlisted Feb. 12, 1775 in Capt. John Granni's Co. and in various other
companies. Buried on own farm, in Hamlin, N. Y.

Bates, Samuel – Born Haddan, Conn., 1760 – Died Kendall, N. Y. 1822. Private in New Hampshire
Militia. In Col. Starkes Regiment May 6, 1777. Was a private at sixteen years of age. Served at Valley
Forge Jan. 10, 1778 – Absent from sickness, age seventeen.

Buck, Thomas – Buried on Caleb Kingsbury's lot in High St. Cemetery, Brockport, N. Y. (Vermont
records p. 253-523-830) 79 years of age in 1841. Died Jan. 6. 1841.

Billings, James – Born Stonington Vt. Oct. 11, 1757. Died 1829 at the home of son Walter in
Clarkson, N. Y. Pensioned in 1818.

Blodgett, Elijah – Continental line Gen. Arnolds Regiment. Page 61 Green Mountain Boys. Buried
in Clarkson, N. Y. Served 1775-1776.

Bushnell, John H. – Buried in Clarkson, N. Y. – Served in John Skinner's Regiment – Conn. records.
Died in Garland, N. Y. 1845.

Clark, Asa – From East Hadden, Conn., emigrated to Geneseo, N. Y. in 1802 soon removed to Avon, where he resided until 1830. He died at Sandy Creek in 1834 – age 76 years. Served in Second Regiment – General Spencer's Company. Conn. records.

Colby, Ephraim – Son of Zacheus Colby – Born May 6, 1747 Died May 7, 1823 – Buried in Colby Cemetery – Colby Road – Town of Ogden, N. Y. Married Mary – Born Aug. 6, 1745 Died Aug. 7, 1806.

Comstock, Anslem – Buried in Beach Ridge Cemetery – Brockport, N. Y. Enlisted April 1, 1780 – served nine months. Born Aug. 25, 1762. Died July 28, 1845. Received pension.

Cook, Lemuel – Buried in Clarendon, N. Y. Born in Plymouth, Conn. Litchfield County, in 1764 or 1759 – Died in Clarendon May 20, 1866 age 108 years. One of the last survivors of the Revolution. Was with Washington at Valley Forge, also at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. Buried in Root Cemetery at Clarendon, N. Y.

Cook, Elijah – Private later made a sergeant. Born Sept. 11, 1759 in Preston, Conn. Moved to Plainfield, Windham Co, Conn. from which place he enlisted. Moved to Stephentown, where he resided twenty-one years and then moved to Whitestown, Oneida Co., N. Y. where he lived nine years and then to Clarkson, N. Y. From the Conn. records we find he enlisted July 8, 1780 in the Fourth Conn. Regiment. Discharged Dec. 10, 1780. Served in Capt. Fitch's Company of Independent Volunteers from 1782 to 1783.

Cooley, Thomas – Born 1764- Pensioner. Buried East Sweden – Private in Militia of Sweden, N. Y.

Darling, Samuel – Captain – Clarkson, N. Y. in Wells Co., Durkias' Regiment. Continental line – Captain of N. Y. line in command of a Company under Col. Cortland.

Elliot, Ezekiel – Lieutenant – Died April 12, 1832 age 85 years. Buried in Beach Ridge Cemetery, Brockport, N. Y. Served in Dutchess Co., Militia, 7th Regiment – Col. Henry Ludenton Commanding.

Fanning, Jonathan – Born 1754 – Pensioned in Sweden, N. Y. in 1840, aged 86 years.

Freeman, Moody – First settler on the Ridge Road in Clarkson N. Y. in 1803. One of the enlisted men in Col. Ethan Allen's Company of Green Mountain Boys. Came from Hanover, N. H. Joined church in Clarkson by letter Dec. 25, 1818. Also wife Abiah – wife died in 1820.

Francisco, Levi – Resided with his family in Sweden, N. Y. in 1840. Pensioner – Enlisted man in Albany CO. Militia 14th Regiment – John Knickerbacher, Col.

Frink, Rev. Amos – Died 1846 – Buried in High St. Cemetery Brockport, N. Y. Born in Providence, R. I. in 1758. A minister of the Methodist Church 40 years. Died in Brockport, N. Y. Nov. 9th, 1846. Wife – Lydia Hoyt. Died July 9, 1867 age 89 years. Soldier of the Revolution on the gravestone. Marked by Monroe Chapter, D. A. R.

Griswold, Capt. John – Enlisted from Lyme, Conn. Born Aug. 25, 1762 – Died in Sweden, N. Y. July 28, 1845.

Jennings, William – Died Mar. 7, 1842 Age 83 years 9 months and 27 days. Revolutionary soldier. Myrna, wife, died Oct. 1, 1839 – Age 77 years 8 months and 16 days. Sandy Creek Cemetery, N. Y. Grave marked by Monroe Chapter.

Kimball, Charles – Pensioner – Buried in Spencerport, N. Y. Cemetery. Born Ashford Conn., in 1755 died in Ogden, N. Y. March 1825. Services: Enlisted May 9, 1775 in Battle of Bunker Hill, served to Dec. 1775 under Capt. Thomas Knowlton. Enlisted again in May 1777 to Aug. 1777 under Col. Isaac Sherman – also performed other services. Widow and daughter received pension.

Kennedy, Joseph – Buried in Clarkson Cemetery. Volunteer Company – Lexington Alarm. Col Parson Company. Died May 8, 1822 – 61 years.

King, Thomas – Born in Haverstown – Nov. 1764. Died Adams Basin, N. Y. in April 1863 or 1864. Married Lettie Rale. Was one of the Green Mountain Boys. (Robert's N. Y. in the Rev. Page 62-90)

Lewis, Ebenezer – Died 1828 – Buried in Robinson Cemetery, Clarendon, N. Y. Age 75 years.

Lewis, Samuel – Enlisted from Brimfield, Mass. Buried in Clarendon, Orleans Co., N. Y. In Capt. Charles Co. in 1778 and in Capt. Browning's Co. in 1780.

