History of Clarkson, 1803 - 1890. Volume 1 & 2

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HISTORY OF CLARKSON

1803-1890

Volume I
HISTORY OF CLARKSON
1803-1890
Volume I

* * *

A series of articles
printed, in 1890, in the
BROCKPORT REPUBLIC
Brockport, Monroe County, New York

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Transcribed and compiled
by
Stanley D. Soules
March 1983
- Preface -

This history of the Town of Clarkson was printed by the Brockport Republic, in 1890, in a series of thirty-one articles. The first fifteen of these articles are presented here in Volume I. They were published between February 6 and May 22, 1890, by Editor Beach, on the local news page of the newspaper.

An index of the names printed in the articles of this volume is found at the end of the text.

The microfilm files of the Brockport Republic newspaper are located in the Reference Division, Drake Memorial Library, State University of New York College at Brockport.

S. D. S.
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HISTORY OF CLARKSON

It is our purpose to publish a history of Clarkson, mainly its early history, but giving also an account of Clarkson village, Redman's Corners, Garland, and the Moore Settlement including Rice's Corners. In making this history we shall to some extent use the histories hitherto published, and add facts otherwise obtained, hoping by a systematic arrangement of events to present a clear and more perfect history than now exists. At best but few of the people have access to the published histories, and not one in ten are in possession of much valuable information that largely concerns their locality.

In 1892 the people hope to celebrate the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus. With that discovery begins the written and published history of this country, and no modern local history is complete without an outline antecedent history connecting the past with the present.

The first settlement was made in the now State of New York in the locality where the city of New York stands, and from that locality the growing population radiated out in all directions, but first to those points accessible by boats. Thus the new comers located at first along the Hudson river, and numerously in the vicinity of Albany, at the head of navigation for vessels of considerable size. What later became Albany, Saratoga, Rensselaer and adjacent counties, were settled before the "wild west" of the present Western New York had ever been explored. Then this section of Western New York was a wilderness inhabited by the Seneca tribe of Indians - the genuine original native Americans. They have left records of their occupancy in mounds, stone axes, etc. Not many years ago a human skeleton was unearthed in the road near the Clarkson cemetery, as it was being graded down, and it was generally believed to have been that of an Indian.

The tide of settlers finally set toward the westward, and up they came through the Mohawk valley. To some extent they utilized the Mohawk's river, as many of them used bateaux for the conveyance of their goods by water. In 1788 Oliver Phelps, a native of Windsor, Conn., and Nathaniel Gorham, of Massachusetts, pur-
chased 5,000,000 acres of land for which they agreed to pay $100,000 to the State. The Indians objected to the obtruding pioneers, sometimes with scalping knives, and to pacify them Phelps & Gorham agreed to give them $5,000 and an annuity of $500.

In the 1789 a road two rods wide was cut through the forests from Fort Stanwix in the Mohawk valley to the Seneca lake. The whole purchase made by Phelps & Gorham was laid out in townships, and Ontario county included the whole "Genesee country" as it was called. The first of the oncoming settlers located at Geneva and Canandaigua. In 1791 they had extended to Geneseo, and a town by that name embraced all of the State to the westward. On April 9th of that year a town election was held at Canawagus.

In 1789 Peter Shaeffer and family came from Pennsylvania and located near the present Scottsville, paying $2.50 per acre for a farm. At this time Bloomfield had become quite an important settlement. Up to the year 1803 the only post office west of Geneva was at Canandaigua. In 1799 Caledonia, which included what subsequently became LeRoy, had a number of settlers. In 1801 the Triangular Tract, covering 87,000 acres, which reaches from LeRoy to Lake Ontario, and includes the present Hamlin, Clarkson, Sweden and a part of Bergen, was laid out, and the same year a land office was opened at Buttermilk Falls, at or near the location of LeRoy.

March 30, 1802, the town of Gates was formed from a portion of the town of Geneseo. This town then included all of the section west of the Genesee river. The town of Murray was formed from the town of Gates, (and was at first called Northumberland), April 8, 1808.

Thus it appears that for seven years after the Triangular Tract was surveyed it was in the town of Gates. It will assist an understanding of what is to follow by forestalling history in the statement that Sweden was cut out of Murray in 1813, and Clarkson (including the present Hamlin) in 1819.

Most of the foregoing history applies to all Western New York. About the year 1800 a settlement had been made at Sodus Bay in what became a part of Wayne county. Soon after pioneers located in the vicinity of what is now Lewiston.

We come now to the history of the first settlement,
and subsequent development of what in later years became the town of Clarkson. As we have before noted, a land office for the sale of all the land included the Triangular Tract was opened at what later became LeRoy. In that office a record of the sales made was kept, and the sales from the opening of the office in 1801 till 1809, both years included, year by year, were as follows, for land in what became the town of Clarkson, which included the present Hamlin:

In 1801 six lots were sold in the Triangular Tract, but none in the Clarkson section.

In 1802 nine lots were sold, but none in Clarkson.

In 1803 six lots were sold, and one to Moody Freeman—who was the first purchaser in Clarkson.

In 1804 ten lots were sold, and James Sayre and Elijah Blodgett bought in Clarkson.

In 1805 there appears to have been greater activity in sales, and twenty-six lots were sold, eight in Clarkson, viz.: John Fowle, William Davis, Simeon Daggett, David Stanton, Noah Owen, Benjamin Boyd, Isaac Farwell and John Farwell.

In 1806 there was a sale of thirty lots with the following purchasers for Clarkson: Aretus Haskell, Julius Curtis, Samuel Chriswell (perhaps Chriswell), Ebenezer Towle, Sylvester Eldridge, Olney P. Rice and Carr Draper.

In 1807 fifty-three lots were sold, as follows to purchasers for Clarkson: Patrick Fowler, Joseph Grover, Wilbur Sweet, Levi Leach, Eli Glass, William Dickenson, Anthony Case and S. Bigelow.

In 1808 sixty-six lots of the tract were sold, and the following were purchasers in Clarkson: Eldridge Farwell, John Mallory, Isaac Lincoln, Eli Mead, L. W. Udell, Robert Clark, Robert Hoy, Robert Brown, James M. Brown, Oliver Hamlin, Danforth Howe, Macy Brown, Eli Randall, Jonathan Mead and Elisha Lake.

In 1809 twenty-five lots were sold, the Clarkson buyers being: Isaac Holmes, Joshua H. Brown, Walter Billings and Orange Risden.

These lots were all sold by contract, no deeds being given at the time of sale. In 1809 there had been forty-six purchasers in the section included later by the town of Clarkson. It is possible that some of the purchases extended into that portion of the domain now included by Hamlin, but we believe not. If they
did so extend, we ask any of our readers to give us the information. It is not probable that all of the purchasers named settled in Clarkson, but most of them did. Regarding some of them we have records to present later on. We ask those of our readers who know the subsequent history of any of the persons named - where they went to, lived, died, were buried, etc. - to furnish the information to add to the completeness of this history.

Our previous article was concluded with a list of those who made contracts for land in Clarkson, at the LeRoy land office, between the years 1803 and 1809.

The first question that naturally arises is how they got to their purchases, and what they did when they arrived. When the Triangular Tract was laid out, the road since known as the Lake road - extending from LeRoy to Lake Ontario - was also included in the survey. In 1803 the contract for opening this road was let to Nathan Harvey and Jeremiah Haskell, who immediately began at LeRoy, and worked toward the north. It is not stated what kind of a road, nor how much they were to receive for the job.

It is probable that they cut out the trees for two rods in width - as that had been the way of opening roads east of Canandaigua - and then made a passable passageway for wheeled vehicles. The roots and stumps must have made the track exceedingly rough. The bridges were built by laying large logs across the streams, and then covering the logs crosswise with smaller logs and poles. They were neither handsome nor smooth structures, but were strong until weakened by age and decay. Marshy pieces of ground were made passable by poles laid crosswise, called "corduroy." The men building the road took their supplies with them, and lived where their work was being performed.

When the first settlers arrived at their purchases the first thing they did was to build log houses. How this was done is thus described by Elihu Church, who settled in Riga: "We put up the body of it in one day, and had it ready to move into on the fourth day. The floor was of split basswood, the roof of cedar shingles, no boards were used, and but few nails."

An open space of course had to be made for the rude buildings, and caution had to be exercised to so place
them that the standing trees would not be liable to fall on them. The trees for the log houses were cut down, and logs of nearly uniform size and the same length were used. They were notched near their ends, and made to fit fairly close together. The openings between the logs were filled in with clay or mortar. A few specimens of the old log houses are still standing in Clarkson and Hamlin. The first of the log houses had no dividing partitions, and they were made temporarily by hanging up sheets and blankets. The house door—there was usually but one—was furnished with a wooden latch and leather latch string; and when the latch string hung out it was a sign of welcome. In modern times to say "the latch string is out," is a figurative expression of welcome of the old fashioned kind.

A rude house having been built the next thing in order was clearing the land of trees, and this was a work that was continued for many years. All of the living had to come somehow from the land—by the sale of ashes from the burnt trees, and the grown crops. And it is not altogether legendary that at times the most common necessities of life were scarcely obtainable. It has been related by one of the pioneers that he and his family had oxen and cows, but no provisions, and they lived for sometime on milk, venison and fish—a curious bill of fare, yet others may have fared much worse. Wild game was abundant, and fish were numerous in all fair sized streams. Of the wild game wolves were plentiful and had such a liking for mutton that sheep could not be kept; and that bears had such an affectionate and embracing regard for pigs that they were safe only in bear-proof pig pens. Those were the days of the "good old times," as brought down to us by the enchantment of a long distance view, and they were enjoyed by the pioneers, who became accustomed to their kind of life; but such living now would be a severe ordeal for even the poorest of the people.

Our previous sketch gave a list of land purchasers up to and including the year 1809. In 1810 there came to Clarkson James Moore, Adam Moore, Henry Moore, Silas Taft, Simeon B. Nathan, John Daggett, William B. Warden, Henry Grinell, Isaac Randall, Walter Billings, Dea. Joel Palmer and Dr. Nathaniel Rowell. Dr. Abel Baldwin visited at Clarkson in 1810, but did not move there un-
til the following year. The following is an account of his experience, a little defective in some respects, as given in Turner's history:

"When I moved into this country in 1811 with my family we were ferried over the Genesee river at Rochester; the Ridge road was only cut out wide enough for a wagon track; the streams were crossed by means of log bridges. Upon the present site of Clarkson village there were three log houses, and in all perhaps thirty acres of land cleared. James Sayre was the pioneer of that locality, in fact the first settler on the Ridge, in what is now Clarkson and Murray, and I think Parma. He had selected this spot on account of a fine spring, before anything was known of a continuous Ridge road. Sayre, who had taken up considerable land, sold his contracts and removed. Besides him I found here David Forsyth, who remained here until 1849, when he moved to Michigan. Deacon Joel Palmer had just commenced tanning and currying in a rude and primitive establishment, the first on the Ridge road. Dr. Nathaniel Rowell had preceded me a few months, and was in practice among the new settlers. Eldridge Farwell had located here, but soon removed, and became the pioneer of what is now Clarendon. West of the Corners, on the Ridge, John and Isaac Farwell, brothers of Eldridge, had settled. In all of the Ridge, in what is now Clarkson and Murray, Moody Freeman was the pioneer. He was from Hanover, N. H. He made his solitary home two miles north of the Corners. There was in Clarkson north of the Ridge besides Freeman in 1811 Eratus Haskell, who had taken up land upon which there were salt springs, where he set up a few kettles and was boiling salt for the new settlers. Haskell was a captain of militia in the war of 1812, and was at the sortie of Fort Erie. Stephen Baxter settled in the neighborhood in 1811, and also engaged in salt boiling. John Nowlan also settled in the Freeman neighborhood. A log school house had been erected, and a school was in operation, when I came in 1811."

