



.Seneca County History Taken from Artwork of Seneca County (1896)

(Notes: Some section headings have been added in brackets to help the reader find the different topics covered in this historical narrative. The author of this historical narrative is not known. In reading this county history, please keep in mind that it was written for an 1896 publication.)

[Geography]

Seneca County is situated in central New York, between latitude forty-two degrees thirty-six minutes and forty-three degrees three minutes, lying for over two-thirds of its length between Seneca and Cayuga lakes, varying in width from about seven and one-half to over thirteen miles. The area is about three hundred and twenty-five square miles, the population a little less than thirty thousand. The surface is mostly undulating and in the southern part somewhat hilly. The primeval forests contained a greater abundance of large white oaks than could be found in any other equal portion of the state, thus indicating a strong, rich soil in the parts where they grew. The surface of the southern portion lying between the lakes, the highest points of which are several hundred feet above the surface of Seneca Lake, is divided into an eastern and western slope. The eastern slope is drained by numerous streams running into Cayuga Lake, and the western portion by streams running into Seneca Lake. In many places as we near either lake, deep ravines have been washed out, in some places nearly one hundred feet in depth. The public highways running northerly and southerly, next to the lakes, are mostly above the heads of these ravines, to avoid the necessity of bridging them.

[Creation of the County]

The county was formed in 1804 from a part of but two old military towns, Ovid and Romulus. It was probably named in honor of L. Annaeus Seneca, son of M. Annaeus Seneca, who was born a few years B.C. His father was a Spanish rhetorician who left some literary works, but was famed mostly for his prodigious memory. The son was a celebrated philosopher who was noted for his forensic triumphs at the bar. He was accused of some crime and exiled to Corsica for eight years. Afterward he was called to the position of instructor of Nero, son of Agrippina, she the wife of the Emperor Claudius. He lost all influence over his pupil, but profited by his extravagant bounty to such a degree that his wealth amounted to 300,000 sestertia, \$12,209,000 of our money. He was afterwards accused of conspiracy and condemned to take his own life. Why this beautiful part of the state of New York should bear the name of so uncertain a character is hard to conjecture, but not so much as the name of the military towns. Ovid bears the name of Publius Ovidius Naso, who had genius as a poet, but his conduct was such that he would have made a fitting companion for Henry VIII had they lived in the same age, but he too, like Seneca, was born B.C. Romulus bears the name of the mythical founder of Rome. According to the legend Sylvia, daughter of Amulius who compelled her to become a vestal virgin, became the mother of twins by the god Mars. Amulius, who had possession of the throne, fearing that they might cause him trouble if they grew to manhood, resolved to drown the three. A cradle containing the babes was thrown in the Anio, whence it was carried into the Tiber. The cradle was stranded at the foot of the Palatine, the babes were taken by a she wolf to her den and suckled by her, and what other food they needed was furnished by a woodpecker.





Romulus, after laying the foundations of Rome, got into trouble with the Sabines. After fighting a severe battle the women interfered and made peace between Romulus and Titus Tatius, the leader of the Sabines, and they united and formed one people. After a reign of thirty-seven years, Romulus, while standing at the Goat's Pool, reviewing his militia, was miraculously removed from earth by being carried up to heaven in a chariot of fire. He afterward appeared in a glorified form to the Roman people and promised them that he would watch over them and be their guardian god. Why those beautiful landscapes and gentle slopes to either lake, with all their natural advantages for future generations in the form of water power, agricultural prospects, etc., should be thus named is hard to conjecture. The names were bestowed by Simeon De Witt, the Surveyor General of the state at the time the Military Tract was divided into towns. That part of Romulus which now comprises Fayette, and the four towns north of the Seneca River, together with that part of Seneca Falls lying south of the river, also the towns of Wolcott and Galen, now of Wayne County, was set off and organized as the town of Washington in the year 1800. The town of Junius was formed from Washington on February 12, 1803, and comprised that part of Washington lying north of the Seneca River. Its area was reduced in 1807 by detaching the territory of Wolcott, and in 1812 by detaching the territory of Galen. The remaining portion was divided in 1829 into four parts, by detaching the towns of Tyre, Waterloo, and that part of Seneca Falls lying north of the river, and reserving the name of Junius for the northwest portion. The town of Fayette lies on the south bank of the Seneca River for most of its length, and extends from lake to lake, comprising what was left of the town of Washington after Junius was detached. It is the largest town in the county, and some of the finest farming lands of the state are found within its borders. The name of Washington was not retained after the division, but the town honors the name of one of his distinguished generals. The town of Junius honors the name of Junius Francois Du Jon, who was born in Bourges, France, in 1545. He was educated in the legal profession, but becoming interested in the questions of the reformation, devoted himself to the study of theology and embraced the doctrines of Luther. He took a leading part among the reforms of the Dutch church, but was driven from his position and forced to flee to Germany. He was subsequently engaged with Tremellius in a Latin version of the Scriptures, which is still highly prized by commentators, and which has been reprinted many times. The military town of Ovid was formed March 5, 1794, then a town of Onondaga County, when that county was set off from Herkimer. The dimensions remained as when first formed until 1817, when a part of her territory was formed into the town of Covert. In 1826 the town was again diminished, when from the towns of Covert and Ovid the town of Lodi was formed. The town of Waterloo was named in honor of the renowned Waterloo where Bonaparte met his crushing defeat. The name of Seneca Falls was suggested by the falls there in the Seneca River. The name of Tyre is to remind us of that ancient Phoenician city where Hiram reigned as king forty-seven years, commencing 980 B.C. The city is now almost depopulated. Not so with our Tyre. Its rich soil, varied products, ready markets, and the universal sympathy one with another, all unite to make it a home to be ever cherished. Varick, the youngest town of the county, was set off from the remaining part of Romulus on February 6, 1830. Its name is in honor of Colonel Richard Varick, the faithful secretary of General George Washington. Covert is thus named in honor of the numerous Coverts who lived within its borders. Lodi honors the name of Lodi in Italy, celebrated for the victory of the French under Bonaparte, over the Austrians, on May 10, 1796. The county is thus divided into ten towns.





