1964

Town of Sweden Sesqui-Centennial Celebration: 1814-1964

Town of Sweden Sesquicentennial Committee

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HISTORY
of the
TOWN of SWEDEN

COMMENORATIVE BOOKLET
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Many persons have contributed material to this commemorative booklet. We realize that it is far from complete, but it has been accomplished over the span of a few short weeks, entirely by volunteers.

Important items, names, happenings and illustrations may have been omitted, but not intentionally. Your booklet committee has done its utmost in the brief time it has functioned.

We are indebted to Mrs. Meta A. Sandow, Town Clerk, for many hours spent in reviewing the official minute books which date back to 1814; also to Mrs. Natalie H. Wheeler, Deputy Town Clerk; Mr. & Mrs. Harold G. Dobson, our town historians; the Village Museum at the Seymour Library; Mr. A. B. Elwell, Ray Tuttle and others who have written newspaper accounts; and numerous individuals who have come forward with interesting items from their family archives. Dr. John McNaughton prepared all the material on our schools.

Merritt Elwell, who is steeped in local history, has furnished many items from his collection and we are indebted to the assistance he has given. Mrs. Herbert White has typed the entire manuscript, much on her own time, using equipment at the Brockport Central School, which we also appreciate. Carl W. Neuscheler, of the college administrative staff, has spent hours upon hours in the layout of these pages. Without their assistance, this booklet would never have been possible.

Mrs. Robert H. Henion and Mrs. Alvin Anheier, both descendants of prominent pioneer families, have given invaluable assistance. Material prepared by Mrs. Eunice Beadle Baker entitled "Early History and Folklore of the Town of Sweden" has been a basic reference. Mrs. Francis H. Duff has contributed most of the material concerning West Sweden, where she is rightly recognized as an authority. It would be impossible to list all the others who have furnished helpful data.

In all our efforts, it has occurred to us repeatedly that our Community is deficient in one respect. We do not have an active historical society, similar to organizations in LeRoy and many other communities. With such a group, dedicated to collecting and preserving items of historical interest, the narration for future commemorations would be simplified. Perhaps what we have started in this booklet will be the beginning of more exhaustive and rewarding studies by such a group. Each reference or section could be expanded into a complete and fascinating story.

The splendid history and glorious heritage of the Town of Sweden merits such consideration.

[Signature]
William T. Fuller
Chairman
Commemorative Booklet Committee
Town of Sweden Sesqui-Centennial
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The Town of Sweden is the birthplace of the McCormick and Morgan reapers, devices which paved the way for the development of America's western territories. By replacing the hand sickle and scythe, they inaugurated an industrial expansion which revolutionized agricultural production. In many respects, our community may be called 'the gateway to the West'.

The original settlers emigrated from New England, some having sojourned for a time along the Mohawk. They were rugged individuals, seeking opportunities to establish homes on the frontier. They came without benefit of subsidy, committed to conquer a virgin wilderness, and fired with ambition to improve their lot by honest toil.

Who were the very first to arrive has never been determined. The native Senecas replaced earlier inhabitants and knew the area well. There were no Indian villages in our immediate vicinity so it is assumed that some agreement had been reached between tribes, designating these lands as a neutral hunting ground. Although the shoreline of Ontario and trails to Niagara had been thoroughly explored, it is doubtful that either traders or missionaries visited here prior to the War of Independence.

All this territory was claimed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of New York by virtue of original royal charters. Their rivalry almost precipitated an interstate war, but differences were resolved finally by the Treaty of Hartford, signed in 1786. Sovereignty was granted to New York, and Massachusetts was given the right to preempt the land from the Indians. Several deals were attempted before Massachusetts sold title to the entire area in 1788 to two developers, Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham. The original "Phelps and Gorham Purchase" included 6 1/4 million acres at a price of approximately 3½ per acre. Mr. Phelps employed Colonel Hugh Maxwell to complete a survey and maps prepared by him became a pattern for future surveys of new lands in the United States.

Oliver Phelps opened his office in Canandaigua in 1789 and many sales were made of property between Seneca Lake and the Genesee River. The Indians, however, refused to relinquish their claim west of the river, because in the words of Red Jacket, the eloquent Seneca Sachem, "these lands must remain our home forever, according to the Great Spirit." By devious means, they were cajoled out of a large tract for a "Mill Seat", twelve miles wide, parallel to the west bank. Whether by error, or intent, the surveyors set their transit due North, and thereby included some additional eighty-seven thousand acres.

RED JACKET
Wearing Medal Presented to him by George Washington.
Having realized a handsome profit, Phelps and Gorham transferred all their unsold lots to Robert Morris of Philadelphia, who had become a land speculator after the Revolution. They also surrendered claim to the western lands which the Senecas refused to yield, and Massachusetts granted adjustments on their purchase agreement. Robert Morris picked up this claim also, agreeing to extinguish the Indian title. He sold most of the area to a group of Dutchmen, generally known as the Holland Land Company, which began operations from Batavia.

Morris was not satisfied with the previous survey and commissioned Major Adam Hoops, formerly with Sullivan's Army, to remap the entire area. One of his surveyors, Augustus Porter, discovered the error in the west line of the "Mill Seat". The correction restored a Triangular Tract (with its apex near Pavilion), which Morris returned to the Senecas. (This includes all the lands in the present Towns of Sweden, Clarkson and Hamlin). In 1797, Thomas Morris, representing his father's interests, concluded a final agreement with the Senecas at a council fire held at Big Tree, near Geneseo.

This released the "Triangle Tract" to settlers, but no property was sold until the turn of the Nineteenth Century, when it was conveyed intact to a combine of three New York City merchants, Messrs. LeRoy, Bayard and McEvers. It was again surveyed by Richard M. Stoddard into five townships, each divided into sections and subdivided into farm lots of 120 acres. Stoddard became the agent for the owners, operating from LeRoy, and these forest lots were offered at $2 to $2.50 per acre.

A trail was blazed to Lake Ontario in 1801 and the road was opened the following year so that prospective buyers might select locations. However, only six lots had been sold by 1805; three each in the areas which later became Sweden and Clarkson. Some buyers probably were motivated by speculation, as they did not become actual settlers.

Six additional lots were sold in 1806, seven in 1807, twenty-five in 1808, and twelve in 1809. Thus the "land boom" had started along the Lake Road, well before the Ridge Road was opened in 1810 as a narrow trail. It is interesting to note that all basic deeds to our real estate even today refer to the "Triangle Tract" and designates section and lot numbers as assigned by surveyor Stoddard.

Two settlements were made early in 1807 by Nathaniel Poole and Walter Palmer, who moved in with their families during the winter months. Poole erected a cabin and commenced a clearing on the east side of the trail. Palmer settled further north on the west side, but ultimately moved away.

Samuel Bishop arrived next in 1807 and settled on the east side on a site he had visited in December 1806. He moved in 1816 to lands further east and developed an extensive farm. The corner school, adjoining his property, was called the "Bishop School House" for many years.

Three other families also settled in 1807; Joseph Hopkins, Isiah White and Stephen Johnson. Hopkins built the first house on the future site of Brockport, but did not remain many years. Isiah White settled on a farm, later known as the James Jackson place. Johnson established a nursery and planted the first orchard in the town, and subsequently furnished fruit trees to most of the early settlers.

John Reed arrived in 1808. His home was erected on the corner of the road which still bears his name, and the property remained in his family for several generations.

Johnson Beedle, Edward Parks and Deacon Rice came about the same time. Beedle opened a tavern upon the elevation
just south of Sweden Center on the east side. Parks acquired the deed of Johnathan Freeman, who had been one of the first purchasers of lots in the town but who did not settle here. Rice built his cabin at the extreme north of the town, afterwards known as "Wilkie's Corner".

The Fourth Section was opened in the spring of 1809 with the arrival of Elijah Steward, Walter Steward, Uriah L. James, William James, Simeon Palmer and Joshua B. Adams. Benjamin S. Sheldon arrived a year or two later.

William B. Worden, Aaron Hill and Moses J. Hill settled on the Sweden side of the road leading west from Wilkie's Corner. Joseph Hutchinson settled in 1810 on the road later named Shumway.

In the two years preceding the War of 1812, others arrived. Joseph Luce and Oremel Butler became established in the southeast, and Moses Pike and Timothy Tyler started clearing the lands which later belonged to the several Root families. Rowland Saunders and Edmund H. Raleigh settled on the Lake Road, which was now wide enough to accommodate wagons and ox carts. Levi Paige and Ezra Brown settled in West Sweden and Abijah Capen about a mile west of the Lake Road.

These pioneers had no mail routes until after 1812; their only communication or transportation was by ox-wagon or horseback. They improvised from the forest for most of their necessities; other supplies were obtained under difficulties from markets far removed.

Schooling for young children was on a cooperative basis, and occasional church services were conducted by itinerant preachers. Education, religion, growth, work and play - all life itself - was centered in the family cabin. It was an arduous life by the standards of a century and a half later.

The war with England brought alarm to this frontier area and many left, never to return. With the cessation of hostilities, there was a new tide of emigration. These settlers bought the claims of predecessors or purchased new lots and most of them became permanent inhabitants. It would be impossible to list all the families who
settled as pioneers during this era. However, the following are some of the more prominent people who came just prior to 1818.

In the western section of the town: Robert Staples came from Vermont in 1816, along with James White. They were preceded by William Warm, Asa Babcock, Oliver Spencer and Edmund Spencer, Chauncey Staples, Chester White and John White located about a year later. Levi Pond settled in 1817 and Erastus Lawrence in 1818 and jointly cleared a large farm, after which Pond sold out to his partner and moved to the Lake Road and later to Brockport.

West of the Lake Road in the central part of the town: Peleg Thomas and Alanson Thomas came in 1816 along with Dr. Daniel Avery and Steward Bennett. Alanson Thomas operated a mill for grinding corn and grain.

South of Beach Ridge: Mary Jenny, Calvin Gibbs, Antemas Lyman, Walter Phelps, Abel Root, Elder Brackett and Seth Spooner settled in 1815 to 1817.

Just north of Beach Ridge: Elder Bigelow, Royal Barlow, Isaac Palmer and James Jackson located in the same years. The intersection of the Lake Road and Fourth Section was long known as "Barlow's Corners".

In the extreme southwest part of the town: Silas Parker, Sr., and his son, Silas, and Epaphas Merrill settled in 1816 and 1817. Moses Stickney located further north in 1815 and lived on the same farm for nearly 50 years. James Hart also settled in that neighborhood in 1816, but later moved to the Lake Road.

Upon the Lake Road, in the south part of town: William Terry, Joshua Whalley, John R. Landon, Julius Comstock, Ansel Comstock, Charles Treat and his son, Charles Treat Jr., Samuel V. Way, James Phillips and Shubael Phillips located in 1816 and 1817.

In the southeasterly part of the town: Dudley Root, William Root and Aaron Root arrived from Connecticut in 1817. They purchased most of the claims in their area, except those of Timothy Perkins, Stephen Bathrick and Samuel Bishop. The neighborhood became known as the Root settlement and the road still bears the family name. Just south of Bishop's, Calvin J. Whitcher with his father settled in 1816. Bela Butler, Daniel Butler and Nathaniel Bangs located nearby about the same time.

East of the Lake Road in the central and north part of the town: Elisha Licks and his sons, Joseph Lewis, Eliu Lee, Thodus Stone, John Powers, Isaiah Chase, Samuel C. Bentley, John Beedle, Abel Gifford, Joseph Randall, David Morgan, Samuel Morgan, Zadock Hurd, William Salisbury, Seldon Tenant, Reuben Allen Sr., Sylvester Pease, John Howes, Deacon Niles, Sisson Taylor and his brother, Thomas Cooley and his sons, Job Phelps, Lieut. Crippen, Peter Sutphen, Shumway, Eli Gallup, John Clark, Bronson, and Daniel Freeman all located in 1816 and 1817.

Along the north town line road, Joseph Preston and Thomas Bowen settled in 1816 and 1817.

During the same years, David More, Benjamin Remington, Elisha Brace, Ly­ onel Udell, Samuel Chadsey and William Sheldon settled upon the Fourth Section.
FIRST TOWN MEETING - 1814

Town Meetings are a basic New England tradition. All free citizens participate, and are given equal voice and vote. It is "grass-roots" democracy in action. Because the old Town of Murray, (first known as Bayard), was an extensive area, sparsely populated, it did not lend itself to a local government close to the people. The State Legislature enacted a bill in April 1813 to split this large township of Genesee County into three new towns, named Bergen, Sweden and Murray.

Who proposed the name "Sweden" may never be established. Apparently it had been agreed upon when the legislation was introduced in Albany, and was agreeable to the local citizens. It has been assumed that several pioneer familiars came from a hamlet in Maine bearing that name, but efforts to establish their identity have never been successful. There is no mention of any discussion on the subject at the first or subsequent town meetings.

In accordance with the State enactment, the call for the organizational meeting was announced for April 5, 1814, at the home of Reuben Stickney on the corner of the Lake and Swamp Roads. (The site remains, but the house was torn down within the last thirty-five years). It is reported that so many attended, that the meeting convened in Mr. Stickney's barn in order to accommodate the multitude. Approximately 140 electors (free males of voting age) were eligible to attend; it is not recorded how many were present.

John Reed was the popular choice for Supervisor. (He was re-elected for seven succeeding years). Elisha Stewart was chosen Town Clerk and continued in this office throughout Mr. Reed's administration. Other officers included: Joshua B. Adams, Henry Hill and John Marshall, assessors; Alanson Dudley, Zenas Case and Colvin Gibbs, road commissioners; Benajah Warden and Record W. Vining, poormasters; David Gliddon, William Sheldon, Lyman Humphreys, Elisha Stewart, Amos Frink, and Peleg Sanders, school inspectors; William James, collector and constable; William Luther, constable; Reuben Stickney, pound master. Twenty-seven men were chosen as overseers of highways and were also designated as "fence watchers".

None of our early town officers received remuneration for their services. There was little overhead expense. However, some appropriations were necessary. It was voted to raise $250 for road improvements for that first year; also $100 for the support of paupers. It was also voted to purchase a two-volume set of the "Statutes of the State". A bounty of $10 was authorized for each wolf scalp "ketch and killed in the town by an inhabitant of this town".

Education was of prime concern, and the Supervisor was authorized to determine the sum of monies necessary to operate the several neighborhood school houses.

Hogs were ordered to be confined and not become "free commoners". The pound keeper was required to furnish a yard sufficient for a pound, which seems ungracious to the gentleman who played host to the meeting.

Although town meetings were an annual affair, a special meeting was called in September of that first year, to appropriate an additional $150 for the poor, and also to authorize a survey of the north and south boundary lines of the township.

The biggest item of expense appears to be for highways; probably needed for such equipment as was unavailable from private homesteads. Labor was assessed against each property owner; names were listed according to the number of days each person was required to work on the roads.
If he could afford it, a "taxpayer" might hire a replacement; otherwise he reported in person.

Cutting roads through heavy timber, removing obstacles, bridging the numerous streams, spreading gravel, etc., were immediate problems and were tackled with vigor. Most of our town roads were laid out and developed within that first year, and are described in detail in the town meeting book.

Also, there is listed and described (with diagrams) the "Ear Marks" as officially recorded by the Town Clerk for some sixty-five citizens. Presumably these were used to identify ownership of hogs, similar to cattle brands developed later on western ranches. Reuben Stickney's "Ear Mark", for example, was "a hole in the left ear and a square crop off from the right ear".

SITE OF FIRST TOWN MEETING

Photo of old Patton House, corner of Lake and Swamp Roads, where first town meeting was held. Built by Major Stickney in 1809, it was the first framed building in the area; all previous homes were log cabins. The eminence on which it is located was called "Hog's Back", later known as "Light House Hill".

"People from all parts of the town turned out, both men and women, and after using one barrel of whiskey the first day, they adjourned for two days and sent two men to LeRoy for another barrel of the stimulating beverage. "The settlers again assembled, completed the raising of the house, used up the whiskey and held a dance in the evening".

Photograph was taken by Harold Richards, before the old house was demolished. The barn remains. Miss Helen M. Hastings made an urgent plea in 1929 for a campaign to save and restore the structure, but the year proved most inopportune.
Succeeding Meetings 1815 - 1820

During the next few years, the annual Town Meetings were held at the home of Seth King. Another $250 was appropriated for roads in 1815, but none was required thereafter, nor were additional funds required for supporting the poor. The bounty on wolves was discontinued. Reuben Stickney was replaced as pound-keeper in 1816 by Robert Beedel who also was required to furnish a sufficient pound at his own expense, but after one year Mr. Stickney was again elected to this office. Roads were well maintained, district schools flourished, two churches were erected, population increased, people worked hard and prospered. Industries included grist and saw mills on Salmon Creek and one distillery. By 1818, Sweden had expanded to the extent that a special meeting was called to divide the township. The plan was approved at a meeting on February 25, 1818 - the dividing line becoming the original west line of the "Triangle Tract". The area to the west chose the name "Clarendon". Both towns remained in Genesee County.

Some town laws were passed during this period, and reflect the simple problems of that era: "If any ram is caught off owner's land among other flocks, the owner shall forfeit and pay One Dollar to the complainor" (Fine increased to $2 in 1819) "If any man knowingly suffers a Canada thistle to go to seed on his land, he shall pay a fine of Five Dollars" "All fences, to be deemed lawful, shall be at least 4 1/2 feet high, well laid in a workmanlike manner, of logs, rails, boards, or of stone wall".

"Owners shall pay 12 1/2¢ for each hog found in highway" (Fine increased to 25¢ in 1819) "Swine will be allowed to run at large between November 10th and March 10th".

Monroe County Formed 1821

All the Indian territory of western New York at the time of the Phelps and Gorham purchase in 1789 was known as Ontario County, and the debatable land west of the Genesee River was designated as the Town of Northampton. In 1802, Northampton became Genesee County and various towns were created and subdivided into new towns as previously described.

Settlements increased rapidly on both sides of the Genesee, although Rochesterville was still a small community (incorporated as a village in 1817). As population expanded, agitation developed for a new county seat to eliminate travel to either Canandaigua (Ontario) or Batavia (Genesee). There was opposition from officials in those centers for several years, but the bill was finally enacted on February 23, 1821, and the new county was named after James Monroe, then President of the United States. The Town of Sweden became a part of the new county, and each of our supervisors since John Reed has represented the town on the Monroe County Board of Supervisors.

It is probable that men in our community played some role in the creation of the new county, which then consisted of only fourteen towns. James Seymour was appointed first sheriff and also served as a commissioner to superintend the building of the first courthouse and jail.
### SUPERVISORS - TOWN OF SWEDEN

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<td>Joseph Randall</td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Alfred M. White</td>
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<td>1841-1842</td>
<td>Nathaniel Palmer</td>
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<td>Robert Staples</td>
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<td>1848</td>
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<td>1849</td>
<td>Robert Staples</td>
<td>1894-1898</td>
<td>Benjamin F. Gleason</td>
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<td>1850</td>
<td>Asa Rowe</td>
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<td>1851-1853</td>
<td>Samuel H. Davis</td>
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<td>Charles E. Shafer</td>
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<td>1854-1858</td>
<td>Frederick P. Root</td>
<td>1911</td>
<td>George E. Colby*</td>
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<td>1859-1860</td>
<td>Chauncey S. White</td>
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<td>Charles J. White</td>
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<td>1861</td>
<td>Henry Root</td>
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<td>Thomas Cornes</td>
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<td>1863-1864</td>
<td>Samuel H. Davis</td>
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<td>George A. Beadle</td>
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<td>1865-1866</td>
<td>Thomas Cornes</td>
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<td>Burton H. Avery*</td>
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<td>1867</td>
<td>Walter C. Fairbanks</td>
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<td>John H. White</td>
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<td>1868-1869</td>
<td>Luther Gordon</td>
<td>1936-1945</td>
<td>William F. Udell*</td>
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<td>1870-1871</td>
<td>Franklin F. Capen</td>
<td>1946-1957</td>
<td>Harold W. Nelson*</td>
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<td>1872-1874</td>
<td>E. W. Young</td>
<td>1957-1960</td>
<td>Harold F. Tighe</td>
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<td>1961</td>
<td>Nat O. Lester Jr.</td>
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Thirty-six men have been elected Supervisor during the first century and a half for an average tenure of approximately four years. Some held office for only one year. Robert Staples had the longest service, twelve years, although his terms did not run consecutively. *Four supervisors died in office: George E. Colby (after 10 months), whose unexpired term was filled by the appointment of Charles J. Smith; Burton H. Avery (after 26 months), whose second term was completed by John H. White; William F. Udell (after 9 years, 10 months), whose vacancy was filled by Harold W. Nelson, who was reelected and served 11 years, 7 months. Mr. Nelson's vacancy was filled by the appointment of his widow, Mrs. Ada C. Nelson, but she promptly resigned and Mr. Tighe, who had served as a Justice of the Peace, was appointed for the ensuing five months.

Until 1894, terms were for one year, beginning in April; thereafter, two years, beginning in January.
Only thirty-one persons have been elected Town Clerk since the Town of Sweden was first organized. Many attained prominence in other positions, but Samuel H. Davis was the only Town Clerk to later become Supervisor. The late Fred B. Richards held the office for 24 years, succeeding George B. Harmon Jr., who was Town Clerk for 18 years. The late Arch C. Browne served for 12 years. Both George Benson and W. C. Hammond served for 11 years, not consecutively.

Our last two Town Clerks, Mrs. Rich and Mrs. Sandow, are the first women to be elected to the office. Mrs. Rich served as an appointed deputy under Mr. Browne and Mrs. Sandow completed Mrs. Rich's term, after her resignation.
THE PETERS' CABIN

Probably the oldest building which remains in this area. It was erected by William Peters who came by covered wagon into the Triangle Tract after the Revolution. He had opposed the war with England and was therefore classed as a "Tory". His home in Hebron, Connecticut, was burned by the patriots and all his worldly goods were confiscated.

The cabin was located just south of the town line, adjoining the late Burton Davis farm. It is approximately thirty by twenty feet in size. The half loft is reached by a ladder. The fireplace was originally in the center. It is believed to have been erected in 1806.

THE RESTORED CABIN

During the 1930's the cabin was carefully removed from its original site to the private estate of Gifford Morgan on the North Lake Road. It was completely restored and furnished with early authentic items. Mr. Morgan was a great-great grandson of William Peters, who married Lydia Phelps and whose daughter married Isaac Joseylin. Their daughter, Susan, became Mrs. Dayton Morgan, mother of the late Gifford Morgan.
Even before the first clearing had been established in this area, men of vision in the East were promoting plans for a water route from Atlantic harbors to the Great Lakes in the "far west". Boats were the most familiar means of transportation between distant points until that period and canal systems brought commerce and prosperity to terminals and others affected. The proposal was formally introduced in the State Legislature in 1808 and immediately became a political issue. The War of 1812 postponed action, and it was not until DeWitt Clinton, an ardent canal advocate, became Governor that enabling acts were approved.

Actual work began in 1818 and the project was completed in seven years. It was considered the greatest engineering feat of its day, although during its construction it was lampooned as "Clinton's Ditch". The original canal was only four feet deep and forty-five wide, but it was dug with simple hand tools with the aid of wheelbarrows, horses and wagons. It crossed the entire State from Albany to Buffalo, utilizing such natural waterways as the Mohawk River and Onondaga Lake, but otherwise cutting around ridges, over streams and through dense wilderness.

As the initial survey progressed, excitement prevailed in this area as in others. People speculated that the canal would have an important impact and were eager to take advantages of benefits it would bring. The people at Murray Corners (Clarkson) sought the canal route near their settlement, but plans called for it to cross the Lake Road more than a mile to the south. Through some maneuvering, however, the route was altered and a bend was made to the north so that the canal comes closer to the Ridge Road at this point than anywhere in the State. (It was originally designed along a line where Monroe Avenue now lays).

Having failed to bring the canal to their settlement, these enterprising men from Murray Corners did the next best thing. They purchased all the land adjoining the Lake Road where it crossed the canal route. Hiel Brockway, proprietor of the brick tavern on the southwest corner of the Ridge, bought the various lots owned by John Phelps at varying rates of $12 to $15 per acre. This comprised all the lands on the west side. James Seymour, who with his brother William, operated a general store, purchased the land of Rufus Hammond on the east side at the rate of $7 per acre. Hammond was already estab-
lished in a cabin where Water Street is located and his property extended only to the line of the present Market Street. From there to the Parkes farm (South Avenue), the land belonged to Benjamin Knight, who sold it to a partnership of Seymour, Abel Baldwin and Myron Holley.

The land bordering the road was surveyed into village lots in 1822 and building operations begun by Brockway, Seymour, Joshua Fields, Luke Webster, John G. Davis, and Charles Richardson.

The water channel reached the Lake Road in 1823, two years before it was blasted through the Medina sandstone formations or the locks completed in the west. Immediately, this point became the terminus where all through shipments and passengers embarked or departed. Almost overnight, it became a thriving center. Establishments sprang up like mushrooms, and every conceivable type of merchandise or commercial service was offered or exchanged. The population exploded, hotels were constructed to accommodate travelers, streets were laid out to the north and south of the docks, and homes erected for permanent dwellers.

In 1825 the Grand Canal was formally opened. The procession of boats led by the flagship, Seneca Chief, with Governor Clinton aboard, covered the 362 miles amid wild acclaim. Cannon were spaced along the entire route to relay the signal from Buffalo that the procession had started. Each cannon in turn relayed the signal and the news reached New York in 81 minutes. Just a few years ago a cannon ball was discovered embedded in an old tree trunk and it is believed that it was fired from one of these guns along the towpath on October 26, 1825. It was early next morning when local inhabitants watched the Seneca Chief, drawn by four gray horses, and followed by the Superior, the Perry and the Buffalo, as the Governor cruised along the longest man-made waterway in the world.

Because Brockway had established a thriving "boat and brick yard" and operated a turn-basin along the west docks, it was natural that the designation of "Brockway's Port" came into popular usage. This was typical of other communities along the canal route. Soon the name was shortened to "Brockport".

As the community grew, problems developed beyond the sphere of town officials, and there was a need for village organization. However, it was not until April 6, 1829, that the village charter was granted by the State Legislature. This charter was amended in 1852 to provide an elected board of five trustees. The present village charter was adopted June 25, 1872.

The great Market Street fire in 1877 destroyed all the early records of the village, so it remains for future researchers to uncover from other source material information concerning the names of trustees, enactments, etc.