Locke, Elisha – Enlisted at Bathe, N. H. in 1776. One year as private in Ezekiel Ladd's Co. and Capt. Timothy Bedell, N. H. Enlisted again in 1780 for six months as Corporal serving under Capt. Webster. Residing in Sweden, N. Y. when he applied for pension in 1832. Died June 28, 1844 – Buried in Beach Ridge Cemetery, Brockport, N. Y. Born in Barrington, N. H. May 6, 1761. Monument marked by Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

McManners, Thomas – Colored – Acted as servant to Washington at Valley Forge. Buried in Robinson graveyard in Clarendon, N. Y.

Martin, Ebenezer – Buried in Beach Ridge Cemetery, Brockport, N. Y. Born 1762 Died Nov. 20, 1841. Marched at Lexington Alarm. Received pension.

Mead, Johnathan – Buried in Clarkson, N. Y. Died March 4, 1813. Married Mary Brown Jan. 17, 1786 in Greenwich, Conn. Enlisted in 1777 from Greenwich in company of Capt. Mathew Mead and Col. John Mead.

Pettengill, Benjamin – Died in 1844 Age 83 years. Rev. soldier. Buried in Clarendon, N. Y.

Roby, Capt. Joseph – Buried in High St. Cemetery, Brockport, N. Y. In Boston Tea Party. Born in Lyra, Mass. 1753. Died April 13, 1836. Capt. In Little's Mass. Reg't. from May to Dec. 1775. Grave marked by Monroe Chapter.

Rowell, Dr. Nathaniel – Born in Hanover, N. H. Served in Captain Maesdons Co. Buried between Clarkson and Redmans Corners, N. Y. Died 1826. N. H. records, pages 25 and 350.

Smith, David – In pension list of 1840 – Westchester Co. Militia. Land Bounty Rights. Home in Clarkson, N. Y.

Stickney, Major Reuben – Revolutionary soldier buried at Beach Ridge Cemetery, Brockport, N. Y. N. H. records, pages 155-252-285-501.

Sturgis, Augustus – Born in 1759 Died 1826 – Buried on Byron Road, Clarendon, N. Y. Received pension.

Treat, Capt. Charles – Came from Wethersfield, Conn. In Lexington Alarm. Enlisted May 12, 1775-9th Co. Born June 13, 1756 – Died Sept. 4, 1841 Age 85 years. Buried in Beach Ridge Cemetery, Brockport, N. Y. Appointed Sergeant Aug. 1st. 1778, Capt. Wilcox Co. Conn. Rag't.

Indian Hill

Site of Indian encampment when whites entered region. Grandparents of Frances E. Willard settled here in 1816 as pioneers of this land.

Two miles north of Churchville, Town of Ogden, Monroe Co., County road.

The Sketch above from a Photo represents the front view of the fine old Willard homestead built of stone with frame addition, that was torn down only a few years ago and replaced by a modern frame building on same site. The farm is known as Indian Hill Farm, and that name is painted in large white letters on roof of barn.

Please see accompanying notes. People living in the neighborhood supplied information, also the following books of reference. "The Beautiful Life of Frances E. Willard" by Anna A. Gordon (picture of Old Willard Homestead opposite page 241) and a "Great Mother": also "sketches of Madam Willard by her Daughter and her Kinswoman" by F. E. Willard and Minerva Brace. Norton (see pages 19 and 20) Picture of Old House opposite page 8.

Owned by Samuel V. Way

Simeon B. Jewett

1861-186

Political Leader – Jurist

Partner of Henry R. Selden

U. S. Marshal, Northern N. Y. under Pres. Buchanan

Village of Clarkson, Town of Clarkson, Monroe County, Lake Road

Simeon B. Jewett – Sharon, Litchfield Co., Conn. 1801.

In 1820 removed to Skaneateles to study law in office of brother, Judge Freeborn Jewett. Admitted to bar in 1823. Settled at Clarkson soon afterwards. Married Miss Nancy Cook 1831. In 1834 formed partnership with Henry R. Selden which continued to 1858 when Judge Selden moved to Rochester. Landmarks of Monroe County, under judges and attorneys pp 445, 446.

It says that he was prominent in Democratic Party and as a lawyer he had been chosen supervisor in 1833 and 1835. Was appointed surrogate of Monroe County in 1845 and served two years in that capacity. Was appointed Marshal of Northern District of New York by President Buchanan. Died at Clarkson in 1869.

Owned by H. F. Lowry

As members of the Historical Research Committee, Miss Dorothy Frass and others obtained these markers for historical sites. Mrs. Dobson took the photographs. See also p. 86.

Monroe Chapter D. A. R. 1937

Mrs. Frank B. Miller, Regent

Name of Chapter: Monroe Chapter D. A. R. Brockport, N. Y.

Location of Marker: Town Clock in steeple of Methodist Church and bronze tablet erected on façade of Church in Brockport, N. Y.

Date Placed: June 20, 1914

Commemorating: Both Town Clock and beautiful Memorial Tablet given in commemoration of the deeds of the Revolutionary Soldiers buried in Brockport, N. Y. and nearby towns.

Cost of Memorials: \$1500.00

Inscription on Bronze Tablet

“To the Honor and Glory of our Patriotic Ancestors, the Known and the Unknown, who gave their services and lives for their Country, in the War of the American Revolution, 1775-1783.”

Name of Chapter: Monroe Chapter D. A. R. Brockport, N. Y.

Location of Marker: Clarkson Corners, N. Y. at crossing of two historic Indian trails. Road surveyed in 1801.

Description: About six feet high, huge cylinder, being a part of a column of the old Monroe County Court House of 1851.

Cost of Monument: More than \$400.00

Date Placed: Oct. 25, 1924

By: Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

Commemorating: Bronze Tablet with the following inscription: In Commemoration of the sacrifice and services of our Revolutionary Ancestors and other Pioneers, who braved the wilderness and made a settlement in Clarkson, N. Y. in 1803.

Monroe Chapter D. A. R. 1937

Brockport, N. Y.

Name of Chapter: Monroe Chapter, Brockport, N. Y.

Location of Markers: Historic Ridge Road through towns of Garland, N. Y. and Clarkson, N. Y.

Description: Bronze Road Markers in Blue and Gold.

Date Placed: May 1928.

By: Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

Commemorating: Historic Ridge Road which was the Indians main route to the West. Early stage coach route and National Highway.

Six more markers have been received from the State Dept. of Education to mark old Historical Houses located by our Historical Committee but have not, as yet, been placed.