* * *

The historian doubtless made some errors in the publication of Dr. Baldwin's sketch, for the Doctor was a very clear headed man. Moody Freeman was undoubtedly the first settler, and James Sayre the next. In 1811 there must have been more than three log houses
at the then Murray Corners, and very much more than thirty acres of cleared land, as Dr. was made to state. By 1809 there had been over forty purchasers of Clarkson lands, and if not more than half of them came they should have made considerable progress by 1811, the period of which Dr. Baldwin spoke. From 1809 the land sales continued, and with no interruption until the opening of the war of 1812, when for two years the sales were greatly reduced. In 1810 twelve families moved into the town, of which the heads of but two are named in the LeRoy land office records up to 1809, so that before 1811 there was a material increase of population besides the purchasers first named.

A name not hitherto mentioned is that of Henry McCall, who came into town about 1810, and opened a store at the Corners. Charlotte Cummings is credited with being the first teacher, and that she taught the first school in 1812. It is probable that a school was opened earlier, as the early settlers believed in schools, and Dr. Baldwin states that when he came in 1811 there was a log school house. There is some discrepancy in the early history as to the first school house, one authority saying that it was built in 1812.

In 1811 there moved into town Stephen Baxter and Joel Palmer. The fact should be kept in mind that the present Clarkson was a part of the town of Murray until 1819, and after being set off from Murray until 1852 included all of Hamlin. Thus it is probable that some of the persons named settled in that part of the town which subsequently became Union and then Hamlin.

Isaac B. Williams came to the town in 1811 or 1812, a blacksmith by trade, and built the first frame house, which stood where the brick hotel stands. Lewis Swift came in 1812. Joshua Fields followed in 1813, having stopped for a time at Bergen. Hiel Brockway built a hotel in 1816. The same year Isaac Allen removed to the town. About the same time there came James M. Casson, Abijah Sayre, John Chapman, Perry Nichols, Josiah Randall and John Nowlan. Joshua Greene was also an early settler, but the time of his coming is not fixed by any sale of land. As before stated, we hope to obtain a brief history of all of the early settlers named, and publish the same in a concluding article. Much of this history has already been obtained, and it is coming.
Gustavus Clark, whose history we shall give later on, came to Clarkson in 1815. In Turner's history the following interesting sketch of Mr. Clark's experience is given: "When I came to Clarkson in 1815 the Ridge road was but little traveled for want of bridges. My first load of goods broke most of the bridges down from Rochester to Clarkson, and the team was obliged to return to Lima via the south road and LeRoy. That road had been opened before the Ridge road was traveled at all. My first principal business was to pay part goods and part cash for black salts and potash. Henry McCall had been first engaged in mercantile business in Clarkson, and Joshua Field had also been merchandizing here. James Seymour was the successor of Field. All of these had been engaged in the manufacture of potash; in fact that was the staple production of all of this region. It was the first available means that the new settlers had to pay for store goods, or to raise a little money. It was a great help to them, and I hardly know how they would have got along without it. It was a period when but few of the settlers had raised any grain to sell. The new settlers would put up a few rough leaches, and generally make black salts. Those who were strong handed enough, and could raise kettles, would make potash. Upon lands where beech, maple and elm predominated the ashes would almost pay for clearing the land. Many times when a new settler was under the necessity of raising money, or stood in need of store trade, he would go into the forest, chop down the trees, roll them together, and burn them for the ashes alone, with no reference to land clearing. The proceeds of ashes have supplied many a log cabin in this region with the common necessaries of life, in the absence of which there would have been destitution. Our potash was taken to the mouth of the Genesee river and shipped to Montreal. I have sold it in Montreal for as high a price as $305 per ton. The Ridge road was much improved soon after 1815 by the erection of bridges over the streams. A post route was established from Canandaigua to Lewiston in November, 1815. At first the mail was carried in a small wagon twice a week. In 1820 daily coaches were put upon the route; travel increased rapidly, and before the canal was completed there were carriages almost continuously in sight."

Thus it appears that as late as in 1815 the Ridge
road was in an unsafe condition - so unsafe that the team bringing a load for Mr. Clark had to return by the way of LeRoy. In this connection it may also properly be stated that the Ridge road through to Lewiston was not opened for several years after the settlements began, and not until long after the so called "Buffalo road" was in use - the eastern part, if not all of it, in 1810. In 1812 soldiers were marched from Rochester to Clarkson, from Clarkson to LeRoy, and from LeRoy to Buffalo and Lewiston, because there was no other open land route.

In the published recollections of Dr. Baldwin reference was made to salt boiling by Aretus Haskell. We have learned by inquiry that he was located on what is known as the John Perry farm. Salt was also made on the John Hoy farm, near Rice's Corners, and on the Baxter farm, a short distance north of the North Star schoolhouse. The salt springs were called "salt licks," because the deer come to them to lick for salt. The price of salt was one dollar per bushel.

* * *

In continuing a list of the pioneer settlers the fact should be kept in mind that the domain of Clarkson included the present town of Hamlin. It is also well to know that a man who was a voter in 1821 would, if alive, be now not less than ninety-one years of age. Persons of the same name now living are children or grand children of the pioneers. We have been asked if certain persons, "boys" of from 50 to 60, were the first settlers. Of course not, though some of them know much of the experiences of the later pioneer life.

information as to the individual history of each person.

Henry R. Selden, Samuel L. Selden, John Bowman and
Col. Simeon B. Jewett, all prominent men in their day,
came to the town later than 1820. A brief record of them
will be given.

In 1816, at the formation of the Presbyterian church
society, the names of the following ladies are given,
some of whom were undoubtedly the wives or daughters of
the men hitherto named: Mary Perry, Polly Day, Polly
Rice, Phebe Palmer, Patience Ellis, Mary McCracken, De­
sire Wheland, Laura White, Anna Smith, Sally Reed, Char­
lotte Cummings and Betsey Phelps. Miss Cumming was the
first school teacher. No man's name appears in the re­
cords before 1820 of Day, Ellis, McCracken, Wheland,
White or Reed. In the names given Patience, Desire and
Polly - names much more common way back than at present.
The favorite early names for females were Prudence,
Charity and Hope, and they were understood to indicate
certain hope or virtues and characteristics in the lives
of those on whom the names were bestowed. There were
fewer named Welcome, Faith, Love, Mercy, Prudence and
Temperance; but all of these and similar names were
identified with the families of from fifty to seventy­
five years ago. Probably some of them proved misnomers -
Prudence not proving prudent, Hope not proving hopeful,
and Mercy not proving merciful.

We have stated previously that in 1815 a mail route
was established between Rochester and Lewiston. The
next year the first postoffice was opened in Clarkson,
and Dr. Abel Baldwin was appointed postmaster.

The first sawmill in the town was built by Eldridge
Farwell. Later he built grist mill. Samuel Church
built a grist mill in Riga in 1811, and for a year or
two the Clarkson people took their grists to his mill
to be ground. At an early date Ebenezer Tole built a
small gristmill near Ladd's Corners, which was sometimes
operated by water power, and sometimes by hand-power.
Dr. Baldwin built a sawmill on the stream that runs from
Brockport north-east from Clarkson Corners. Lewis Swift,
the pioneer, built a carding mill on the same stream, near
the sawmill mentioned. Before gristmills were started
the settlers pounded their grists into flour in hollows
cut in stumps. Before sawmills were running split bass­
wood was used for making doors to the log houses, and
for floors, when that luxury was provided. Many of the
first log houses had no floor other than the earth, and no chimneys. The smoke went meandering through the openings, of which there were no lack.

At this early date the minister was looked up to, and naturally, with reverence, and often with awe. The school teacher took second rank among the important personages, and next came the doctor. The lawyer appeared quite late and then litigation grew apace. The really most useful person at the early period of which we write was the carpenter, particularly after sawmills had been started. He erected the buildings. When the first baby appeared in a new household, if it was to have a cradle the carpenter was called upon to construct it, and if it was not very ornamental it was so strong that the little shaver could not kick out the end-boards. A few of them have until the present day survived kickings, cartings, fires and gales. When a person died the neighborhood carpenter constructed the coffin, and like the child's cradle it was strong but not ornamental. The carpenter also made tables, bedsteads, the chests in general use, cupboards, etc. No man in the early settlements performed labors of greater utility.

When fireplaces and chimneys were built, there was usually built in connection an oven of stone or brick. Most of the old farm houses contain these ovens, which, before the coming of stoves, were for baking bread, cakes, and the roasting of meal. The fire-places were spacious, and each was supplied with an iron crane, a trammel, hooks, and often short sections of chain with a hook on each end. Many of our older readers know all about them. The crane and appendages were all made useful in suspending the kettles, pots or pancake griddle over the blazing wood fires, by which most of the food was cooked, and those doing the cooking were themselves often more than half roasted. So hot were the fires of the fire-places that many persons roasted fowls by hanging them in front, and turning them around until they were done. The ovens became quite useful in cooking small articles in front of wood fires. Potatoes were generally roasted by placing them in hot ashes near the live coals.

When persons were about to engage in housekeeping the outfit was called a "setting out," which usually consisted of pots and kettles for the fireplace, some
crockery, a small amount of wooden ware, and a bed or two, the total often not costing more than $50. That is the way the pioneers began. Most of the first settlers brought all of their household goods and family in one wagon or sleigh, and the furniture did not crowd even a small log house. They had no carpets, no bureaus, no lamps; and of course such things as sewing machines, organs and pianos were not even dreamed of. Mops and candlesticks were among the most used and useful of articles. Most conspicuous as adornments were the gun over the fireplace held up by deers' horns, and strings of dried apples, pumpkins, and herbs overhead.

* * *

The first settlers had but precious little money, and of necessity had largely to resort to a barter trade. In one case six bushels of wheat were given for one gallon of whiskey, and whiskey was one of the first of manufactured products - the small distilleries being established long before churches were built. Elihu Church gave a bushel of wheat for a bail to a pail. One man worked for six months in payment for a suit of clothes. Ashes were taken to the potasheries and exchanged for store orders; the goods were paid for in black salt; and the merchants realized upon their potash in the eastern markets. These black salts or potash were refined to some extent and became pearlash, an article generally used at an early day for raising bread, etc. The potash kettles, holding from fifty to sixty gallons, cost at first about $40, and it was only the nabobs of the period who were able to possess them - that is nabobs in comparison with the poorer men who could not rise to the distinction of such ownership. A pair of stogy boots cost $7, and it is stated as an unquestioned fact that nearly all of the people, men, women and children, went barefoot during the summer season. Elihu Church reports drawing wheat from Riga to Charlotte and selling it at 31 cents per bushel. Under the conditions named some of the pioneers succeeded excellently, some moderately, some just failed of success, and some were dead failures - just as their successors have done and been since. To succeed was to achieve success by the strictest economy, by privations, and through undaunted fortitude.