A centennial celebration was anticipated in 1929 but for some reason it never materialized. Many were disappointed, but no one felt more disturbed than a retired school teacher, Charlotte Elizabeth Martin, whose parents had emigrated here from England in the 1830's. She determined to prepare "The Story of Brockport", a 90 page booklet of reminiscences. Hurriedly written and based mostly on her own recollections, it contains some inaccuracies. However, it remains as the only published work on the history of the village.

A large proportion of the population is concentrated in Brockport and many activities of the Town of Sweden are centered there. But for the purpose of this sesqui-centennial booklet, we are omitting items which pertain only to the village, such as a record of village officials, enactments, and other data. Such information will be described in detail, we are sure, when Brockport celebrates the next milestone in its history.
The Fable Of Brockport's Street Intersections

The tale has been perpetuated that Messrs. Brockway and Seymour were bitter rivals, each controlling the development of his respective side of the Lake Road. Because of this rivalry and peculiar idiosyncrasies, it is claimed that they did not allow their lateral streets to join at Main Street opposite each other. This pure fabrication was amplified in one published version to the extent that "inhabitants on either side refused to speak to fellow inhabitants on the other side". It is implied that this bitterness even led to physical violence.

It is an absurd story without credence - a discredit to the village, and to the reputations of two fine gentlemen who were the co-founders of Brockport. Hiel Brockway and James Seymour were good friends. They co-operated in numerous civic endeavors. There is no evidence that they were ever in business competition.

Seymour moved away from Brockport three years before the village received its charter. Except for Erie and State Streets, which do meet at the Four Corners, no other streets had been developed. Only a little study is required to disclose that most streets evolved from a natural design. Market and Clinton are equi-distant from the canal docks and were the main crossroads. King Street (and later, Union Street) was intended as a service alley. Holley Street avoided a high knoll, Monroe Avenue bordered a drainage ditch, and South Street (expected to be the extremity of the village) skirted the edge of a marsh. College Street led directly to the doors of the Collegiate Institute, which was then on the outskirts.

There is another basis, however, for this fable. It stems from the intense competition in the packet boat trade, not from personal conflicts. Furthermore, Mr. Seymour is not involved.

Brockway's boat business was so successful and traffic was so lucrative that it invited competition. A firm which had no other name than the "Opposition Line" sprang up at the East end of Market Street. Each concern endeavored to capture as much business as possible, and solicitors on the docks often collided in fights over prospective customers. The fact that one concern was located at the East end and the other at the West end of the canal docks may have led to the misinterpretation that villagers were feuding. It certainly had no connection with the layout of future streets.

It is interesting to note that modern traffic engineers recommend that streets be designed in a zig-zag pattern off main thoroughfares as a safety measure. Therefore, if Seymour and Brockway had deliberately planned the pattern, which we are sure was not the case, they were a full century ahead of their time.
The man for whom Brockport is named was born in Clinton, Connecticut on April 16, 1775, the son of Gamaliel and Azubah Brockway. He married Phoebe Merrill (1774-1851) in 1798. All of their children (7 sons and 6 daughters) were born before he arrived here. He was in his forties when he came with his family to Murray Corners (Clarkson) and established a tavern on the southwest corner, where he prospered.

When the Erie Canal survey was completed and construction started, Brockway and others in Clarkson envisioned the potential of property sites along the Lake Road where the "big ditch" intersected. He purchased the title to 450 acres along the west side of the road, while the Seymours and other Clarkson friends purchased all the land on the east side. By the time the canal was opened to the Lake Road, these men had begun extensive building. Brockway built houses for many of his children which were presented as wedding gifts. He also contributed land for the academy, the original west district school, and the first Baptist Church. His principal business was the "Boat and Brick Yards" on Clinton Street at the foot of Utica. He died on August 19, 1842.

The children of Hiel Brockway were: Augustus (1799-1835); Charles M. (1800-1829) who married Mary Ann Cromwell; Elias P. (1802-1836) who married Charlotte Richardson; Alice (1804-1836) who first married Stewart L. Brown and later married Philo Hyde; Edwin (1805-1859) who first married Louisa Cagwin and later married Ann Grinnell; Ira (1807-1830); Mary Ann (1808-1835) who married Col. Frederick Wilkie - for whom Wilkie's Corners was named; Azubah (1810-1881) who married Dr. Davis Carpenter and lived in the brick house on the hill (where the Brockport Diner on Erie Street is now located); Hiel (1813-1842) who married M.E.H. Graves; Marie (1814-1894) who married Elias B. Holmes and lived in the large brick home which stood on the southwest corner of Main and Erie Streets; Nathan Reed (1816-1887); Julia (1818-1841) who married Loring S. Bannister.

While some direct descendents of Hiel Brockway still reside in the Town of Sweden, none bears the family name. Considerable research is required to trace all the genealogical records to establish their identity. There are some who have carried the family name prominently into other sections of the country.
These Frame Houses Were Built By Hiel Brockway

This house was sold by Brockway to the Baldwins, an early family in the village. It was later known as the "Burlingame Place" as the home of the mathematics professor in the old Normal School. Many other prominent families have lived here in succeeding decades.

Mr. Brockway lived in this house on the corner of Erie and Utica Streets. It was left to his daughter, Alice, who willed it to her daughter, Mrs. J. W. Adams. Many other houses were built by Brockway as gifts to his children, but these have vanished.
One of the most colorful figures in local history, James Seymour was the son of Captain Samuel Seymour of Litchfield, Connecticut, a hatter by trade with a distinguished record in the War of Independence. He came west as far as Pompey, New York in 1812 where he was apprenticed to his first cousin, Henry Seymour, father of Horatio Seymour, who later became Governor and in 1858 the Democrat candidate for President.

After completing his clerkship, James arrived at Murray Corners and opened a merchandizing business in dry goods and groceries, as the James Seymour & Co. His brother William joined him and another brother, Charles, arrived soon afterwards. James was elected supervisor of the old Town of Murray.

With the approach of the canal, the Seymours exerted their political influence to alter the route, but they were unsuccessful in bringing the waterway into Clarkson. Thereupon, James purchased 247 acres along the Lake Road on the east side and transferred his business to the new site. He erected his store on the northeast corner of Main and Market Streets. Already involved in politics, James became an ardent proponent of a new County. When it was organized, he became its first sheriff and served on the committee to construct the Monroe County court house and jail. During the two years prior to his moving into Rochester, he was elected supervisor of the Town of Sweden.

He left his local interests in the hands of his brother William and became active in the city, where he helped organize the Bank of Rochester as cashier and later its president. He was identified with the Federal Party, served as alderman in the third ward, and with Col. Nathaniel Rochester helped organize the Rochester Athenaeum (now R.I.T.) serving as its first treasurer.

His brother Charles moved on to Michigan and entered the lumber business. He built a saw-mill at Flushing, Michigan, became the town supervisor and later the county commissioner. He remained a bachelor and lived until 1884 to the age of 92.

The west also beckoned to James, who left Rochester in 1845 to join his brother in Michigan. He too became supervisor and later served in both houses of the state legislature. A former Jeffersonian Democrat, he became one of the organizers of the national Republican Party. The city of Lansing, Michigan, which is the State Capital, was developed on land which was owned by James Seymour.

His wife, who came with him to Clarkson as his bride, was the former Myra Obigal Hill of St. Albans, Vermont, and they had twelve children. After his wife's death, he married a Miss Prica Smith. James Seymour died in Lansing on Dec. 30, 1864 at the age of 73.

The family were staunch Presbyterians and Mr. Seymour himself was an Elder. One of his daughters, Harriett, was a missionary to Eastern Turkey. Another daughter, Emily, married Rev. Chester Solon, an ordained Presbyterian minister. His son and namesake, James, located in Auburn, New York was a banker, and was also an Elder in the Presbyterian church, and his son (Charles P. Seymour) was a Ph. D. from Yale, President of the Empire G. & E. Co., Trustee of both the Seymour Library and City Hospital in Auburn.

The eldest son of James Seymour was named Charles, probably for his bachelor uncle, and he married Miss Jane E. Hastings of Rochester. They remained in Michigan. His sister, Evelyn, married Albert M. Hastings and they resided in this area with three children: Charles Seymour, Henry N., and Helen M., of
whom only Charles became married. Miss Helen Hastings is lovingly remembered for her devotion to Brockport and her work in establishing the museum in the Seymour Library. Charles Seymour Hastings became established in Rochester, was married to Miss Kate Peck, and his descendants survive, but the grand family name of Seymour has vanished from the local scene.

William, brother of the elder James Seymour remained in Brockport after 1826 and lived to the ripe age of 101. He continued the store business until 1844 and then became involved in the foundry and machine business here, retiring in 1877. He owned one of the first automobiles in the community and a photograph of him behind the wheel is on display at the Seymour Library. On the occasion of his 101st birthday, July 15, 1903, he arose at six o'clock, ate a hearty breakfast, played several rounds of croquet, and topped off the festivities by winning several games of whist. He toured England when he was 86 and visited the Exposition in Chicago at 90, spending every day of the week on the exhibit grounds.

Three of his five children reached maturity, The Hon. Henry William Seymour attended the Collegiate Institute, graduated from Williams College in 1855, Albany Law School, and served in the State Legislature and Congress, but not from this district. He was married three times and died in Washington, D.C. A daughter, Helen, married W.B. Sylvester, and they were the last of the old family to reside in the homestead. A son, James Horatio Seymour, died in Los Angeles, California, in 1932. He had inherited the property and bequeathed it to the community with a generous endowment for operation as a public library.

This account of the three Seymour brothers, who were early settlers and helped establish the village, would be incomplete without mentioning the fact that their sister, Clarissa, also came to Brockport. She married Thomas R. Roby, who was a merchant here. They also lived in one of the old mansions on State Street. We recall a spinster daughter who taught Sunday School in the Presbyterian Church, but our research has failed to discover any other descendants.
The Seymour Library at 49 State Street was opened in 1936, but the present library service dates back to December 1919 when a group of interested citizens, called the Brockport Civic Club, arranged a mass meeting in the Masonic Hall to promote a Community Center. Dr. Alfred C. Thompson, then principal of the Brockport Normal School, was chairman, and the Rev. Talbott Rogers, rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and Mr. George Ryan, a member of the Harsch-Crisp-Seaman Post of the American Legion, were main speakers. The Brockport band supplied music for the occasion.

In April of the following year announcement was made that the north store of the Masonic building had been leased through the generosity of E. L. Matthews and others. A committee was designated, consisting of E.L. Matthews, Dwight Cook, Harold G. Dobson, Mrs. Homer Benedict, and Mrs. Perry Smith. A rental library, originally circulated from the Thomas H. Dobson Pharmacy, was donated as the nucleus and Mrs. Alfred Thompson, Mrs. Morton Minot and Miss Flora Willsea were appointed to serve on the book committee. Mrs. Sidney Walker was the first secretary, assisted by Miss Lena Smith. Later Mrs. Edward Steele and Mrs. Wilbur Rayburn began their work at the Center and they continued for many years. Eventually they both became assistants at the Seymour Library.

This was truly a community center! It circulated books from the donated collection, served as an information bureau, housed a bus station and ticket office, and even offered rest rooms for the public. A rear stairway led to the second floor where numerous community meetings were held. After several years, the location was leased by the Federal Government for a U.S. Post Office, and the Center was moved to the old Kingsbury Bank building on the northeast corner of Main and Market Streets. A shortage of funds during the depression years forced another move to a vacant store on State Street in the old Strand Theater Block. This location was less attractive; dark, dingy and narrow. In charge at this time were Miss Blanche Gardner, Mrs. Harold Dobson, Mrs. Homer Benedict, Mr. George Steele and Mr. Harold Richards.

Then something very exciting happened. In 1930 the Village Board learned that Mr. James Seymour, who died in that year, had bequeathed his ancestral home to the village provided it would be maintained as a public library. He also bequeathed a fund of $15,000. Because they were reluctant to assume additional financial responsibilities, the people voted against acceptance. Upon a second referendum, the gift was accepted. In 1936 the Village Board named five trustees to plan for a public library to be chartered by the Education Department of the State of New York; Mrs. James Cusick, president; Mr. Harold Richards, vice-president; Mr. Kendrick J. Smith, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Craig Bramley and Mr. Joseph K. Ryan.

Mrs. Arthur Coller was engaged as first librarian. It was her responsibility to weed the old collection and move about 1400 books to the Seymour home. After considerable work converting the building into a library, the trustees invited the public for the grand opening on June 6, 1936.

The population of Brockport was then 3,506. The library owned 2,337 volumes at the end of its first calendar year and the total circulation was 17,295. Slowly but steadily the statistics followed an upward curve. The figures from the annual report for 1963 shows a total book stock of 14,394 volumes, an all-time high circulation of 54,625 and the population of the area served 12,318.
There have been many changes in personnel. Mrs. Craig Bramley resigned in 1946, and Mrs. Harold Collins was appointed to succeed her. Mrs. Collins served as vice-president until she resigned in 1953. The present Board of Trustees were appointed as follows: Mrs. George W. Bott, president, in 1943; Mrs. Alfred Decker, vice-president, in 1953; Mr. Edgar Benedict, treasurer, in 1941; Mr. Harold Richards, a charter member in 1936; and Mr. George Ryan, secretary, in 1959. Mr. Ryan has been closely allied with the library since its inception. A Village Trustee at the time of its establishment in 1936, and is a brother of Joseph K. Ryan who served so enthusiastically as an original trustee until his death in 1959.

Mrs. Coller resigned for family reasons as librarian in 1945 and was succeeded by Miss Monica Toole who served until 1950 when she was appointed librarian on the Monroe County Bookmobile. Mrs. Coller then was reappointed to her former position.

In 1957, Mr. Harold S. Hacker, Director of the Rochester Public Library and the Monroe County Library System, was invited to suggest plans for expansion. He recommended an addition to accommodate the increased book stock for our growing population. Mayor Louie D. Smith Sr. and Village Trustees Ellery Cooney, Willis Knapp, Norman Rudman, Donald Thomas and the trustees of the Seymour Library endorsed the proposal. On March 20, 1958, Mayor Smith officiated at the dedication of the new room.

Numerous individual book memorials and many sizeable memorial funds have helped considerably to strengthen the book collection. Outstanding among these memorials were funds for Richard Charles Redman, Peter Adrian TerLouw, Ethel Knapp Rayburn, Janet Preston Wheeler, Joseph K. Ryan and Kirke Edward White. The library has been very grateful for the generous bequests of Suzanne Harrison Lee, Marjorie Farwell Herendeen, Gertrude Page and Bonn Willa Acker Brown.
Mr. Brown's will provided that the library receive ten per cent of the annual income from a perpetuating fund. Much of the equipment has been made possible by these bequests and the generous gifts of the Kiwanis and Lions Clubs, the Harsch-Crisp-Seaman Post of the American Legion, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Catholic Daughters of America and the Quaker Maid Company.

An outstanding development for our library was its charter membership in the Monroe County Library System in 1952. By January 1961 the area of library service was extended when the Seymour Library became a member of the Pioneer Library System, a five county program, including Wayne, Livingston, Wyoming and Ontario Counties. This made available to the people of the area all of the 73 library units in the five counties, including the Rochester Public Library, and a grand total of 1,391,870 volumes. Outstanding services which have evolved are: centralized book ordering and processing; book review meetings; regular delivery service three times a week bringing inter-library loans, new books, and local library books returned at other units; rotating collections of books and records; artistic posters for displays; and helpful programs for town librarians. The Seymour Library celebrated its 25th anniversary on June 7, 1961 with a community open house.

The year 1963-64 has been another milestone in the calendar of progress. In the winter of 1963 the library offered a pre-school story hour. Mrs. David Meyer volunteered her services once a week for this program. For the first time the towns of Sweden, Clarkson and Hamlin contributed to the Seymour Library fund and these contributions will be used for special projects. This summer Mrs. Frank Warner, a professional librarian, conducted a story hour for the vacation club. The children from Hamlin, Sweden and Clarkson were invited to attend these weekly programs.

On the present staff, working with the librarian, are two assistants, Mrs. Robert Winne and Mrs. Bernard Drake; two high school seniors, Karen Jannain and Sheila Gallup as library pages and Mr. Ralph Peake, in charge of maintenance.

MARKET and MAIN STREETS
(at turn of century - looking East from Main Street)
THE BROCKPORT MUSEUM

The Brockport Museum occupies the two upper floors of the Seymour Library on State Street. In 1945 Miss Helen Hastings, niece of William H. Seymour, asked permission to use two rooms where a collection of prized items of local interest might be displayed.

It was her inspiration and labor which were responsible for the Museum which we have today. She received assistance from our Village Historian, Mrs. Harold Dobson, Mrs. Mary E. Locke, and many others. A few years ago the Village Board created a committee to maintain the Museum, which has been increased to many rooms, each one depicting a different phase of the community's history.

The Museum is open to the public only two afternoons and evenings a week during the summer months, but more than a thousand guests visit annually to browse and view the many articles on display. Various school classes schedule conducted tours as a part of their local history projects.

Members of the present Museum Committee, all of whom volunteer their services are:

- Mrs. Willis Knapp, Chairman
- Mrs. Harold Dobson
- Mr. A. B. Elwell
- Mr. Merritt Elwell
- Mrs. Wm. R. Lorback
- Mrs. Frank Unger
- Mr. Fletcher Garlock
- Mr. W. Kenneth Hovey

The committee is aided by Mrs. David Meyer, a former committee member; Mrs. J. H. Engel, Mrs. Blaine Delancey and Miss L. May Clark.
Until recently, this landmark stood on Colby Street in East Sweden. It was begun just prior to the Civil War but never entirely completed. The Hunts exhausted a fortune of $40,000 in expensive materials—solid black walnut in the woodwork and casings, heavy plate glass in the front windows, a spiral stairway to the cupola, springing floor in the second floor dance room. It must have been their intention to maintain a show place, where gala parties would be held, but alas! The funds were soon gone and the edifice remained as a stark example of a bankrupt dream.

Mr. Hunt passed on and his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Tripp Hunt remained with her daughter, Emma, who was nicknamed "Calico Jack" because she drove into town with a cream-colored horse with a white mane and tail. She often wore a seal skin sack over her shoulders, hence the appellation "Calico Jack and her seal skin sack". She was noted for her many idiosyncrasies.

The Castle was sold at a sheriff's auction and the property purchased by a Rochester speculator. It was later acquired by the Allen Arnold family. In 1956 the site and surrounding land were purchased by William Brown, President of Dynacolor Corporation, who demolished the old castle and erected a modern home nearby. All this property is included in the proposed Salmon Creek Park and it is anticipated that this residence will become the home of the Park Superintendent.
At the start the Town of Sweden had no community property - even the highways were deemed to be privately owned to the center line. This concept soon changed, as the Town Board asserted its authority. We read in the minutes of 1834 that fences were ordered removed from some thirty places along the Lake Road because they encroached upon the specified four-rod width.

As new roads were planned - it is not clear whether they were donated, or purchased - the Highway Commissioner became a most important official. By the turn of the century he was known as Superintendent of Highways and by 1909 he received the handsome salary of three dollars per day which included expenses.

It is amazing how little money was needed for road building and maintenance until the advent of new surface materials. A report for 1860 shows that a total of $66.56 was expended. Thirty years later, a stone crusher was purchased and the Town went into the business of rebuilding all its roads with a hard foundation. (A new model was purchased in 1895 costing $1,000). Most of the stone came from fields and some from fences, which farmers were glad to be rid of. In the year 1891, seven miles of crushed stone road were installed for a total cost of $1,431; also eleven bridges were repaired and two new ones built for an additional $180. Sweden became one of the first towns to construct surfaced roads and we were the envy of neighboring communities. The village of Brockport has also established an enviable record of surfaced streets.

Outside of the village, the Town of Sweden has 52.72 miles of roads. More than half of these are included in County or State systems, but our town contracts for the snow and ice removal for all the roads during the winter months. During the summer, our town crews also handle repairs, mowing, brush clearance, etc. for County roads as well as the Town roads within the boundaries of the Town of Sweden. The village maintains its own department. In 1960, Owens Road was constructed entirely by the town, although it borders the village. A special referendum was required to deed this strip of land to the Town of Sweden, so that the highway could be built.

THREE-WHEEL STEAM ROLLER
Picture taken about forty years ago along the Lake Road when it was first repaved.

Our taxpayers will be interested to know that we own the following equipment: five dump trucks, 1 general truck, 1 grader, 1 loader, 1 power shovel. Four of the trucks are equipped with plows and wings, the grader is also equipped; two trucks are equipped with sanders. The town maintains two tank trucks for emergencies. One is kept at the Village Building during the summer months, and responds to calls in rural areas when dispatched by the Brockport Fire Department.
At a Special Election held on December 16, 1958, voters approved resolutions authorizing the sale of the old Town Garage property on State Street in the Village of Brockport to the General Electric Company at a price of $10,000; purchase of a parcel of land adjacent to town-owned lands on the White Road; and to the issuance of serial bonds to finance a new Town Garage Building.

Brockport Architect Edwin M. Read designed the new Garage building which was built by Werner Spitz Co., and was shown to the public at an Open House party on October 21, 1960. The Garage is large enough to house the town trucks and equipment under cover. It has a tool room and a paint storage room. The highway superintendent's office is in the front of the building, and behind it a meeting room which will accommodate 80-100 people. This room is also used as a polling place for Election District #4.

Final payment on the building's indebtedness was made on February 1, 1964. The Town Board has recently approved of developing land at the rear of this building for a neighborhood playground. It is expected that a baseball diamond will be available next season, and also slides, swings and other equipment.
Gillette Map of The Town of Sweden - 1858

Designating Names of Individual Owners of Rural Property
The first census taken by Electors of the Town of Sweden, Genesee County, was recorded November 25, 1814, and totaled 819 souls. There were 149 heads of families. Males outnumbered females in the younger age brackets but there was an equal number (22) of men and women, age of forty-five and upward. Only five men "possessed a freehold of the value of one hundred pounds" which appears to have been a requisite for public office. The annual income of all others ranged from forty shillings to twenty pounds. There were no slaves, only one "other free person" and apparently one pauper.

The Federal Census in 1820 enumerated a total of 2,761 persons for the town, which still included all of the present town of Clarendon, Genesee County. A great increase in population occurred during the next decade with the construction of the Erie Canal and the founding of the Village. Clarendon was excluded from the 1930 census figures.

The development of farming in rural areas and the introduction of industrial and commercial establishments within the village account for a steady increase in population for the next fifty years. But it required more than two decades to recover from the loss of the Johnston Harvester works, destroyed by fire in 1882. The next twenty years witnessed an exodus to urban areas, where industrial wages were more attractive. This trend has reversed since the 1920's. Both the Town of Sweden and the Village of Brockport have shown an accelerated increase.

Projection studies indicate that by 1970 our population will exceed 10,000 and by 1980, it is predicted at more than 15,000 - nearly double what it is today. Attendance at the State University accounts for part of the present growth, as most of the faculty and many students are included.

### CENSUS TABLE

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(Brockport 2,817) (includes Clarendon)
(Brockport 4,039) (includes Clarendon)
(Brockport 3,742)
(Brockport 3,398)
(Brockport 3,579)
(Brockport 2,980)
(Brockport 3,511)
(Brockport 3,590)
(Brockport 4,748)
(Brockport 5,256)
(April 1st, unofficial)
Religious worship has had a vital impact on our people since the days of our earliest pioneers, who came here from New England stock and were predominantly Congregationalists. There were also families of Methodist and Baptist training. It would be expected that our first churches were of these denominations, and that Sweden Center was the site of the first edifice. Until meeting houses could be established, religious education and worship were a family concern.

A council convened at Sweden Center on September 5th, 1817, to organize a church congregation with sixteen members which more than doubled within the first year. A building was constructed of wood in 1821, was replaced in 1836 by a brick edifice of colonial design, which became a landmark for nearly a century.

Originally a congregational society, this church became affiliated with the Presbytery in Rochester on June 23, 1833. Silas Judson had been chosen as the first delegate to the Ontario Presbytery in 1819, which indicates early Presbyterian leanings.

Some of the records of this old church, its various organizations including its Sabbath School, library, Ladies' Aid Society, etc., as well as the program of its centennial observance, have been uncovered recently. They include names of many of Sweden's prominent families, and will undoubtedly be examined thoroughly by future historians.

During the depression, the congregation dwindled and it appeared no longer feasible to maintain the church as a separate congregation. The members transferred to the Presbyterian Church in Brockport, and the building was promptly torn down as an economy measure. The empty lot at Sweden Center with its old maple trees stands as mute evidence of another era.
BAPTIST CHURCH, EAST SWEDEN

This congregation, organized May 6, 1819, with 29 original members, was known as the "Second Baptist Church in Sweden". (An earlier church of this denomination may have been formed in Clarendon, which was then a part of the Town of Sweden). First pastor was Elder Vining, who began his duties on June 26, 1819 at an annual stipend of $70.

The church building was erected in 1835 and was dedicated on Sept. 14, 1836. It flourished for about two decades but ceased to function about 1854, when the building began to disintegrate. A Mr. M. Cooley was the last clerk, and perhaps one or more of our old-time families have records of this congregation.

OLD BAPTIST CHURCH - EAST SWEDEN

BAPTIST CHURCH - WEST SWEDEN

The sixth organized church congregation in the Town of Sweden was formed on January 7, 1835 with delegates from Sweden Center, Brockport and five other neighboring communities. The first services were held in the schoolhouse, but the church building was started and completed within the year.

This church flourished for nearly twenty-five years and had six ministers, one of whom, Martin Coleman, occupied the pulpit for twelve years. Many members were drawn from North Bergen and the church was known as the Baptist Church of Sweden and Bergen.

Horatio Reed was one of the first members. He was the first clerk and was also clerk when the church dissolved. Two hundred and fifty-eight persons were members of this congregation at West Sweden.
Within the village of Brockport, the Methodists were the first to erect their own church building, although the congregation known as the Methodist Episcopal Church of Brockport was not organized until December 10, 1827. Circuit Riders previously conducted services in private homes, later in hotels or schoolhouses. This first church was located on the north side of Market Street, was constructed of brick with a steeple containing a bell which called people to worship and was also used as the alarm in case of fire. It was dedicated in January 1829.

By the early 1870's the congregation had grown to such an extend that a new and larger building was needed. Property was acquired at the corner of Main and Erie Streets and a campaign initiated for funds. The old building was sold in 1875 and two years later it burned in the Market Street fire which started in the belfry of the deserted church.

While the new building was under construction, the congregation held worship services in the old Free Will Baptist Church on King Street. The cornerstone of the present church was laid on August 8, 1876 and the edifice dedicated on December 12, 1877. Since that date, there have been various programs of renovation and modernization of facilities but the structure has remained essentially the same. The town clock was installed in the steeple in 1914 by the Monroe Chapter, D. A. R. with the approval of the church trustees.