Name of Chapter: Monroe Chapter, Brockport, N. Y.

Location of Markers: Historic Ridge Road, Clarkson, N. Y. and Garland, N. Y.

Description: Three markers contributed by the State Department of Education, through the agency of Monroe Chapter.

Date Placed: Oct. 1934.

Commemorating: Old Houston Tavern, built in 1824.

Henry R. Seldon House, built in 1819. Henry R. Seldon was Lieutenant Governor and noted jurist, and his son, the inventor of the Seldon patent of earliest automobiles.

Old Philips Boss House: Built in 1817. Phillip Boss was a pioneer of Clarkson, N. Y. a cabinet maker by Profession and a noted portrait painter.

Mrs. Frank B. Miller, Regent

Monroe Chapter of D. A. R., Monroe County, Brockport, N. Y.

Jan. 10, 1936

Bible Records of Bennett and Reed Family

Holy Bible Stereotyped by L. Johnson, 1833 – Philadelphia, Pa. In possession of Mrs. Charles Guelf., Hamlin, New York.

Births:

John Bennett – Dec. 3, 1761

Sally Burlingame Bennett – May 13, 1759 – Wife

Children:

Nancy Bennett – April 22, 1783

Polly Bennett - Jan. 7, 1786

Joseph Bennett – Feb. 8, 1788

Asa Bennett – May 29, 1790

Chloe Bennett – Oct. 11, 1792

Andrew Bennett – April 28, 1795

Roby Bennett – March 14, 1798

Amy Bennett – Jan. 1, 1801

John Bennett, adopted – April 17, 1789

Marriages

John Bennett to Sarah Burlingame

Nancy Bennett to Moses Reed

Polly Bennett to Than Dix

Joseph Bennett to Betsy Leland to Samantha Mason to Mary Farnum

Andrew Bennett to Lydia Brown to Louis Tucker

Roby Bennett to John Place

Amy Bennett never married and embraced the Shaker religion

John Bennett (adopted) to Betsy Barker

Births

To Nancy Bennett Reed and Moses Reed:

Resolve Reed

Sarah Reed

Lucy Reed

John Reed

Mary Reed

Amy Reed

Calvin Reed

Asa Reed

Chloe Reed

Children of Joseph Bennett and Betsy Leland Bennet:

Chloe Bennett

Silvia Bennett

Children of Andrew Bennett and Lydia Brown Bennett:

Ambrose Bennett

Luther Bennett

Russell Bennett

Amy Bennett

William Bennett born Oct. 17, 1829

Henry Bennett

Children of Roby Bennett Place and John Place:

E. Place

Children of John Bennett (adopted) and Betsy Barker:

Ann Bennett

Derobine Bennett

Bible Records taken from the bible of Amy Bennett – Bought 1835 – Stereotyped by L. Johnson, Philadelphia, Elexander Tower, 19 St. James St. and Hogan and Thompson 139 ½ Market St. – 1833

In possession of Mrs. Charles Guelf, Hamlin, N. Y.

Marriages:

Chloe Bennett to John Farnum

Silvia Bennett to Joseph Chafee and Merlin Jackson

Ambrose Bennett to Gusta Wright

Luther Bennett to Eliza Beach

Amy Bennett to Leland Brown

William Bennett to Frances Wescot – Born Dec. 8, 1831

Henry Bennett to Judith Prince

Births

Born to Luther Bennett and Eliza Beach Bennett:

George Bennett

Evrith Bennett

Born to Amy Bennett Brown and Leland Brown:

Andrew Brown

Frank Brown

Warren Brown

John Brown

Achsah Brown

Born to William Bennett and Frances Wescot Bennet:

Charles – b- May 20, 1857

Lucy M.

Hattie – b- April 23, 1859

Clifford Wood

Rena

Summer

Andrew

John Howard

Nellie Simonds

Joseph

Louisa Renalds

Born to Henry Bennett and Judith Prince:

Louis Holden Bennett

George Holden Bennett

Henry Bennett

George Bennett and Nettie bore:

Florence married Edward Sherman

Mary

Louis Holden Bennett had son Roy Holden Bennett

Marriages:

Resolve Reed to Nancy Moffet Wright

Sarah Reed to Henry Hubbard

Lucy Reed to Franklin Rowley

Births:

Born to Resolve Reed and Nancy M. Wright Reed:

Mary Reed

Sylvester Reed

Lansing Reed

Sarah Reed

Lucy Reed

John Reed

Jay Reed

Morton Reed

Born to Sarah Reed Hubbard and Henry Hubbard:

John Henry Hubbard

Infant girl

James Hubbard

Born to Lucy Rowley and Franklin Rowley:

Nelson Rowley

Franklin Rowley Fr.

John Henry Hubbard had following children:

John Henry

Minnie

Harrie

James

Copied by Alberta Brennan

Member of Monroe Chapter, D. A. R.

Brockport, N. Y. Monroe County

Sept. 3, 1935

Monroe Chapter of D. A. R., Monroe County, Brockport, N. Y.

Jan. 10, 1936

Bible Records of D. Lamatter, Spring and Reed Families

Holy Bible printed by Sheldon and Company

115 Nassau St., New York City – 1860

Bible in possession of Mrs. Charles Guelf, Hamlin, N. Y.