We have mentioned the wolves and bears that gave a
cordial reception to the sheep and hogs of the pioneers. The wolves were so destructive that in 1815 the settlers all turned out and had a wolf hunt, and with guns, horns and shouting drove them southward from the lake to beyond Caledonia and LeRoy. Before that time the deer were at times chased by wolves into the barnyards of the farmers. The deer were so plenty that one man killed six in a day. Black squirrels were so plenty that as many as thirty were at times counted on a single tree, and they were very destructive of the corn crop. In 1812 the pigeons had a roost near Rochester, and there were millions of them. There were a few panthers, but neither they nor the other wild animals molested persons unless crowded into a fight - they always ran away if they had a fair chance. Wild ducks nested along the shores of the lake and streams every spring. Not until 1817 did the crows come, and about that time the racoons and turkey buzzards left. A bounty was paid for killing wolves, and some men with a taste for trapping and hunting realized a considerable income from that source. In the town of Greece, especially along the river below the lower falls, there were many rattle snakes, and a bounty of three cents per head led to their destruction. Poisonous snakes have not abounded in this section.

Among the early experiences it is related that in 1815 it cost $4.50 per hundred pounds to cart stocks of goods from Albany to Clarkson. A party of thirty-eight persons were twenty-one days making the journey from New Hampshire to Geneseo. In 1807 wheat had been harvested by July 4th. Many of the first settlers established their homes by springs or streams of water. Some dug wells, and then followed the era of tall crotches, well sweeps, and the "old oaken bucket" that has been described pathetically in poetry and song. It was long afterward when matches for fire lighting purposes were invented, and the flint and steel and the punk were resorted to. The old flint lock guns were made to do valuable service in obtaining fire and light. A few clocks with heavy weights were in use, and an occasional English watch was owned. Hour glasses were used to some extent, but noon marks were the least expensive of the few time indicators. These reminiscences might be presented almost without limit, and they throw a clear light upon a pioneer life and his-
tory; but we will suspend them, and show the forward movement of the people of the town.

It is remarkably strange that a town should be named in honor of a person regarding whom so little is known. Turner's history says it was "Named from Gen. Clarkson, an extensive land owner, who gave 100 acres to the town." And that is all. Even his first name is not given, nor is any mention made of what disposal was made of the hundred acres. Subsequent historians have stolen what Turner said, but have added nothing. Perhaps some of our readers can throw additional light on this important subject.

Northampton, subsequently Gates, was the grandfather of the towns hereabouts, and Murray was the father. How Murray was subdivided, we will now show concisely, and it is valuable history. Murray was set off from the town of Gates April 8, 1808, and then embraced all of the territory now included in the town of Sweden, Clarkson, Hamlin, Clarendon, Murray and Kendall. The first division of the town of Murray was in April, 1813, when, Sweden, including what is now Clarendon, was taken off. In February, 1821, Clarendon was taken off from Sweden. In 1819 Clarkson, including the present Hamlin, was taken off from Murray. In 1852 Union, now Hamlin, was taken off from Clarkson. In 1837 Kendall was taken off from Murray. The early history of these towns is very closely interwoven, and family relations still continue closely allied.

Dr. Baldwin has stated in his early recollections that the first election in the town of Murray was held at the barn of Johnson Bedell, about four miles south of Brockport. No record of this election is found in the published histories, but it must have occurred between the formation of Murray in 1808, and the setting off of Sweden in 1813. The first election in Sweden as embracing Clarendon was held April 5, 1814, and in Sweden, as now composed, in April, 1821.

The first election was held in the town of Clarkson on April 4, 1820, when the following officers were chosen, the list of officers varying considerable from that recently elected: Supervisor, Aretas Haskell; town clerk, Gustavus Clark; collector, E. Cook; Assessors, Frederick R. Stewart, William Cook, Billa Cook; commissioners of highways, Isaac Allen, Samuel A. Perry, Jonathan Cobb; commissioners of schools, Nathaniel Rowell, Gustavus Clark, Ariel Chase; inspectors of schools, Abel Baldwin,

The following is a complete list of supervisors from the organization of the town to the present, with date and period of service: Aretas Haskell, from 1820 to 1824; Gustavus Clark, 1824; Aretas Haskell, 1825; Abel Baldwin, 1826; William Groves, 1827 to 1829; Gustavus Clark, 1829 to 1833; Simeon B. Jewett, from 1833 to 1835; Henry Martin, from 1835 to 1837; Isaac Allen, 1837; Theodore Chapin, 1838; Jonathan Prosser, 1839; William Groves, 1840; Henry Martin, 1841 to 1843; Samuel R. S. Mather, 1843; Alphonzo Perry, 1844; Isaac Houston, 1845 to 1847; George W. Clark, 1847; James R. Thompson, 1848; James H. Warren, 1849 to 1852; George W. Estes, 1852; James H. Warren, 1853; Isaac Garrison, 1854; James H. Warren, 1855 to 1857; William P. Rice, 1857; William H. Bowman, 1858; M. A. Patterson, 1859; Cicero J. Prosser, 1860; Adam Moore, 1861 to 1863; Elias Garrison, 1863 to 1865; George W. Estes, 1865 to 1876; James H. Warren, 1867 to 1874; W. L. Rockwell, 1874 to 1876; John B. Snyder, 1877 to 1879; Adelbert P. Chapman, 1880 to 1881; Eli Gallup, 1882; Henry Allen, 1883 and 1884; William Leach, 1885 to 1887; John B. Haskell, 1888; John Prosser, 1889. John Prosser was elected March 4, 1890.

From the record book of Lewis Swift, a justice of the peace, kindly loaned us by his grandson W. H. Swift, it appears that he was chosen to office before Clarkson was set off from Murray, as his record of official services opens on Jan. 24, 1820, and the first election in Clarkson was not held until April 4 of that year. From this interesting record we shall extract some facts for the double purpose of showing how the litigation of that early day was carried on, and to fix in the town the residence of some of the pioneers whose histories have been lost to recollection.

As stated, the date of the first record is Jan. 24, 1820, a suit of Elisha Marks against Seth Byam, for the payment of a note of $2.25, dated Nov. 29, 1819. A judgment was rendered for the amount of the note, and there is added: "Received 12½ cents, my costs," Ex. 19 - making a total of $2.56½. The "cost" was much less
than it would be in the year 1890 in Justice Cray's court, and his charges are only legal.

The next day there was another suit—David Forsyth and Joel Palmer against Henry Luce, on a note of $10.08 dated Oct. 9, 1819. The costs were 31 1/2 cents, the same as in the previous suit. The suit indicates that a copartnership existed between Forsyth and Palmer.

The third suit was the same day—Phillip Boss against Elijah W. Wood, for an account of $1.50. The fees in this case were as follows: Summons 9, constable service 50, record 12 1/2, ex. 19.

Jan. 28, there came the fourth suit—Harry Porter and Elisha Marks against Coonrad Holmes, for a balance of 50 cents on a note. The costs were the same as in the previous suit. This suit indicates that Harry Porter and Elisha Marks were partners.

The same day a suit was tried between Elisha Marks and William White, on a note for $9.82. The costs were the same as before with the addition of 12 1/2 cents for a witness.

Jan. 28, 1820, appears to have been a "court day," as eighteen cases are noted as passed upon that date. James Seymour and Henry Seymour sued David Bennett; Gustavus Clark and James R. Gurnsey sued David Bennett; the Seymours sued Timothy Tyler; Abijah Smith and Rowell Atchison and Aaron Van Ness. This last case was for trespass. It was once adjourned, to be held at S. Alvord's hotel, and a jury was called, but the names of the jurymen are not given. The new fees mentioned are: Venire 19, warrant 12 1/2, jurors 75 cents, probably for six of them.

The same date Ebenezer Towle sued Nicholas Hosner, Jr.; Clark & Guernsey sued Levi Talmage; the Seymours sued Jonathan Simons; Harry Porter and Elisha Marks sued Cyrus Barker; the same sued David Bates; the same sued John Johnson. Francis Farwell sued Silas Barker; the Seymours sued Samuel Perry; William Ostrander sued Robert Ostrander; Clark & Guernsey sued Calvin Freeman.

In the record there appears the following names, showing a residence as early as 1820: Robert W. Palmer, Walter Phelps, Charles Darby, Nathan Wright, Abel Wait, Josiah Cobb, William Alvord, Nathaniel Daggett, Luman Johnson, Francis Ruby, Truman Smith, David Bates, James Bates, William James, David Locke, Seth Pattee, Peter Eastman, Samuel G. Lewis, Barney Stowell, Sylvester

A suit of Samuel G. Lewis against Barney Stowell, Gideon Pease and Sylvester Pease was tried Feb. 8, 1820, before the justice and a jury of eleven, "both parties agreeing to dismiss Daniel Wait." The eleven jurymen were paid $1.37 1/2, and seven witnesses 87 1/2 cents.


Witter Steward and Joshua Field composed the firm of Steward & Field, which firm on March 17, 1820, sued David Williams for $5.75. A judgment was given for
the plaintiffs in the amount claimed and costs. In the record of the case this statement is made: "Defendant pleads exemption of body," — recalling the fact that years ago persons could be imprisoned for debt.

Most of the suits arose out of indebtedness, and usually were for small amounts. Some of the persons who in later years became quite wealthy were sued for small amounts. Reuben Stickney was sued for the payment of a note of $3.28; John Blodgett for $3.11, etc. The fashion of being 'hard up' runs back at least to 1820. The suits were largely for the collection of store notes and accounts, the plaintiffs in many cases being the Seymours, Clark & Guernsey, William & Uriah James, Palmer & Forsyth, and William James, who succeeded to the James firm.

Giving Squire Swift's record a rest, we present a few out of many personal historical sketches.

Asa Clark, the father of Gustavus Clark, lived in Avon until 1830, when he removed to the town of Murray, and died there in 1834, aged 76 years. The son Gustavus came to Clarkson in 1815, where he later formed a co-partnership with James K. Guernsey, the firm conducting a general store of the period. He built the brick house a little west of the church. At the town election held April 4, 1820, he was chosen town clerk, commissioner of schools, and pound keeper — thus performing a variety of public duties. For five terms he represented the town as supervisor, the last time in 1832. The family removed to Buffalo, where Mr. Clark died Feb. 17, 1871, aged 74 years. His remains were buried in the Clarkson cemetery. His widow died at Clarkson Sept. 17, 1871, aged 76 years, and her remains were buried by the side of those of her husband.

Dea. Joel Palmer was born at North Brantford, Conn., in 1788; removed to Lima, N. Y., in 1808, and from Lima to Clarkson in February 1811. He bought out James Sayre, and lived for several years in a log house. In 1827 he built the brick house in which he lived until he died March 24, 1877, and was aged 89 years. His wife died in 1859. His children were Joel B., Albert H., John, Fanny, Justus and Russell. He carried on the tanning business until he died. His remains and those of his wife were buried in the Clarkson cemetery.