Sixty-one men have served this church as minister during its 137 years. Rev. Idelbert B. Miller enjoyed the longest service from 1920 through 1927. Since the merger of three denominations in 1939, the Methodists are united under the name of the Methodist Church.
This congregation began as an organized society, August 16, 1827, in the old brick schoolhouse on the corner of Erie and Perry Streets, which was then the usual place of Sunday worship. Six trustees were elected, but it was not until March 19, 1828, that the society was formalized into the First Congregational Church with ordained ministers. The church remained congregational in its organization as late as 1834, but since 1865 has been affiliated with the Rochester Presbytery.

The first building was erected in 1830-31 on land donated by William H. Seymour. It was torn down and a new building erected in 1852, which remains today with only slight modification. The church auditorium accommodated the largest number of any meeting room in the village and therefore was in demand for civic assemblies, especially during the Civil War. The vestibule was built in 1901 and the expansion of classrooms began in 1947. An entire new wing has been added in the last decade and was dedicated as "Hays Hall" to the memory of Rev. Paul A. Hays, late pastor of the church. The Manse, which adjoins the church property on the west, is an old Brockport landmark built in 1823. It was acquired in 1904.

While it is the oldest of Brockport churches, this congregation has had only seventeen ministers. Rev. Emery D. Webster served the longest as pastor from 1918 until 1945, after which he was named "Pastor Emeritus".
The First Baptist Church was organized April 28, 1828 in an old schoolhouse which stood at the present site. Legend has it that an old cemetery was once on this location as traces were found in subsequent excavations, when the high knoll was reduced.

In 1830 the schoolhouse was removed and a church 45 by 60 feet was constructed. This building was replaced during the Civil War years of 1863-64. Much of the existing structure is part of that second building.

In 1839 the church was dissolved and a group called the "Baptist Conference" was immediately formed. In 1841 the "Second Baptist Church" was organized, taking over the building. In 1857 many members were "dismissed" to form a church in Hamlin, and once again the church became the "First Baptist Church". Much credit is given to Deacon Israel Starks in the re-organization of the church in 1841.

During the construction of the second building (1863-64), the congregation met at the Free-Will Baptist Church of Brockport. The new edifice was 45 by 107 feet. While the original structure was built at a cost of $3,000.00 this second one cost $10,000.00.

In 1929, during the pastorate of the late Henry Stevens, the church was completely remodeled with additions. The same architect was engaged who designed the Lake Avenue Baptist Church in Rochester, and anyone familiar with that church will note a resemblance.

Shannon Hall was given in memory of the Hon. Richard Shannon, Civil War Major, and South American envoy and Kniffen Parlor was named in honor of the Kniffen family. Over the years, these facilities in the parish building have been in great demand by civic organizations for special occasions to the benefit and enrichment of the entire community.

BAPTIST CHURCH, BROCKPORT

(original line drawing)
ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - Brockport

Members of the Anglican and Episcopal faiths met together in various homes until September 17, 1838, when the male members gathered to approve articles of incorporation of St. Luke's Parish. The date of organization is recorded as September 20, 1838. The certificate was signed by Elias B. Holmes, Jerome Fuller and Samuel J. Davis, all prominent citizens.

Worship services were held in different village halls for several years and later the Free Will Baptist building was leased until the construction of a permanent edifice.

The present church was completed in 1855 and is one of the most beautiful buildings in the area. Built of Medina sandstone, it measures forty-two by seventy-two feet with a seventy-foot spire. Little architectural change has been made, although in 1873 the gallery and organ loft were moved from the rear to the front of the sanctuary and the chancel enlarged.

In 1903 the parish house was erected through the generosity of Jane E. Cary and Martha Shannon. It was first known as the Cary Memorial Building and through the years served the entire community for entertainments, dance classes, musicals, dinners, youth groups, and health clinics. As the parish has grown the facilities of the parish house have become restricted to church activities and the basement gymnasium converted into class rooms.

The Rectory is adjacent to the church on Main Street.
The first Roman Catholic Mass in the Town of Sweden was said by Rev. Bernard O'Reilly at the home of William Skidmore at Sweden Center, on which occasion Mr. Skidmore was baptized into the Catholic Faith. He became a member of the first mission committee with Capar Walter and James O'Neil.

In 1848, the first Mass was celebrated in Brockport by Rev. William O'Reilly in the old village hall on Main Street. Father O'Reilly was pastor of several villages, and therefore could schedule visits here only on occasion.

The lot on the corner of Erie and Utica Streets was purchased in 1851 and foundation laid for a parish church under the direction of Rev. Michael Walsh, who lived in Scottsville and had charge of Brockport, coming here once a month to celebrate Mass. Later in that year, he was assigned the Brockport parish, including Bergen, Holley and Spencerport.

In the pastorate of Rev. Edward McGowan, the church was completed and consecrated by Most Rev. John Timon, Bishop of Buffalo, who also consecrated the first parish cemetery near East Avenue.

On October 8, 1863, the Rev. Richard J. Story arrived from Hornellsville to assume a temporary pastorate, but it was destined to be a tenure of fifty-one years. The church was enlarged in 1870 and school and convent opened within another five years. Father Story passed away Dec. 12, 1914, and the new parochial school built the following year was named in his memory.

Rev. Michael J. Krieg, then pastor at Ontario, was appointed to the Brockport parish September 30, 1917, and like his predecessor, was destined for a long tenure. Upon the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination, June 8, 1952, he was elevated to domestic prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor. Monsignor Krieg endeared himself to the entire community and participated in many activities outside his pulpit for civic betterment. He resigned his pastorate on June 20, 1954, and was immediately succeeded by Rev. Dr. Edward J. Lintz, who has already completed a full decade in Brockport.

The site of the present church was acquired in 1915 from Dr. John L. Hazen, and the residence was used for many years as the rectory. On November 14, 1926, the cornerstone of the new church was laid, and first Mass was on July 10, 1927.

The building exemplifies the English Gothic style of architecture and is constructed of cream colored Ohio sandstone. The original bell from the old church is installed in the tower and still summons the parish faithful to worship. A cloister connects the church with the rectory, constructed of the same material and located southwest of the church.

With the completion of new facilities, the old school and convent were torn down and the grounds converted to a play area for parochial students. The Sisters moved to a new convent just west of the rectory on Monroe Avenue, and in 1956 they moved one door west at 24 Monroe Avenue. A parking lot was installed on the former site.

The old church on Erie Street was converted into a parish hall in 1938 with funds from a bequest of Miss Anna Bolger and the hall is named in her memory. It has been used extensively for both public and private functions. A new addition to the school was opened in 1956, including six new rooms, a library, cafeteria, kitchen and meeting room. This building connects
the school on Holley Street with Bolger Hall on Erie Street and the hall is now used as a school gymnasium as well as for other activities.

In 1961, a Catechetical Center for public high school students was purchased at 26 Allen Street, adjoining the Brockport Central School. In 1963 a parcel of sixty acres was purchased on the Lawton Road in Clarkson as the site of a future school to serve parochial students in the Hamlin-Clarkson area.

CONVENT AND FIRST PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

This old home on the corner of Utica and Erie Streets was formerly owned by M. M. Sadler. It was purchased by Father Story in September 1873 for a school and convent. The school addition was constructed in 1874-75 and the school opened January 10, 1876 under the supervision of three Sisters of St. Joseph. These buildings were demolished about 1928 and the property has since been used as a playground.
FREE WILL BAPTIST - BROCKPORT
At present - THE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

No building in this town has served more religious sects, with the possible exception of one or another of our early schoolhouses. The Free Will Baptists were organized on May 8, 1844 by a council of ministers and delegates convened for that purpose from some ten neighboring communities. The exact location of this convention is not recorded but services continued there until a building was consecrated on February 13, 1845. Title to the property was held by the Free Will Baptist Mission of New York State.

The church disbanded in 1851 and the building was leased to St. Luke's Parish where Episcopal services were held regularly until their building was completed about 1854.

A reorganization of the Free Will Baptists was effected under the direction of a council of ministers that year but continued only until October 6, 1858, when it was finally dissolved. The Baptists rented the building in 1863-1864, and the Methodists in 1875-1877, while their respective new churches were under construction.

From 1911 to 1938 the Brockport Grange owned the building and held their meetings and activities there for almost three decades. To many old-timers, it is still referred to as the old "Grange Hall".

The Brockport Assembly of God was established here on June 19, 1940 and the congregation grew steadily. In August of 1942, a corporate body was organized and the building at 32 King Street was purchased. Accommodations already are outgrown and the church plans to build a new edifice on the Brockport-Spencerport Highway, where a spacious lot has been obtained.

The local church currently publishes a paper, the "Full Gospel Herald" with a circulation of three hundred. Also of interest to our residents is the camp conducted by the Assemblies of God at Troutburg, on Lake Ontario which was the summer vacation scene for generations of families for miles around.
Methodist Episcopal Church & Free Methodist Church
West Sweden

These two congregations used the same building, one having succeeded the other. The Methodist Episcopal congregation was formed in 1835 through the efforts of Rev. S. M. Chace of Brockport, and the building was erected in 1836. It flourished for about twenty years, but replaced ministers often. Some dissension in religious belief and church discipline apparently led to the dissolution of the society in 1855.

Some of those who seceded, perfected a Free Methodist congregation and the property was transferred to the new organization in 1860. The minister from the similar society in Brockport officiated at worship services. He preached in West Sweden in the morning and in Brockport on the afternoon of the same day.

Like the Baptist Church of West Sweden, this church also has been demolished long since. Together, they were referred to as "The Twin Churches". With the convenience of modern transportation, communicants now travel easily to other centers for their religious worship and become affiliated with congregations of their faith at considerable distance from home.

JEHOVAH WITNESSES

In 1953 a congregation of this denomination was formed with twenty-three members, who met in private homes. A small church was erected in 1954 on land provided by Ross I. Gilman on the Brockport Spencerport Road, where services continued until 1964.

Within the past few weeks, the building was demolished. The congregation has joined with other groups in the area and conducts services in a new church located on the Roosevelt Highway in Hamlin.
The Free Methodist movement resulted from a division within the older Methodist Episcopal Church. The issue centered on Bishopric rule and doctrinal matters. The new group opposed the custom of pew rentals as a source of revenue, and thereupon received the designation "free".

It is believed that the local group was organized about 1858, although the records of the church indicate that the first appointed minister here was Rev. M. N. Downing who came in 1862. The congregation had no building during its first fifteen years but in 1875 it rented the upper floor of the former Methodist Church on Market Street which had been sold by the parent body. That building was leveled by fire in 1877, and presumably most of the original records were destroyed. It is interesting to note that the founder of the Free Methodist Church, Rev. Benjamin T. Roberts, had served as the minister of the local Methodist congregation for two years (1853-1855).

The white frame building on Perry Street was erected following the Market Street fire and served as the church home for eighty-five years. Several times during its history the church struggled to survive, but a faithful few made necessary sacrifices to maintain its ministry. Personnel from Roberts Wesleyan College in North Chili have served at various times when the church was unable to support a pastor.

In 1960, a three acre plot was purchased on the Fourth Section Road south of the village and the beautiful new church and parsonage are now located on this site. Construction began in the fall of 1961 and much of the work was done by men of the church and donated help from the community. Rev. Carson E. Reber, Superintendent of the Genesee Conference assisted Rev. Layman E. Fletcher, the minister, during construction. The building was dedicated in November, 1962, and is the newest church edifice in the Town of Sweden.

The former church on Perry Street is now maintained as a religious center for students at the university and is supervised by the Methodist Church.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Sweden Center was formed by a group of Methodists who had met regularly in the schoolhouse for several years. In 1855 they organized a congregation and immediately began the construction of an attractive edifice just north of the school. The church was dedicated on March 8, 1856. The Sabbath School began with fifteen teachers and forty-five pupils.

(Note - the editors of this booklet have failed to obtain further data. We recall, however, that this church building was completely destroyed by fire during the first decade of this century. The church had been disbanded, the pews with the red plush cushions had been removed to the basement, and the auditorium was used for basketball games. The disastrous fire also leveled the parsonage next door).
CONCORDIA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - BROCKPORT

On May 30, 1886, thirty-five men gathered with Pastor C.N. Conrad of Rochester for the purpose of forming a congregation, which evolved as the "First German Evangelical Lutheran Concordia".

That first meeting and later services were held in the Ward Opera House until the present edifice was built in 1887 on Spring Street.

The cornerstone-laying services on June 26, 1887, brought a near disaster. The flooring, which had been built atop the 10 foot cobblestone basement wall suddenly gave way, plunging about 125 persons and the organ into the bottom of the cellar. Many were injured, none fatally.

The Church cost approximately $7500.00; a debt of $4500 lay upon the congregation. Parts of the congregation broke away, leaving only 35 families to carry on. But those loyal ones were faithful workers, and as new and active members were added, the debt was finally liquidated. All the minutes until 1918 were written in German.

In 1925 the parsonage was purchased across Spring Street from the Church. An extensive remodeling program in 1942, included lowering of the roof and removal of the spire. In years of World War II, nine men and three women from Concordia were in the armed services. Pfc. Charles E. Paeth was killed while in service.

In 1945, the stained glass windows were dedicated, and in 1961, the 75th Anniversary was observed. In 1960, the congregation purchased six acres of land on the Fourth Section Road, south of Brockport. A new building is contemplated although detailed plans are still to be developed. The Ladies' Aid Society is the church's oldest organization. There is also an active teen-age Walther League.

The present congregation comprises three hundred and fifteen persons. Pastor Paul Voigt has served the church since 1943 - a span of twenty-one years.

EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION - BROCKPORT

The exact date of the first Lutheran Church has not been determined but it was apparently sometime in the 1860's. The church was located on Monroe Avenue, directly opposite the Collegiate Institute. By 1871, the congregation embraced only six members under the charge of John G. Riezinger, Pastor. The group was known as the Evangelical Reformed Lutheran Church of Brockport.

The old building was deeded to the Evangelical Association of Brockport in 1871, was enlarged to a considerable extent, and formally dedicated on September 26, 1871. By 1877, the Sabbath-School had fifty pupils and seven teachers.

Presumably, this association dissolved a few years later and many of its members became affiliated with Concordia Lutheran. The building was later converted into a private residence and still remains as such.
OUR DISTRICT SCHOOLS

The town of Sweden established common schools at the very start of settlement. Little or no formal records remain to tell the story of these district schools in the township. In the most literal sense they were neighborhood schools, both in function and in organization. The residents of each district met in an annual meeting at which they elected a trustee who functioned as a kind of non-professional Superintendent of Schools since he usually hired the teacher and determined the tax rate. The system approximated a direct democracy with both the strengths and weaknesses of such a form of government.

The annual school meeting brought out all the neighbors especially if some grievance seemed likely to precipitate a quarrel to be settled by a vote of those present and qualified to vote. At stake was usually the tenure of the trustee or the teacher or, more likely both. So this bucolic Athenian democracy provided both direction for public business and recreation for the citizen. Nor was education unduly expensive. Fifty years ago a good farm of 200 acres often paid a tax as low as $30 a year. That teachers’ pay was also low, naturally follows.

The preparation and ability of the district school teacher was subject to great variation. Many gifted educators began important careers in these schools and of course there were incompetents who learned that their talents lay elsewhere. It would be safe to assume that the teaching was adequate in general, considering the expectations of the small community. At its best the district school gave its pupils a sense of belonging to a families community, of being among friends. Competition existed but it was essentially between peers since farm life tended to minimize material distinctions among the pupils.

In the year of its organization Sweden possessed ten school districts, but at the same time it included the present town of Clarendon. By 1860 there were thirteen districts in the present township including at least three within the Village of Brockport. The total enrollment was 1293 in a township which numbered 523 families. This enrollment was exceeded within the county only by Rochester and the Town of Greece. At the turn of the century there were nine districts outside the village. The schools were arranged in three rows along north to south roads crossing the township. Three were on the West Sweden Road as follows: District 8 at Fourth Section Road, District 3 at White Road, District 7 at LaDue Road. The last of these was the West Sweden school and along with two churches comprised a typical rural hamlet of former times.

Through the center of the Town four schools were located on the Lake Road. The first was at the Route 31 intersection and was one of the first to be eliminated by consolidation. Then came District 2 with its brick building at Sweden Center, and District 1 at LaDue Road near "Comstock Corners".

On the eastern side of the town District 6, called the "Rising Sun" school still stands at the intersection of Route 31 and the Sweden-Walker Road. District 5 was near the junction of Salmon Creek Road and Colby Street. District 4 was at Root Road and Covell Road and was nicknamed the "Padlock School" because of an imposing piece of defensive hardware affixed to its portal in an effort to discourage the pranksters of a supposedly more virtuous era.

Within Brockport there were three elementary public schools plus the School of the Nativity. In addition the practice school of the Normal enjoyed a consid-
erable patronage. When the Brockport Central School was organized a little over thirty years ago the consolidation of the various elementary schools was begun. In 1939 four district schools were still operating: Rising Sun, Root Road, Sweden Center and West Sweden.

Now all the old District Schools have ceased to exist. The buildings either have vanished or found new identity. Black-top covers the clay tracks along which an earlier generation kicked a pebble all the way to school. Along the black-top roll the yellow juggernauts of the Centralized District bearing within them yet another generation of the Town's ever renewing youth and dreams.

TYPICAL DISTRICT SCHOOLS OF YESTERDAY

Sweden Center

District No. 7 West Sweden

Lake and LaDue Roads
Enrollment In District Schools Declined Before Centralization

Group photo (1907) at the Salmon Creek School House shows teacher and ten enrolled students.

The same schoolhouse twenty years later with only five students.

After it was discontinued, the building was converted into a residence. It was destroyed by fire in 1958.

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL BEFORE LANDSCAPING - 1934
This was the center of grade school education for nearly fifty years, as the various district schools were dissolved throughout the Town of Sweden. It was built as a village school, consolidating three districts, and was absorbed after centralization. It was demolished during the 1950's and the site on the corner of Holley and Utica Streets is used as a playground.

ELIZABETH S. BARCLAY

Mrs. Barclay was principal of the Grammar School from 1904 until her retirement in 1934, one of the longest tenures of any teacher or administrator in the Town of Sweden. The first elementary school on the Centralized School complex was appropriately dedicated to her memory.
Easily the most important educational development in the Town of Sweden has been the evolution of the present State University College. By the early 1830's the increasing social and economic opportunity awakened many Americans to the desirability of education beyond the level of mere literacy. Academies appeared all over the settled areas; each representing the hopes and dreams of its community, reflecting belief in future growth and accomplishment.

Brockport hoped to become the seat of a college which the Baptists of western New York planned to establish. A brisk competition sprang up between LeRoy, Warsaw, and Brockport for this establishment. Early in 1833 Brockport won, thanks to the gift of six acres of land near the center of the village and of $3,000 from Hiel Brockway for whom the village had been named. In 1834 a building was begun and two years later a Collegiate School was opened, Professor Morse presiding. A heavy debt and the Panic of 1837 caused this enterprise to collapse in a series of bankruptcy sales. The building, still not completed, became the haunt of "bats and owls".

In 1841 citizens of the township met to raise $3800 to purchase the building from the latest foreclosers and offered to turn it over once more to the Baptists as a Collegiate Institute. To raise this sum, shares were sold at $25 each, and in 1842 the Regents chartered the Brockport Collegiate Institute. Julius Bates, formerly of Gaines Academy, was hired as Principal at a salary of $800 and his faculty numbered ten. For twelve years the Institute prospered and its fame spread, but in April of 1854 the building was destroyed by fire and the school was forced to suspend operations.

Phoenix-like, the Institute sprang from its ashes by December, 1855. It now carried a heavy debt of $10,000 held by another Baptist institution, the University of Rochester, and upon which burdensome payments had to be made. The new Principal, David Burbank, loaned it $2,000 on condition that he might hold his position for ten years, surely a remarkable method both of finance and tenure. President Anderson of the University dedicated the reconstructed Institute in December, 1856. Once more its success was educational rather than financial. The onset of the Civil War dried up its source of students and even its interest payments became too great a burden. Several changes of command left Professor Malcolm MacVicar in charge. Hopeless as a private venture, the institution was saved by the State's entry into the teacher training field after 1865.

In March of 1867 the State agreed to establish a Normal School here provided the buildings and grounds of the former Collegiate Institute were given to the State. Let no one imagine that a considerable amount of lobbying at Albany was not required to produce such a result. This time $50,000 was raised in the community to buy and expand the building and the stipulation was made that the Normal was to maintain an "academic" department which would provide the equivalent of a local high school. On April 17, 1867 the Brockport State Normal School was opened with Malcolm MacVicar as Principal. Teacher training, which had been carried on for a few years since 1842, now became the chief activity.

The Normal School provided the community with an excellent opportunity for improving the lives of its young people.
For many it was only the first step in higher education and they went on to earn the various degrees which indicate one’s academic preparedness for a career. At the very least, the graduates were able to teach in elementary schools and so perform a useful, if not always a lucrative, service.

At first the Normal building housed most of the students but soon they began to room in homes throughout Brockport. The term "basket-boarder" was used to describe the manner in which some managed the food problem. It seems that country boys and girls returned from home at the start of each week equipped with a large basket stocked with enough foodstuffs to last the student until he returned home on the following Friday evening. The going may have gotten a bit tough by Thursday, but evidence indicates that they survived. The railroad enabled students from a considerable distance to come to school at Brockport and when the trolley line was built early in the twentieth century, commuting to school became possible. Under Principals MacLean, Smith, MacFarlane, and Thompson the Normal achieved a pleasant balance with the community. The buildings were expanded and all students in the township who went beyond elementary school attended the academic department. Greek letter societies flourished among the Normal students, each with its own room in the building.

The old order began to change when the Brockport Central School was organized in the early 1930’s. Under the presidency of Dr. Ernest Hartwell the State replaced the old buildings with the present State Teachers College. In 1949 the College became a unit of the new State University of New York. Its enrollment expanded rapidly after 1945 and its students were drawn from the entire state. At present while teacher training remains its chief mission, it is about to become a Liberal Arts College as well. Its campus has expanded tremendously and its future as an important part of the State University system is assured.

THE FIRST COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE 1830-1854

(Destroyed by Fire - 1854)
THE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE
(1855 - 1866)

BROCKPORT STATE NORMAL SCHOOL
(1867 - 1888)
BROCKPORT STATE NORMAL SCHOOL
(1889 - 1900)

PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE NORMAL SCHOOL BEFORE IT WAS RAZED IN THE LATE 1930'S
WAR RECORDS

Whenever our country has called, citizens of Brockport and the Town of Sweden have rallied to the colors. Our men have served in every major conflict in this nation's history.

A number of pioneer settlers were in Washington's continental army of the American Revolution. Their names are memorialized on a bronze plaque, presented to the community on June 25, 1914 by Monroe Chapter, D.A.R. High overhead on the Methodist Church steeple, the "Town Clock" was dedicated on that same occasion. It has struck the hours with few interruptions for more than half a century as a reminder of the valor of our military heroes.

The War of 1812 came close to home. The British and Canadians were repulsed along the Niagara frontier by corps of local riflemen, recruited through militia drafts and volunteers. (There were few regular army units). It is doubtful that records were kept of those who served. With few exceptions, every able-bodied man was a minute-man at one time or another, some going with Captain Stewart's company to Niagara while others guarded the shore of Lake Ontario.

It is understood also that several local men served in the Mexican War, but again our records are incomplete. Time limitations prevent an exhaustive search to determine their names and the extent of their participation.

The tragic Civil War erupted in 1861 and the response to President Lincoln's call for volunteers was spontaneous. The local community recruited a full company composed of men from Sweden, Clarkson and Hamlin, which became Co. K, 13th N.Y. Infantry. Horace J. Thomas, an attorney, was chosen Captain. The unit trained at the old Fair Grounds and was mustered at Elmira. These men were among the first to see action against the Rebels in Virginia.

The next company organized here was Captain George H. Barry's Co. H of the 8th N.Y. Infantry, followed by Captain Eugene Fuller's Co. C, 108th Regiment N.Y. Infantry; Captain Milo Stark's Co. H, 140th Regiment N.Y. Infantry; Captain Nathan P. Pond's Co. M, 3rd N.Y. Cavalry, Captain Frank Edwards' Co. C, 22nd N.Y. Cavalry; Lieut. Joslyn's unit in the 21st N.Y. Cavalry; Captain Abram Moore's Co. F, and Captain Thomas Purcell's Co. I, both of the 105th N.Y. Infantry. Individuals enlisted or were drafted into many other units. Dr. William B. Mann, who later became our esteemed community doctor, served with distinction as a Naval Surgeon.

In addition to many rallies and war drives, the town held several special meetings. On August 17, 1863, a resolution was passed which reads in part "that those volunteers and other persons ordered into the service of the United States, leaving families in needy circumstances, should have and they are hereby assured that their families will be liberally provided for". This resolution further provided that a sum of $500 be levied upon taxable property for this purpose. A note was authorized to execute this obligation which was the first indebtedness incurred in the town's fifty-year history. At a subsequent special meeting, the schedule of payments to indigent families was adopted; a wife was allowed $3 and each child 50¢ per week.

Within a year, President Lincoln called for a half million additional men with quotas set for each town. Sweden acted promptly (August 31, 1864) by offering a bounty of $600 to every volunteer and also each draftee, whether he was mustered into the service himself or furnished an acceptable substitute. In the
same resolution, the Town of Sweden authorized an additional $3000 for the relief of indigent families of service men.

A full volume could be written, and perhaps will be someday, describing the role played by our people at home and at the front during those tragic years of 1861-1865. For the purpose of this booklet, it is sufficient to publish only the names of all Civil War veterans, compiled after an exhaustive study.