Births:

Samuel D Lamatter – B – Jan. 13, 1770

Lucy D Lamatter – B – Feb. 16, 1778

Polly D Lamatter – B – Feb. 14, 1797

Irene D Lamatter – B – Oct. 3, 1799

Juliette D Lamatter – B – April 15, 1802

Willard D Lamatter – B – June 24, 1804

John S. D Lamatter – B – June 21, 1806

Deborah Eliza D Lamatter – B – April 17, 1809

Lucy Olivia D Lamatter – B – Jan. 9, 1812

Harriet Minerva D Lamatter – B – March 31, 1814

Isaac D Lamatter – B – Nov. 20, 1818

Amara Spring – B – April 3, 1795

Julietta D Lamatter – B – April 15, 1802

Lucy Cordelia Spring – B – Dec. 23, 1819 or 1820

Edgar Amara Spring – B – Dec. 21, 1821

Emily Almira Spring – B – May 12, 1824

Infant – B – Oct. 3, 1826

John DeLamatter Spring – B – Oct. 21, 1827

James Nelson Spring – B – June 3, 1830

Dewitt Hervey Spring – B – Mar. 15, 1833

Juliette Ann Spring – B – May 25, 1835

Mary Jane Louisa Spring – B – May 26, 1839

Josephine Maria Spring – B – Mar. 29, 1843

Charles Erwin Spring – B – Aug. 12, 1845

Marriages

Amara Spring to Julietta D Lamatter – Feb. 1818

Lucy Cordelia Spring to Walter A. Ferris – Oct. 15, 1844

Edgar A. Spring to Elizabeth Howland

John D. Spring to Amelia Lathrope – Nov. 8, 1853

James N. Spring to Ellen Dewitt

Julietta A. Spring to George P. Allen

Josephine M. Spring to Daniel M. Reed – July 23, 1862

Louise M. Spring to Myron Baker – June 9, 1865

Charles E. Spring to Luana Hovey – Oct. 1866

Deaths

Emily Almira Spring – D – Jan. 3, 1827

Dewitt Henry Spring – D – July 10, 1843

Amara Spring – D – July 9, 1860

James Nelson Spring – D – Oct. 4, 1868

Julietta A. Spring Allen – D – Dec. 3, 1865

Louise M. Spring Ballen ? – D – June 22, 1874

Jullieta De Lamatter Spring – D – Oct. 26, 1874

Lucy Cordelia Spring Ferris – D – May 23, 1877

Births

Nancy M. Right – born Mar. 3, 1815

Resolve Reed – b – Jan. 15, 1800

Lenora P. Reed – b – April 13, 1827

Sophia J. Reed – b – Sept. 17, 1828

Lansing J. Reed – b – Jan. 9, 1830

Sylvester H. Reed – b – Mar. 10, 1831

Mary J. Reed – b – Feb. 20, 1833

Sarah L. Reed – b – Mar. 9, 1835

Lucy A. Reed – Oct. – 7, 1837

John P. Reed – b – Mar. 3, 1839

Daniel Reed – b – July 22, 1841

Norton A. Reed – b – Sept. 22, 1843

Jay F. Reed – b – Dec. 22, 1846

Marriages

Sarah L. Reed to Samuel Patison

Sylvester H. Reed to Mary S. Davis

Mary J. Reed to Abner K. Franklin

Lucy A. Reed to Elyah Clow – May 7, 1857

John J. Reed to Josephine Spring – July 23, 1862

Births to Daniel and Josephine Reed

Charles Lansing Reed – b – June 22, 1864

Juliette Cordelia Reed – b – Nov. 28, 1966

Walter Ferris Reed – b – Jan. 18, 1870

Marriages

Charles L. Reed to Edith C. Hatch – Mar. 29, 1894

Deaths

Leonora A. Read – d – Sept. 9, 1837

Sophia J. Reed – d – Nov. 3, 1829

Lansing J. Reed – d – Nov. 7, 1855

Daniel M. Reed – d – Jan. 19, 1915

Elizabeth C. Spring – daughter of William Rowland and wife of Edgar Spring died Oct. 28, 1915

Bible Records of D Lamatter, Spring and Reed Families was copied by Alberta Brennan

Member of Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

Brockport, N. Y. Monroe County

Sept. 3, 1935

Twenty nine typed pages in triplicate of Cemetery inscriptions, Bible records and Family records,
from-

Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

Brockport, N. Y.

Mrs. Frank B. Miller, Regent

Monroe Chapter of D. A. R. – Brockport, N. Y. – Jan. 10, 1936

Cemetery Records:

West Sweden Cemetery – Monroe County, New York

Ash, Nathaniel – B – 1794 – D – April 20, 1872

Abell, Asa Rev. – B – Nov. 19, 1796 – D – Nov. 9, 1879

Abell, Julia Wilcox (wife) – B – Aug. 5, 1807 – D – Feb. 6, 1892

Abell, Julia M. (daughter) – B – 1833 – D – March 22, 1872

Abell, James S. (son) – B – 1840 – D – Oct. 2, 1864

Abell, A. W. Rev. – B – 1830 – D – June 7, 1863

Abell, Mary F. (wife) – B – 1832 – D – Dec. 10, 1857

Abell, Charles F. – B – 1828 – D – 1896

Abell, Frances Ann (wife) – B – 1867 – D – Feb. 17, 1866

Acer, Ezra W. – B – 1824 – D – Nov. 29, 1889

Austin, James – B – 1822 – D – Aug. 29, 1862

Auten, J. Sanford son of Pulkerd and Mary Auten – B – Apr. 13, 1847 – D – 1868

Auten, Mary wife of P. Auten and wife of W. Reynolds – B – 1822 – D – Jan. 16, 1844

Bentley, Almond – B – April 17, 1803 – D – March 26, 1891

Bentley, Phebe (wife) – B – Oct. 29, 1816

Bentley, Isaac (son) – B – 1843 – D – April 28, 1864

Bryant, George – B – 1805 – D – July 27, 1880

Bryant, Sarah (wife) – B – 1801 – D – April 8, 1864

Cushing, Theodore – B – 1799 – D – Dec. 19, 1856

Cushing, Irene (wife) – B – 1809 – D – Jan. 8, 1876

Carr, Harrison – B – 1821 – D – Aug. 27, 1855

Carr, Ann Elizabeth (wife) – B – April 5, 1824 – D – April 3, 1894

Ann Elizabeth Carr, daughter of William and Eunice Miller

Dolphin, John – B – 1902 – D – March 10, 1862

Dolphin, Sarah (wife) – B – 1808 – D – May 2, 1874

Ferru, Elizah – B – 1787 – D – Nov. 28, 1846

Ferru, Sarah – B – – D – June 15, 1863

Hubbell, Cornelius F. Son of Enos and Fanny Hubbell – B – 1817 – D – Sept. 11, 1849