The name of Andrew Wentworth does not appear among those of the first settlers; but from the following sketch
of his history, published in the Republic about the
time he died, he undoubtedly came in 1815. That sketch
says that he was born at Berwick, Maine, Aug. 8, 1784;
that in February 1815, he married Ruth Spencer, of
Sweden, and moved to Clarkson, that part which after-
wards became Hamlin. He died April 19, 1879, aged 94
years. At that date his children were given as Mrs.
Charles Randall, Mrs. Marcelon Smith, Mrs. Henry Bil-
lings, Mrs. Charles Horn, Mrs. Harriet Noyes and Mrs.
Mary Austin.

* * *

In Clarkson at an early day, as in other communi-
ties, there were births, deaths and marriages, and pro-
vision had to be made for these important occurrences.
We have told how the carpenter made the cradle for the
infant and the coffin for the dead. Burial places had
to be provided, and before graveyards had been estab-
lished, and sometimes afterward, a little place on the
homestead was set aside for the interment of members
of the family. These little family burial places may
be seen all through the State and throughout New Eng-
land, from whence most of the early settlers came.
There are some of them in Clarkson, to which reference
will be made in connection with personal sketches.
There are now in Clarkson four public graveyards, viz.:
The Catholic, near Brockport; the Clarkson, about a
mile west of the village; the Garland, about half a
mile west of the Garland hotel; and one on the Warden
farm, about a mile and a half north of Rice's Corners.

The cemeteries in Hamlin, which up to 1852 were
in Clarkson, are located as follows: The Blossom
cemetery, on the Ladds road next to the Clarkson line;
an old grave yard on the Redman road, a short distance
north of Sandy Creek; and the Kenyon cemetery in the
north-west part of the town. West of the county line,
but near it, there is a graveyard opposite the Clark
place on the Ridge road in Murray, and another, a
short distance west of East Kendall in Kendall. In
these graveyards most of the pioneer settlers were
buried.

In the early times there were no cemetery sextons,
no undertakers, and no bearers. When a person died
the neighborhood carpenter made a coffin, some person
was employed to dig the grave, and when the funeral
was held the corpse encoffined was carried in a lumber wagon or lumber sleigh from the place of death to the graveyard, and then the coffin was let down into the grave by the aid of ropes. No outside box was used to encase the coffin. Usually some straw was thrown on top of the coffin, and then the earth on the straw. It was all plain, simple and inexpensive, and void of ostentation.

At first all of the public graveyards were free for the use of all persons requiring a burial place, and each family selected any part of a ground not previously occupied. It was not until along in the forties that graveyards were incorporated in Western New York, after which lots were sold at a small price, usually from $5 to $10. In many of the graveyards biers were kept for the use in conveying the coffins from the street to the graves. There was one in the Blossom cemetery but a few years ago. These oldentime biers have been embalmed in hymns, and in former times were the subject of pathetic reference.

Grave stones did not come into use in this section until about 1825, and those before 1830 are now exceedingly rare. The first stones used were quite thin, and many of them have been broken and disappeared. There were burials at Brockport, where the Baptist church stands, as early as 1812. When the present church was built the remains were disinterred and placed in the present cemetery, and the grave stones were reset there. Now the oldest date to be found in the cemetery in July 31, 1824—recording the date of the death of a child of William Mead. There was a stone with an older date, but it appears to have been removed.

The plank road company was organized in 1848. Capital stock $18,000. First officers: Joseph A. Holmes, president; Simeon B. Jewett, secretary; Abel Baldwin, treasurer; J. A. Holmes, S. B. Jewett, A. Baldwin, L. H. Johnson, Romeyn Boughton, William Barry, Andrew Wentworth, Job Whipple and Adin Manley, directors. The road extended from Brockport to three-fourths of a mile south of "Thomas Mills," on the east fork; and on the west fork to the road by the Seymour sawmill, and through that road to the Redman road—the whole a length of twelve miles. The road was abandoned in April, 1868, when the last toll gate (between Clarkson and Brockport village) was removed. The property
at the time of abandoning was valued at $500, all of
the balance having been sunk in the enterprise. The
officers at the closing were: A. J. Randall, presi-
dent; L. H. Johnson, secretary; A. D. Raymond, trea-
surer; A. J. Randall, L. H. Johnson, A. D. Raymond,
S. B. Jewett and H. B. Raymond, directors. Mr. John-
son had for sometime been manager for the company,
and he was a heavy loser.

We herewith present more sketches of personal
history, which as a record will prove very valuable
now and henceforth, besides being quite interesting.

Simeon B. Jewett was born in Connecticut in 1801,
and came to Clarkson in 1823. He was a prominent law-
yer and a noted Democrat. For several years he was
in company with Henry R. Selden. He died July 25,
1869, aged 68 years. His widow, Nancy Jewett, died
April 28, 1883, aged 76 years. Both were buried in
the Clarkson cemetery.

Joshua Field was born at Saybrook, Conn., in
1785; removed to Bergen in 1811; was a soldier in the
war of 1812; after the war became a merchant at Clark-
son and lived in a house that stood on what is now the
Garrison farm. He removed to Brockport in 1822, and
engaged in building. He died in Brockport and is
buried in the Brockport cemetery.

John Blogett came from Granville, Conn., in 1816
and located near the present Blogett mills, and where
he built a mill. We have not ascertained the date of
his death. Lucy Blogett, his widow, died April 4,
1877, aged 81 years.

Lemuel Haskell was in no way related to Eratus
Haskell, an active man at a very early period. Lemuel
Haskell removed into what became Clarendon in 1817.
Two years later he removed to Clarkson, where on March
5, 1824, he was married to Susan H. Spafford. Mr. Has-
kell was by trade a mason, and he built many of the
first brick buildings in the town. His wife died June
11, 1879, aged 87 years. He died Dec. 3, 1881, aged
85 years. Both were buried in the Clarkson cemetery.

Ambrose Sanford, a well known farmer, died Dec.
20, 1881, aged 76 years, and was buried in the Clark-
son cemetery.

Hiel Brockway, who built a mill in Clarkson on
the Sandy Creek where it crosses the Redman road, and
which became known as "Brockway's Mills," came to
Sweden in 1817 and bought land on what is now the west side of Main street for $13 an acre. He came from Phelps town, Ontario Co., N. Y., and brought his family of twelve children in a covered lumber wagon. He died in 1842, aged 67 years, and was buried in the Brockport cemetery. He was a very active man, and prominently identified with the founding of Brockport; but we speak of him only to show his connection with the history of Clarkson.

Rev. Enos Marshall, a celebrated clergyman, died August 21, 1878, aged 83 years. His widow, Mrs. Helen D. Marshall, died Dec. 18, 1878, aged 70 years. Both were buried in the Clarkson cemetery.

Gideon Holmes was an early resident, of whom we have no record, except that he died March 16, 1863, aged 87 years. Perhaps Mrs. Euphemia Holmes, mother of Mrs. James W. McBain, who died Dec. 22, 1875, aged 88 years, was his widow.

Wright Spencer, father of Mrs. Isaac Palmer, came from Vermont in 1839. He died where Mr. Gallup lives Jan. 9, 1867, aged 79 years. Betsey Spencer his widow, died Jan. 9, 1875, aged 82 years.

Aristarchus Champion, for a time the owner of much land, but never a resident, was well known. He died at Rochester, Sept. 7, 1871, aged 90 years.

* * *

In the plainness and simplicity inseparable from earlier pioneer life there were but few of the modern accessories of courtship - the neatly fitted parlors, concerts, excursions, picnics, and last but perhaps not least the supplies of ice cream and confectionery. There were the meetings incidental to work, a common attendance at prayer meetings, singing schools, church services, and an occasional dance. Some or all of these occasions of public gathering were utilized in love making, and life engagements were readily formed. A log house with but one room, and that room used as kitchen, parlor, bedroom and sitting room, did not afford much opportunity for a wedding display, had a display been desirable. As a rule, with rare exceptions, up to 1825, there was no attempt at having a grand wedding ceremony. It comes down in history that the bridegroom often went for his bride on horseback, and when the marriage had been performed returned with her to
his home, both riding one horse. The clergyman of the neighborhood usually performed the marriage ceremony, and was paid $1 or $2 for "his damages" - the word "damage" being used as synonymous with reward or compensation. There was no donation of jewelry, lamps, glassware and kindred articles, as now-a-days. The bride, if she was a "smart girl," had before provided the bedding, table cloths, towels, a large quantity of stockings of her own knitting, and she expected to be a "help meet" along the journey of life. The husband, if not a "poor coot," was able to provide the small amount of necessary furniture, and pots and kettles.


The foregoing apparently included all of the marriage ceremonies performed by Justice Swift during a period of seven years. If his wedding fees were correspondingly as small as his regular fees as justice, his income from this source must have been small.

THE FOURIERITES

Long before the division of the town of Clarkson, the Fourierite system was experimented with at what was then known as Thomas Mills, in later years as Thomasville, and now North Hamlin. The following is a very perfect history.

In December, 1843, an organization was formed to carry into execution what was known as the Fourier system - a system of cooperative labor and joint ownership. It was a stock association also, and some paid for shares in cash, and others put in horses, cattle, farm tools, etc. The association bargained for the mill property of Alanson Thomas - containing a sawmill and gristmill; a tract of land belonging to Grieg, of
Canandaigua; and 1,400 acres of Richmonds, residing in New York city. The officers of the association were: President, Thomas Pound; secretary, Dr. E. A. Thelar; treasurer, George Cannon; finance committee, Henry S. Randall, Samuel Porter and Simeon Daggett. The association numbered about four hundred. In the spring of 1844 building on a large scale was carried on, and in a short time a house had been built for the chief officer, about forty rods south of where the store of Mr. Hovey stands, since rebuilt and now owned by Edwin Carpenter. In connection with this house a dining hall was built so large that all of the people belonging to the place could eat at once, and all were served with the same food from a common supply. The dwellings were roughly built, in long lines running north and south from the main house, and from the ends of the lines eastward across the Lake road - the main house and most of the smaller ones being on the west side of the road. These houses, except when separated by the road, were all connected one with the other, as in a block, but each family had a house by itself. The food of the people was obtained at the common dining hall, as previously indicated. The means of the association ran short, there were disengagements regarding the management, and in July of the same year, (1844), the association broke up. Before the breaking up the association was visited by Charles A. Dana, now editor of the N. Y. Sun, who spent two days there, and while there lectured. Litigation followed the breaking up, and most of the real estate passed back into the hands of its previous owners. The Randall connected with this enterprise was not the first settler by the same name; but the man who a few years ago carried on blacksmithing at Clarkson village. The Simeon Daggett mentioned probably was the early settler by the same name. Dr. Thelar is reputed to have been a very bright man, who after leaving Thomasville, went to Panama, Colombia, and established a newspaper called the Panama Star. That paper is still published as the Star and Herald.

MORE HISTORICAL SKETCHES

In the main the brief sketches are very accurate, being largely derived from obituary notices printed in the Republic during the past thirty-three and a half years. Any errors of importance will be cheerfully
corrected, and additional information of value will be received with pleasure.

Jonathan Prosser was born at Westerlo, Albany county, N. Y., April 17, 1801; was married Dec. 28, 1816 to Phoebe Marvin at Athens, N. Y.; came to Clarkson in December, 1817, and first lived on the Fred Nellis farm. He was supervisor in 1839. Mrs. Prosser died Sept. 16, 1873, and Mr. Prosser died July 22, 1870, aged 89 years. Both were buried in the East Clarkson cemetery.