CIVIL WAR VETERANS - Town of Sweden

The following list includes names of 293 men from this town who served during the War of the Rebellion (1861-1865). Most of these veterans enlisted locally; a few established residence immediately after the War. (Names marked # perhaps are misspelled).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
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Hinman, Byron
Holbrook, Silas H.
Hollenbeck, Chester
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Holmes, Ira
Hopkins, James D.
Hopkins, Robert
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Howard, Lucius A.
Howard, Orville L.
Howes, George
Hoyt, George
Hunt, Marryatt
Hyler, Thomas A.
Jenner, Charles H.
Joslyn, William H.
Kelly, William
Ketchum, Byron C.
King, T.
Knowlton, Eli S.
LaDue, James
Langdon, Harvey #
Larkin, James W.
Lathrop, Henry
Lawler, Peter
Leeper, Joseph
Losee, Edward
Luce, Oscar C.
Lynd, John A.
Mann, William B.
Markey, Thomas
Mason, C. H.
Maxon, George
Maybee, David
Maynard, Edgar
McBride, Edward
McCarty, John
McCullough, Albert
McDonald, Wm. C. #
McIntyre, William
McKee, Robert
McKinney, John
Meinhardt, Peter
Merritt, Allen W.
Millard, William
Miller, Chris
Miller, Spencer
Minot, Bartlet
Minot, James
Mockford, William S.
Mirch, Hiram #
Moffat, Thomas
Monroe, James
Moore, Abram
Morehouse, Alonzo
Morgan, Charles
Mosher, Amos
Mowers, Henry
Mowers, John
Mullen, Alexander
Mulvaney, James #
Nelson, Charles
Newel, Joseph
Newel, Robert
Nichols, Henry H.
Nobles, George A.
O'Brien, Patrick
O'Brien, Thomas
Ogden, Frank
Osborn, Stephen
Page, Thomas R.
Parker, William J.
Peachy, Charles
Peachy, Noah
Pear, L. Peter
Pease, George R.
Peck, Erastus
Perry, Charles A.
Perry, Joseph A.
Peterson, William H.
Pierce, Darwin
Pond, Nathan
Purcell, Edward #
Raymond, Almond
Reed, Jay F.
Richardson, David
Richardson, John W.
Robinson, John
Rockafellow, George
Rogers, Joseph #
Rogers, Thomas
Rood, Benjamin
Root, Charles W.
Root, Reuben
Rosevelt, George
Rowan, John
Rowe, George Sr.
Sandford, Joseph
Sandford, Willard #
Saunders, #
Rowland
Schouton, Henry W.
Secor, Orlando
Sedgwick, Franklin
Shannon, Richard
Shaw, Patrick
Sheffield, Thomas
Shelton, Hunt
Shorey, Wilbur
Simmons, A. C.
Sloan, David
Sloan, James
Sloan, Robert
Sloan, William
Smith, Edward
Snyder, Albert
Snyder, John B.
Soules, Alonzo J.
Soules, George #
Soules, Jebediah
Soules, Joel H. #
Sparlin, Alansons
Spears, John W.
Spring, Charles E.
Stafford, Stephen R.
Starks, Milo L.
Steeves, John W.
Stoddard, Wesley
Stone, Elephas
Sutphen, John
Taylor, Charles L.
Taylor, Edwin
Taylor, Herbert C.
Thomas, Henry
Thomas, Horace J.
Thompson, Joseph
Toofe, Samuel
Tozer, James
VanTine, Chester W.
Vayo, Charles
Ward, George
Ward, Dwight
Warren, Charles
Webb, Charles M.
Webb, Frank J.
Webb, William G.
Webster, Jerome
Whipple, T. B.
Whitney, George W.
Williams, George H.
Wilson, John
Wood, Enos B.
Wright, George A.
WORLD WAR I VETERANS
(From the Town of Sweden)

Allen, George H.
Allen, Joe
Anderson, Earl
Andross, Carter
Appleton, Richard
Arnold, George
Avery, Lyman

Banker, Fred
Barclay, Walter
Barry, James
Bement, Sebastian
Birdsall, Edgar
Birdsall, Julian
Blossom, Evarts
Bootes, Fred
Bopp, Earl
Brennan, W. Waldo
Brinkman, Marshall
Brule, Howard
Burch, B. Francis
Burch, Harold
Burnett, James
Bulmore, Howard

Casarette, John
Chadsey, Roy
Chriswell, Adin
Chronis, Theodore
Church, Percy
Coates, G. Henry
Coleman, Harry
Coleman, Kenneth
Coleman, Lloyd
Collis, Peter
Conklin, Milton
Connors, Edward
Constable, Hugh
Cook, Dwight
Costigan, James
Coulson, Frank
Crisp, Arthur

Dalton, Jerome
Dobson, George
Dobson, Rodney
Doty, Porter

Duff, Charles
Duffy, Dennis
Duffy, Terrance
Duffy, William
Dushane, Morris

Earley, Roy
Efford, Cecil
Efford, Samuel

Fishbaugh, Joseph
Frawley, George
Flow, William

Galligan, John
Galligan, Thomas
Geerer, Stanley
Gillespie, Herbert
Gilliland, Robert
Gleason, Edward
Goffe, Frank

Gooding, Spencer
Goold, Stanley C.
Gould, Roy

Graley, James
Groves, Harold
Guenther, George
Guenther, Phillip

Harmon, Austin
Harr, Peter
Harsch, Charles
Heinrich, Kenneth
Hiler, Charles
Hoyt, Raymond
Hudson, George
Hyland, John

Keable, James
Keable, Raymond

Lane, Herbert
Lawler, Donald
Leach, Charles
Leach, Edgar
Leach, Francis
Leach, Herbert

Leach, John
LeBarron, Chester
Lester, Nat O.
Lewis, Stanley
Long, Merrill
Lorback, George
Lorback, Joseph
Lorback, W. Ray
Ludecke, Edward

Mann, Horace J.
Markham, Ralph
Martin, Loren
Marsh, Ralph
McGrath, John
McLaughlin, James
McLean, Kenneth
McMannus, Dennis
McMannus, Frank
Meahan, John J.
Mershon, Edward
Michaels, Clarence
Michaels, Henry J.
Miller, Harold
Minot, George
Moffett, James
Moffett, Matthew
Moore, Henry
Morrison, Austin
Mosher, Leon
Mulhern, Edward
Murray, Dennis
Murray, Jerry
Murray, Patrick
Myers, Cecil
McGoy, Charles

Neidert, Frank
Ohleh, Frank

Page, Charles
Palmer, Thomas C.
Pangborn, William
Patte, Raymond
Patten, Kenneth
Pleckham, Irving
Peterson, Louis
Pettit, Everett
Pugsley, George
Raleigh, Charles
Raleigh, Kenneth
Rayburn, Harry
Rayburn, Irving
Rayburn, Robert

Rayburn, Wilbur
Read, Edwin M.
Read, Jesse
Redman, Fred
Reed, Emerson
Richardson, C.
Richardson, G.
Richardson, Wm.
Ryan, George
Ryan, Joseph K.

Seeley, Warner
Shafer, Wilson
Shea, Joseph
Shea, William
Shepherd, John
Simmons, Edward
Smith, Ransford
Snover, Norton
Stevens, H. W.
Strong, Angelo
Strong, Ralph

Thomas, Myrl

Value, Clarence
Vickman, Morgan

Walker, Clarence
Wallace, Harry
Walters, G. Lester
Ward, Edward
Ward, Fred
Ward, Lester
Way, Clayton
Webster, Benjamin
Webster, Luther
This is a photograph of the veterans plaque on the grounds of Seymour Library, showing 490 names of World War II veterans who enlisted from Brockport and the Town of Sweden. The list is incomplete. We trust that future historians will provide a full account of the names and part played by our men and women in this gigantic conflict. Some local men served in Korea, following World War II; their names are not included.
SOLDIERS' MONUMENT and RURAL CEMETERY

One of the most unusual and certainly the most neglected monuments to our war veterans is the fifty-two foot sandstone tower known as the "Soldiers' Monument". It stands in the center of an abandoned Rural Cemetery, just east of the new Owens Road in the Town of Sweden.

In 1882, the Brockport Rural Cemetery Association was organized and incorporated as a burial ground primarily for veterans of the Civil War, who were beginning to "fade away" in increasing numbers. It was envisioned that this site might become something of a local Arlington with its more than twenty-three acres on a high knoll overlooking the village. A campaign was spear-headed by Horatio M. Beach, diplomat and publisher of the Republic, who conceived the idea of an appropriate monument.

A special association was formed with representatives of Cady Post, G.A.R., and work progressed under the supervision of Edgar A. Maynard. The stone was brought from Hubertone and the contract for drawing it was let to W. L. Conklin. Mason work was done by William Stevens and the interior iron work by the D. A. Morgan & Company. The dedication on September 1, 1893, was one of the grandest affairs ever staged in Brockport with several bands, entertainment of guests, orations and exhibition drills. In response to his introduction to the assembled audience, Mr. Beach reported that the monument association "has been incorporated under the laws of the State, and by the gift of the cemetery association on whose grounds it (the monument) stands it has now a title to the plot encircled by the iron railing, and is made custodian of the land immediately south of it to the two avenues, for the free interment of all loyal soldiers who have died or may die in Brockport or the towns of the vicinity". A plaque was fastened on the wall just inside the door with the names of the association members.

When it was first erected the monument was a major attraction. The New York Central featured it in their travel guide over the Niagara Falls Road, entitled "Health and Pleasure on America's Greatest Railroad" - 1895. Thousands climbed the circular stairway for views of the countryside. The picture on this page has been reproduced from the railroad bulletin and shows the monument with flag unfurled and surrounded by the iron fence.
Mr. Beach's death occurred on Sept. 21, 1898, and all incentive to complete the project went with him. Lightning set fire to the observation platform, the elements rusted away the iron spiral stairway, the plaque disappeared, and the mortar around the battlements began to crumble. The stonework is so well built, however, that it may be another century before the old tower vanishes, sparing vandals or human wreckers.

A grass fire swept through the cemetery and destroyed both the chapel and the caretaker's cottage, before firemen from the village could save them. The cemetery vault also was destroyed.

Many lots were sold and there were numerous interments before the association became dormant and the grounds neglected. Thereafter, families sold their deeds and arranged the removal of bodies to other cemeteries, including Lake View which had just been developed. The remains of only three civil war veterans are believed to be on the premises: Daniel Castleman, John Ogden and Michael England, although there may be others.

In 1954 there were complaints about the hazards of the crumbling tower, and a hearing was conducted by the Town Board. They asked that some patriotic group come forward with a plan of restoration, but there was little response.

In 1960 the issue again became paramount when the Owens-Illinois plant was erected, and desired a five-acre parcel of the old cemetery land. To meet legal requirements, the old Rural Cemetery Association was reactivated and the desired land conveyed with the assurance that this section did not have and never did have any graves upon it.
Dayton S. Morgan was born in the town of Ogden on November 19, 1819 and died in Brockport on April 9, 1890. He was sixth in descent from a Welsh ancestor who arrived in Massachusetts in 1637 with two younger brothers.

His father, Samuel Morgan, married Sarah Dayton of New Jersey and they came to Ogden as pioneers. Mrs. Morgan died soon after her son was born and Mr. Morgan, who had been a prosperous miller and farmer, was overwhelmed in the financial crash of 1836. He lost his property, became broken in health and survived but a short time. Dayton was then seventeen years of age and was obliged to support himself. He came to live with an aunt in Brockport, taught in a district school, studying nights, and finally saved enough funds to attend the Collegiate Institute, continuing teaching in the summer.

It was his intention to become a lawyer, but he decided it would take too long to obtain the necessary education and become established without influence and financial backing. He obtained his first position as a clerk in the collector's office of the Erie Canal in 1841, and the next year he accepted a position with E. Whitney, a thriving merchant in grain, dry goods, etc. His ambition and his application to work gained for him a reputation as "a young man bound to succeed".

In the spring of 1844 he was invited by William H. Seymour to join in a partnership of Seymour and Morgan, a mercantile business, and together they formed the Globe Iron Works for the manufacture of stoves and agricultural implements. In 1875, Mr. Seymour retired from the firm, and the D. S. Morgan & Company was organized and incorporated with Mr. Morgan as president and director, which positions he retained until his death.

The Hon. E. B. Holmes, a congressman from Brockport, was instrumental in bringing Cyrus McCormick of Virginia and the Globe Iron Works together for the possible manufacture of his reaping machine. Some improvements were made in McCormick's crude model and one hundred machines were produced for the harvest of 1846. This established the historical fact that the Globe Iron Works became the first reaper factory in the world.

The arrangement continued with McCormick for two years, but in 1848, the firm introduced the "New Yorker", an improved machine of their own design, which gained a world-wide reputation. Five hundred machines were manufactured in 1851, and other firms were licensed to build them in specified territories. A whole line of "Triump" reapers, binders, and mowers were produced, as well as "Morgan" cultivators, harrows, rakes and hoes.

The rapid success of reaper manufacturing attracted competition, resulting in considerable litigation over patents, some of the cases being carried to the Supreme Court and attracting wide attention. Several national figures became involved as counsel, including Abraham Lincoln, Edward M. Stanton, Governor William H. Seward, Judge Henry R. Seldon, and others. Mr. Morgan was finally successful in these suits which involved tremendous sums.

In its heyday, the plant employed several hundred persons. The buildings were located on the north side of Market Street, where an historical plaque now describes the site.

Mr. Morgan became interested in various railroads and was at one time a vice president of the central branch of the
Union Pacific and was interested in organizing the Central Crosstown Street Railroad in New York City. He was a judicious investor in real estate and acquired much farm, timber and city property. He owned five hundred acres on the outskirts of Chicago.

Dayton S. Morgan was generous and civic minded, but he avoided publicity and refused to become involved in politics. He performed many acts of charity toward those he deemed deserving. Indicative of his character, he sought out all those who incurred losses through his father's misfortune and reimbursed each one fully.

Mr. Morgan was married to Susan M. Joslyn in 1864, and their children were George D. Morgan, William R. Morgan, Sara Morgan Manning, Susan Morgan Macy, Henry Morgan, Gifford Morgan and Gladys Morgan Knight. There are no descendants who still carry the Morgan name. The late Gifford Morgan was a lifetime resident of the area and his widow and two of their three daughters live in the vicinity, Mrs. Frances Garlock and Mrs. Allen Mills. A third daughter, Jane, died within recent years. Another granddaughter of Dayton S. Morgan, Mrs. William Sloan lives in Rochester and visits here regularly.

The family homestead, one of the most beautiful residences in the village, has been maintained by Mrs. Sara Manning, last of Dayton S. Morgan's children. As this paper was being written, a tragic and disastrous fire swept through the old mansion during the early morning of September 26, 1964. Mrs. Manning was removed from her burning home and taken to the hospital in critical condition and passed away within a few hours in her ninety-seventh year.
The complete story of this landmark has never been written but it stands today just south of the village much as it appeared more than a century ago. The picture was taken by an amateur in 1892, when it was the home of William B. Williams and his family.

In 1903 the property was purchased by Charles Ellis and it remained in his family for sixty-one years. The late Ralph Ellis, son of Charles, was a star athlete in his Normal School days and officiated at many games in later years. Recently his widow sold to Brockport Developers, who are using the house for their office during the construction of an apartment complex on adjoining land.

In a story of old-time recollections, J. P. Cornes describes a quaint person named Thomas Bascom who lived here in the 1850's and whom many believe is depicted as Middleton in the novel, "Tempest and Sunshine" by Mary Jane Holmes. Bascom collected farm implements and his barnyard was the talk of the country-side. He occasionally drove a team of oxen but one day he showed off with his pet bull in the harness and a load of cornstalks in his wagon. All went well until he approached the railroad bridge just as a train was passing. The bull became frightened and villagers along Main Street witnessed the most unusual and exciting runaway in its history. Fortunately no one was seriously injured in the several wrecks. The bull was found about two weeks later grazing with other cattle on a farm in Clarkson.

Another landmark built by the pioneer Palmer family and remembered as the "old Quackenbush house" was recently demolished. It stood almost directly across the Lake Road from the old stone house and probably was the oldest original home in the immediate area. It was razed under supervision of the fire department to make way for a modern housing development.
THE BROWN COTTAGE

This was the home of Mary Jane Holmes and her husband Daniel J. Holmes, located on College Street in Brockport. After their deaths, the estate was sold and the main section of the house was remodeled. It is now the home of Thomas A. Kasnowski Jr. and his family. Another house was erected in the spacious gardens on the east. Mrs. Holmes authored a series of best-selling novels and Mr. Holmes was a distinguished attorney.

JOHN OWENS GROCERY STORE

This was a typical grocery store of three-score years ago. It was located on the site of the present Post Office. Five men are identified as Mr. Owens, the proprietor, Frank Hayes, George Lester, John J. Meehan and Ray Hoyt.
During the 1840's and 1850's, a number of country mansions were erected in the Town of Sweden. Others were constructed in the village. These were prosperous years, especially for extensive land owners. A big residence became a status symbol and our leading citizens, all good friends, enjoyed a competition for the biggest and grandest home.

It was in this era that the stately houses of Asa Rowe, Chauncey White, John B. Reed, Zenas Beadle, Frederick P. Root, and others were built. All of these are still standing except the F. P. Root homestead. This was destroyed by fire in the early 1930's. A picture is shown below.

The house contained fifty-two rooms, twelve of them in the cellar. There were two kitchens, a butler's pantry and two other pantries, a double parlor with two marble fireplaces, ten bedrooms and seven fireplaces each with an enormous chimney.
RURAL SCENES - TOWN OF SWEDEN

SUGAR BUSH
On the Elwell Farm - 4th Section Road.

This was one of the bigger installations in the Town of Sweden. During the Spring, sap was collected from maple trees and refined into maple sugar. More than 500 trees were tapped on this farm.

HOP HOUSE
On old Beadle Farm - Lake Road

This is believed to be the last of several hop houses in the Town of Sweden. It is on the present Homer Root farm, just south of the Beadle Road. Originally built by Almon Beadle soon after the Civil War in an era when this crop flourished hereabouts. Hops were used in the brewing of beer. Planting, harvesting, drying and curing were complicated and required special skills.

A most fascinating 38-page research paper, authored by Miss Elizabeth Root, has just been released. It is entitled "Hop Growing and Hop Houses - a Local Past Industry" as part of the Folklore of the Empire State. It is a most commendable piece of research and should be published.

Below:
JOHN MARKHAM'S THRESHING MACHINE
THE THREE POST OFFICES OF SWEDEN

Probably few realize that the Town of Sweden once had three Post Offices. There being no rural free delivery service, many small rural offices were necessary in those days.

In the early days, mail was carried in saddle bags on horseback. The route through Brockport and Sweden Center extended from Hamlin and Clarkson to LeRoy where mail was transferred to stagecoach as LeRoy was on the "stage" line from Buffalo through Batavia to Canandaigua, Geneva and east.

The West Sweden Post Office was opened January 29, 1819. Calvin Gibbs was first postmaster. He was succeeded by Major H. Smith, Warren Birge, Ralph A. Gillett, Samuel A. Older, David N. Glazier, Arkurious Johnson, and Richard Othoudt. The office was discontinued on April 27, 1859, but was reopened on Jan. 23, 1861, under William K. Bennett, who was succeeded by J. Smith Pollock, the last postmaster. The office was finally closed on February 8, 1875, and never reopened. The area was serviced thereafter by the Brockport Post Office.

The West Sweden Post Office was located in a general store, the fourth building north of the intersection on the west side of the West Sweden Road. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Glick.

The Brockport Post Office opened in September 1829, the same year that the village was incorporated. William H. Seymour was first postmaster. Among others who succeeded him were George O. Eddy, Joseph Greenleaf, Josiah Harrison, Samuel Olden, Nelson A. Smith, John H. Goold, Hawley Webster, James C. Conley, George Harmon, George Harmon Jr., Burton Avery, George W. Steele, John Foye, Ed Mulhern and the incumbent, Fred Hoffman. The Post Office has had at least six different locations.

A branch of the Brockport Post Office was established at Moore's Subscription Agency on Market Street for approximately fifteen years. More than a million pieces of mail were sent from this branch each year. The first stamps, precancelled BROCKPORT, were used on advertising matter from the Moore Agency.

The Sweden, or (Sweden Center) Office was established about a decade before the Civil War. Richard Othovat, William Bennett, and James Beadle were among the roster of Postmasters. The office was in a general store which was the second building north of the old Methodist Church on the east side of the Lake Road. (The Methodist Church was just north of the brick schoolhouse, which still stands). This Post Office was closed shortly after the turn of the Century when Rural Free Delivery was introduced. The Brockport Office absorbed this district at that time.

Few people realize that Brockport once had a postmistress, who held the appointment for sixteen years - longer than any postmaster. Mrs. Mary E. Baker, widow of a Civil War veteran, was appointed in 1869. She was also an expert telegraph operator and managed the local office of the Cable Telegraph Company. During her tenure the post office was on Market Street, first on the south side and later in the Decker Block on the corner. At the time of the great conflagration, Mrs. Baker sustained injuries when she smashed the glass doors to rescue important papers before the building was consumed. She was succeeded by John Collins in 1885.

This cancellation was in the Sweden Center Post Office.

This 1834 cancellation is the earliest known in Brockport - several years before those listed in philatelic catalogs.
The Erie Canal was the connecting link with ports on the Great Lakes in the west and coastal cities in the east. This view looks west toward Main Street and shows the "Erie" before it was widened. Note the tow path along the north bank, also many buildings which have disappeared.

The Rochester and Niagara Falls Railroad was constructed in 1850-52 and became the Falls Road of the New York Central shortly thereafter. Both freight and passenger traffic shifted to the railroad from the canal. In its hey-day there were as many as eighteen scheduled passenger trains stopping at the Brockport station. The early locomotives burned wood, which was a boon to local farmers, who cleared hundreds of acres for fuel.

This picture of a train arriving in Brockport was taken about 1910 and shows the Lark Inn (on the left), one of several hotels operating in that era.
The old generation still talks about Old Home Week - the biggest festival the villagers ever celebrated and a week of the hottest temperature, with the mercury remaining in the 90's throughout the long week.
The Raleighs are direct descendants of Edmund Raleigh who came from Cambridge in the Spring of 1811 on a sleigh drawn by oxen. He built a brick house on a high rise (where Centennial meets Main Street). The farm consisted of 60 acres, purchased at $3 per acre. Just south of the homestead was another brick building, where the Raleighs manufactured hats of all kinds - one of the earliest industries in Sweden.

They were reputed to be "the best hatters in this part of the country".

After Mr. Raleigh's death in 1863, the site was purchased by Dr. Gleason, the old house was demolished, the hill reduced and the present residence erected. Dr. Gleason gave the right-of-way to Brockport for a new street which was named to commemorate the centennial of Washington's inauguration.
AGRICULTURE & MANUFACTURING
in the Town of Sweden

These occupations have been allied during the history of our town. The frontiersmen found dense forests over the entire area. They made their living from the woods. Game was plentiful and provided meat for the table. Pelts from fur-bearing animals brought some income for staples.

From the trees themselves developed our first industry - the production of potash, for which Quebec supplied a ready market by ships from the mouth of the Genesee River.

As trees were cleared, farming progressed on the land. Hogs, sheep and cattle were imported, orchards were planted, corn and grain and vegetables were grown. Very soon we had lumber and flour mills located along the creeks which furnished water power, also distilleries. These were followed by barrel-makers, wagon works, blacksmith shops, harness makers, and a host of other trades closely identified with the rural scene. Merchants moved in and became established as business flourished, and soon there was a wide variety of manufacturing, mostly for local consumption.

The great industrial expansion began in America and throughout the civilized world early in the nineteenth century. No section contributed more to this expansion than this community which was foremost in the development and manufacture of agricultural implements. The foundries of Backus and Ganson, Seymour & Morgan, Huntley & Johnston, among others, produced reapers, binders and threshers which revolutionized the harvesting of grain and thereby contributed directly to the rapid development of the great prairie states in the west. In his thesis, a research paper prepared by DuWayne F. Paulick this year at the State University, the author points out that Brockport industry helped to shape our world by making it possible to feed millions with a minimum labor force.

THE JOHNSTON HARVESTER COMPANY
Located in the heart of a fertile agricultural section, many industries in the past were connected with food processing. The Hudson Canning Company occupied a stone building and addition on North Main Street, the former section representing all that was left after the Johnston Harvester fire of 1882. It processed peas, beans, tomatoes, apples and berries. The Monroe County Canning Company was located on Clinton Street for several years in buildings still standing. It processed similar items under the brand name "Mon-Ro-Co".

Prior to World War I, the Dailey Canning Company was constructed at the east end of Fair Street. It obtained sizeable government contracts for jams and jellies for the armed services. It is claimed that soldiers in mess halls would chant "Give us this day our Dailey jam!! The plant was sold after the war to the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, where canning operations have continued as the Quaker Maid Company and more recently as the Ann Page Division - Brockport Cannery. The plant also acquired the old Monitor Clock Works north of the railroad and directly opposite, which is known as Plant B. Current products are canned pork and beans, variety beans, canned prepared spaghetti, macaroni with cheese sauce, spaghetti sauce, tomato soup, mushroom soup, also bottled honey, syrup and vinegar. The vinegar works was originally a separate concern.

Packaged frozen foods are a modern development, but the site of A. Lustig's Pure Food plant was once a farmer's cooperative plant. Cherries in season and frozen waffles and muffins are processed here under the "Nifty Food" label. The present plant of General Electric was built originally by the New York Frozen Food Corp. with a big operation for a few years.

There were a number of "dry houses" for evaporating fruit in the earlier days. One was operated by Frank Peckham on Fair Street in Brockport. Another, which was destroyed by fire, was on the corner of the White Road at Sweden Center.

No account of farm produce would be complete without a reference to the huge operations of William Dailey and Henry Harrison. Dailey's warehouse remains today along the New York Central tracks at Park Avenue and the business continues under George Terry & Company. Dailey was one of the biggest shippers of wheat in his day and supplied much of the product to Shredded Wheat Company in Niagara Falls. He also handled beans and other items. The Henry Harrison Company was known as one of the biggest bean dealers.

This area was also famous for its orchards. Much of the acreage on most farms was planted to apples of numerous varieties. The average farm also included an assortment of other fruit trees for home consumption; peaches, cherries, plums, prunes, quinces, etc. The combined Udell farms were devoted extensively to commercial apples. Foster Udell was known as the "Apple King" because of huge shipments he made from these farms and from handling sales from scores of other farms.
The oldest of the large iron foundries in Brockport was first established by Harry Backus and Joseph Cannon in 1828 on a site where the Star Super Market is now located on State Street. Two years later, the firm was changed to Backus, Webster & Co. and moved north of the canal where the A&P Super Market stands today. For a short time the name was Backus, Burroughs & Co., then back to Backus, Fitch & Co., which made the first McCormick reapers. These were unsuccessful and were called back from the customers. This concern was, however, pioneers in the manufacture of improved threshing machines, which heretofore had been stationary types run by horse power.

After Backus retired, the company became Fitch, Barry & Co., then Ganson, Huntley & Co. Byron Huntley and Samuel Johnston acquired the shops in 1868 and formed a stock corporation, the Johnston Harvester Company, manufacturers of automatic reapers, binders, threshers and other farm machinery. The shops expanded into Brockport's biggest industry. B. E. Huntley was sent abroad as general European agent.

In June 1882, the entire plant was destroyed by fire. Negotiations failed to persuade the company to rebuild here and the operation transferred to Batavia, which soon became a thriving city.