Hubbell, Agur W. son of Summers and Sarah Hubbell – B – – D – Sept. 25, 1850

Hammond, George – B – – D – Oct. 26, 1855

Hammond, Sealina (wife) – B – 1782 – D – Nov. 21, 1851

Hammond, Eliza (daughter) – B – 1806 – D – Jan 27, 1852

Hammond, Mary E. Euchis (wife of L. O. Hammond) – B – 1807 – D – March 12, 1888

Harris, Corp'l John, son of Harvey and Elizabeth Siliman Co. – B – 14th Regiment, N. Y. V. Cav. B – 1846 – D in hospital at Philadelphia Feb. 24, 1864

Halleck, Sylvester – Co. H. 68 N. Y. Inf. 87 years

Jennings, John – B – May 4, 1797 – D – Dec. 6, 1867

Jennings, Mary – B – Feb. 17, 1797 – D – Feb. 8, 1885

Jennings, Martha Ann – B – April 23, 1835 – D – June 24, 1861

Jennings, Sarah W. – B – 1829 – D – June 26, 1851

Jennings, Elizabeth – B – Nov. 30, 1821 – D – July 9, 1898

King, William – B – 1814 – D – 1890

King, Minerva (wife of William) – B – 1815 – D – 1891

King, Elizabeth A. (wife of William) – B – 1817 – D – 1849

Kimber, Sarah (wife of Andrew Kimber) – B – 1783 – D – Oct. 29, 1857

La Due, Melissa (wife of George La Due) – B – 1840 – D – Jan. 19, 1875

La Due, Nellie L. (wife of William La Due) – B – 1850 – D – June 27, 1884

La Due, Thomas S. – B – 1808 – D – Mar. 1, 1876

La Due, Phebe (wife) – B – 1812 – D – July 10, 1847

Phebe, daughter of Thomas and Phebe La Due and wife of H. W. Gillett

La Due, William J. (son) – B – 1844 – D – April 12, 1846

La Due, James H., Co. A. 140th N. Y. Inf. – B – 1842 – D – Dec. 6, 1862

La Due, Kate E. (wife of Rev. W. W. Case and daughter of Thomas and Phebe La Due) – B – 1840 – D – Mar. 10, 1865

La Due, Mary (wife of Eli Taylor and daughter of Thomas and Phebe La Due)

Markham, Spencer, son of Avery and Julia Markham – B – 1826 – D – Nov. 23, 1861

Miller, J. S. – B – 1818 – D – Feb. 15, 1861

Miller, Eleanor J. (wife) – B – 1818 – D – Aug. 17, 1881

Miller, Julia E. (daughter) – B – 1841 – D – June 3, 1854

Miller, Willard – B – 1829 – D – 1904

Miller, Sarah J. – B – 1839 – D – 1928

Markley, Wilhelmina W. (wife of Nathaniel P. Markley) – B – 1829 – D – April 22, 1867

Mc Master, Reynolds – B – 1795 – D – May 9, 1870

Mc Master, Sarah (wife) – B – 1809 – D – May 10, 1887

Miller, William – B – 1799 – D – Dec. 13, 1867

Miller, Eunice R. (wife) – B – 1799 – D – Feb. 11, 1881

Nickerson, Nathan – B – 1818 – D – Aug. 12, 1850

Nicherson, Sarah (daughter) D – Feb. 12, 1850

Pridmore, Edward – B – 1857 – D – 1915

Reed, Shuball H. – B – 1801 – D – March 27, 1884

Reed, Sarah K. (wife) – B – 1805 – D – Aug. 26, 1889

Reed, Sarah A. (daughter) – B – 1830 – D – Feb. 16, 1893

Reed, Alma E. (daughter) – B – 1833 – D – June 10, 1855

Reed, Andrew Horatio, son of Horatio and Jane G. Reed – B – 1830 – D – Aug. 13, 1849

Robbins, Louisa R. – B – Dec. 19, 1825 – D – April 28, 1862

Robinson, Allen – B – 1800 – D – Jan. 14, 1864

Robinson, Sarah (wife) – B – 1805 – D – Dec. 11, 1875

Robins, Robert – B – 1824 at Parish of Effel County Sussex, England – D – Bergen, N. Y. March 18, 1891

Robins, Martha A. (wife) – B – 1823 – D – March 15, 1884

Randall, Nattie (wife of William Randall, daughter of William and Jane Sands) – B – 1843 – D – June 29, 1882

Smith, Samuel – B – 1819 – D – 1886

Smith, Mary (wife) – B – 1825 – D – 1891

Sprague, Dennis – B – 1833 – D – 1907

Sprague, Martha Walker (wife) – B – 1839 – D – 1907

Sprague, Oenia (son) – D – March 7, 1860

Sprague, Andrew Eugene (son) – B – 1859 – D – 1860

Sprague, Fred (son) – B – 1862 – D – 1903

Shattuck, George – B – 1818 – D – Nov. 2, 1858

Shattuck, Delos (son of George and Cornelia Shattuck) – B – 1845 – D – Salisbury Prison Jan. 9, 1865