Jonathan Cobb lived on the Ridge opposite the Fred. Nellis house when he first came to town. Later he lived in a frame house that stood where Clark Allen lives. At the town election in 1820 he was chosen one of the commissioners of highways. He died upon what is now the Patrick Mehany farm.

Ariel Chase built a house and lived on the farm where Jonathan Prosser died. He was chosen a town commissioner of schools at the election held in 1820.

Robert Walker, a shoemaker by trade, lived in the town a little south of Knapp's Corners. He was chosen one of the town constables in 1820. He was born in England, and while going to or returning from England, he and his ship were lost. Our informants disagree as whether he was going or returning.

Jonas Knapp, after whom Knapp's Corners — extending across the lines of Clarkson and Parma — was named, came from Haverstraw, N. Y., in 1810. He died June 17, 1874, aged 75 years. He was buried in the East Clarkson cemetery. His widow removed to Santa Rosa, California.

Dr. Joseph C. Tozier came to Clarkson in 1845, where he became a well known and popular physician. He and his wife removed to Brockport, where he died July 24, 1874, aged 83 and his widow died in 1881, aged 78 years. Both were buried in the Brockport cemetery.

Dr. Gideon Tabor came to Clarkson at an early date, and had a large practice in his profession. He resided in the house now owned by Irwin Parker. He removed to LeRoy, where he died.

* * *

We herewith present a copy of one of the first deeds made by the persons composing what has been denominated the "LeRoy Land Company." It is the origi-
nal deed of the present Daniel C. Freeman farm, for which we are indebted to Mr. Freeman. It is a curious document. It affords considerable information as to the location and business of the men who laid out the land into farm lots, and perhaps indicates where the name "Clarkson" came from. From a literary standpoint the document seems replete with verbiage and tautology.

DEED TO ELI HANNIBAL

Herman Le Roy and others to Eli Hannibal. This indenture made this 20th day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixteen between Herman Le Roy, William Bayard, James McEvers, Thomas Streatfield Clarkson and Levinus Clarkson, of the city of New York, merchants, of the first part, and Eli Hannibal of the county of Genesee in the State of New York of the second part. Witnesseth that the said parties of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and ninety-one dollars, lawful money of the State of New York, to them in hand paid by the party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have given, granted, bargained, sold, delivered, released, conveyed and confirmed and by these presents do give, grant, sell, deliver, release, convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever all that certain lot, piece or parcel of land situate lying and being in the county of Genesee and State aforesaid, being part of a certain larger tract of land known by the name of the Triangular Tract, part of those three certain lots and on a map thereof made by Richard M. Stoddard and filed in the clerk's office of said county of Genesee, distinguished as lots number one, two and three in the thirteenth section of town number four, beginning at a post standing on the north line of lot number three eighteen chains and eighty-eight links west of the northeast corner of said lot, thence south fourteen degrees and twenty minutes west fifty-nine chains and fifty links to the south line of lot number one, thence west seventeen chains and twelve links, thence north fourteen degrees and twenty minutes east fifty-nine chains and fifty links to the north line of lot number three, and thence east seventeen chains and sixty-two links to the place of beginning, containing one hundred acres and thirty-seven hundredths of an acre of land, be the same more or less as in and by the said map, to which the said parties to
these presents refer, may appear, together with all
and singular the advantages, privileges, hereditaments
and appurtenances to the same belonging, or in anywise
appearing; and the reversion and reversionary, remainder
and remainders, rents, issues and forfeits thereof,
and also the estate, right, title, interest, property,
claim and demand whatsoever of them the said parties
of the first part of in or to the same and every part
and parcel thereof with the appurtenances, excepting
and always reserving, nevertheless, out of this pre-
sent grant unto the said parties of the first part,
their heirs and assigns, three equal undivided fourth
parts of all ores, mines, minerals, or beds of ore,
salt or salt springs, of whatever nature or kind so-
ever which now or hereafter may be discovered or found
in and upon the above granted, bargained or described
premises, or any part thereof, and the land containing
the same, to have and to hold the above granted, bar-
gained and described premises with the appurtenances
(excepting and reserving as is herein excepted and
reserved) to the said party of the second part, his
heirs and assigns, to his and their own proper use,
benefit and behoof forever. And the said parties of
the first part for themselves, their heirs, executors
and administrators do covenant, grant and agree to
and with the said party of the second part, his heirs
and assigns, that the said parties of the first part at
the time of the ensealing and delivery of these presents
have, good right, full power and lawful authority to
grant, bargain and sell the said premises above de-
scribed in manner and form, as herein written. And
that the said party of the second part, his heirs and
assigns, shall and may at all times hereafter, peace-
fully and quietly have, hold, use, occupy, possess
and enjoy the above granted premises and every part
thereof with the appurtenances (except as hereinbefore
excepted) without the let, suit, trouble, hinderance
or molestation of the said parties of the first part,
their heirs and assigns, or any other person or per-
sons lawfully claiming, or to claim, the same. Also
that they, the said parties of the first part, and
their heirs, the above described and hereby granted
premises and every part thereof unto the said party
of the second part, his heirs and assigns, against
them the said parties of the first part and their

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heirs, and against every other person and persons whomsoever lawfully claiming, or to claim the same, or any part thereof, shall and will warrant and by these presents forever defend.

In witness whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto interchangeably set their hands and seals the day and year above written.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of - The words "part of these three certain lots" being first interlined - Kearney Newell.

   Herman Le Roy by Graham Newell [seal],
   William Bayard by Graham Newell do
   James McEvers by Graham Newell do
   Thos. L. Clarkson by Graham Newell do
   Levinus Clarkson by Graham Newell do

State of New York, Genesee County, ss.

Be it remembered that on the twelfth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixteen came before me Hermon J. Redfield, Master in Chancery, Kearney Newell a subscribing witness to the within deed, to me known, who being duly sworn deposes and says that he saw the within named Graham Newell as attorney for the said Herman Le Roy, William Bayard, James McEvers, Thomas Stratfield Clarkson, and Levinus Clarkson, the grantors in the said deed mentioned, sign, seal and deliver the said deed for the uses and purposes therein mentioned, and that he knew the said Graham Newell to be the person described in the said deed, and he at the same time signed his name thereto as a witness, which being to me satisfactory evidence of the due execution of the said deed, and finding therein no material erasures or interlineations, except the one noted, do hereby allow the same to be recorded.

   Hermon J. Reidfield,
   Master in Chancery.

PERSONAL SKETCHES

We have hitherto mentioned the firm of James and Henry Seymour. We learn that James Seymour was an older brother of William H. Seymour, now an honored resident of Brockport. The Henry Seymour mentioned was a cousin of James, who kept a store at Pompey, N. Y. He was a partner in the Clarkson firm, but never resided there. He became a very prominent citizen of the State, being canal commissioner when DeWitt Clinton was governor.
Horatio Seymour, who became governor, was one of his sons, and a daughter was the wife of Hon. Roscoe Conkling. The firm of James and Henry Seymour, succeeded Joshua Field in 1816 or 1817, the business being managed by James. The store of the firm stood about where Mr. Rockwell lives, and a part of the same building was occupied by James Seymour as a dwelling. In or about 1820 he bought three hundred acres of land on the east side of what is now Main street, Brockport, and laid a part of it out in building lots. In 1820 he was chosen the first sheriff of Monroe county, and was in service when the first county court was held that year. In 1820 he removed to Brockport. Many years later he removed to Lansing, Mich., where he died Dec. 29, 1864, aged 74 years.

James R. Guernsey, who was a partner of Gustavus Clark, removed to Pittsford, and probably died there. Benjamin Brooks died May 18, 1883, aged 81 years. His widow died Oct. 15, 1884, aged 72 years. They were buried in the Clarkson cemetery.

At an early day Consider Bachelor lived in a log house where Charles A. Perry lives.

* * *

This series of articles has been much more extended than was anticipated at their commencement, and mainly for the reason that the people of the town and many of their uncles, aunts and cousins have interested themselves to contribute information for the history, and have thereby swelled its proportions. Already numerous important facts have been presented of which there was no previous published record. There is still a good stock on hand. The history will be continued until the more important information is all presented, but no effort will be made to "spin it out."

We have given from the LeRoy land office record the names of purchasers of lands year by year from 1803 to and including 1809. Some of these purchasers doubtless bought more land later, as the same names appear twice. The purchasers in 1810 were Samuel Lincoln, Eli Mead and John Mead. In 1811, Isaac Bannister Williams, Jacob Spafford, Ezekiel Case, Henry Mead and John Cummings. In 1812, John Freeman, John Sayres, Nathan Bannister, Samuel Alger and Samuel Randall. In 1813, on account of the war, there were no purchases,
and but one in 1814, that of Jonathan Byam. In 1815, Ebenezer Perrigo, Zimri Perrigo, Isaac Leach, Robert Clark, David Wait, Amos Randall and Stephen Randall.

LADD'S CORNERS

As the Moores, Hoys, Browns and others were residents in Clarkson as early as 1810, there is no reason to doubt that what has been known as Ladd's Corners (now Garland) was settled and "cleared up" at about that time. As yet we have not found that any of the first purchasers of land - that is by 1815 - located at just that place. If their locations have not been given, they will be so far as they can be ascertained, in future articles.

At an early period hotels were kept at Ladd's Corners by John Hysott, James Ladd, Reuben Downs, John Phillips, Mott, and Whitman M. Tyler. Hysott was undoubtedly the first tavern keeper. Reuben Downs kept a tavern east of the Corners, perhaps two or three miles. James Ladd - after whom the locality was named - kept a hotel about where the W. P. Rice shop stands. Mott kept a hotel where W. P. Rice lives. He went west and lost his life in a threshing machine. Whitman M. Tyler built a frame hotel where the present hotel stands, which was succeeded by a brick hotel - the building burned a few years ago. It is said of Tyler that he ran away and finally died in jail at Rochester. The present hotel was built by Hiram Amidon, who is also its landlord. It is not probable that more than two hotels were kept at the same time in the same neighborhood, and likely some of those named succeeded others. Hotels were very numerous all along the Ridge from 1816 to 1825.

The first school was opened at Ladd's Corners in 1817 in a log school house that stood near where the Shafer house stands, and William Dickenson was the first teacher. In 1818 the cobble stone school house was built - the house town down last year to be replaced by the present new one.

On the 8th of January, 1825, a meeting was held at the dwelling of Silas Hardy, and a Methodist church society was organized by the election of the following trustees: Theodore Johnson, Frederick Shaffer, Silas Hardy, Adam Moore, Samuel A. Perry, Henry Ketcham, Zadoc Hurd, Stephen S. Mead and John Beedle. At that time
Rev. Benajah Williams was the society's pastor. A church was built by the society in 1826, and was rebuilt in 1869, which is the building now standing. After being rebuilt in 1869 it was rededicated.

John Hysott, who kept the first tavern, also carried on the business of a wagon maker, made chairs for the new settlers, and made himself generally useful. He died at East Clarkson, and was buried in the cemetery near by.