Another foundry was established on Clinton Street by George F. Barnett and George L. Whiteside, manufacturing farm implements. They were in business as Whiteside and Barnett from 1850 to 1880 and employed about 30 people.

One of the earliest pump makers, also employing about 30 people, was Cary and Brainard Force Pump Company, which was located in the old stone building which still stands behind Decker's Hardware Store. Many of their pumps were shipped to California in the early gold mining operations. The centrifugal pump was patented by J. C. Cary and installed on famous fire engines.

The building occupied by the Brockport Fruit Association was originally part of a large flouring mill of Belden & Avery, which burned in 1857. Other industries occupied this building after it was rebuilt, including Seymour and Pease, manufacturers of the "Little Giant" mower and the Pease Rotary pump.

The tall brick chimney standing on the north side of State Street is the remains of the lumber mill of Hood and Walker's yard, which became Hood & Gordon, then Luther Gordon & Co. It is a predecessor of the W. E. B. Stull Company of today, Mr. Stull having been a manager in the Gordon company.

Among many expert blacksmiths in the area, one in particular should be mentioned. William Bradford maintained a shop on King Street, having arrived here in 1851 from Exeter, England, where he had been apprenticed for seven years and became Head Shoeing Smith to Hon. Newton Fellows. After coming to Brockport in 1851, he invented and built the Bradford Bean Planter, the Bradford Potato Digger, and the Bradford Cabbage Digger. By his wife, the former Charlotte Challice, he had one son and five daughters. Some descendents survive, and may be able to give us additional information. One of these bean planters has recently been discovered. Bradford died on December 28, 1896, three years following the demise of his wife.
OTHER MANUFACTURING

It would require many pages to describe the many factories and their products which have been manufactured in Brockport and the town of Sweden.

One of the most unique was a silk worm factory. The "Cocoonery" was located in the vicinity of the present General Electric plant. The worms fed on mulberry trees and produced silk threads. Apparently the climate was adverse to the business, which was discontinued. The buildings burned about a century ago.

Another unusual business was conducted by the B. F. Gleason Mfg. Co., which produced embalmer's couches, vulgarly referred to as "cooling boards". Most of the plant was destroyed by fire in the spring of 1913. Philip F. Swart, the manager, decided not to rebuild. An alert Chamber of Commerce induced the D. W. Edwards School Supply Company to move here from Seneca Falls and for a number of years they manufactured globes and other school supplies in that portion of the plant which remained and was reconditioned. Later, the building was also destroyed by fire. The site is now occupied by the Boy Scout cabin on State Street.

One of the most promising enterprises, which did not prove successful, was the Monitor Clock Works, which moved into Brockport in 1913 from Medina after the failure of the National Bank in that city. It succeeded the Medina Manufacturing Company, started in 1906 by D. A. A. Buck, inventor of the long spring Waterbury Watch. The concern manufactured its own clock movements which were mounted on various styles of hall and mantel styles, largely made from mission oak. The company also produced some Grandfather deluxe clocks of solid mahogany with imported movements and Westminster chimes. When the Monitor Clock Works went bankrupt, a desperate effort was made to refinance it and keep the business here. The building was acquired by Quaker Maid Co. It was built by the Phelps Case Works, after they burned out on Market Street in 1902.

The buildings now occupied by the Dynacolor Corporation have had a long and varied history. Here were made the excellent Capen Piano by the Brockport Piano Mfg. Co. under the management of George Whitney. Upon his death the company became the Louismann-Capen Co. and was later merged with one of the bigger piano monopolies. During the 1920's the McLaughlin Company operated a big stamping works in the plant, making galvanized pails, tubs, etc. The business failed and the Alderman Paper Box Factory acquired the property for one of their main operations.
Second to the Johnson Harvester Company, Brockport's biggest concern until recently was the Moore-Shafer Shoe Mfg. Co., producers of the "Ultra" ladies shoes. It was about seventy-five years ago that Wilson Moore and Manley A. Shafer combined resources and took over a small shoe partnership, Ham & Rogers, which had been located next to the canal on Market Street. (Another shoe factory, the Eddy Company, had operated for a short time in the west section of the old Globe Iron Works). For fifty years the Moore-Shafer factory provided employment to as many as four hundred. It was the main-stay of income for the community. The company closed operations about twenty-five years ago. Various enterprises have used some or all of the building since, including Karge's Commercial Refrigeration Company, an upholstery, a doll factory, and two plastic button companies.
TWO NEW INDUSTRIES

General Electric came to Brockport in 1948 when the Portable Appliance Department purchased the three year old plant of the former New York Frozen Food Corporation. On April 1, 1949, manufacturing operations started and about 100 employees began sending triple whip stand mixers and electric ovens down the assembly lines.

The years since 1949 have brought a steady development of new production appliances: 1952 - portable mixer; 1955 - skillet; 1958 - can opener; 1960 - knife sharpener; 1961 - blender; 1963 - electric knife.

Early in 1956, it became apparent that the original plant capacity was inadequate for future needs. Plans for enlarging the plant were established and construction was completed in January 1958. The present plant now contains about 150,000 square feet, nearly double the original floor space.

The latest addition to this community's industry is the Owens-Illinois Brockport Plant, employing approximately 400 people from in and around the town. This modern plant manufactures glass containers for the food and wine industries. The history of the company through predecessors of the Owens Bottle and Illinois Glass Companies (which merged in 1929) goes back to 1818.

Both General Electric and Owens-Illinois are welcome new-comers to the industrial scene. Personnel from these organizations already have become identified with the civic life of the village and the Town of Sweden.

This building was originally Plant B of the D.S. Morgan Co. Later became the Rochester Wheel Co. and is now the Brockport Cold Storage.
On the following pages are presented some family records which may prove of interest, specifically to a few persons directly descended from pioneers, but which we trust will be of interest to the general public. Information has been gathered from known descendents, family Bibles, cemetery records, and other sources.

We realize that many such families have been omitted. Both the limitations of time and distance have prevented your committee from pursuing as thorough a study as we desired. Some of the old families we would have liked to present include: Adams, Allen, Bangs, Barlow, Bishop, Booth, Butler, Capen, Case, Church, Cooley, Cornes, Elliott, Frinks, Gleason, Gliddon, Hart, Hill, Howard, Humphrey, Hurd, Hutchinson, James, Judson, Kirby, Luthers, Moon, Niles, Page, Pond, Randall, Roberts, Saunders, Schumaker, Sheldon, Shumway, Simes, Smith, Spencer, Stewart, Stone, Taylor, Tripp, Tyler, Warden, Whipple, Youngs, and others. Many of these names appear in reference to events and are mentioned in other family records.

We heartily subscribe to the suggestion that an historical society be established for the Town of Sweden and the Village of Brockport, including Clarkson and Hamlin, closely related in the old Triangle Tract. We feel sure that such a society will foster interesting papers on the families listed above, all of whom helped to establish the Town of Sweden.

DANIEL AVERY

Because of the rigors of life in an uncleared forest, pioneers were often beset by fevers, influenza and accidents. The need for doctors brought Dr. Daniel Avery (1767-1848), his wife Rosanna, and children (Daniel J., Samuel, Rosanna and Lora) to Sweden where he began practicing his profession. Rosanna later became the wife of Daniel Green, and had four children. Daniel J. Avery (1776-1859) married Fannie Bosworth. Of their seven children, Orestes, Abigail, Jennie and Annie lived to adulthood.

Jennie married Daniel Conner and Annie married J. O'Connell.

Abigail Avery (1833-1885) married Almon Beedle. Their children: Frances Beedle Sheldon, Llewelyn A. Beadle, George Almon Beadle, and Gertrude Beedle Burch are mentioned in the account of the Beadle family.

Orestes B. Avery (1803-1890) and Elizabeth J. were the parents of Burton H. and Fannie B. Avery. Burton Avery (1867-1934) married Clara Perry and had one son, Lyman. Lyman was an Naval officer in World War I and became a flying instructor. Fannie B. Avery became a Superintendent of Schools in Utica and is remembered for her series of English texts. She was co-author of the Prose and Poetry series used in elementary schools throughout New York State.

Two of our Town Supervisors belonged to this family - Burton H. Avery and his cousin, George Beadle.

The only direct descendants residing here now are Mary Louise Henion and her daughter.
In 1808, Robert and John Bedell came to Sweden from Oneida County to look over the land which their father had seen while serving as a captain in Sullivan's Army. They purchased land east of the Lake Road or near the Swamp Road.

Their father, Capt. John Bedell, and his wife, Abigail Cleveland, came from Bath, N.H. They had thirteen children, but it would appear that only Johnson, Abigail and John moved to Sweden to make this area their homes. (Robert married Susanna Chapin, but there is no record that he remained here).

John Bedell (1774-1844) was the owner of the first tavern which was opened between 1808-1810. He is buried in East Lake Cemetery with his wife, Sally.

Abigail married James, son of Robert Bedel, probably a distant relative from Bath, N.H. They emigrated to Sweden between 1808-1810. The first will probated in Monroe Co. was that of James Bedel, according to a document in the possession of the Peake families. They had nine children: Johnson, Philetus (married Sarah Sanford), Louisa, Lorena (married Amos Stickney), Esther, James, Moses, Ichabod (married Mary Wheelock - children were Rufus and Addie Pollock), and Ruth.

Moses Bedele married Mehitable, daughter of Moses Stickney, and their children were: Lavinia, Keziah, and John. John married Mary Gill (children were Harry, Alvin, Florence and Lewis). Granddaughter Florence married Howard Peake (sons were Waldo and Arthur). Great grandson Arthur Peake married Sarah Rowell and their four children are Arthur Jr., Mildred Carpenter, Janet Clark and Betty Jean, all of whom, except Arthur Jr., are local residents.

Waldo Peake, grandson of Moses Bedele married Mary Robinson and their sons were Ralph and Everett. Ralph, who married Madeline Jubenville, lives with his family on Colby Street on the old homestead. Everett Peake and his wife, Patricia White, live on the Ichabod Beedle homestead.

The children of Leo Beadle are also descendents of the pioneer family of James and Abigail Bedel.

John Beedle (1798-1872) married Abigail, daughter of Samuel and Martha Bentley of Rhode Island. He bought land on the Beadle Road from his cousin, Rowland Saunders. Rev. John Beedle preached in the Methodist Church of Sweden Center. Their children were: Levi, Zilphia, Zenas, Martha, Eunice, J. Wesley, Almon, Joseph, Sarah, William and Mary. Of his nine children who attained adulthood - Almon, Zenas and Wesley remained in Sweden. Zenas (1822-1904) married Emily Davis, daughter of Horatio Davis of Riga. Walter, Emily, Carrie and Edward were their children. Walter married Hattie Sheldon of Sweden and moved to LeRoy where his descendents still reside. Carrie married Oliver Day and moved to Buffalo. Edward lived on the farm, which Zenas bought on the corner of Beadle and Lake Roads. He married Elizabeth Emilcamp, who was born in Holland.

J. Wesley married Elizabeth Bentley, daughter of Samuel Bentley, a pioneer. They had one son, Roy, who married Carrie Johnson and their son, Stanley, and his wife, Dorothy Harmor, live in West Sweden with their children: Betty, Rosalie, Elaine and George.

Almon Beedle (1821-1909) married Abigail Avery. Almon lived on the home-
stead and at one time raised hops. (See account of old hophouse.) His children were: Frances, Sarah, Llewelyn, George and Gertrude. Frances married Charles Sheldon and lived for a time on the Benjamin Sheldon homestead on the Fourth Section Road. Leland, Edith and Clinton were their children. Gertrude married Benjamin Burch. Their children were: Francis, Marian, Lorraine and Harold. All have married and moved away from the immediate area. Francis Burch married Pauline Masters and they have a son, Hale, who married Amy Meinhold. Francis' second marriage was to Myrtle Knapp. Francis now resides in Hilton with his wife, Betty Reed, and their three sons: John, Fred and James.

After the old homestead burned, George and Llewelyn Beadle lived as bachelors in the hophouse. In 1910 George built a new house for his bride, Wilhelmina, daughter of Stephen Sheppard. Besides farming and raising a family, George Beadle was active in politics and also found time to exercise his excellent bass voice. He sang in several musicales and was a member of the Presbyterian Choir for over fifty years. They had four girls: Mary Louise, Margaret and Marjorie (twins) and Eunice. Mary Louise married Robert Henion and they have one daughter, Mary Eunice. Margaret married Floyd Freer and now lives in Wolcott. Marjorie lives in New York City. Eunice married Glen Baker. They have three children: Bill, Marnie and Louise and they live in Macedon. Mary Eunice Henion and Marnie Baker are the third generation to attend the College at Brockport.

CAPEN

Benjamin F. Capen came to this area in 1818 from Scipio, New York, and cleared a large section in the southwestern part of the town and engaged in farming. His first wife died early and he remarried to Phoebe Fitch of Salem, New York.

His son, Franklin F. Capen, was born on June 15, 1835, attended the common schools and the Collegiate Institute, completing his studies at the Lima Seminary. He returned to the farm and married DeEtte Baker of Bridgewater. In 1882 he engaged in the sale of agricultural implements, fertilizers, harness, etc. Five years later he organized a shoe factory which was merged into the Moore-Shafer Shoe Manufacturing Company and Mr. Capen served as its president from 1889 until his death.

When Franklin F. Capen became Supervisor in 1870, he was the youngest member ever elected to the Board of Supervisors. Later he was elected President of the village for four successive terms. During his administration, the Brockport Water Works was established.

He was a charter member and first master of the Brockport Grange, one of its chief supporters, and chairman of the Executive Committee of the State Grange for about twelve years.

In 1892 Mr. Capen organized another big concern, the Brockport Piano Company, and also served as president of this company from its beginning until his death. The "Capen" piano was a quality instrument and many of them still exist.
His death occurred on September 27, 1898 at his home in the village. He was survived by his wife, the former DeEtte Baker of Bridgewater. Their three children died before him, a son and daughter aged eight and twelve respectively. Emma, their other daughter, married Manley Shafer. The late Frank Shafer was their son and their daughter was Victoria.

The old, attractive Capen homestead on the Beadle Road, is now owned by Webster Chapman, where he and his son and their families reside. While no descendants of Benjamin or Franklin Capen remain, their names are perpetuated in CAPEN ROAD and CAPEN HOSE COMPANY, the latter being organized when F. F. Capen was village President.

**COMSTOCK**

Anselm Comstock was born in Lyme, Conn., in 1762 and died in the Town of Sweden, in 1845. His ancestors emigrated to Lyme, Connecticut from Culmstock, England. He married Betsey Jewett (1771-1860), of East Hadden, Conn., the daughter of David and Sarah (Seldon) Jewett. They came to Sweden in 1815 with their nine children: Julius (1791), Betsey (1795), Anselm (1797), Laura (1799), Emily (1801), Henry Jewett (1806), Erastus (1808), Eunice (1810), and George (1812).

In 1815, Julius married Lucy Staples, who died in 1858. (in 1860 he was re-married to Mary Grace). Julius and Lucy had eleven children. They were: Lawrence (1816), Laura (1818-1822), Louisa (1820), Ulysses (1823), Laura (1825), Clarissa (1828), Mary (1830), Betsey (1833), Emily (1835), DeWitt Clinton (1837, and Henry, (1841). In 1831 Julius Comstock gave the land on which a schoolhouse was built for District No. 1. A more official document was drawn up in 1855 deeding the property to trustees Moses Stickney, John B. Reed and Ulysses Comstock. Julius received twenty-five dollars.

Lawrence married Mary Goodridge. Louisa married A. J. Potter. Ulysses married Mary Fanning; Laura married Daniel Richmond; Clarissa married Milo Hall; Mary married John Seldon. Emily married Phelps Blood. These families moved away from Sweden.

Henry died in 1863 in the battle at Gettysburg. According to a letter in the possession of the Comstock family, Henry Comstock was paid twenty-five dollars to serve in the Civil War to replace F. P. Root. The family has several letters written by Henry to his brother, DeWitt. The envelope is addressed, "in care of Abraham Lincoln".

Betsey married Alvah Doty. Their children were Nellie, Ada, Louisa, George and Gordon. (See Doty family)

DeWitt married Frances L. Davis of Riga. Their three children were Emma (1867), Helen (1875) and George (1879). Helen married George F. Bigelow and moved to Buffalo, N. Y. One of her two children married Arthur Spears, a descen-
dent of Samuel Way. George married Sue (McNamara) Burns of Wayland, Pa. in Westfield. George was considered one of the best clarinet players in western New York. He played in local and Rochester bands and at Eastman and at one time accompanied Kate Smith. Their children were Francis (1918) and Ruth (1919). Francis was married first to Winifred Blossom of Hamlin who died. Later he married Bonnie Thornton. They have two children, Scott and George. Ruth was married first to Leas Wallace who died in an airplane crash in Pensacola, Fla. Later she married George Glynn. Kathy Sue and William are their children.

Betsey (1795), daughter of Anselm Comstock, brother of Julius, married Daniel Butler of Montpelier, Vt. They settled in the southeast part of the town near her parents. Their son, Daniel Butler, married Mary Johnson. To them was born Jewett Butler, who married Avis Bonnell. Their children were Alene and Jewett. Jewett married Jean Clark. They have four children and live in Pittsford. Alene is a Brockport resident.

Anselm Jr. married Sybil Trumbell and moved to Michigan. His son, Cepheus, died in the Mexican War.

Laura married Erastus Seldon and John was their son. Emily married William Root, brother of Aaron Root.

Harry Jewett Comstock married Mary Loomis. They had four daughters: Jane (1838), Adelaide (1841), Caroline (1843-1865), and Helen (1847). Jane married Capt. J. B. Root who served in the Civil War. Helen married George P. Babcock. Adelaide married Hosea Covell of Ogden. They lived on the homestead farm. Their children were: Mary, Leah, Rutherford. Mary married Dr. George Locke. Gilbert and Marion, their children, married and moved away from Brockport. Leah Covell was active in Literary Societies, Home Bureau and many church and community organizations. Ford Covell married Bessie Wadhams.

Erastus Comstock, son of Anselm Sr., married Lucinda Cody. They had ten children. They live in Sweden, N. Y. for several years, then moved to Wisconsin, Michigan, and finally to Nebraska, where Erastus died. He was a farmer and stockman. FitzHughes wrote about him in *The Heart of the Continent*. His wife's family was connected with Buffalo Bill Cody and his descendants were connected with the Comstock Lode, one of the richest silver and gold mines in the United States, above which is built Virginia City, Nevada. The lode was discovered in 1860 and caused a great gold rush.

Eunice married Joseph Clipman and George married Emeline Godfrey.

Descendants of Anselm Comstock, the pioneer, who still remain in Sweden are Mrs. Mary Locke, Alene Butler and Mrs. Jewett Butler, Mrs. George Comstock, Mrs. Ruth Glynn and her family, Francis Comstock and his family, Nellie Germaine, J. T. Germaine, Herb Doty and his family.
Jabez Davis (1759-1831) was one of the early settlers. His wife was named Sarah (1762-1835) and two of their children were Sam H. (1797-1873) and Mary.

Sam H. Davis was married to Polly (1800-1884) and they had the following children: Sarah Jane (1821-1888), John (1827-1849), Jay (1829-?), Jabez (1832-1855) and Jerome (1833-1847). The son of Jay Davis was named George and married Inez Stickney and this couple had four children: Ellen, H. Merton, S. Jay and Ruby, but none of this family or their descendants reside in Sweden today. Sarah Jane, the eldest of Sam H. Davis' children, married Edmund White, and their grandson, George White, is a local resident.

Mary, daughter of the pioneer Jabez Davis was married to Abel Root (1787-1836) a native of Connecticut who settled here in 1818. Their son Henry was born in Saratoga County in 1817 and became married to Sybil Salisbury in 1838. Three children of this union were: Sarah, who married Charles J. White; Alice who married Franklin E. Terry, and Rufus who married Adele.

Winifred was the only surviving child of Rufus and Adele Root. She married the late Clark French and their surviving children are Adele and Herbert. Adele is married to Dr. Harold Craw, lives in Brockport with two teen-age daughters, Dorothy and Barbara. Herbert lives with his family at East Hampton, Long Island.

The Gardner family came from Massachusetts some time before 1811. Our records do not show the name of the first pioneer. Henry Platt Gardner was born in 1811, and died in 1890. His wife, Amelia, died at the age of 90 years in 1904. Their children were Perry, George and Henry Wesley. Henry W. and his wife, Clarinda, had seven children: Laura Austin, Mary Clark, Annie, Chastina, Cecelia, Blanche and George. Later he married a Mrs. Burlingame. George married Jennie Flagg and they had an only daughter, Jean. Jean married Kenneth Dickinson and their children are Richard and Rita. Mrs. Dickinson and her son are the only descendents living in Brockport.

Platt Gardner's brother, Edwin, was born in 1813 and died at an early age. He married Polly Barlow and their children were Mary Hinman, Jane Neden, Lucy Gardner and Henry Clay Gardner. Henry Clay Gardner married Eliza Howes (see Howes sketch). Their children were Mary, John, Roy and Homer. Mary married William Moore and had a daughter, Ruth. John died. Roy married Alice Moore and had one daughter, Helen. Homer married Ethel Farry and had 10 children: Kenneth, Donald, Henry, Marion, Alice, William, Homer, Irma, Roy and Harold. Helen Gardner is the only descendent living in Sweden, New York.

Orlando (1807-1891) was probably a brother of Platt and Edwin. He married Emily W. (1819-1839), Addison (1838-1910) and Melinda, (1834-1918), were their children. Later he married Harriet M. and their children were Angeline (1848-1913) and John Davidson (1844-?). It appears that there were no descendents.
DAVID DOTY

David Doty sent his son, Lazarus, to explore this area for a settlement and followed him from Albany County in 1819. The Doty family originally were settlers in Connecticut. They first located just over the town line in Ogden. In addition to Lazarus (who moved on to Michigan), the children were David (who remained in Ogden and died at the home of his son, George), Asa, Anson, Vina and two other daughters who died at an early age.

Asa and Anson both moved into the Town of Sweden, the former on Colby Street, and the latter on Beadle Road (in a stone house). For a time Anson lived on the canal near the Town Line Road.

Asa and his wife, Harriett, had two sons: Alvah and Orrin. Alvah married Elmina Betsey Comstock, and had six children: Ada, Nellie, Louise, Herbert, Georgia and Gordon. Herbert died in his youth; neither Georgia (Mrs. Ralph Goodridge) nor Louise (Mrs. W. Badgely) had children.

Ada married Fred Hill, who served many years as District Superintendent of Schools. Their children are: Mildred, Marguerite, and the twins Russell and Warren. Mildred is married to Lewis Markham, school principal at Hilton where they reside with their four children. Marguerite is married to LaVerne Webster, funeral director, and lives in the lovely John D. Burns homestead on Main Street, Brockport, with their sons Fred, Richard and Robert.

Russell Hill married Dorothy Dollard of Hamlin and they reside on the Ridge Road in Parma with their children, Mary and Patricia, who both attend Brockport Central High School. Warren Hill and his wife, Esther, also live in Parma with their six children. The Hill brothers operate a large dairy farm together.

Nellie Doty, daughter of Asa, married Charles Germaine, proprietor of the old Germaine Hotel which was later known as American, then Landmark, before it was destroyed by fire. Their children were Marian (Mrs. William Richter of Rochester), James (married Lucille Piedmont) and Nellie Germaine. Miss Germaine was recently cited by the Board of Education for thirty-five years of distinguished service as a teacher and principal of the elementary school.

Gordon Doty, youngest of Asa Doty's children, married Betsy, daughter of Jay and Louise Beedle Richmond. Their daughter, Iva (Mrs. George Lasher) has a daughter and grandson living in Florida. Their son, Herbert, with his wife, Doris, and sons Darwin and Daryll, live in the remodeled District No. 1 schoolhouse on the corner of Lake and LaDue Roads.

Orrin Doty and his wife, Ellen, had five children: Azor, George, Anson, Wesley and Lillian. The list of descendants is not complete but we know that Azor had a son, Howard; George had a son, Robert, and a granddaughter, Barbara. Anson had no children; Wesley married Mary Lockwood and had six children: Winifred Saur, Fred, Willis, John, Alice and Frances. Of these children, Winifred, Fred and Willis now live with their families in Rochester; John was a casualty in World War II; Alice and Frances live in Florida; Lillian married Kent Chadsey.

Anson Doty, son of the pioneer David, married Sophronia, daughter of Joseph Hutchinson, and their children were: Hiram, Elmira Craig, Mary Sharp, Hannah Hendee, Harriett Webster, Ada Kerr, Clarissa Allen and Reuben. The two youngest died at an early age. The record of other descendants is not immediately available.
The Gallup family came from England and arrived in Boston in 1633, moving to Stonington, Connecticut about 1675, where they remained for nearly a century. It was here that Eli Gallup (1791-1882) was born, the son of Silas and Sarah Gallup.

In his youth he moved to Albany County in New York State and in 1830 he settled in the northeastern part of the Town of Sweden. He had been a Minute Man in 1812 and was a blacksmith back in Albany, where he had married Sally Crary and had five children: Sarah, Eli Jr., Matilda, Andrew and Mary A. He came west as a widower and married Hannah, daughter of Joseph Wetzel, by whom he had two children: George and John. Hannah died in 1835. The two children were both born in a log cabin in an apple orchard near the present cobblestone house.

The cobblestone house is the only one in the Town of Sweden, although there are many others in the towns along the Ridge. It was probably started in 1834, and took two years to collect the stones from Lake Ontario and bring them to the site by horse and wagon.

Andrew J. Gallup, one of Eli Gallup's older sons, married Mary, daughter of Isaac Houston, a lumberman and later the tavernkeeper on the Ridge Road, and their children were Eli, William, Albert, Susan, Fannie and Sarah. They reared their family in the Houston Tavern. Eli married a sister of Cora Whipple of Brockport and their sons were Eli, James and Jackson. (Eli married and moved to Michigan; James married Annabell Hermance, had five children, spent his life in Clarkson; Jackson married and lived in Rochester where he was principal of several schools).

William Gallup, second son of Andrew, never married. Albert was married but lost his wife at an early age. Susan married Isaac Garrison and their children were Mary (wife of Dr. Sheppard), Rachel (who died young), Jane (wife of Bert Henion), and Maurice G. (who married Charlotte Hermance).

Fannie, another of Andrew's daughters married J. Webster and one of their daughters, Ruth, became the wife of Charles Howard of Albion, promoter of Christmas Park and head of the nationally known "Santa Claus" school in that community. Sarah, the youngest of Andrew's daughters, married and remained on the Houston homestead.