Stickney, Moses D – 1857

Stickney, Permellia (wife) – B – 1785 – D – Dec. 6, 1863

Siliman, Rev. Harvey – B – 1812 – D – Feb. 19, 1859

Siliman, Elizabeth, wife of Harvey Siliman

Siliman, Charles P. – B – 1856 – D – Mar, 18, 1858

Siliman, Rosealinda E. – B – 1853 – D – June 9, 1858

Charles and Roselinda, children of Harvey and Elizabeth Siliman

Spall, Charles – B – 1857 – D – Dec. 15, 1881

Sands, William – B – 1811 – D – 1901

Sands, Jane (wife) – B – In England, 1820 – D – May 15, 1896

Staples, Robert – B – 1794 – D – Sept. 4, 1871

Staples, Eunice (wife) – B – 1798 – D – Mar. 5, 1883

Staples, Pedelia Evangala (daughter) – B – 1825 – D – Feb. 22, 1847

Staples, Robert Perry (son) – B – 1834 – D – Aug. 2, 1870

Staples, Martha Kendall (daughter) – B – 1826 – D – Nov. 15, 1908

Sweetman, Peter – B – 1794 – D – Aug. 19, 1873

Sweetman, Charlotte (wife) – B – 1805 – D – Oct. 28, 1885

Sweetman, Julia (wife of Charles Larawar) – B – 1838 – D – 1912

Sweetman, Charlotte (wife of Horace Pratt) – B – 1845 – D – Feb. 17, 1900

Sweetman, Warren F. – B – 1849 – D – 1932

Sweetman, Clara White (wife) B – 1867

Suiter, George A. – B – 1842 – D – 1914

Suiter, Mary Neweel (wife) – B – 1850 – D – 1920

Talcott, Elijah H. – B – 1817 – D – Nov. 11, 1866

Talcott, Ninetta W. (wife) – B – 1812 – D – Sept. 26, 1851

Talcott, Clarissa (wife) – B – 1820 – D – May 14, 1853

Worboys, John – B – 1825 – D – 1906

Worboys, Mary (wife) – B – 1830 – D – 1914

Worboys, Georgiana (daughter) – B – 1853 – D – 1870

Wilbur, Noah – B – 1778 – D – July 24, 1874

Wilbur, Noah J. (son) – D – Aug. 28, 1862

Whelan, William B. – B – 1826 – D – March 7, 1855

Whelan, Francena A. (daughter) of James and Harmony Whelan – B – 1850 – D – April 24, 1853

Whelan, Silas – B – 1784 – D – March 6, 1863

Whelan, Betsy (wife) – B – 1786 – D – Oct. 24, 1864

Wood, Ida M. (daughter of Rev. L and Sarah Wood) – B – 1855 – D – Nov. 11, 1860

Warn, William Jr. – B – 1787 – D – May 16, 1851

Warn, Sarah M. Culloch (wife) – B – 1797 – D – Dec. 17, 1881

Compiled and copied by Mrs. Edward D. Stewart

Member of Monroe Chapter of D. A. R.

Sept. 4, 1935

Monroe Chapter of D. A. R. – Brockport, N. Y. – Jan. 10, 1936

Lotust Hill or Good Cemetery (abandoned), Monroe County, New York

Bennett, Diatha (wife of Dimick) – B – 1811 – D – April 12, 1832

Barker, Benjamin – B – April 9, 1775 – D – July 11, 1827

Dennis, Joseph – B – 1774 – D – Oct. 30, 1856

Dennis, Horace – B – 1800 – D – Oct. 6, 1834

French, John – B – 1779 – D – Dec. 27, 1863

Gellett, Percia E. (wife of Leonard) – B – 1804 – D – Feb. 3, 1837

Gellett, Phoebe E. (daughter of Leonard and Perica) – B – 1833 – D – Sept. 27, 1849

Hill, Asa

Hill, Ebeneser

Hill, Melissa

Hill, Lydia

Hill, Asa W.

Hess, Mary (daughter of Henry and Prudence Hess) – B – 1817 – D – Aug. 6, 1838

Hess, Ruben L. (son of Henry and Prudence – age 11 yrs.)

Hood, Thomas – B – 1794 – D – April 19, 1865

Hood, Dorothy (wife) – B – 1794 – D – April 19, 1865

Hood, Hiram B. – B – 1818 – D – June 8, 1850

Polly, Dan – B – 1786 – D – Feb. 9, 1857

Polly, Abigail (wife) – B – 1785 – D – Feb. 11, 1868

Polly, Polly (wife of Nathan Warren)

Rockwell, Ann – B – 1815 – D – May 17, 1854

Thomas, Mary (wife of Benjamin Thomas) – B – 1780 – D – April 16, 1836

Vary, Hanna (wife of Willet Vary) – B – 1781 – D – Aug. 4, 1835

Warren, Nathan – B – 1838 – D – Sept. 3, 1877

Warren, David – B – 1780 – D – Nov. 10, 1841

Warren, Abigail (wife of John) – B – 1757 – D – Sept. 27, 1837

Warren, Elizar – B – 1790 – D – Jan. 23, 1862

Warren, Sally (wife of Elizar) – B – 1806 – D – Jan. 4, 1863

Warren, Mary A. – B – 1830 – D – Jan. 15, 1864

Whitney, Ebenezer – B – 1800 – D – 1870

Whitney, Abigail (wife) – B – 1810 – D – Feb. 17, 1842

Copied and compiled by Mrs. Edward D. Stewart

Member of Monroe Chapter, D. A. R.

Brockport, Monroe County, N. Y.

Sept. 6, 1955

Monroe Chapter of D. A. R. – Brockport, N. Y. – Jan. 9, 1936

This record was taken from the Centennial Anniversary of the town of Ogden, Monroe County, N. Y. and compiled by Mrs. August R. N. Rich. 1802-1902

Judge William B. Brown was born in Lime Conn. 1784 and came to Ogden in 1803, and located on the hill just south of Spencerport, N. Y., where he lived until his death. He was the son of Elder Daniel Brown a Baptist Clergyman who came to this town in 1807.

Daniel Brown was a revolutionary soldier. Documents in the family show him to have been a private. After a few years he located in the town of Pittsford, N. Y., but he spent his last days in Ogden, N. Y. where he died April 4, 1842. His descendants still live in the same locality.

Copied by Alberta Brennan

Member of Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

Brockport, N. Y.

Monroe Chapter of D. A. R. – Brockport, N. Y. – Jan. 9, 1936

This record was taken from the Centennial Anniversary of the town of Ogden, Monroe County, N. Y. and compiled by Mrs. Augusta E. N. Rich. 1802-1902

The Austin Spencer Family

Austin Spencer the third son of Timothy and Sarah Arnold Spencer was born in East Haddam Conn., July 24, 1783. He came to Otsego County, N. Y. where he taught school and where he married Polly Elwood in the year 1808. They came to Ogden un 1808 and had five children: Laura, Henrietta, Nelson, Elwood, Emily Louise, Rily Austin and Catehrine Melissa.

He died Jan. 8, 1868

Copied by Alberta Brennan

Member of Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

Brockport, N. Y.

Monroe Chapter of D. A. R. – Brockport, N. Y. Jan. 9, 1936

This record was taken from the Centennial Anniversary of the town of Ogden, Monroe County, N. Y. and compiled by Mrs. Augusta E. N. Rich. 1802-1902

The True Family

Among the earlier settlers of Ogden were the Trues from Plainfield N. H. who settled there in 1816-1818.

Elias True was the first one to come. Ezra and Levi followed two years later. One hundred and sixty years before the birth of these men, Henry True of Hardersfield, England arrived at Salem Mass. where he served as captain of the Militia. His descendants emigrated to Plainfield, N. H. Besides those already named who settled in Ogden were, Moses, Ransom, Sherburne and Pettingill True.