In February, 1858, the first post office was established at Ladd's Corners, called "East Clarkson," and J. E. Hoyt was appointed postmaster. After two or three years the office was discontinued. From that time until four years ago there was no post office at that place. Then a post office was established called "Garland," with J. Goodberlett as postmaster, and both are still continued.

At an early date Shafer & Plumb kept a general store next west of the hotel, which building was burned many years ago. Frederick Shafer was the partner of Plumb, and he was the father of Jonas Shafer. At later periods James H. Baxter and others were store keepers, usually but one at a time. At present Joseph Goodberlett keeps a store.

For many years William P. Rice has carried on the carriage making, repairing and blacksmithing business, and is prominently identified not only with Ladd's Corners, but that section.

PERSONAL SKETCHES

Moses S. Barker came to Clarkson in 1820 from Goshen, Orange county, N. Y. He was married in Clarkson twice. His first wife Amy, was a daughter of Isaac Bannister Williams, who was buried in the Clarkson cemetery. His second wife was Nancy Graves, who died Feb. 2, 1880, aged 72 years, and was buried in the East Clarkson cemetery. Mr. Barker was by trade a boot and shoe maker, which business he carried on many years in a small shop on the west side of his house. In later years he filled the offices of town collector and constable. He died Sept. 11, 1880, aged 82 years. He was buried in the Clarkson cemetery.

Isaac Bannister Williams bought land at the LeRoy land office in the spring of 1811 and immediately came to Clarkson. His purchase contained 100 acres, and
was what is now known as the John Steele farm. He was the first blacksmith, and his shop stood where the hotel stands. He built the first frame dwelling house, which stood next to his shop. He removed to Newfane, Niagara county, where he died in 1847. His widow died sometime later in Parma.

Simeon Daggett bought land at LeRoy land office in 1805, which was located a short distance west of Redmans Corners. He died in Clarkson. His widow died at Warren, Penn., Jan. 29, 1874, aged 70 years. She was buried in the Clarkson cemetery.

Capt. Isaac Allen was a native of Enfield, Conn. His first visit to Clarkson was in the year 1816, and he was then a single man. He was married in 1817, and then became a resident of the town, residing for about two years on the property now owned by Mrs. Dr. Perry, where he followed his trade as a hatter. In 1819 he bought a farm near the present Hamlin Centre, and lived there until 1823, when he bought the farm of John Farwell on the Ridge Road, where he lived for most of the time until he died Dec. 28, 1864, and was 91 years of age. His wife died in 1876 or '77. Both were buried in the Clarkson cemetery. At the election held in April, 1820, Mr. Allen was chosen one of the commissioners of highways, and represented the town as supervisor in 1837.

* * *

The record book of Lewis Swift, justice of the peace, is an old style leather-covered ledger - the word "Ledger" being impressed on its back. It now contains 404 pages. A few pages have been torn out. A careful examination of the data given in this record shows that the first entry was made Jan. 24, 1820. During the first year the cases entered covered one hundred and sixty-nine pages, and averaging 4 cases to the page makes 676 for the year. Most of these cases were for the collection of debts, and not to exceed one in ten came to trial. The entries in the book are continued regularly until April 3, 1821, when there occurs a break in the dates for a period of about two years, the next date being March 8, 1823. Between these dates he was probably out of office. Commencing in 1823 the entries are regularly continued until May 19, 1826, which is the last entry, and which filled out the book, except a few pages occupied by a memoranda of costs, and one page of marriages.
There are two marriage entries in 1824, and he probably had another and later record than the one under consideration, for his usual business. The old record covers but four years of service, and not seven, as we previously gathered from the dates at its beginning and end. This record covers an important period in the history of the pioneer settler - a period when even the most industrious and economic were at times troubled to meet their ordinary pecuniary obligations.

CONCLUDING SQUIRE SWIFT’S RECORD

We present herewith some interesting facts gathered from the record, and the names of many persons found in it; but there are numerous names that have not been mentioned, doubtless some of persons who occupied important positions in the community.

In a suit March 31, 1820, the claim was $6 for six thousand of shingles.

Dr. Baldwin in his recollections stated that the first town election in the town of Murray, before it was divided at all, was held about four miles south of Brockport in a barn belonging to Johnson Bedel. May 9, 1820, this Bedel was a party to a suit before justice Swift.

Feb. 27, 1821, James H. Nowlan sued John G. Christopher for chopping eight cords of wood at 1 shilling 3 pence per cord.

March 8, 1823, Isaac Jones sued Jacob Hosner, Orra Beach and Alanson Corbin for services as a school teacher. The three persons sued were school trustees.

June 3, 1823, there was a suit for board and washing at $2 per week.

Here are some items of a claim sued by Christopher Hosner July 22, 1823: Chopping and splitting 516 rails, $2.50; two days work self and oxen, $2.50; to chopping two days, $1.25; to one day work at hay; 75 cents.

August 5, 1823, Simeon Daggett sued Hugh Hosner for several days work at 5 shillings per day.

In 1823 the courts were held at H. Brockway’s.

Previously they had been held at S. Alvord’s - commonly called "Spec" Alvord. James Seymour sued alone for store accounts — the name Henry Seymour being dropped. John Bowman (who afterward became the county judge) joined Col. S. B. Jewett in a law copartnership. As showing the rate of charges, Col. Jewett sued one of his
clients on a charge of $3, for attending two suits.

April 2, 1824, Phillip Ross sued John Farwell 2nd "for making two coffins, in all to damage $25." The word "damage" was used to signify the expense or amount of demand. The suit involved the number of coffins - a curious question of contest - the record saying: "Defendant acknowledges the having of one coffin, and is willing to pay a fair price for it." The plaintiff withdrew the suit.

In 1824 there began to be suits about canal matters. June 15, Cephas Hawks sued George Bellinger for $25 for damages to his boat. A jury trial was had, a verdict "no cause for action." The same date John D. Davis sued John Melick for $50 damages to property "bounded east by the Lake road and includes the dock extending 120 feet west" - the property where the American Hotel stands. The plaintiff got 6 cents damages, and Hiel Brockway signed as bail.

In 1824 William Groves, Ezekiel Harmon, Isaac Allen, Agrippa Furman, John Palmer and Nathaniel Rowell were the committee to arrange for celebrating the 4th of July. Thomas Talcott was hired to go to LeRoy for a cannon with which to fire a salute. The committee evidently ran short of money - for other 4th of July committees have had that kind of experience - as on October 15th he sued the committee for $8 for drawing the cannon both ways, and $10 for expenses. He got the $8, but the $10 was disallowed.

There were some suits for $3 damage for dulling an axe. Another sued for not burning charcoal in a skillful manner. And there were numerous suits for the trespass of horses, cattle and hogs. This class of suits did not become extinct until 1824. Suits for "deception in the sale of a horse," were begun in 1820, and are now heard of occasionally.

In 1825 Josiah Fish was sued as an overseer of highways, for neglect of duty, and had to pay $10. Howard Manley was an overseer of highways at the same time.

May 8, 1826, Joseph Sawyer sued Susan Bush for $13, for boarding, washing and mending for two children thirteen weeks.

May 12, 1826, Benjamin W. Hammond sued David Benjamin for thirty-two bushels of corn at fifty cents per bushel - showing the value of corn at that date.

In 1825 Roby & Gould and other Brockporters collected the claims or paid their indebtedness, by the aid of the Clarkson justice.
The Freeman farm was sold in 1816 for $196, and as it contained one hundred acres it was a little less than $2 an acre. Miss Nell Barker has loaned us two deeds that belonged to her father, showing the value of land in 1825 and 1827. This is the period when Clarkson village was booming, as the travel had not yet been directed to the canal, and the land brought good prices.

TWO LAND TITLES

On the first day of April, 1825, Henry Drake by deed sold to Moses S. Barker "That certain lot, place or parcel of land situated, lying and being in the town of Clarkson in the county of Monroe and State of New York, being a part of lot No. 19, section S, township 4, beginning at the north-west corner of the lot which one Edward Chappell formerly occupied, on the Ridge Road, running thence easterly on the south line of said Ridge parallel six rods; thence southerly at right angles with the Ridge Road sixteen rods; thence westerly parallel to the said south line of the said Ridge Road six rods; thence northerly sixteen rods to the place of beginning, containing ninety-six rods of land." The price paid was $200. This deed was witnessed by William Groves, a lawyer.

On March 28, 1827, Lemuel Haskell sold to Isaac B. Williams by deed "all that certain piece of land situate and lying in the town of Clarkson, county of Monroe and State of New York described and bounded as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner of the said land of James Ladd on the north line of the Ridge Road, running thence westerly, on the north line of the Ridge Road about ten rods to land in possession of Harry Porter; thence northerly along said Porter's line twenty rods; Thence easterly parallel to the north line of the Ridge Road to said Ladd's land; thence southerly on said Ladd's west line to the place of beginning, containing one acre and fourth of an acre of land, be the same more or less." The price was $600. S. B. Jewett signed as witness. Recorded in the county clerk's office - J. Cutler, dep. - cost 88 cents.
RICE'S CORNERS

The hamlet known as Rice's Corners is two and a half miles north of Garland. It takes its name from Henry C. Rice, who had a wagon shop, was for many years a justice of the peace, and was a prominent and well known citizen. A further notice of him will be made in personal sketches.

It was in the vicinity of Rice's Corners that the Moores and Hoys were pioneer settlers. The locality known as the "Moore Settlement" is hereabouts. In 1809 the first clearing was made and the first log houses built.

Away back and beyond the recollection of persons now living, a school house was built on the Adam Moore farm, about a half a mile south of the present school house. About the same time another school house was built on the David Hoy farm, three fourths of a mile north of Rice's Corners. In 1852 the school districts were changed, and Rice's Corners became the centre of a district, when the present brick building was erected.

The business at Rice's Corners has been confined during recent years to wagon making and repairing, and blacksmithing. It never had a tavern. About forty years ago Myron Phelps kept a grocery store there.

In 1848 a Methodist society was organized by the selection of the following officers: Trustees, Joseph Hoy, David Hoy, Maxwell Moore, Jacob Moore, Henry Moore; stewards, Maxwell Moore, David Hoy; class leader, John Hoy; clerk, Henry Rice. A church was built the same year that cost about $1,200.

In 1860 there arose the well remembered trouble in the Methodist denomination of this section, and the denomination then divided into what was then called the Old School and the Nazarites. The Nazarites or Free Methodists in the vicinity of Rice's Corners formed an organization by the choice of the following trustees: David Hoy, H. Moore, George Moore, Robert Hoy and David Moore. Maxwell Moore and David Hoy were chosen stewards; George Moore, class leader; and Rev. William Manning was the pastor. H. W. Moore and Robert Hoy declined to connect themselves with the new society, and remained with the old. By agreement the two societies occupied the old church, each on alternate Sundays, until 1887, when the old building was torn down, and
each society built a church for itself. In the fall of 1887 these churches were dedicated with due ceremonials.

The few brick buildings about Rice’s Corners were built from brick made near by. At an early day salt boiling and brick making were important industries of the neighborhood.

PERSONAL SKETCHES

Aretas Haskell, who bought land in 1806, located on what is now the John Perry farm. He began by clearing his land and boiling salt. He built a saw mill east of the Lake road. At the election of 1820 he was chosen both a constable and supervisor, and was elected supervisor for the two following years. He was active during the war of 1812, and earned the title of colonel. He removed to Joliet, Ill.