George Gallup (1833-1925) son of Eli and Hannah, married Dilla Houston, another daughter of Isaac Houston, but she died at the age of thirty-five. In 1877, he married a school-teacher, Sarah, daughter of Charles and Lydia Darling. She survived her husband by four years, living with her step-daughter, Helen, in the corner house just south of the Cobblestone residence. The children by George Gallup's first marriage were Irad (1860-1944) who married Ella Smith and lived in Canandaigua, Charles H. (1863-1942) who married Alice Marshall and lived in the corner house until his father's death and then occupied the Cobblestone house, John (1866-1948) who moved to the west, and Helen (1868-1948) who married Lon Eldridge and after his death married Wayne Gallup and lived
in Rochester. They had no children, and in her later years, she returned to the corner house.

Charles and Alice Gallup's daughter, Irma, married Ness Stroup, Superintendent of Schools in Newark. Their daughters Margaret and Mary Louise are both married and live in Wayne County.

Andrew Gallup spent most of his adult life in Clarkson, but his descendents in the Henion family reside in Sweden. However, George Gallup remained in the old homestead all his life. His descendents have all moved away.

The beautiful Cobblestone House on the Gallup Road in the northeastern part of the town remains as a testimony to this pioneer family.

HOWES - HENION

Sally and John Howes, children of John Howes and Lydia Holmes, came to the Town of Sweden from Madison County. Sally married Chester White and they had four children. (See Chester White)


John C. Howes (1822-1872) married Mary McKenzie in 1844. They had three daughters: Helen M. Howes (Ella), Eliza Howes and Abigail Howes. Helen (1845-1911) married Dr. Egbert B. Henion and had one son, Bert Howes Henion (1867-1945) who married Jane Belle Garrison, daughter of Isaac Garrison.

The three sons of Bert and Jane Henion are: Dean Garrison Henion, Robert Howes Henion, and Egbert Benson Henion. Dean is married to Dorothy Fetter and they have four sons: Wallace (married to Nancy Frank), John H. (married to Lois Miller), Bruce, and Richard (married to Joyce Totter). All these families reside in the immediate area, except Richard and his family who live in Syracuse.

Robert married Mary Louise Beadle and they have one daughter, Mary Eunice, residing together at the Howes homestead on the Sweden-Walker Road

Egbert B. married Janet Degree and they have five children, John Degree, William, James, Jane, and Susan and they also reside on the Sweden-Walker Road.

Eliza L. Howes (1846-1905), daughter of John C., married Henry Clay Gardner in 1867. They had four children. (See Gardner)

Abigail S. Howes (1852-1879), daughter of John C., did not marry.

Orrin Howes (1825-1869), son of John and Lucretia Howes moved to Kentucky and then to Georgia.

Eliza Howes (1828-1843), daughter of John Howes, died at the age of 15 years.

Lydia Howes (1830-1888), daughter of John Howes moved to Michigan with her husband, Mason Howard.
ELON LEE

A direct ancestor of the Willis Lee family and the Kishlars was among our earliest pioneers. Elon Lee (1790-1887) was born in Guilford, Connecticut, during the presidency of George Washington. He lived to be almost ninety-seven and was married three times. He brought his first bride, Lydia Palmer, with him on a wagon drawn by a yoke of oxen and settled in 1816 on a farm just south of Cooley's Basin on the East Lake Road, which was then only a wilderness.

Accounts of some of his experiences have been kept by the family. It required one hundred fence rails in those days to purchase two pounds of pork. A bushel of wheat, which had a commercial value of fifty cents, was considered ample reward for a day's labor. In one instance where Mr. Lee needed some cotton cloth, he took a cord of wood to a distillery, exchanged it for a gallon of whiskey which he carried to a grocery to procure one yard of the material he desired. He carried the sugar which he produced to market on his back.

His wife died soon after they settled in the town leaving him with two young children and he remarried to Eunice Howard, by whom he had eight children, two of whom had distinguished records in the Civil War. In 1834, he moved to Hamlin and in 1855 he moved again to Clarkson. His second wife died in 1854 and he remarried two years later to a lady from his native town in Conn.

Among his children, a son George H. Lee was the father of Mrs. William Kishlar. Lee, Leverett, Gilbert, Alta and Roy were their children. Roy carries the nickname "Pete" and is the only one of this family remaining in the town.

Willis S. Lee was another son of George H. Lee (who also had eight children). Willis was well known as a Brockport merchant. He married Caroline A. Blossom, a sister of Peter A. Blossom, and they had three daughters, all of whom still reside with their families in this area: Gertrude (Mrs. Richard Spurr), Leora (Mrs. Earl Linscott), and Winifred (Mrs. Keith Fowler).

LOCHE

Elisha Locke with his wife, Mehitable, daughter of James Stickney of Bath, N.H., settled in the southeastern part of the Town of Sweden in the 1820's. His home is still standing on the Beadle Road (now occupied by the Le Keenan family). All of the walls are 21 1/4 inches thick, made of stone. Elisha and Mehitable both lived to the age of 84. They had six sons and three daughters. One of their offspring, also named Elisha, married Sarah Way and they had several children, including Eugene, Harriet, Clayton and George. Eugene married Marian Maw and had four sons, one of whom is Allen Locke, who still resides in Brockport. George, another son of Elisha married Mary Covell, daughter of Hosea Covell, and became a distinguished dentist and prominent citizen of Brockport. His widow is one of our senior citizens and now resides in the Cupola Home.
Joseph Luce came from New Hampshire in 1811, and settled near the corner of the present Root and Covell Roads. His son was Charles Luce who had two sons, Oscar and Samuel H.

Oscar Luce married Lois Butler. He died in 1895 and Lois died in 1909.


Webster Chapman Jr. married Edverta Holland and have two children: Doris and Webster III. Doris married Leland Knab and live in West Sweden. They have ten children: Lynne, Lucinda, Melody, Dawn, Lani, Luanna, Leland Jr., Arthur, Renne and Jason. The three oldest girls have married and moved away. Webster III, married Marcia Scarborough and they reside on the Beadle Road with their two sons: Webster IV and Colvin.

George Luce married Susan Fuller, and had eight children: Helen, George Jr., Hazel, Homer, Wilson, John, Earl and Carolyn. Mrs. George Luce resides at the corner of Root Road and Covell Road. Homer, Wilson, John and Earl and their families still live in the same neighborhood which their forefather settled one hundred fifty three years ago.

Justus Nelson (1784-1836) and his wife, Mary Odell (1793-1872) came here in 1833 from the Highlands in Putnam County about a half day's journey from New York City along the Hudson River. The trip was made by river from Cold Springs to Albany and by the Erie Canal to Brockport. They brought their twelve children with them, the oldest being eighteen years of age. They also brought along the flint-lock musket used by Justus' grandfather in the French and Indian War, which is still a proud possession of the Nelson family.

Several of the children died; one traveled to the west and settled in Oregon. One of their sons, Charles Wesley Nelson (1823-1886) remained on the homestead. He married Abbie Dewey (1843-1868) and their son was Charles Dewey Nelson (1867-1930) who married Clara Louise Way (1868-1948) - (see Samuel Way account). Their children were Harold Wesley Nelson (1890-1957) and Guy Chappell Nelson.

Harold Nelson married Ada Clark from an old Clarkson family and had five children of whom two died in infancy. The surviving three were: Clark Dewey Nelson (married Elizabeth J. Elliott of Brockport) whose children, William, Clark R., Kenneth R. and Jane all live in Rochester; Kenneth, who died in Okinawa during World
War II, and Jean E. Nelson (married Kenneth W. Moore of Brockport) whose children are Kenneth, Harold, Randall and David.

Guy C. Nelson married Bertha Clark. Their two children are Clara Louise (married Anthony Sanders of Rochester), whose sons are Glenn and Nelson Sanders; Eleanor (married Charles Knapp of Brockport), whose children are Sharon and Charles N. Knapp. Guy Nelson retired from the old farm a few years ago and now resides with his wife in a small home at 146 Erie Street, Brockport.

HUMPHREY PALMER
(1802 - 1882)

Humphrey Palmer was born in Madison County and came with his father, Simeon, to the Town of Sweden when he was only six years of age. His father's tract included one hundred forty acres on the southwest corner of the Fourth Section and Lake Roads. He helped his father clear the land of the dense woods. The trees were burned and the ashes converted into potash, which was marketed at the mouth of the Genesee River and shipped to Quebec.

In 1825 Humphrey was married to Sarah Parkes, whose father owned a big farm which now includes the southeast portion of Brockport. The young couple purchased a tract on the West Lake Road (opposite the end of Holley Street) and he labored for two years clearing this land in the summer and teaching school during the winter. He later purchased part of the homestead on the Fourth Section and also acquired the lands of his father-in-law.

HumphreyPalmer was active in community affairs. He served long terms as school commissioner and highway commissioner and was overseer of the poor. He was Town Supervisor in 1848 but refused to be renominated. In politics, he was first a Whig, then a member of the Know-Nothing Party, and later a Republican.

His family consisted of six sons and one daughter named Sarah, who married Alonzo Hinman. Two daughters of this union were Carrie (Mrs. Edward Fitzgerald) and Adelle (Mrs. A.W. Fowler). The Fitzgeralds had no children, but the Fowlers had a son and daughter, whose descendents are prominent in the community.

The son was the late A.V. Fowler, father of Keith and Vincent, both of whom reside here. The daughter, Grace, was the late Mrs. Charles Ross, who bore three daughters: Adelle, Alice and Eleanor. Ross E. Walker, past Fire Chief, is the son of Adelle. Eleanor (Mrs. Theodore Mott) resides on Adams Street, next door to the old Hinman homestead. Alice (Mrs. George O'Brien) lives in Albion. There are many children and grandchildren in these families, who trace their ancestry to Humphrey Palmer.
We wish that we had more information about John Reed, first Supervisor of the Town of Sweden, who served in that capacity for eight years, when this area was part of Genesee County. Perhaps future historians will uncover the data we have sought. A poetic letter, written by John Reed, extending condolences upon the death of his mother gives some insight into the family story. He mentions his brothers, Eben, Daniel and William and his sisters, Sally and Ruby, who also appears to be his wife's given name. At that time he had two children: John Brown Reed and Ruby Reed. It had been nineteen years since he had seen his father, who apparently set him up on the original fifty acres. He boasts that his acres now amount to 1400 with buildings, forty head of cattle, fifty hogs and sixty-odd sheep. Much of his land was leased-out because he felt worn out and he spent much time visiting "saltworks, farms and frames".

His son, John B. Reed, married Mary, daughter of Joseph and Lucy Hill Emerson, who settled here in 1809. Their four daughters were: Mrs. Seymour Root, Mrs. George Rowe, Mrs. Fred Root, and Cora Reed Mershon. The old homestead on the corner of the Lake Road and the Reed Road, named for his family, was inherited by his daughter. It is often referred to as the "old Mershon house". It remained in the family for more than a century and once again is occupied by a descendant, George Rowe.

John Reed's daughter, Ruby Mann Reed, was born in 1812 and died in 1890. She married Asa Rowe (1806-1894) from the Town of Greece on May 28, 1828 and they had six children. Asa was the son of Abel Rowe, who came with two brothers to western New York from Holland, Connecticut. He was one of the first nurserymen in this area, served two terms as Supervisor from Greece and was on the building committee of the Monroe County Court House. He moved to the Town of Sweden and became identified in public affairs here, serving as Supervisor in 1850.

The children of Asa and Ruby Rowe were: Albert Oscar Rowe, Arthur Herbert Rowe, Asa William Rowe, George Henry Rowe, Ruby Elizabeth Rowe (who married George Davis) and Edwin Andrew Rowe. Albert died in childhood, Arthur never married, Asa W. was twice married and had four children but no living descendants today, Ruby had four children, one of whom was Arthur A. Davis who settled in Rochester. George Henry Rowe attended Alfred Academy, went to Michigan and Indiana. He served in Co. G. 15th U.S. Volunteers from Michigan during the Civil War and returned to marry another Ruby Reed. There were four children of this wedlock; Cora M., Henry A., George E., and William. The youngest son, William, was a well-known coal dealer in Brockport. His widow, Nettie Rowe, and their son, George and his family still reside in the village.
Edwin Andrew Rowe (1839-1920) married Ellen Sophia Rhodes on June 15, 1870 and their only child was the late May Rowe who married Albert H. Davis on March 19, 1902. They spent their lifetime on the old family estate, leaving five children: Edwin of Kenmore, Harold of Chatham, Ruth (Mrs. Lee Estes) of Elmira, Ellen (Mrs. Harold Cooper) of Rochester and Burton, whose new home is on the old estate. Edwin, Harold and Ellen, each have one child, who are heirs to a distinguished family lineage.

ASA ROWE RESIDENCE

ROOT

In 1818, three brothers: William, Aaron and Dudley Root travelled by covered wagon and oxen to the Town of Sweden from Charlton, Saratoga County. Their ancestors had left England in 1636 to settle at Hebron, Connecticut.

Aaron brought his wife and four children, the oldest of whom was Frederick P. Root. He bought the land formerly owned by Moses Pike and extended it to 700 acres. Aaron died when Frederick P. was only 18 years of age. He purchased the interests of others and became one of the most extensive property owners in the county. The area became known as the Root Settlement. His widowed mother, Mrs. Salinda Phelps Root, remarried in 1838, to Mr. Ross of Colby Corners, who manufactured furniture and coffins.

Frederick's formal schooling ended when he was 16, but he continued to study and was acknowledged one of the most learned men of the area. In 1839 he married Marion Phelps of Hebron, Conn. After 53 years of marriage she died, and he then married Mrs. Harriet White.

Frederick was deeply interested in welfare and improvement of the county, especially in the advancement of agricultural interests. He was an organizer and first president of the Farmers' Alliance. For many years he was president of the Insurance Company of Monroe County. He was one of the organizers of the State Grange. During the Civil War he was a revenue Collector. In 1879 he became a state assemblyman, and for five years he was town supervisor. He was a trustee of
Brockport Collegiate Institute. He wrote agricultural articles for magazines and gave lectures. When the grain reaper was invented it was tested on the Root farm. He died November 9, 1904, at the age of 92.

FREDERICK P. ROOT

Frederick had 3 children, Aaron, Minnie and Marion. Aaron married Elizabeth Brockway, descendent of Hiel Brockway, and they had six children: Edward, Frederick, Anna, Eva, Eliza and Dudley. (Eva and Eliza died in their teens). Minnie married William Ward and after his death married Henry Dewey. She had no children and her home was the present Fowler Funeral Home.

Marion married a Mr. Hart and had two children, Marion and Chester. Edward married Stella Bangs and had two children, Harlowe and Leland. Leland drowned in Black Creek and Harlowe married Bernice Kates of Churchville, who had three boys Robert, Fredrick and Leland.


Anna, daughter of Aaron, married Stephen Chalmers, a short story writer. They had no children. Dudley married Sarah Hovey of West Sweden and resided in Bergen. They had seven children, Helen, Lucille (deceased), Howard, Theodore, Gordon, Homer and Ruth (Buchan). Theodore and Homer are still residents of the Town of Sweden. Theodore married and lives on the Euler Road. Homer married Junia Wolston and lives with his daughters, Elizabeth, Lucille and Sally on the Beadle Road.

Andrew H. Root, (1816-1860) was a brother of F. P. Root and married Almira Howard, daughter of Sampson Howard. They had one son Seymour Root, born 1842, who married Lucy, daughter of John B. Reed in 1867. Their children were Mary A. Root and Ada B. Root.
Squire Robert Staples (1793-1871) came to Sweden in 1816 from Branford, Connecticut, at the age of 23. He became one of the largest land owners in the town. His farm included more than 700 acres along the West Sweden Road from the LaDue Road to the Capen Road. Access to his lands was from the Lake Road over a rough trail from Sweden Center, corduroyed with logs.

He was married to Eunice, daughter of Perry G. Smith, and fathered three children: Fidelia (who died at age of 22), Robert (married to Helen, daughter of Zonas Shafer of Clarkson but who died at age 28 leaving an infant son, Robert LaMont Staples) and Martha Staples Kendall (who died in 1908 at the age of 82. All of the original family are buried in the West Sweden rural cemetery which was once in the center of their farm tract.

Mrs. Kendall, with the aid of hired help, continued to manage the homestead until her death when it was inherited by her nephew. Upon his death it was sold and is now the home of Albert Armer and his family.

The original buildings of Squire Staples remain, and are most unique. It is the only house in the town of Sweden where the house, shop and barns are all attached under one roof.

The early settlers from this family originated in Bath, N.H. Several members of the family emigrated to New York State and finally settled in Sweden, Monroe Co.

James and Amos Stickney, brothers, came in from Oneida County, in the summer of 1809. Reuben Stickney Jr., another brother, had preceded them in the same year, and settled temporarily on the property purchased from Nathaniel Poole.

Reuben Stickney, Sr., a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and father of James, Amos, Reuben Jr., and Israel, moved on in the summer of 1810. Moses, brother of Reuben Sr., came at this time also, and settled in West Sweden. Moses died in the year 1857, his wife Pamela died in 1863, and they are buried in the West Sweden Cemetery. Reuben Sr. and his wife Sarah Cleveland lived on the northeast corner of Swamp and Lake Roads. The first town,
meeting was held at his home in 1814. Reuben Sr. died in 1827 and Sarah in 1828. They are buried in Beach Ridge Cemetery, Sweden.

Reuben Stickney Jr. moved on to Cleveland, Ohio in early 1811, where he died in 1845.

Amos Stickney settled on the southeast corner of the present Swamp Road, at Lake Road. He married Lorena Beadle, Sept. 1, 1829. They had six children, one of whom was Elisha Stickney, born July 24, 1837. Elisha married Louise Pierson, Oct. 10, 1860. They had five children: Carl, Clara, Sherman, Gertrude and John Stickney. Elisha died in 1906. Carl married and lived on the LaDue Road with his daughters Beulah, Georgia, and Valeria. The girls married and have moved from Sweden. Carl died in 1961. Clara Stickney died in 1956. Sherman died in 1895. John Stickney married Emma Snyder and they had three children: Warren, Jack and Floyd. Warren married, has one daughter, Judy; he lives in Spencerport. Jack Stickney married Anna Delehanty and they have one son, Raymond. Jack, Anna and Raymond now reside on the Swamp Road. Floyd, unmarried, resides in the old homestead on the Lake Road. Gertrude married Fred Smith; she died in 1951.

James Stickney married Polly Grey on Feb. 4, 1822. He lived on the land purchased by Reuben Jr., on the Lake Road. Some years later, he and his family moved to the White Road. They had three children: Darwin, Electa and Reuben C. James died in 1881 aged 87 years. Electa married Elizah Young. Reuben C. Stickney was born May 11, 1828, married Sarah A. Jacoby. They had five children: F. Belle, Lizzie, James, Inez and Minnie. F. Belle married Mordant Bebee of Oneida; she died in 1909. Inez married George Davis, son of Jay Davis; she died in 1902. Reuben C. died in 1914 at the age of 85 years. James Stickney, born in 1858, married Amelia Parker of Elba. They had six children: Grace, who married Walter Merrill, Grover, Mabel, who married George Chriswell, Earl, Harold, and Marie. Grace's husband Walter Merrill, still resides here but their children: Fred, Mabel, Byron and Jean, have married and moved away. Earl moved away to Michigan. Grover Stickney married Alida Staples from Elba. They had one daughter, Neva, who married Donald Mault, with their three sons and two daughters still live on the White Road in the Town of Sweden. Harold Stickney married Ada Lamka from Elba; they have one daughter Roberta. Harold and Ada live on the Lake Road at present. Roberta married Alvin Anheier; they have three daughters and reside on the West Sweden Road.

SAMUEL WAY

Samuel V. Way settled in the town of Sweden in 1816. He and his wife, Elizabeth Ressegieu, were natives of Colchester, Connecticut, and his ancestors were among the first to settle that state.

In 1826, Samuel Way purchased the farm on the Lake Road which now belongs to Walter Merrill. The land had considerable quantities of field stone which he sold for fireplaces and foundations. He died in 1883 at the age of ninety-two.

His son, George H. Way, was born on the homestead in 1827 and married Clara, a daughter of Guy Chappell, owner of a large farm in the southwestern part of what was later to become Brockport. (The Chappell homestead on Adams Street is now the home of the Raymond Dalys). Their children were: Frank (died in 1869), Allie, Nellie, Clara L. and Georgia. Allie married Charles Williams (children: George, Frank, Russell). Russell married Florence Garrison (Russell Jr. is their son), Nellie married Dewey Stratton (daughter, Jessie D.). Clara L. married Charles D. Nelson (see Justus Nelson account) and Georgia (married Clarence Spear) whose children are Arthur, Clara and Donald.

WHITE

From Madison County in 1820 came three brothers; John, James and Chester, sons of John White of Madison County. John White had two sons, Leverett and Chauncey. Leverett married Anna Gillet and moved to Michigan but returned in 1866 and resided with his brother, Chauncey White. Leverett’s son, Alfred M. married Sara Holmes (Lucas). They had three children, Margaret who married Alfred Decker, Burton White who died while attending Yale College. John White married Mabel Paine. To this couple five children were born, John Jr., Dorothy, Eloise, Harrison and Alfred. Alfred and Harrison are deceased. John Jr. married Alice Benton and has one daughter, Kathryn now in San Francisco. Dorothy married Frank O’Donnell and resides in East Rochester with her son, Frank and daughter, Kathleen. Eloise, who married Gen. Hansen, now resides in New Jersey and has a daughter, Gail, who is in Washington, D.C.

James White, who came in 1820, had a son, Edmund J. who married Sarah Davis, died in 1871 at the age of 51 years. Their sons were: Henry White, Eugene (died in 1847), and Charles J. White. In early life Charles J. married Sarah Root, daughter of Henry Root, who soon died. Later he married Addie’ Locke, daughter of Elisha Locke, at Sweden. They had two children, Harrison (now deceased), and Lillian White Winnemore who now resides in Washington, D.C.

Henry White married Nellie Parker. Their children were Morton, Robert, Edward, George, Harlow (deceased), and Louise (deceased). George White is the only one of the children who now resides in Sweden. He married Allis French and had five children.

Oliver White who also settled on the West Sweden Road died in 1887 at the age of 72 years. His wife, Nancy, died Aug. 1, 1873. They had six daughters and two sons: James, Rebecca, Mettie, Mary D., Elizabeth R., Samuel, Fidelia A., and Adelaide. All but Adelaide died in early life. She died about 1911.
About 1816 or 1817 Chester White and his wife Sally Howes White, together with his three brothers, two of hers and their families bought land in what is now the Town of Sweden and moved from Madison, N. Y. In 1828, Chester's untimely death left Sally with four small children and a farm barely started. We have no way of knowing how much help she may have received from her late husband's or her own brothers who had all settled in the same area. At any rate, she must have been a very good manager as evidenced by the fact that her children all received excellent educations at a time when most girls at least did well if they learned to read and write. Also letters to her son Leonard, after he had married and taken over the management of the farm, giving him advice on all sorts of subjects from stocks and political trends to the probable crop outlook would seem to bear this out. About 1840 she rebuilt and enlarged the original frame house to its present form.

Leonard, the only son, married Abigail Crocker White of Bergen (whether these Whites were distant relatives or not is not known) and as mentioned before, took over the management of the homestead about 1850. From this time until almost the day of his death he kept ledgers listing every item of expense and income whether it be thousands of dollars of a mere 2 cents. Being drafted in 1864, he followed a practice considered perfectly legitimate and honorable at the time and for the sum of $1,050 hired one Charles Anderson to substitute for him.

Leonard's family consisted of three sons, Clayton, William and Kirke, and one daughter, Clara. What we know of Leonard comes from the ledgers, letters from his mother, sisters and other relatives and recollections of his son, William L. White. He was evidently a successful farmer and business man, took very little part in politics, liked to hunt, played violin often, getting together a group consisting among others, of two cousins from Bergen who played bass viol and cornet, and his daughter, Clara, a graduate in music of the State Normal School, on piano. He took immense pride in Clara, and her untimely death from consumption, as T. B. was called then, was a shattering blow.

When Clayton, the oldest son, grew up and married, his father bought him the house and farm on the southwest corner of Lake and White Roads and gave it to him as his inheritance.

Leonard died in 1898 leaving his property to his two younger sons, Will and Kirke. They ran the farm in partnership for about five years. Then Will married Ellen Remington and shortly thereafter bought out Kirke's share. Soon after this, Kirke married and moved to California where he lived the rest of his life.

Will and Kirke were very nearly of an age, Will being a little more than a year the elder. They both were enthusiastic hunters and expert shots. Kirke was very active in musical and literary circles that flourished at the turn of the century. Next to hunting, Will's favorite hobby was photography. With what would now seem somewhat primitive equipment he took hundreds of pictures, both professionally and for fun. Always interested in mechanical things he was among the first to own an automobile. Kirke had no children. Will's son, Herbert and his wife, the former Florence Knapp, are now living in the homestead at 708 West Sweden Road. They had two children. June (Mrs. Richard Maxwell), who is living with her husband and two children in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Kirke, who died this year.
The "Story of Brockport" prepared by Miss Elizabeth Martin was a booklet of 90 pages, issued in 1930. Frank Dailey informs us that only 125 copies of this booklet were printed and that they were sold for one dollar apiece. Some collectors have them. One poor copy is on the restricted shelf at the Seymour Library. Some information in this booklet cannot be accepted as authentic, but it is a rare item nevertheless if you possess a copy.

As we read the story of the Seymour Library and the Community Center which immediately preceded it, we may not realize that Brockport provided reading rooms in earlier years. A "Reading Room" was established in 1872 by H. N. Beach in the upper story of Abram Smith's bakery. It was later moved to Timothy Frye's Drug Store, and subsequently the books were given to the Y. M. C. A.
VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

Fire has been both the servant and the enemy of man. Under control, it has been a boon to industry and comfort during the inclement weather. When it rages out of control, it has devastating effects.

The pioneers learned to respect the power of fire. They used it to burn the stumps from the forest so they could cultivate the land. They burned cut logs in the hearth to heat their cabins and cook their meals. They also used it to forge metal into implements for industrial purposes.

When fire threatened their buildings or their fields, they banded together in bucket brigades or contrived other means for mutual protection. Thus was born the volunteer firemen companies which have emerged into the modern efficient organizations in nearly every community.

A serious fire in the country, whether it was a farmhouse or a barn, was usually disastrous. Water and man-power were limited. History is replete with the record of charred foundations where once stood a house, barn, church or school, which had been leveled by flames.