Worthy of mention were the two sisters, Betsey and Hannah True. Betsey married Levi Cram and Hannah married James Pettingill. No better, braver and truer men and women, loyal to their country and to each other, ever lived. They built homes for themselves and their families out of a wilderness.

Copied by Alberta Brennan

Member of Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

Brockport, N. Y.

Monroe Chapter of D. A. R. – Brockport, N. Y. – Jan. 10, 1936

This record was taken from the Centennial Anniversary of the town of Ogden, Monroe County, N. Y. and compiled by Mrs. Augusta E. N. Rich. 1802-1902

Gilman Genealogy

In May 1638 Edward Gilman, his wife and three sons, John, Edward and Moses emigrated from the country of Norfolk, England in a ship called "Delight of Ipswich". Edward Gilman Jr., had a son Edward the third, first American born. He built mills at Exter, N. H., and was lost at sea, having gone to England for mill gearings. Edward the third had a son Edward the fourth, born April 11, 1781. Edward had a son Edward the fifth, Antipas, Johnathan and Mariah.

Antipas married Lydia Thing. Their children were Antipas, Samuel, Edward, Jonathan, Benjamin, Nathaniel, Abigail and Deborah. Antipas died in Gilmaton, N. H., Jan. 1793 at the age of 88 years. Edward Gilman son of Antipas bought the property of Gilman Mills where he lived until he became blind. He then moved to Walden Vermont. His children were Joseph who married Betsey Boody; David who married Hanna Folsom; Edward who married Hepsibeth Osgood; Noah who married Esther Hess. Jacob died at fifteen. Timothy married Sally Kirby and Samuel who married Judith Marrill.

The children of Joseph and Betsey were Elizabeth, John, Mary, Parmelia who married Edward True. David Gilman, son of Edward married Hanna Folsom and had the following children: Polly who married Edward Covel, Hanna married ? Leach, Lydia who married ? Crowell, Calvin married Maria Hill, Luther marries Esther Bannister, Sally married Orin Osborn. Diana and David died in infancy.

Edward and Hepsibeth Osgood had children, William, Amasa, Sally, Hiram, Horace, Ann and Daniel.

Samuel and Judith Morrill had children, Sarah, Daniel, Joseph, Maria, Willard, Mary, Samantha and Martha.

Calvin Gilman, son of David Gilman and Maria Hill had children, James H., Marry M., Emily E., Sarah F., Charlotte A.

Copied by Alberta Brennan

Member of Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

Brockport, N. Y.

Monroe Chapter of D. A. R. – Brockport, N. Y. – Jan. 9, 1936

This record was taken from the Centennial Anniversary of the town of Ogden, Monroe County, N. Y. and compiled by Mrs. Augusta E. N. Rich. 1802-1902

John Dearborn Webster was a son of Colonel John Webster, who was one of the most enterprising and influential men of his time in New Hampshire, was one of the early settlers of Boscawen and was in Salisbury as early as 1758. He was a cousin of the famous lawyer, orator and statesman, Daniel Webster. John D. Webster was born May 11, 1782 and was the fifth of a family of eight children, and inherited the distinguished characteristics of his New England ancestors. In the year 1805 he married Sarah Young West. They started on their wedding journey with oxen and cart and arrived in Ogden and settled on Colby Street next to Abraham Colby who had been his neighbor in Salisbury, N. H. Dr. John Webster one of the pioneers of Ogden was born in 1780. He came from Berkshire County in 1802 and settled on the farm owned by his heirs. He was a soldier of 1812. His wife Susan B. Allen was born the same year. He practiced medicine in Ogden until his death in 1838. Their children were Stephen, Asa, Jeremiah, Sylvester, Alvin, John, William, Hiram and Susan.

Four sons settled on farms in Niagara County where they lived until their deaths. Dr. Hiram Webster located in Michigan. Alvin remained on the homestead until his death in 1890 and was one of the most substantial farmers of the town. Mr. Webster was one of the founders of the Methodist Protestant Church of Ogden. He married Lucy Woodard and as a second wife Cornelia, daughter of Simon and Prudence Bailey.

Children: Persia H. Webster married Medad Parker.

John W. married Ester Arnold

Clarissa M. married William Brown

Samuel N. Married Maria H. Gott

“The country was then a great wilderness. The wolves were their most frequent visitors. From a wilderness they saw their surroundings transferred to stately mansions, golden harvest fields and spacious highways. Education, culture, refinement and luxury followed. The sickle and the ax of time having swept away the drudgery and hardship of their early lives.”

F. N. Webster

Copied By Alberta Brennan

Member of Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

Brockport, N. Y.

Monroe Chapter of D. A. R. – Brockport, N. Y. – Jan. 9, 1936

This record was taken from the Centennial Anniversary of the town of Ogden, Monroe County, N. Y. and compiled by, Mrs. Augusta E. N. Rich. 1802-1902

George W. Willey was the man who felled the first tree in the town of Ogden 1802, having walked from East Haddon, Conn. and crossing the Genessee River at Avon, N. Y.

Among the first purchasers of real estate in the town were Benajah Willey, father of George Willey, Abraham Colby, John Gould, John Webster, Salla Worthington, Benjamine Freeman, Daniel Spencer, and Mr. Snow.

The first religious meeting was held at the home of George Willey. The first school was kept by a sister of George Willey who became the wife of Col. Brown.

The first birth in the town was John Colby.

The first death was the wife of George Willey.

George Warren Willey was born in Ludlow, Mass. Nov. 2, 1767. He was married in Willington, May 11, 1788 to Deidamia Cowderly, who died in Ogden April 2, 1804 – Age 35 years.

His second wife was Clarissa, daughter of James Lubert Davis Newcomb of Lebanon Conn.