In 1806 Ebenezer Towle became the owner of what is now the Eli Crary farm. After the formation of Monroe county he served as a deputy sheriff. He removed to Gaines, Orleans county, where he died.

Mathew A. Patterson came to Clarkson in 1848 from Columbia county, N. Y. In 1859 he was supervisor of the town. He died Dec. 1, 1887, aged 75 years, and was buried in the East Clarkson cemetery.

Walter Perry came to Clarkson in the year 1827 and located on what is at present the John Reed farm. After living there for nine years he removed to north of the Ridge, where he lived until 1855, when he came to Brockport, and he died here Feb. 17, 1885, aged 90 years.

William Cook was born in Milton, Vt., March 16, 1796; was married to Sophia Buck in 1820; was chosen one of the assessors of the town that year; in 1832 removed to Sweden, on the now Crawford farm; in 1852 removed to Rochester; then to Clarkson for two years; then to Brockport, where he died Sept. 19, 1886, aged about 91 years. His widow died at Brockport, June 16, 1888. Both were buried in the Brockport cemetery.

Nancy Emor died in Clarkson, Jan. 2, 1875, aged 90 years.

We have been given heretofore a sketch of Andrew Wentworth. Ruth S., his widow, died Dec. 18, 1888, aged 81 years, and her remains were buried in the Kenyon cemetery.
Isaac J. Whitney came from Watertown, Conn., to Clarkson in 1829. In May, 1845, he married Martha Ann, daughter of Dr. Elijah Rowell, and immediately settled on the farm which he owned on the Ladds road, which became in Hamlin by the subdivision of the town. In 1870 this family removed to Brockport, where he died Sept. 4, 1885, aged 82 years. His widow died in Brockport, March 3, 1890, aged 71 years. Both were buried in the Clarkson cemetery.

* * *

We have received a very valuable addition to the early history of the town, it being the first town record, for the loan of which we are indebted to Mr. Fred A. Moore, the present town clerk. In many respects this record is very complete in showing by its road district lists who were the early settlers; describing the domain of road districts; giving the names of the town officers chosen at each election; the number of votes cast at general elections; the rules and regulations of the town, etc.

THE FIRST ELECTION

The first election, as we have previously stated, was held Apr. 4, 1820. The record opens in the bold and clear writing of Gustavus Clark, who was chosen town clerk, with this introduction: "Clarkson, April 4, 1820. The first town meeting of the town was held this day at the house of Abel Baldwin, and the following town officers were elected." Then followed a list of the officers chosen, which we published a few weeks ago. It was then made a rule to appoint pathmasters at the town election, and which has been followed until within a few years, when that duty was devolved on the commissioner of highways. At this election there were thirty-six pathmasters appointed, indicating that the town had that number of road districts when set off from the town of Murray. The road districts were not described until the next election. The following were the pathmasters in 1820: James Leslie, Nathaniel Rowell, Jonathan Cobb, James Arnold, Albert Salisbury, Arnold Spencer, Josiah Cobb, Thomas Christian, John Blossom, Lionell Udell, Jr., Hugh Hosner, David Sanford, Alanson Corbin, Ora Beach, Alfred Peak, Nathan Wright, George Cusick, Eleazer Wescott, Ira Wright,

At this election it was voted to raise $100 for the support of the poor, and $250 for roads and bridges. It was also voted that if any hog was found running at large in the streets its owner was subject to a fine of twelve and a half cents for each offence.

The meeting adjourned to be held on the first Tuesday of the next April at the house of Aretas Haskell.

LIVE STOCK MARKS

From the record in the book it is to be inferred that every owner of live stock living in the town was privileged to adopt a distinctive ear mark for cattle and sheep, and by having it entered in the town book, his animals could be fully identified if they went astray. Here are some of the recorded marks:

- Nathaniel Perry - a square crop off the right ear.
- Isaac Cory - a square crop off the left ear.
- Samuel Chriswell - a square crop off the left ear and a swallow tail in the right ear.
- Arnold Spencer - a swallow tail in the right ear.
- Curtis and Ebenezer R. Hale - a half crop off the upper side of the right ear.
- James Leslie, Jr. - a half crop on the under side of the right ear.
- Consider Bachelor - a small notch the upper side, and the same the under side of the right ear.
- Pelatiah Rogers - a swallow tail in the left ear.
- Elijah Cook, Jr. - a hole in the right ear and a slit in the end of the left ear.
- Nathaniel Rowell - a square crop off each ear and a slit in each ear.
- Joel Palmer - a square crop off the right ear and a swallow tail in the left.
- Benjamin Chase - a slit in the right ear.
- Nathaniel Daggett - a slit in the left ear.
- William Alvord - a hole through the right ear.

The list continues with the following names, each having a mark different in some respect from those mentioned: Samuel Randall, James Leslie, Jonathan Cobb,

A record was made of the "strays," as the estray horses, cattle, sheep and hogs were called. The first was a three year old gray colt taken up May 18, 1820, by Remington Tayer. In June Isaac Allen had taken up a small red cow. Jonathan Prosser took up a brindle heifer, Joseph Canaday a red heifer two years old, James Leslie a yearling steer, Consider Bachelor one sheep, Ezra Phillips a bay mare, John Blake a red yearling steer. The town clerk had a small fee for making these and similar entries in the town book, and people went to the town record in search of information about their estray animals.

THE CLARK CEMETERY

On the Ridge Road, about half a mile west of the Orleans county line, in the town of Murray, is the Clark cemetery. It is a small cemetery, inclosed on all sides by a stone wall, and like many other cemeteries produces a big crop of weeds. The Asa Clark monument is the most conspicuous and best in the grounds. Ezra N. Hill has a monument. Many persons by the name of Hill are buried in the grounds, and among the number appears this inscription: "Sarah, wife of Priam B. Hill, died April 21, 1822, aged 24 years." She was the wife of a man who lived in Brockport many years later, and was well known.

Two small grave stones show the loss of two children to James Seymour, the early Clarkson merchant, a sketch of whose history has been given. His wife's name appears to have been Maria. In 1822 their daughter Louise died, aged 13 months. In 1826 James died, aged 11 months.

David Wait, who bought land in Clarkson in 1815, and was a pioneer settler, is buried in this cemetery, and also his wife. The tombstone record is that his wife Rhoda died Sept. 28, 1819, aged 57 years, and that he died June 30, 1828, aged 64 years. The date of his wife's death is the earliest that appears in the cemetery.
Eli Wait, of whom we have no history, died Jan. 7, 1868, aged 68 years, and his wife Abigail died Oct. 10, 1875, aged 75 years. Eli was probably a son of David Wait.

George Brink died Sept. 24, 1831, aged 71 years, and his wife Azubah died April 16, 1839, aged 67 years. The name of Elijah Blogett appears as one of the land purchasers in the year 1804. Perhaps it should have been Elisha, who died April 12, 1856, aged 67 years.

Among the inscriptions is that of Hon. William James, who died April 21, 1838, aged 56 years. Mercy, his widow, died March 25, 1843, aged 56 years. The Colonel James who was well known in Brockport several years ago, was a son of William James.

PERSONAL SKETCHES

Lionel W. Udell, who became a land purchaser in 1808, and a resident that year or the next, lived in a log house on the Isaac Garrison farm, a little north of the Garrison residence. He removed to Marshall, Mich. He was a brother of Whelock Udell, the father of George and Foster Udell.

John W. Perry died Dec. 6, 1878, aged 77 years. His wife Deborah C., died Nov. 11, 1879, aged 70 years. Both were buried in the Clarkson cemetery.

Peter Silliman came to Clarkson from Connecticut. He was the father of George, Lafayette and Charles Silliman. He died March 27, 1858, aged 76 years. His wife died Dec. 27, 1851, aged 67 years. They were buried in the Clarkson cemetery.

* * *

A description of the road districts as recorded in 1821 in the town record, and the names of those assessed for work in each district, is valuable as showing who were residents at that early date, and fixing very nearly their precise locality. Henry McCall, who is frequently mentioned, was about the first merchant, if not the first, at what is now Garland. At an early period the four corners there were called McCall's Corners — that is before the locality became known as Ladd's Corners. The Ladds road was called the East Lake road. Brush creek, the Braddock Bay road, and Port Bayard, are often mentioned in the record. The latter was unquestionably near the mouth of Sandy Creek. The following is a description of the road districts in 1821, the names of
those rated for road work in the districts, and the figures show the number of days work which each individual was expected to perform on the roads:

No. 1 — Begins at Arnold Markham's west line on the Ridge road, [which was the Parma line] thence west to Henry McCall's, thence south to the [Sweden] town line. Ebenezer Towle 11, James Leslie 8, Jas. Leslie, Jr., 4, Benjamin Leslie 9, John H. Bushnell 10, Lyman Warren 5, James Ladd 4, Hiram Blake 3, Adin Burt 3, William Dickenson 4, Henry McCall 5, Remington Tayer 7.


4 — Begins at the four corners by A. Baldwin's, thence north to Moody Freeman's north line. Isaac B. Williams 10, Moody Freeman 2, Luther Freeman 5, Coleman Billings 2, John Wingate 5, William Williams 6, James Arnold 5, Peleg Arnold 2, Abel Baldwin 22, Kearney Newell 5, Joel Palmer 10, Abraham Robinson 2, Agrippa Furman 6, Joseph Randall 2.

5 — Begins at Moody Freeman's north line, thence north to Ezza Simmons's north line. Dennis Haskell 3, Abel Wait 4, Eleazur West 2, Joshua Rockwood 7, Luman Johnson 4, Aretas Haskell 10, Robert Peasley 2, Samuel Randall 5, James H. Nowlan 4, John Nowlan 4, Zebulon Williams 8, Stephen Knapp 4, Jas. Barrows 5, Albert Salisbury 6, Isaac Allen 10, John Allen 2, Roderick R.
Steward 5, Isaac Dresser 2, Ezra Simmons 9.

6 - Begins at E. Simmon's north line, thence north to the lake. Andrew Wentworth 6, Hugh Liddle 3, Ransom Odell 2, John Johnson 5, Abel Johnson 2, Richard Sturdevant 4, Nicholas Lake 2, William Austin 5, Arnold Spencer 5, Cyrus Bristol 6, Nathaniel Ferry 5, Curtis Hale 5, Elias Field 2, Ebenezer R. Hale 5, Daniel Bristol 5.


10 - Begins at Brush Creek, thence north to the lake. Truman Cook 6, Robert Ostrander 8, Nathan Dubois 2, Stephen Baxter 14, Edward Dubois 2, Jonas W. Dubois 7, Adam Stamburgh 2, Andrew Ostrander 2, Lawrence Tompkins 7, Thomas W. Harding 5, Lionel Udell, Jr. 6, Asahel Baxter 5, John Oaks 2, Thomas Crownover 6, Curtis Smith 5.

11 - Begins at J. Hosner's north-east corner, thence west to the Lake road. Jacob Hosner 7, Hugh Hosner 5, Nicholas Hosner 5, Nicholas Hosner, Jr. 4, Jeremiah Hosner 3. That was very much of a Hosner road district.