In the past fifty years the conditions have improved. Today, motorized equipment from the village of Brockport, which is tied-in with other communities through a mutual aid program, can speed the most modern apparatus upon the first signal of alarm. Hydrants have been provided in water districts and town tank trucks will follow hose pumpers if needed.

In early days, the more populous areas formed fire brigades. Brockport's first company was No. 1 and was formed in 1832. The village trustees procured a handpumper from the National Hydraulic Co. of Procterville, Virginia, which was to be delivered immediately upon the opening of canal navigation for the summer season.

The outfit was known as the "Water Witch Company" and each man was issued a leather bucket by the village with his name stenciled upon it. The buckets were kept at home and when the alarm sounded, they would grab them and rush to the scene. If the fire were nearby, they first filled their buckets at home.

A new fire engine was procured in 1834 which had a suction hose and therefore did not have to be filled by buckets like the first one. An engine house was also built during the year to house the two hand-pumpers. Fire Engine Company No. 2 was organized in July of 1837 and the second pumper was assigned to them. They became known as the Conqueror Engine Company.

In 1845 the village procured a third piece of apparatus from Haskell, Maxon, French & Barnett, consisting of an engine and hook and ladder. By this time, the first pumper required repairs. Also in the same year, the engine, hook and ladder house was erected with a village hall on the second floor. The lot on the corner of Main and King Streets (where the Lincoln-Rochester Bank is now located) was purchased from E. B. Holmes for $500.00.

The members of the Hook and Ladder Company were first known as the "Spartens" and later were called the Empire Hook & Ladder Company. Meanwhile, the "Conquerors" seem to have run into problems; they disbanded in 1850, reorganized in 1851, disbanded again in January of 1856 and reorganized again the following May.

Because of limited water supply, the village trustees authorized the construction of three reservoirs, or cisterns, in 1861, each to be ten feet in diameter with walls of stone one foot thick. Locations were specified. (More of these reservoirs were built in later years).
There was a bleak period in this story of the Brockport Fire Department which lasted for about fifteen years. It encompassed those years that the nation was engaged in the Civil War. All of the companies appear to have become disorganized. The Engine Company was requested to take charge of the Hook & Ladder wagon in 1857. A referendum to purchase a new fire engine was defeated in 1860 and in the same year a petition was presented to reorganize the fire department. Another referendum in 1863 to purchase a fire engine was defeated 121 to 104.

Conditions had become so poor by 1867 that the trustees instructed the clerk to notify the only remaining company that unless the members discharged their duties and kept the apparatus and engine in good order, the company would be disbanded. The outcome of successive referendums undoubtedly had a demoralizing effect upon the firemen, who sought and needed more equipment.

In 1868 the trustees designated one man, Thomas Buckley Jr., to take charge of the engine and apparatus in case of fire. In April 1870 a check was made on missing ladders; it was discovered that someone forgot to return them after picking apples the previous fall.

In 1871 and again in 1875 referendums were held and voters rejected propositions to purchase new apparatus. The earlier proposal was for a steam fire engine; the latter for a Babcock Wheeled Chemical Engine to cost $3000, which was recommended by a committee of prominent citizens appointed by the trustees and sent to Rochester to confer with officials there. In spite of the recommendations, only 16 voters favored the proposition; 178 voted against it.

During this entire period, there were only three constructive actions. In 1872, the trustees conferred with Henry Seymour toward renting his steam engine in case
of fire; also to purchase more hose. In 1874, two Babcock extinguishers were purchased - one to be left at the American Hotel and the other at the Getty House. In the same year, a fire bell was purchased from the Moneely Foundry of West Troy, weighing 1509 lbs. and costing $681. 69. Church bells had previously been used with the cooperation of pastors and sextons, but on one occasion (Thos. Cornes Building fire) firemen broke the Methodist Church door to get to the bell and the trustees received a $3. 50 damage bill.

Conditions became so bad that the trustees appointed a committee to examine the apparatus and report to the village. Their report was rendered on April 8, 1876 and covered the complete inventory of equipment: "(1) one old hand pump engine, box rotted and machinery worn out - unfit for repairs and useless; (2) six old pike poles with some pikes broken; (3) four heavy ladders with rotted rounds - unsafe and worthless; (4) two or three hundred feet of damaged hose; (5) an old hand cart considerably damaged; (6) one hood and ladder cart all broken - no value; (7) two Babcock hand fire extinguishers. Both are charged and ready for use. These two extinguishers are all the protection the village has in case of fire." The report was filed but apparently no action resulted.

Then on January 12, 1877 came the big fire which started in the belfry of the old Methodist Church on Market Street. Buildings on both sides of the street were consumed. Local firemen were helpless. An appeal was made to Rochester for help and a steam engine with hose and crew was rushed by flat car on the railroad. Fifty men were injured fighting the blaze, three of them seriously.

The Market Street fire aroused the community from its lethargy. Within two weeks a special election was held. By an overwhelming vote, the trustees were authorized to issue village bonds and to purchase a steam engine and other apparatus. The Silsby Manufacturing Company of

PUBLIC BUILDING and FIRE HALL
(As it appeared in 1910 before doorways were enlarged to accommodate modern trucks)
Seneca Falls shipped in their fire engine which had been on exhibit at the World's Fair, one of the marvels of the age. Orders were placed for a new Hook & Ladder carriage with buckets, hand extinguishers, axes, pike poles, lanterns, bell, etc. Two hose carts were also authorized.

Immediately, several companies were formed, including the Silsby Hose Company No. 1, the J. P. Pease Hose Company No. 2, the B. E. Huntley Steamer Co. No. 1, the Thomas Cornes Engine & Hose Company No. 3, also a Protective Company. The Silsby's erected a frame building in front of the lock-up, the Cornes' pumper was kept next to the Johnson Harvester works north of the canal, the Protectives had their own barn on Monroe Avenue just west of Main Street (rent was paid by the village), the Pease hose cart and the Hook & Ladder and Steamer companies were housed in the village building. In 1882, the Pease Company was disbanded and the Harrison Hose Company was immediately formed. Each company was allotted seventy-five dollars per year for equipment maintenance, etc.

The new public building was completed in 1884 and cart rooms were assigned to the several companies, which were also allotted separate club rooms on the two upper stories. There have been some re-assignments but the building remains essentially the same today as it was eighty years ago.

As the village expanded to the south and a new residential area was developed beyond the railroad, the demand increased for additional fire protection in that section. The F. F. Capen Hose Company was organized to meet this demand. At first it was an independent organization, but it was accepted into the village department in 1893 as Hose Company No. 4 and a cart was assigned. This company leased a lot from the railroad and built their own firehouse, and in 1906 constructed the present "Hose House" on the point of Park Avenue and South Main Street.

FIRST MOTORIZED FIRE TRUCK - 1914
Was described as "Motor Hose Cart and Extinguisher"

Chemical tank carts became popular in the first decade of the twentieth century, but it was not until 1914 that Brockport was introduced to motorized equipment. It was in that year that the Capens made their appeal, not only to friends in the village but to residents in the rural area as well, promising to respond to country calls. The drive was successful and equipment was mounted on an International truck chassis. Thus began the service of village firemen to their neighbors in the country. Eventually Fire Districts were formed. The Town of Sweden now contributes directly from its budget toward the support of the Brockport Fire Department (a similar arrangement exists with the Town of Clarkson). Members are accepted into several companies from within the district, providing they fulfill other requirements and are available to answer fire alarms and emergency calls.

An efficient Emergency Relief Squad operates the ambulance service, with trained volunteers scheduled to stand-by around the clock.

Today, no area of comparable size or population can boast better fire protection than we have available in our district.
ORGANIZATIONS - SOCIETIES

Within the scope of this commemorative booklet, it is impossible to describe in detail the numerous organized groups, all of whom have contributed greatly to our community. Churches, schools, two service clubs, two of our youth organizations, the Grange and the History Club have been described because they are representative groups. Limited space and time prohibits a similar description of the many worthwhile fraternal, social, veteran, business and charitable societies.

We wonder if we are not the most thoroughly organized people that the world has ever known. All of our churches have fellowship, missionary and youth organizations. Most of our clubs have auxiliaries, as do also the fire companies. Fraternal and Veterans' organizations have their counterparts in women's groups. Even the schools have various clubs - our children are taught to be "joiners" at an early age. Among adults we discover many hobby clubs, recreation clubs, vocational organizations, and social groups - including bridge clubs, book discussion groups, bowling leagues, parents' societies, garden clubs, yachting and boating clubs, golf and other sport clubs, and a host of others. Many of these appear to be innovations, but the old-timers had them too.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

There have been many attempts to form an effective organization of merchants and professional people. A number of civic improvement associations have been started. Some were promoted for a specific purpose and were dissolved when that purpose was accomplished. Others had a longer duration. There have been at least three attempts to establish a Chamber of Commerce and a potentially strong body was chartered in 1913. It fell apart during the excitement of the World War I years and was not reorganized, until recently. The new Chamber of Commerce has already proved its worth and was instrumental in bringing two new industries into the area.

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

There have been many societies devoted to the relief of the indigent or suffering. Most of these were formed by women. The W. C. T. U. began in the 1880's and was very active with their own headquarters building on Main Street. The Union Charitable Society followed the 1893 depression. The Y. M. C. A. operated for about six years. The American Red Cross chapter here was one of the first in a community this size. Brockport had its own Community Chest for many years. The present Association of Twigs has been in operation for many years, giving service to Lakeside Memorial Hospital, which also has Volunteer Nurses, Nurses Aides and Gray Ladies. Civil Defense, Fire Police, Emergency Relief Squads are among other volunteer groups of modern times.
BOY SCOUTS

The scouting movement began in England at the turn of the twentieth century and was officially recognized in this country in 1910. Similar organizations, such as "Woodcraft Indians" and "Sons of Daniel Boone" were in existence but none of these groups had been established in Brockport. A Y. M. C. A. had been attempted with limited success and there may have been other youth clubs or leagues, but the Boy Scout idea was the first organized youth group to capture the imagination of this community.

The first troop was organized about 1911 by Ed Raleigh and Ed Fitzgerald, both descendents of pioneer families. Membership included more than sixty boys, but the membership records are not available. A second troop was organized in 1916 under the leadership of Frank Cook, a veteran of the Indian Wars, and this troop succeeded the other as Troop No. 1. Troop No. 2 was organized in March 1917, and a third troop was formed many years later. Both of these groups have maintained a continuous record, although different numbers have been assigned and the names of various organizations have appeared upon their charters as sponsoring institutions.

In the mid-1930's, Brockport was headquarters of the Red Jacket Council, comprising troops from three counties but excluding the city of Rochester and the towns of Irondequoit and Brighton. Within a few years the territory was consolidated into the Otetiana Council with headquarters in Rochester.

Previously, the Brockport area had its own council composed entirely of volunteers. This was succeeded by the BROCKPORT ASSOCIATION OF SCOUTING, which conducted an annual appeal for funds and directly supervised the programs of both the boy scouts and the girl scouts. This independent organization was dissolved when the Red Jacket Council was formed.

The Scouting program is highly organized. At present there are three troops, two cub packs and two explorer posts in the immediate area. Many local residents have been prominently identified with the Scouting movement, and youthful members have received their fair share of high honors.

SCOUTMASTER & PATROL LEADERS
First Boy Scout Troop - 1911
Included in this photo are Ed Raleigh, S.M. on the extreme left; Lyman Avery, third from left; Chas. Raleigh and Harry Coleman, fifth & sixth; George Minot at the extreme right; Carl Hiler, second from the right. Others are not identified.
GIRL SCOUTS

The activities of the Girl Scout program in the Brockport area has corresponded in many respects to the Boy Scouts. Unfortunately, there has been no compilation of their splendid record. We suggest that present Girl Scouts and their leaders might well undertake a project of preparing a complete account of their history in this area.

We understand that the first troop of Girl Scouts was organized in Brockport in 1916 with Miss Bertha Coleman as their leader. Mrs. Gifford Morgan was a member of the original sponsoring committee. Some years later Mrs. Bertha Doane became an active leader. We purposely omit the listing of scores of splendid women who have served as leaders and neighborhood chairmen. There have been so many, that such a list would be impossible without a long study of the record.

From a single troop in 1916, the neighborhood has grown to twenty units, sixteen of which are within the town. (Others include two in Adams Basin, one in Hamlin and one in Clarkson - all within the Central School District).

The district is known as Ga-No-Wan-Ges, as part of the Rochester and Monroe County Council of the national organization. It was originally an entirely local group.

The first Day Camp for Girl Scouts in Monroe County was at Hamlin Beach Park in 1953-54-55 under the sponsorship of the local area. Girls from this community have attended the council camp "Beechwood" at Sodus, and more recently the camp at Dansville, New York.

There were some local girls who received the coveted Golden Eaglet before this award was discontinued. Since that time many girls have achieved the Curved Bar, which today is the highest award in Girl Scouting.

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Masonic groups were active when Sweden was first established. Some of the pioneers had been inducted into respective lodges back east before settling here. Clarkson had a Lodge of Free Masons and a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, which were dissolved during the Anti-Masonic fervor of the 1820's and 1830's. Monroe Lodge was instituted in Brockport in 1850 and Daniel Holmes Chapter in 1902. Mary Jane Holmes Chapter, Eastern Star, is an auxiliary for the ladies, DeMolay for the young men and Constellation Stars for young women.

Monroe Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted in Brockport in 1866. For many years they owned the old church building on King Street, but their present quarters are only a few doors from the Masonic block. The organization for the ladies is the Rebekah Lodge.

A local lodge of Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was chartered within the last few years, and now leases the American Legion building for club facilities.

The Knights of Columbus also had an active group in Brockport at one time.
BROCKPORT GRANGE NO. 93

The local unit of the National Grange, one of the largest farm organizations in this country, was established on Feb. 12, 1874, with twenty-eight members. Frank F. Capen was first master. The organizational meeting was held in a small room, adjoining the Opera House, in which meetings continued the first year. During the next five years, the Grange rented the Odd Fellows Hall in the Decker block.

When Mr. Capen built the business block on Main Street which still bears his name, he dedicated one floor to the Grange and they met there for the next three decades. In 1911, the block was sold to the Odd Fellows, whereupon the Grange purchased the old Free Will Baptist building on King Street.

In 1938 the Grange purchased the former Thomas C. Gordon residence on the corner of West Avenue and North Main Street, but maintenance costs proved prohibitive and it was sold within a few years. The house was demolished and a service station now occupies the site.

In recent years the Grange has met regularly at the Clarkson Town Hall.

The National Grange has been instrumental in establishing Rural Free Delivery, the Parcel Post system, rural electrification and many other benefits to farmers.

Start of Trotting Race - Brockport Fair - September 6, 1912.

UNION AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

This was a forerunner of the famous "Brockport Fair". Organized in 1859, the society leased sixteen acres southeast of the village and developed one of the finest half-mile tracks in New York State. Unable to extend its lease or purchase the property, the society disbanded in October 1869. After a short lapse, the "Monroe County Agricultural Society" was formed and acquired a large tract in the eastern part of the village (where General Electric plant is now located). Several generations experienced the excitement and thrills of the annual fair with its exhibits, spectacular entertainment and horse races. Finally it ran into deficits and was merged with the annual Rochester Exposition at Edgerton Park in the city.
KIWANIS CLUB OF BROCKPORT

The Kiwanis Club was organized on June 30, 1926 and received its charter on September 3, 1926 with an initial membership of thirty-five. Harry W. Cleveland was first president and is still a member of the club.

Three local Kiwanians have served as Lieutenant Governor; Henry J. MacArthur, Arch Browne and Harlan Cooper. The district is known as the Genesee Division and comprises twenty-two clubs.

Five members have served in the club for more than twenty-five years and are recipients of the Legion of Honor - Paul B. Hanks Sr., Fred J. Bauch, Keith Fowler, Harry W. Cleveland and Dr. Kenneth Moore.

Primary interest of the Kiwanis Club in its thirty-eight years has been service to Youth. It has sponsored the Halloween Parade and festivities for many years, sponsored a Boy Scout troop, helped organize Junior League baseball, and has contributed to the material and physical needs of children, especially the handicapped.

In 1947 a "Key Club" was chartered at the High School as a service group for boys at the academic level. A similar group, known as a "Circle K. Club", was chartered in March 1963 for young men of college level.

The Club meets weekly on Wednesday noon for luncheon and program at the Roxbury Inn. Many of its members are from professional and executive fields and have given leadership to numerous civic and charitable endeavors in the community.

BROCKPORT LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club was organized on January 31, 1951 at the Clark Haven Hotel under the sponsorship of the Albion Club. Formal presentation of its charter was celebrated on April 2, 1951 at a large banquet attended by forty-five charter members and their guests. The meeting was addressed by John J. Brown of Staten Island, chief official of the state organization.

Edwin M. Read was first president of the Brockport club and ten years later became District Governor. He is presently serving as a director in the international counsellors association.

During its first thirteen years, this club has undertaken many civic projects in cooperation with other organizations. It sponsors the annual Easter Egg Hunt for children, helped to organize Little League baseball, furnished trees for landscaping the hospital, sponsors the several Brownie troops, and contributes to a wide list of community appeals. Its most important activity is sight conservation, the principle project of Lions International. In this effort the Brockport Lions have obtained more than a thousand eye donor pledges. From this eye bank alone there have been eleven known cornea transplants resulting in restored vision.

The Brockport Lions Club meets semi-monthly on alternate Monday evenings at the Roxbury Inn. Projects are financed from dues and collections from members and through such fund-raising affairs as their annual smorgasbords and chicken barbecues. During the 1964 season the club also raised funds to defray expenses of the Brockport Central High School band to attend the international convention at Toronto, Canada.
LAKESIDE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Until thirty-five years ago, nursing homes and hospitals in this area were private ventures. A most ambitious effort began in 1920 when the former home of Manley Shafer on Main Street was converted into a "Brockport Hospital" operated by Mr. & Mrs. Corcoran until 1929. When this failed, a citizens committee was formed, known as the Brockport Hospital Aid Association, which was successful in reopening the old hospital in 1932 with Mrs. Agnes Roberts in charge. In 1939 a charter was obtained and the name changed to the "Brockport Central Hospital". Mrs. Mary Glynn Sweeting, R.N., was the administrator from 1937 to 1944, when she was succeeded by Mrs. Frank W. Epke, who served for twenty years until her recent resignation.

Two public fund drives were conducted during the 1940's, and in August 1951, the new modern building was dedicated on West Avenue. While the site is just over the town line in Clarkson, this hospital (known as "Lakeside Memorial Hospital" since 1947) serves an area comprising many towns in two counties. However, vital statistics, such as births and deaths occurring at the hospital, are recorded with the Clarkson town clerk.

With the completion of the new wing and added facilities on June 4, 1963, the Lakeside Memorial Hospital now has 72 beds for patients and 20 bassinets. Warren E. Bishop is the present administrator and Mrs. G. Winifred Hermance, R.N., is assistant administrator. There are eighteen medical doctors on the staff and a full complement of nurses, nurses' aides, staff employees and volunteers - all of whom contribute to a most efficient service organization.

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS

Perhaps the oldest of our military groups was the Militia, which no one can recall. Supposedly, every able-bodied man was a member. Units conducted drills, but the focal point was the annual "Militia Day" when the entire community celebrated.

The Grand Army of the Republic, a veterans' organization, followed the Civil War, and was a powerful influence for many years. Cady Post in Brockport was a strong group. The Women's Relief Corps was composed of wives and daughters, and the Sons of Union Veterans was a junior body.

Spanish American War Veterans had a small and brief organization here.

World War I was followed by the organization of both the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The local post of the Legion was named for Charles Harsch, Arthur Crisp and Edward Frederick Seaman who were killed in action overseas. The V.F.W. post was named in honor of Lieut. Rodney H. Dobson, who was lost in a submarine disaster. Both these organizations have auxiliaries.
Our Town Office is a Service Center

The red brick building at 19 King Street in Brockport serves as the Town Hall for the Town of Sweden. Herein are located the offices of Supervisor, Town Clerk, Assessor, Building Inspector, Welfare Officer, Registrar of Vital Statistics and the Collector of Taxes. The Town Board, the Planning Board and Town Zoning Board of Appeals hold regular meetings here, as well as public hearings, and the official minutes and proceedings of these boards are kept on file. The minutes of the first Town Board meeting of 1814, and of every board meeting since that date, are carefully preserved in this building. The Police Justice and the two Justice's of the Peace hold court here in connection with jury trials.

Here also is where one may obtain a marriage license, a birth or death certificate, if such birth or death occurs outside the village limits. Hunting, fishing and trapping licenses, explosive permits and building permits may also be secured. Applications for Planning and Zoning Board matters must be initiated here, as well as applications for tapping the various water district and sanitary sewer lines.

The Town Clerk, who is a full-time official, is also the Collector of Taxes, and receives payment of real estate tax and quarterly water bills. Applications for home relief or for surplus food allotments are made at the town office, where a loan closet containing beds, crutches, wheel chairs, etc., is also maintained. Representatives from the Veterans Administration, the Social Security office and the County Welfare Department make regularly scheduled visits to serve area residents. Detailed information on assessments and photostatic copies of deeds are on file in the assessor's office. House numbers for new homes constructed (out-
side the village) are assigned by the assessor. Those seeking information concerning birth dates, marriage and death certificates soon learn that the Town Clerk can be of great assistance. Until recently, information concerning chattel mortgages and confidential sales contracts made by a resident of the town, were filed with the Town Clerk, but such information must now be filed in the County Clerk's Office. The bulletin board in the Town Hall is the official spot for posting all town legal notices. Young men of Draft Board 76 register for the draft at the Town Clerk's Office.

These are some of the services available at the Town Office to our residents. In addition, many inquiries are received from strangers requesting general information.

As our population continues to increase, the limitations of the red brick building on King Street and the need for larger accommodations with adequate parking facilities become apparent. Recently the Town Board appointed a building committee consisting of Messrs. Eugene Benoit, William Monno and Fred Bauch to present plans for a new Town Hall. No site has been determined nor have plans been approved but a colonial type structure is generally favored. No matter where it is located, or the type of its design, the Town Hall will continue to play an important role in the daily lives of residents of the Town of Sweden.

Police protection in the Town of Sweden is provided mostly by the County Sheriff, State Police, and the Police Department of the Village of Brockport, whose members are recognized as Town Constables. The only full-time constable is Albert O. McBride of 6975 East Canal Road, who serves as Dog Warden, having been appointed in January 1963. Because of legislation pertaining to stray dogs and the Brockport Dog-Lease Ordinance, Mr. McBride's position has gained considerable prominence. He maintains a kennel on his property to accommodate dogs brought to him under the ordinance, and whenever possible he identifies the owners and returns pets to them or finds acceptable homes. The disposition of others, after a period of five days, is determined by the Dog Warden, if they have not been claimed.

**MEMBERS OF THE TOWN BOARD**

**PAUL B. HANKS, SR.,** was elected Justice of the Peace in 1947 and re-elected for successive terms in 1949, 1953, 1957 and 1961. He is married to the former Laura Eddy of Syracuse, New York, and they reside at 103 South Avenue. They have four married children, Robert Hanks, Paul B. Hanks, Jr., Mrs. Allen (Virginia) Boyce and Mrs. Elmer (Janet) Stauss. Mr. Hanks moved to Brockport from Syracuse, N. Y., in 1925. He has been active in civic affairs and is presently chairman of the Council of the State University College at Brockport, N. Y. Justice Hanks and his son, Paul B. Hanks, Jr., Assemblyman of the Third District of Monroe County, are partners in the law firm of Hanks & Hanks.

**JOSPEH E. KEABLE, SR.,** was born in Brockport in 1904. He was appointed to the Town Board as a Justice of the Peace on July 30, 1957. He won election to that office in November of that year and re-elected in 1959 and 1963. He is married to the former Mildred Nesbitt and they have three married children, Joseph Keable, Jr., Mrs. John (Janice) Wilson and Mrs. Donovan (Joanne) Dunn. Justice Keable is president of Keable Lumber and Supply Corporation which he founded. During the past forty years he has been active in this area. Keable Court, a village street, bears his family name. His father, Joseph Keable, was also active as a carpenter in this area for over fifty years.
WILLIAM J. LAACK, moved with his family from Rochester, N. Y., to the Town of Sweden in 1909. He was appointed to the Town Board as a Justice of the Peace on May 11, 1945. He was elected to that office on November 6, 1945. In 1947 he was elected to the office of Town Councilman and he won consecutive terms thereafter in 1951, 1955, 1959 and 1963. By Town Board action, he has served as deputy supervisor for the past five years. Long active in civic affairs, he served on the Brockport Village Board from 1948 to 1954 and on the Village Board of Water Commissioners from 1949 to 1955 at which time he moved from the village to his new home on Lake Road South. He is married to the former Madelyn Reynolds and they have two married daughters, Mrs. Robert (Wanda) MacVean and Mrs. Frank (Carol) Unger. Mr. Laack is president of the Brockport Cold Storage Company and has been associated with said company for over forty years. His father, Charles Laack, was a prominent farmer in this Town for many years prior to his death in 1955.

NAT OWENS LESTER JR., was elected Supervisor in 1961 and re-elected in 1963. Previously he had served as Town Attorney for five years. He is married to the former Joan Peers of Rochester, N. Y., and they have four children, JoEllen, Judith, Nancy and Nat O. Lester III. He has resided in Brockport at 85 State Street ever since his birth in 1925. This house was built for and occupied by his great grandfather, John Owens, who owned and operated the Owens Grocery Store in Brockport for fifty years prior to his death in 1920. Mr. Lester's grandfather, Julius Lester, born in Brockport in 1860, owned and operated the Lester Dry Goods Store in Brockport for over 40 years. Supervisor Lester is a partner in the Brockport law firm of Lester and Lester which also includes his father, Nat O. Lester, Sr., and his uncle, Herbert G. Lester.

WILLIAM E. RILEY, was born in the Village of Brockport in 1911. He was elected to the Town Board as a Town Councilman in 1961. His father, William R.
Riley, age 85, and his mother, Margaret K. Riley, age 83, reside at 14 Spring Street. Councilman Riley is married to the former Aline D’Ambrosio, and they reside at 248 South Main Street with their son Edward, who is a Midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. For sixteen years Mr. Riley was a deputy sheriff of Monroe County. He recently entered the Real Estate business. While serving in Europe in World War II he was seriously wounded. He has long been active in Veterans’ Affairs and served three years as commander of Harsch-Crisp-Seaman American Legion Post #379. He also served as vice-commander of the Monroe County American Legion. His father was engaged in the heating and plumbing business in this area for over thirty years.