He died in 1852. He was the son of Benajah and Ann Fuller Willey. Benejah Willey was born about 1748. He settled in Ludlow Mass. and died in 1820. He was the son of Nenejah and Rachel Lutton Willey. This Benejah birth is not recorded but his wife Rachel was born Nov. 6, 1727 and baptized at East Haddam, Con. Jan. 26, 1728, Benejah Willey died Feb. 4, 1752. He was the son of John and Elizabeth Harvey Willey. John was born Feb. 24, 1674 at New London, Conn. and married in Oct. 1698 at East Haddam, Conn. he was described as Sergt. John Willey in 1750. He died in 1754 and wwas the son of John and Miriam Moore Willey. This John wasborn about 1648 and married March 18, 1668. He was the son of Isaac and Joanna Willey who were founders of the family in America. Isaac is recorded as living in Boston as early as 1640, removing to Charlston Mass., before 1644. He immigrated with John Winthrop Jr. to New London, Conn., and died about 1685. It is rumored the Willey family were from Wales.

Copied by Mrs. James Brennan

(Alberta Brennan)

Member of Monroe Chapter, D. A. R.

Brockport, N. Y.

Monroe Chapter of D. A. R. – Brockport, N. Y. – Jan. 9, 1936

This record was taken from the Centennial Anniversary of the town of Ogden, Monroe ounty, N. Y. and compiled by Mrs. Augusta E. N. Rich. 1802-1902

James who married Julia Ferris on Nov. 17, 1859 had the following children: Gertrude M. Calvin, Ellen, Jessie Julia, Willis, Emerette, and James.

Calvin son of James, married Louise Kneeland in 1903. Their children were Richard Ross, Julia, Louise, Charles and Rose.

Mary, daughter of Calvin the first, married Rev. A. H. Ross, Oct. 15, 1860 and died Oct. 15, 1921. Emily married Sept. 8, 1859, Rev. George Walker and died Dec. 3, 1921. They had one son Lewis.

Sarah married H. P. Dusinbury, Aug. 13, 1863 and had the following children: Lulu, Henry, Ross, May and Grace.

Henry married Aug. 12, 1896 Florence Stubbs and had one daughter Lois.

May married in July 10, 1895. Fred Hutchings and had the following children: William H. and J. Donald.

Grace married June 29, 1905 Yale Denel and had one child Alice May born Dec. 12, 1913.

Copied by Alberta Brennan

Member of the Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

Sept. 10, 1935

Monroe Chapter of D. A. R. – Brockport, N. Y. – Jan. 9, 1936

This record was taken from the Centennial Anniversary of the town of Ogden, Monroe County, N. Y. and compiled by Mrs. Augusta E. N. Rich. 1802-1902

The first ancestor of the Nichols family who came to the town of Ogden was Isaac Nichols. He came from the town of Beckett, Berkshire County, Mass., driving through the wild intervening country in 1803. After he had prepared a home he returned to Mass. and brought back his wife and son, Charles K. Nichols. Charles Nichols had a son Lester S. Nichols. Three families of Nichols settled on the same road which is now called Nichols Street. There are still descendants living in this locality.

Copied by Alberta Brennan

Member of Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

Brockport, N. Y.

Monroe Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution

Brockport, N. Y. – January 9, 1936

Garmond, now Germain Family – Copied from the diary of Hiram Germond.

Silas Germond died Mar. 22, 1849, age 86 years. Born on Long Island, 1762.

Phebe Hildreth, wife of Silas Germond – Born on Long Island, 1769. Died Jan. 10, 1810, age 40 years.

James Hildreth Germain died Oct. 2, 1875, age 80 years. Born in Pine Plains, 1794.

Edward Barlow Germain. Born in Pine Plains, Feb. 13, 1826. Died in Brockport, N. Y. Jan. 4, 1907. Age 81 years.

A certificate showing that James Germain served as a captain in the 111 Regiment of Infantry of New York State and was signed by Dewitt Clinton the seventeenth day of February 1820.

This record was copied and compiled by

Mrs. James Brennan and Mrs. Edward Stewart of

Monroe Chapter of D. A. R.

Brockport, N. Y. Town of Sweden

This diary is now in the possession of Mrs. Dona Germain Duffy, Brockport, N. Y.

He was Governor of the colony from 1621 to 1650 except five years.

He died May 9, 1657.

5. His son, John Bradford, born about 1618.

6. His son Ephrim Bradford married Elizabeth Bartlett in 1710.

7. His tenth child, Wait Bradford.

8. His son, William Bradford born 1718, July 1, father of Lydia Bradford, wife of Rufus Hebbard.

9. Her son, Hezekiah Hebbard.

10. His son, William Bradford Hebbard, b. July 1, 1818.

11. His son, Henry Hezekiah Hebbard, b. Sept. 29, 1847.

12. His son, Frank Dwight Hebbard, b. Oct. 25, 1874.

Copied by Alberta Brennan

Member Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

Brockport, New York

October 3rd, 1928.

Simmons Family

Holy Bible published by (date and publishers name not given) in possession of Mrs. Albert Smith, Brockport, New York.

Births

Jacob H. Simmons	Oct. 19 – 1824
Mary A. Berridge	Aug. 13 – 1833
Ida J. Simmons	July 8 – 1855
Daniel C. Simmons	Jan. 19 – 1859
Winnie L. Simmons	July 8 – 1862

William B. Simmons	Nov. 23 – 1865
Leonard F. Simmons	Dec. 14 – 1866
Charles Simmons	Jan. 14 – 1871
Frank Simmons	Oct. 28 – 1872
Adelaide L. Simmons	June 17 – 1901 (Daughter of Charles)
Herbert Charles Simmons	May 25 – 1901 (Son of Charles)
Raymond Orin Simmons	Dec. 25 – 1912 (Son of Charles)

Marriages

Jacob H. Simmons to Mary A. Berridge	Oct. 4 – 1854
Minnie L. Simmons to Elbert O. Smith	Dec. 24 – 1879
Berton W. Simmons to Hattie J. Morrison	
Charles H. Simmons to Ethel Irene Smith	Nov. 18 – 1897
Frank J. Simmons to Maud A. Blodgett	Feb. 17

Deaths

Daniel C. Simmons	Nov. 7 – 1861
Leonard L. Simmons	Feb. 20 – 1913
Frank J. Simmons	Feb. 24 – 1924
Mary A. Simmons	Jan. 29 – 1909
Jacob H. Simmons	Sept. 22 – 1911

Copied by Alberta B. Brennan

Member of Monroe Chapter D. A. R.

Brockport, New York, May – 1928.