12 - Begins at Stephen Baxter's north-east corner, the lot on which he resides, thence east to the town line. Levi Webster appears to have been the only farmer in the district, and he was put down for 4 days work.
13 - Begins at Levi Webster's south-east corner, thence east to the town line. Russell Baxter 4, Alvin Guthridge 4, Oliver Carpenter 5.
14 - Begins at the four corners by Truman Cook's, thence west to the road running by Sayres. Ora Beach 5, James Thorp 4, Billa Cook 4, James Spencer 3, Allen Beach 4.
15 - Begins at the four corners by Truman Cook's, thence east to the town line. Samuel Peak 5, Alfred Peak 3, Abel Wait 5, Stephen Wait 2.
16 - Begins at John Cusick's north-east corner, thence east to the town line. Nathan Wright 8, Aaron Goodnough 4, James Goodnough 4.
18 - Begins at Samuel Perry's south-east corner, thence west to the Lake road. Phillip Bovee 6, Isaac Randall 6, Joseph Sawyer 3, Jeremiah Sawyer 8.
19 - Begins at C. Burnham's north-east corner, thence west to the sawmill. Ira Wright 8, Benjamin Faling 12, Josiah Mosier 8.
20 - Begins at J. Vanderwater's north-west corner, thence east to the town line. No names are given.
23 - Begins at Brown's corners, thence west to the Lake road. Thomas O'Brien 5, Samuel Armstrong 4, David Benjamin 2.
24 - Begins at Arnold Markham's west line, thence east to the town line, thence north to the Braddock's Bay road. Arnold Markham 6, Walter Billings 10, John Moore 5, Robert Walker 5, Silas P. Collar 5, Benjamin Wood 8, Jonathan W. Stiles 4, Ezra Phillips 6, Benjamin Roll 5, Cyrus Norton 2.
25 - Begins at J. Field's south west corner, thence to the east road. The names of Ephraim Crary, Joseph Preston and Caleb N. Bowen are given as residents of
the district, but no number of days are named for work.

26 - Begins at the four corners by A. Baldwin's, thence west to H. Ketcham's. David Forsyth 10, Henry Ketcham 7, Peter Miller 10, Thomas Chriswell 4, Hiram McCracken 5, Robert McCracken 6, Joseph McCracken 2, John F. Bliss 3, Samuel W. Johnson 5, Thomas Talcott 5, Thomas Simmons 2, Phillip Ross 5, Lemuel Haskell 4, Ella W. Boss 2, William Alvord 5, Aaron G. Coe 2, Sylvester Alvord 6, James Seymour 15, Jabez H. Davis 5.

27 - Begins at H. Ketcham's, thence west to the town line. William Spafford 8, Jose Barnet 3, John Farwell 4, John Farwell 8, Nathaniel Daggett 4, William B. Warden 5, David Perrigo 6, Daniel Brown 2, Samuel Brown 3, Jeremiah Acker 4, Orlo Fuller 4, Peletiah Rogers 8, Seth Byam 6, Nathaniel Brown 6, Thomas Clark 3, Selismiah Gilman 2.

28 - Begins at the Ridge near H. Ketcham's, thence south to the town line. Elijah Cook 7, Ira Crawford 4, Samuel Mead 2, Abel Bennett 4, William Potter 3, Edward Kane 2, Alphus Burlingame 2, Robert Clark 4, Lionel W. Udell 4, Ira Hill 8, Ephraim B. Cook 8, Elijah Cook, Sen. 3.

29 - Begins at Arad Gilbert's, thence west to the town line. Arad Gilbert 14, Isaac Harding 4, William Coy 2, Cyrus Gilbert 2, Eli Whelan 5.

30 - Begins at the Ridge near H. McCracken's, thence north to John M. Fuller's south line. Aaron Hill 4, Samuel Chriswell 6.


32 - Begins at the Lake road near R. Sturdevant's, thence west by J. Sayres' to the west road, thence north to the Cole lot. John Eddy 4, James Sayre 8, Elias Darby 4, Samuel Gifford 4, Henry Chriswell 4, ___ Dalton 4.

Green 4, Nathaniel Brown, Jr. 8, Benjamin Baker 4, Russell Bates 8.

34 - Begins at the west road on the south-east corner of Calvin Freeman's lot, thence west to the town line. Eri Twitchell 5, Theophilias Randall 5, Calvin Freeman 7, Noah Preast 6, Francis Hart 6, Jonathan Clark 4.


* * *

A week ago we gave a description of the road districts, all of whose roads had been opened prior to the setting off of the town from the town of Murray, except two of the road districts mentioned. The first of these was established August 19, 1820, and according to the record "begins at a stake in the centre of the Ridge road about forty rods west of James Leslie's east line, thence south to the south line of the town." This was probably the road from Garland south to the Sweden line. August 24, 1820, the commissioners of the towns of Sweden and Clarkson, opened a road "beginning at the centre of the middle Lake road and on the line of lots of Anson Harmon and Joshua Field, running thence east on the line of lots intersecting the east Lake road." That was the Town line road from Wilkies' Corners east to the Ladd's road. It will be observed that the "middle Lake road" is spoken of - the present Ladd's road being called the "east Lake road," and at the period under consideration that the Redman road was called the "west Lake road." Zenas Case, Jr., was the surveyor, and Isaac Allen and Jonathan Cobb, the commissioners, who laid out the roads mentioned.

On the 19th of April, 1822, the commissioners of highways for Clarkson and Murray met at the house of Edwin Perry, in Murray, and divided the road district between the two towns south of the Ridge as follows: For Clarkson, beginning at the Ridge road and runs south to Abraham Randolph's south line; for Murray,
begins at the Abraham Randolph's south line and runs south to the town line.

June 1, 1822, a road was surveyed from the "west Lake road" on the south line of section 5 and 8 to the main Lake road.

The same date a road was surveyed from the line of Sweden near the widow Sanford's to the Gilbert road.

The main Lake road was described as beginning at the south line of the town and running north to the south bank of the Sandy Creek in the village of Port Bayard.

April 19, 1823, "on the petition of twelve reputable freeholders," a road was laid out beginning at the south-east corner of Mr. Blossom's lot in the centre of the "east Lake road," and running west to cooperate with a road previously laid out on the south line of the lot owned by Isaac Randall.

May 16, 1828, a road was laid out beginning in the centre of the Lake road a short distance from the south bank of Sandy Creek and running to the south shore of the lake, said road to be three rods wide.

The following appears to be the Drake road, laid out March 31, 1835. Beginning at the north line of the Ridge road thence north to the south line of the road running west from Beachs' Corners, the road to be three rods wide.

There were many other road lay outs, but as the descriptions are by lot and section numbers, they would not be understood if given. The width of but few roads are mentioned, but as those are all three rods, it is reasonable to suppose that that was the standard width. The Lake road, or central Lake road was laid out all the way from LeRoy to the north four rods or sixty-six feet wide, and where it is not now that width it has been encroached upon. Many roads were opened through the forests in a crude way, and were used as highways several years before they were surveyed and recorded.

ROAD DISTRICTS IN 1836

The last time the road districts were recorded was March 22, 1836, when they were thus described:

1 - From the town line east to McCall's Corners, thence south to town line, including the road south from the Ridge through Mrs. Phillip's farm to the town line.

2 - From Eli Hannibal's east line to William Grove's east line.
3 - From William Grove's east line to the four corners, thence north to the north line of section ten.
4 - From David Forsyth's west line east to Clark & Martin's store, thence south to the town line.
5 - From David Frostyth's west line to William Blake's east line.
6 - From William Blake's east line to Simeon Daggett's east line, and including the road running north by J. H. Lovejoy's to the north line of the Hamilton lot.
7 - From Simeon Daggett's east line to the town line, thence north one mile.
8 - From the town line on the Ridge south to Alvah Wood's south line.
9 - From Arad Gilbert's west line to the town line.
10 - From the Ridge by J. H. Lovejoy's south to the town line.
11 - From the north line of the Hamilton lot north to the Sandy Creek.
12 - From the Sandy Creek, north to the red schoolhouse, including a road on the north line of L. H. Webster's lot.
13 - From the north-west corner of the R. A. Bates' lot by John Holman's to the lake.
14 - From the red schoolhouse west to the town line.
15 - From the four corners near Mrs. Randall's on the town line north to the lake.
16 - From the north-east corner of Ambrose Hoffman's lot west to the town line.
17 - From the north-east corner of Caleb Richardson's lot west to the town line.
18 - From the red schoolhouse north to the lake.
19 - From the Ridge near Elijah Drake's north to the road running west from Beach's Corners.
20 - From the road running west from Beach's Corners north to the Blake Settlement to intersect a road running by Aaron Garrigus'.
21 - From the north line of R. Brown's lot south to Aaron Sutphins, thence south to road district 22.
22 - From the south-east corner of lot 1, section 7, town 5 northerly to the east line of L. H. Webster.
23 - From the north line of section 10, town 4 to the north line of section 11, town 4 west to the
Blake Settlement.

24 - From the north line of section 11, town 4 to the north line of town 4 including a road west from the Salisbury schoolhouse to the west road.

25 - From the north line of town 4 north to the Boughton schoolhouse.

26 - From the Boughton schoolhouse north to the lake.

27 - From the south-west corner of the Boughton farm east one lot.

28 - From Eli Hannibal's east line east to McCall's Corners, thence north to the north line of lot 6.

29 - From the south line of lot 6 to S. A. Perry's north line.

30 - From S. A. Perry's north line to the south line of Bush creek.

31 - From the south bank of Bush creek north to the lake, including a road on the north line of lot 4.

32 - From the south-west corner of Barton Crother's lot north to the north line of lot 10.

33 - From Jacob Hosner's north-east corner west one lot, thence north by Jacob Hosner's and west to the Lake road.

34 - From the centre of L. Webster's lot north to the lake.

35 - From the north-west corner of lot 10 east to the town line.

36 - From Stephen Baxter's north-east corner east to D. Sanford's, thence north to L. Webster's thence east to the town line.

37 - From the four corners by Mrs. C. Dubois' lot east to the town line.

38 - From the four corners by Seymour Pond's west line to the Lake road.

39 - From the north-west corner of William Kane's lot east to the road by A. Goodnough's, thence north to the road by N. Wright's, thence east to the town line.

40 - From the north-east corner of the B. Spickerman's lot west to the Lake road.

41 - From the north-east corner of Isaac Sears' lot west to the Lake road.

42 - From S. Blossom's north-east corner west to the Lake road.

43 - From John Spratt's north-west corner east to the town line.
44 - From the south-east corner of N. Smith's lot north to the road by Ora Beach.
45 - From the south-west corner of S. A. Perry's east to the town line.
46 - From the north-east corner of lot 6 east to the town line.
47 - From the south-west corner of lot 6 east to the town line.
48 - From the lake shore south to the south-west corner of J. Hiscock's lot.
49 - From the schoolhouse near Gad Wright's south to his south line.
50 - From the north line of Michael Roberts south to the south-east corner of R. Knapp's lot.
51 - From the north-east corner of lot 1 west to the north-west corner of said lot.
52 - From the south-east corner of Henry Moore's lot west to the Lake road.
53 - From Mrs. Wright's north line on the Cusick road south to the Blossom road.
54 - From Arnold Markham's south-east corner north to the road running by Stephen Monroe's.
55 - From the Lake road by Moses Nash's east to the east Lake road.
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