META A. SANDOW, Town Clerk, was born May 20, 1923, in the Town of Kendall. Her parents are Henry L. Peitscher, deceased, and Martha A. Fuller, owner of the former Fuller Nursing Home. She has lived in the Town of Sweden since November of 1936 and attended Brockport Central School and Rochester Business Institute. On November 9, 1946, she married William Sandow and resides at 18 Oxford Street. She attends the Lutheran Church of Concord on Ridge Road. On August 13, 1963, Mrs. Sandow was appointed Town Clerk, following the resignation of Nina Rich. She was elected last November for a term of two years. The newest member of our Town’s official family, Meta is a dedicated and enthusiastic public servant.

Mark H. Klafehn, Town Attorney
Enos S. Benedict, Police Justice
Natalie H. Wheeler, Deputy Town Clerk

ENOS S. BENEDICT, Police Justice, was born April 5, 1910, to Augusta F. and Homer B. Benedict at 45 Holley Street where his mother now resides. He attended the local schools and was graduated from Hamilton College in 1932. He was elected Police Justice beginning in 1948, having served previously on the Town Board as a Justice of the Peace for ten years. On July 9, 1938, he was married to Doris Otto and now resides at 291 South Main Street, Brockport. His son, Thomas, is a sophomore at Hamilton College and his daughter, Martha, attends Green Mountain College at Poultney, Vermont. Mr. Benedict practices law at 48 Main Street, Brockport, where he studied under the tutelage of his father, who also served as Police Justice from 1898 through 1947. We believe this is a 65-year father-son record in the annals of Police Justice service.
After many months of detailed study and hearings, the Planning Board filed a complete map describing zones assigned for residential, commercial and industrial expansion. Their function as outlined in the ordinances is to promote the health, safety, morals and general welfare by regulating the number of stores, size of buildings, density, and the location and use of buildings in accordance with plans for the development of the Town of Sweden. Brockport has a similar Planning Board with jurisdiction within the village. The Planning Board meets regularly twice per month and conducts hearings on commercial usages, variances, etc.

A large area of 700 acres just east of the village has been set aside for an industrial park. It is bounded by highways and the New York State Barge Canal, has railroad facilities, ample water supply, and other features which should be attractive to potential industries seeking a location.
Mr. and Mrs. Harold G. Dobson have worked together for many years, collecting data and moments on the history of our town.
As our town expands, especially on the outskirts of the village, demands arise for urban conveniences, such as water mains, sanitary sewers, street lights, etc. Petitions requesting such services must be presented first to the Town Board. If found feasible, orders establishing such districts are adopted.

Higher taxation in the village includes these services, but outside the village the property owners pay all costs of construction and operation only if included in a district which has not been established. Expenses are not distributed over the entire town; only those who benefit pay an additional assessment.

Sweden Water District No. 1, was established on June 18, 1957. It extends from the west line of the Village on Holley Street to the Redman Road and is bounded on the north by the canal and on the south by the railroad. It originally served ten homes and cost $17,000.00. Today it serves twenty-five homes.

The second such district was established on September 1, 1959. This district is situated along the Lake Road from the village boundary south to the intersection of Routes 19 and 31. Original cost of construction amounted to $35,000.00. Extensions to serve Sweden Village Subdivision and Crestview Estates Subdivision have increased the number of homes and businesses served from thirty-four to sixty-three.

Water District No. 4, which extends west along the Fourth Section Road from the intersection of Routes 19 and 31 to the County Line, was established on April 20, 1960. A special act of the State legislature was passed in 1960 (Chapter 686 of the Laws of 1960) to allow this district to be formed. The main water trunk line is owned by the Village of Holley, but the district owns the water laterals, meters and fire hydrants. Holley buys its water from Brockport and in turn sells water to the district, which serves thirty-eight homes at this time.

Water District No. 5 is a joint Sweden-Ogden District and extends east from the intersection of Routes 19 and 31 to the Trimmer Road. Its establishment was approved on November 28, 1962. Lateral trunk water lines were also laid along Owens Road and parts of Sweden-Walker Road, Gallup Road, Washington Street, Campbell Road and the Trimmer Road. This district has been extended twice and its twelve miles of water line is serving more than 100 homes. Original construction costs amounted to $470,000.00.

On July 5, 1961, the Town Board approved the establishment of the first sanitary sewer district. This district serves an area south of the Village, east or the Central School and includes Crestview Estates Subdivision, and the Sweden Village Subdivision. The treatment plant is located east of Owens Road. It is unique in that the Central School District is part owner of the treatment plant and of the main Trunk Sewer Line - the first joint venture in New York State involving a school and a town district. Certain parts of the Village, including the Owens-Illinois plant, are being served (under contract) by this town sewer. There have been two extensions of this district. Total cost of the system amounted to $378,335.00.

Drainage districts have been formed within the Sweden Village Subdivision, also serving the Wegman Shopping Plaza. A street lighting district has been created within the Sweden Village Subdivision and the annual cost paid by property owners.

Another district, known as the Sweden Fire Protection District, was established
on September 22, 1933 after petition by town residents. It includes all of the Town of Sweden outside of the village. The Town Board contracts with the Village of Brockport and its Fire Department to furnish both fire protection and ambulance service. During 1964 $6,234.00 will be paid for such service.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT STAFF**

Left to right, standing: Gene Zarpentine, Chas. McCullough, Herb Koss, Art Baube, seated: Chas. Roman, Ed Wright (Supt.), Roy Cliff, Fred Nodcker.

**EDMOND WRIGHT**, Highway Superintendent, was born in Clarkson in 1910. He attended Brockport schools, and in 1927 started work for the Highway Department first as laborer, then truck driver, and shovel operator. He became foreman and in July of 1952 was appointed Superintendent by the Town Board, following Ed Cotter's resignation. He was elected to the office of Highway Superintendent in the fall of 1952, and has been continuously re-elected since that time. Ed married a Brockport girl, Beulah Whipple, and they have three children. Dean and Norman are both married, and Nancy lives at home, attending Brockport Central High School.

**Edward A. Sodoma** was born in the Town of Sweden in 1922, one of three sons of the late Andrew and Anna Sodoma, both of whom came to this country from the Ukraine at the age of 16. Mr. Sodoma is married to the former Qwendolyn Zorn of Brockport and they have three sons; Ronald, Robert and Randy. They reside at 4885 Redman Road on the farm formerly owned by William Udell. The Sodomas are known for their extensive and successful farm operations in the town. Ed has been Town Assessor since 1962 when he was appointed to succeed Grover Stickney.
VILLAGE OF BROCKPORT - 1964

The Sesqui-Centennial Committee acknowledges with gratitude the excellent support from officials of the Village of Brockport as we join together in the observance of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Town of Sweden.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Edward J. Grygiel
Mrs. Ruth H. Kaznowski

E. George Hamil, Mayor

George A. Marks
Donald Rogers

Frank J. Donahue, Clerk-Treasurer
Miss Elizabeth Lancashire, Deputy Clerk

Edgar A. Coapman Jr., Village Attorney
Donald M. Hare, Chief of Police

Wendell C. Sweeting, Superintendent of Public Works

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Ellery L. Cooney
E. George Hamil

Louie D. Smith, Chairman

Robert W. Northrup
Stephen P. Lingle

PLANNING BOARD

Ellery L. Cooney
Harold L. Rakov

Theodore H. Redman, Chairman

William M. Carter
Joseph A. Keable Jr.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

William T. Connors
Donald L. Fisher

John R. Anderson, Chairman

Dr. Henry F. Johantgen
Chester W. Kame
WHICH IS THE OLDEST HOUSE? This question has perplexed researchers since the Sesqui-Centennial was proposed, and even before. From old documents, we believe that the Kendall house in West Sweden (now occupied by Albert Armer) is the earliest structure still standing. The main section is built of brick and adjoining sections are frame construction.

We are convinced that the second oldest house is a stone dwelling on the south side of the White Road, opposite Car-go-ra Farms. Originally built by the Stickney pioneers, it was used as a tenant house by Frank Green, whose homestead was located directly west.

Until it was demolished, the old Patton house on the Lake Road was recognized as the oldest surviving building.

STONE HOUSE ON WHITE ROAD

CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION
A commission to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the tragic Civil War (1861-1865) was officially established jointly by the towns of Sweden, Clarkson and Hamlin, together with the village of Brockport. Beginning in 1961 the Commission held bi-monthly meetings, but in these later years it has become a study group. It sponsors the re-activated 13th New York Volunteers, which has participated in many battle re-enactments, parades and reviews. A complete report of the research and activities of this commission will be published in 1965 upon the expiration of the centennial observance.

CHARLES D. MacLEAN, principal of the Normal School from December 23, 1867 through June 1898, is revered by members of the Gamma Sigma Fraternity in the United States and Canada. He is the acknowledged founder of this society which originated in Brockport on October 11, 1869. A pilgrimage is conducted each year on this date to Lake View Cemetery, where his grave bears a memorial tablet attesting to the great esteem his memory holds. The local chapter is no longer active but chapters have continued in other states and in the Province of Ontario, Canada. The MacLean room at the Seymour Library is maintained as a memorial and depository of Gamma Sigma mementos.
UTILITIES A whole chapter could be written on the development of utilities from the "coal oil" lamp and the hand pump over the family well. The Brockport Gas Light Company (near the West Canal Bridge) produced its own gas from soft coal for nearly fifty years. Generators of the Electric Light Company (Clinton Street) supplied the "latest source of light" from the stone building still standing. There were two rival telephone companies. William Guelf started work as a linesman for Dr. Frank A. Winne's "Home Telephone Co." in 1897 for fifty cents per day. His industry and courage so impressed Morton Minot that he invited him to join his private bank. This led to a finance career and Guelf's election as Mayor.

There was considerable excitement in 1882 over an oil boom in Brockport. A speculative concern was established and sold shares at the Kingsbury bank. Drill rigs were brought in by flat car and a boring made on the Rural Cemetery property next to the railroad. The well struck a gas pocket before funds expired. Investors refused to put up additional funds and the project was abandoned.

The well was capped and a pipe installed to vent off the gas. This pipe extended some twelve feet into the air. The escaping gas was ignited at the tip of this vent. It is claimed that a four-foot flame burned brilliantly for about three years before it was exhausted. Some old-timers still recall seeing the old rusted pipe many years ago.

Perhaps the spectacle of this flaming torch kindled the idea of a memorial cemetery and its monument which evolved about ten years later.

1902 Advertisement

BROCKPORT GAS LIGHT CO.,
Established 1858.
Brockport Holly Water Co.,
Established 1890.
Geo. P. Truro, Supt.,
Brockport, N. Y.

ODD BUSINESS COMBINATIONS Among our early establishments: "Dental Palace and Daguerrean Emporium", grocers offered paints and crockery, an organ dealer sold sewing machines, a jeweler operated a livery stable, a hotel proprietor sold musical instruments, a seed store did printing and a tailor sold bicycles. "Moonlighting" apparently began back in those days when!

Monument dealers were known as Marble Works (Austin Harmon & Son were among the best known and is still operating!) In 1877, Brockport had a scientist, an architect, a casket maker, a whip factory, glove manufacturer, and several dress and cloak makers. William Richardson made harness and saddles, Dennis Duff fashioned boots and shoes in a shop which was formerly James Frazier's brass foundry. Ezra Greenough, S. Goff, Isaac Barnes, A. G. Boyd and Hiram Consaul were carriage makers. C. E. Flagler was a carriage painter and other Flaglers operated a bicycle shop. P. E. Guinan manufactured cigars late in the century and tobacco was grown on several farms.

WEST SWEDEN had unusual industries: Raphael J. Cook owned and operated a cheese factory for fifty years before it was destroyed in a hurricane in 1894. Squire Burns had a thriving cooperage business for thirty-eight years, making apple barrels. Chas. Roberts' old blacksmith shop is still standing on the Stanley Beadle place. The Steve Brooks General Store has disappeared, but the A. B. Pulis General Store, which was also the Post Office until 1902 still stands. The shops connected with Squire Staples old home were maintained until his death for the manufacture and repair of sleighs and cutters.
SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR, 1898
"Remember the Maine!"

It was more than two months after the sinking of the U.S. battleship Maine, that Congress declared war on Spain, April 25, 1898. President McKinley called for 125,000 volunteers to supplement the regular army.

We do not have a complete record of all those who enlisted from the Town of Sweden, nor if any saw action in the Caribbean or the Phillipines. Santiago, Cuba, surrendered in July and Manila was captured on August 13th, climaxing one of the briefest major wars in history.

Among those who served in Co.H, Third N.Y. Volunteer Infantry were Charles A. Bryant and Walter J. Connor. Lee M. Nichols went as a replacement to Camp Black, after some had failed their physical examinations. Thomas C. Brodie and Clark H. Quinn were privates in the Seventh Battery, Light Artillery. Other enlistees were Joseph Allen, Kirk Cook, Fred Gladwin, and Ed Fitzgerald, but their units have not been identified.

OLD DISTRICT SCHOOLS We are disappointed that we could not produce more pictures and information about the old district schools, all of which have ceased operation. Students from some of these schools held reunions where historical papers were presented, but we have been unable to obtain any of them. We were especially interested in obtaining information on the Barlow Corner's school (site of Brockport Plaza parking lot). The entire building was moved to the Redman Road and is now used as a tool house behind Arthur Mault's barn. Mrs. A. B. Church (nee Della Gleason) once taught in this school for a short term. In her 91st year, she now resides in Holley.

HOME GUARD and CADETS In the account of Military Records, we omitted mention of the New York State Guard and the New York State Cadets, organized during World War I. The "Home Guard" was a company of volunteers, commanded by James Callaway, to replace the National Guard which had been ordered into Federal Service. They drilled regularly but fortunately were never needed to meet serious emergencies. The "Cadets" were compulsory for High School youth over sixteen years of age and they also drilled once each week.

CEMETERIES Lake View and Beach Ridge Cemeteries adjoin but they are separate associations. High Street Cemetery is commonly known as the village cemetery. Both of these have soldiers' plots, reserved for military veterans. Mt. Olivet is a Catholic Cemetery operated by the local parish. The Brockport Rural Cemetery surrounding the Soldiers' Monument is no longer in use. There are three others, little known and neglected: Locust Cemetery on the County Line Road, West Sweden Cemetery and the East Lake Cemetery on the Sweden-Walker Road.

NO PICTURE OF STANDPIPE The booklet committee has searched diligently for a photograph of the old standpipe (water reservoir) which stood on the hill immediately south of Brockport. It was a familiar landmark for many years, until long after the extensive reservoirs were installed on Beach Ridge. The only pictures we have uncovered were taken at the time of its demolition.
LEGISLATORS - Two of Hiel Brockway's sons-in-law, Elias B. Holmes and Davis Carpenter, were elected to the U.S. Congress in the House of Representatives. Four men from Sweden served in the State Senate from this district: Jerome Fuller (1848-49), Henry Harrison (1896-98), Charles J. White (1909-10), and Ray B. Tuttle (1949-50).

Ten men have also served from Sweden in the State Assembly: Robert L. Staples and Frederick P. Root, George W. Sime (1887-90), Benjamin F. Gleason (1898-1900), John Pallace Jr. (1903-04), Henry Morgan (1907-08), Charles H. Gallup (1913-14), Donald J. Corbett (1934-35), William B. Mann (1940-44), and incumbent Paul B. Hanks Jr. for the past twelve years.

PHYSICIANS & LAWYERS We had hoped to include in this commemorative booklet a listing of these and other professional men whose impact on the community left an enduring impression. Compiling such a list with accuracy in the short time allotted is impossible. The Civil War Centennial Commission has gathered material on the life of Dr. William B. Mann, venerable physician, and naval surgeon, which is scheduled for release with its final report in 1965. We believe that biographical papers on outstanding citizens would prove of interest to many of our contemporaries.

1902 Advertisement

DEAN & MARThur.
Attorneys and Counselors-at-Law.
Theodore S. Dean, Henry E. McArthur.
Brockport, N. Y.

THREE FORMER SUPERVISORS

Harold F. Tighe (standing)
Fred G. Gillespie
John H. White

The names of many roads in the town are identified with pioneers who first settled on them. These can be checked by referring to either the map or the genealogy records appearing elsewhere in this commemorative booklet. Roads which do not bear family names include the following:

Salmon Creek Road - named for stream it crosses.

Sweden-Walker Road (originally called "East Lake Road") - designates the extremities.

Redman Road - (originally known as the "West Lake Road"), extending to the Clarkson line, was renamed to avoid confusion. The Redmans are a pioneer Clarkson family.

White Road - (originally known as the "Sweden Center Road").

Fourth Section - derived its name from the survey and applied to the eastern section as well, which is now referred to as the Million Dollar Highway or the Brockport-Spencerport Road.
West & East Avenues - originally known as the Sweden-Clarkson Town Line Road. The former is sometimes mentioned as Brockport-Holley Road.

The street names in the village of Brockport also provide an interesting story which has appeared in various accounts, which we do not intend to duplicate. Some are family names, others commemorate historical events, and a few have never been traced.

THE BROCKPORT REPUBLIC Only two other newspapers in this area can boast a continuous publication for more than a century. With the exception of a few volumes which have been borrowed or misplaced, the files of this weekly are intact back to the first issue, October 9, 1856, when Horatio N. Beach was editor-owner. There is a vast store of historical information contained in these files, which should be micro-filmed and preserved for posterity.

Brockport had many other papers of shorter duration. The first weekly was published on December 6, 1827 by Messrs. Hyatt and Harris and was known as the "Free Press". It was later called the "Brockport Free Press and Farmers' and Mechanics' Advocate" and still later the "Brockport Free Press and Monroe Democrat". Other papers and the year of initial issue were: "Recorder" (1858), "Monroe Republican" (1833), "Jeffersonian" (1835) published in Clarkson, "Sentinel" (1843), "Watchman" (1844), "Weekly Journal" (1852), "Gazette" (1858), "Democrat" (1870). Only the Democrat survived under successive editors until it was merged in 1925 with the Republic.

Even the women attempted a publication of their own - "The Woman's Paper" a large-size, ten page literary journal which was published in 1895. It was edited by a staff of prominent women of this locale, who contracted the printing with a Rochester concern.
Mr. & Mrs. S.E. Abrams, Jr.
A&P Super Market
Albert's Shoe Store
Alex Paint Shop
Arlene Beauty Salon
Arnold Oil Company, Inc.
Vic Avel's Esso Service
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Barber
Joseph Barber, Sr.
Beaney-Trojan
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Beikirch
Lawrence Bleicheld, Opt.
W.E. Bowen, Real Estate Broker
Brockport Animal Hospital
Brockport Automotive
Dom J. Tadio
Brockport Clothing Co.,
Herman Salitan
Brockport Diner
Brockport Lumber Co., Inc.
Brockport TV & Appliance
Robert Bruce Insurance
Grace M. Cameron
Camman's Corner Service
Campus Charcoal House
Carl's Auto Service
Clarkson Grocery
Coapman & Klafeln
Dr. & Mrs. Harold Collins
Concrete Materials, Inc.
Edward P. Connors
JoAnn Converse
The Country Store
Crow Electric Supply
Charles Decker Company
Mr. & Mrs. John Delahanty
Dr. Paul Dewey DDS
John DiFrank
Dobson's Drug Store
Dunn's Home Furnishings
E.L. Duryea
Charles Easton
Eddie's Donut Center
Harold J. Ehmnn
George A. Engel
P&C Fashions
Dr. Jack W. Falsion DDS
Firestone Store
First Federal Savings & Loan
Association of Rochester
Fred's Shoe Repair
Garland Hotel
Gaylord's Barber Shop
Gray's Rotary Station
Mr. & Mrs. Paul B. Hanks, Sr.
Harry's Diner, Clarkson
Jim Hofti
Higgins Bar
Hitchcock Jewelry Co.
Luther Homuth, Real Estate
Chuck Hurd's Silver Horseshoe
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Keable, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Keable, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Klafeln
Dr. and Mrs. Joel N. Kutz
Faye and Pearl LaDue
Lloyd LaDue
Leastman Enterprises
Lester & Lester
Lincoln Rochester Trust Co.
McGrath & Knapp
Mulkin Chevrolet-Oldsmobile
Nifty Foods Corporation
John T. Nonthagle, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. William Nottingham
Otto's Barber Shop
Perfecto Cleaners
Charles F. Perry
George T. Donaher
Podgers & Sons, Inc.
Purdie Express Lines, Inc.
Rayburn's Garage
Mr. & Mrs. William H. Rayburn
Richard's Boot Shop
Homer Rogers & Sons
Rose Manor Motel.
Earl & Alberta Rose
Roxbury Inn, Inc.
Harry Sentiff
F.J. Souls Co.
Spurr's Service Station
Star Markets
Geo. S. Terry & Company
Anthony Marianetti
Torb Tavern
Traugott Buick, Inc.
Tri-Builders Co.
The Vaianos
R. VanValkenburgh Builders, Inc.
Walker Studio
Wegman's Food Market
Dr. & Mrs. Wallace Wheeler
Workingman's Store

BOOSTER LIST - COMMERCIAL
NAME IMPRINTED

A. A.U.W.
Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Beaney
Eugene & Aline Benoit
Brockport Junior Women's Club
Gerald & Peg Browne
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph E. Browne
Mr. & Mrs. Rupert Bryant
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cook
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth F. Danzig
Karlton D. Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Davis
Ernest H. Dilger
Florence Gleason Duff
Bonnie Edwards & Family
Robert A. Ellis
Stella Ellis
Richard P. Epke
Mr. & Mrs. Luther Ergott
Mrs. Elias Petter
Mr. & Mrs. Keith C. Fowler
Mrs. Martha A. Fuller
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Gabel
Mr. & Mrs. James Gallo & Cindy
Mr. & Mrs. Wilfred Gallo
Mr. & Mrs. Harold D. Graves
William W. Guelph
Mr. & Mrs. K.E. Gurnett
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Hall
Earl J. Hamill II
Mr. & Mrs. George Hamill
Richard D. Hamill
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald W. Harling
Pauline M. Haynes
Helen Heath
Mr. & Mrs. John Henion & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Henion &
Mary Eunice
Tousley M. Hooker
Mrs. Fred Hovey
Mrs. Ruth Jenkins
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kaznowski
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Kenerson
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Laack
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Lester
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert G. Lester
Mr. & Mrs. Nat O. Lester, Jr.
Boyd, Marilyn, Lynne & Wendy Losee
J. Bernard Luskey
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W. Fowler Maw
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Meinhold
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Mr. & Mrs. Raymond C. Myers
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Friend
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Mr. & Mrs. Wilson Northrup
Mr. & Mrs. Irvin E. Peitscher
Mr. & Mrs. George Pugelley
Mr. & Mrs. Edward W. Rayburn
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Emerson, Emily & Virginia Reed
Anthony Reidy
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Riley
Mr. & Mrs. William R. Riley
Mr. & Mrs. William Sandow
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Sipher
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Ransford G. Smith
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Mr. & Mrs. John Sodomaka
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sodomaka
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Sodomaka
Randy E. Sodomaka
Ronald J. Sodomaka
Grover Stickney
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Richard Sweating
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General Electric Company

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Village of Brockport
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Bruno Spingarn
W. Scott Spink
Mrs. Eileen Spiros
Sportman's Shop
Mr. & Mrs. Richard L. Spurr
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Paul & Elsie Swanger
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Clyde C. Wilcox
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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Wiley
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Mr. & Mrs. George Wilkinson
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Etta Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Williams
Addie Wilson
Dr. & Mrs. Clifford Wilson
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Mr. & Mrs. William Ohlinger
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Mr. & Mrs. Musey Shareef
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Shefield
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Ira Sipple
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Wilson Knab
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Mr. & Mrs. Willis Knapp
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Mr. & Mrs. James Moszkowicz
Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Mouganakis
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Mowers
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Mowers
Mr. & Mrs. Horace Muesbeck
Robert L. Muesbeck
William R. Musebeck
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Mufford
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mullins
Mr. & Mrs. John Munson
Clarence Munztz
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Murphy & Family
Mrs. May M. Murphy
Martin Murray
S. Murtagh Plumbing & Heating
Mr. & Mrs. David L. Meyer
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Myers
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard D. Myers
Mrs. Marion Myers
Michael C. Myers
Richard W. Myers
Terrence S. Myers
Andrew Nasitka
Guy Nelson
Mrs. Hazel Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Nesbitt
Mr. & Mrs. William Nesbitt
William & Marion Nestle
**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARADE PRIZES**

**FLOATS**
1. Most Authentic Historical
   - Brockport Chamber of Commerce $100.00
2. Most Unique
   - Lincoln Rochester Trust Company 75.00
3. General
   - Monroe Lodge #188 I, O, O, F. 50.00

**MARCHING UNITS - Best appearing in Uniform**
4. Men - 1st Place
   - Brockport Lions Club 50.00
5. Men - 2nd Place
   - First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Rochester 25.00
6. Women - 1st Place
   - Economy Laundromat 15.00
7. Women - 2nd Place
   - Concordia Lutheran Church 1887 10.00

**SENIOR DRUM CORPS**
8. 1st Place
   1. Brockport Cold Storage Co. , Inc. 50.00
   2. Dynacolor Corporation, Subsiderary of 3M 25.00
9. 2nd Place
   1. Keable Lumber Company 25.00
   2. Sesqui-Centennial Fund 25.00

**JUNIOR DRUM CORPS**
10. 1st Place
    - Brockport Conservation Club 75.00
11. 2nd Place
    - Mary Jane Holmes Chapter OES #440 10.00
    - Ladies Auxiliary Harsch-Crisp-Seaman Post 25.00
    - Junior Women's Club of Brockport 5.00
    - Sesqui-Centennial Fund 10.00

**BANDS**
12. 1st Place
    - Brockport Kiwanis Club 75.00
13. 2nd Place
    - Brockport Cold Storage Co., Inc. 50.00
14. 3rd Place
    - Ladies Auxiliary Lt. Rodney H. Dobson Post #2890 10.00
    - Brockport Grange #93 15.00
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<th>Category</th>
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<td>BEST COLOR GUARD</td>
<td>15. 1st Place Mr. &amp; Mrs. Robert Northrup and family</td>
<td>$ 15.00</td>
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<td>16. 2nd Place Town of Sweden Democratic Committee</td>
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<td>OLDEST SELF PROPELLED</td>
<td>17. Fire Equipment Sweden Republican Committee</td>
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<td>OLDEST HORSE DRAWN</td>
<td>18. Equipment - Restored Chuck Hurd's Silver Horseshoe</td>
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<td>19. TOWN OF SWEDEN QUEEN First Federal Savings &amp; Loan Association of Rochester</td>
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<td>21. First Federal Savings &amp; Loan Association of Rochester</td>
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<td>JUDGES</td>
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