[Iroquois and the Sullivan Expedition]

The county was, in its native state, the home of one of the most noted Indian tribes in the new world, the Senecas. They were a tribe of Indians of the Six Nations. Their tribal name is Yson-nun-da-wa-o-no, or "People of the Great Hill," receiving the name of Senecas from Dutch settlers who called them Sinnekas. The tribe was originally divided into eight families, the Turtle, Snipe, Hawk, Bear, Beaver, Wolf, Deer, and Heron, and they gained from conquered tribes, the Hurons, a majority of the Neuters, the Eries, and the Susquehannas. They were on the side of England during the Revolution. The Senecas, the Cayugas and the greater part of the Mohawks were determined to avenge the death of their friends lost at Oriskany and Fort Schuyler. Red Jacket (Sa-go-ye-wat-ha), chief of the Seneca Indians, was born in 1752 near Canoga, in the town of Fayette. He was, during the Revolution, a runner for the British officers on the frontier. The year 1778 was marked by a series of attacks on the most important frontier towns of New York and Pennsylvania. During the winter of 1778-79 bands of savages were prowling around the border settlements, keeping the people in constant alarm. The subject was formally brought to the attention of Congress, therefore, on the 27th of February, 1779, that body passed a resolution authorizing General Washington to take the most effectual measures for protecting the inhabitants of the colonies and chastising the Indians. In the spring of 1779 General Washington appointed Major General John Sullivan to prepare to make an expedition through that part of the country occupied by the hostile Indians, to drive them from their settlements and to destroy their crops. After destroying the Indian settlements and cornfields at and around Newtown, near Elmira, General Sullivan marched through Seneca County, destroying on the 5th of September, at Kendaia, or Appletown, an Indian town of twenty houses made of hewn logs. Here they found an apple orchard of sixty trees, also peach trees and other fruits. The houses were burned and the fruit trees destroyed. On the 6th the army encamped three miles north of Kendaia. On the 7th they marched to a Seneca town of about fifty houses surrounded by cornfields and orchards and called Kanadasaga, which occupied very nearly the site of our sister village, Geneva. Thus is this county honored by lying in the pathway of General Sullivan's march to rid this fair land of the savages. In honor of the event a celebration was held in September 1879, and a monument erected in honor of General Sullivan on the north side of the river, in the public park, between the Court House and the Union School building, near an Indian village called by the Indians Schauyas (Rapid Waters). About ten years later, a monument was erected, largely by the same persons interested in the Sullivan monument, in honor of Red Jacket, at his supposed birth place near Canoga. This last monument was not erected for what he did during the Revolution, but for the reason that he afterward became a strong friend of the American government and in 1807 informed the Indian agent of a plot by Tecumseh to induce the Senecas to join an alliance against the United States.

Early Settlers

Among the most prominent of the early settlers of this county were William Dunlap, Andrew Dunlap, and two other brothers, Joseph Wilson, Hugh Jinneson and William Roberts, who came from Pennsylvania the same year that General Washington was first inaugurated President of the United States, and settled in the present town of Ovid. Judge Halsey came from Southampton, long Island, in 1792, and was the first supervisor of the town of Ovid, in 1802. Immediately after the close of the Revolutionary war, Colonel Coggins, one of those who accompanied General Sullivan through this country, settled on military lot No. 92, in the town of Junius, now in Waterloo, cleared a considerable portion of it and lived there for a long time. The





farm now owned by George W. Serven and occupied by one of his sons, is a part of the same lot. The first member of the assembly [New York State Assembly] from Seneca County was Judge John Sayre, of Romulus, and the first man in Seneca County to emancipate his slaves was William Seeley, of Romulus, in 1794. Lawrence Van Cleef settled in Seneca Falls as early as 1789. The Posts, Demotts and Smiths were among the early settlers of the present Lodi. The Coverts, the Ditmars, the Quicks, the Rappleyes, all from New Jersey, were early settlers of that part of the early town of Ovid lying near the present village of Farmer. In the year 1794, Tunis Covert, of New Jersey, settled a little over a mile northwest of the village of Farmer, on Lot 32, a wilderness then, with his two sons, Rynear and Tunis, who had just arrived at the years of manhood, and together they cleared enough for each a home. Some portions of that same land remained in the possession of that family for over eighty years. Their nearest neighbor for the first two years was William Dunlap, who lived near the town line between Ovid and Romulus, a distance of three and one-half miles. Soon after Jeremiah Scott settled between the two families, near what is now known as Scott's Corners, three miles east of Ovid village. Two brothers by the name of Nicholas and Richard Huff cleared up and made ready for the plow, on Lot 20, three or four hundred acres of land south and west of Scott's Corners. They settled on that land in the year 1793. Nicholas Huff was shot through his right knee in the war of the Revolution at Germantown. He drew a silk handkerchief through the hole to stop the blood, recovered from the wound with a knee that never bent afterward, and lived to be over eighty years of age. His brother, a soldier of the Revolution, lived to a ripe old age. Their land was left to their children, but it has all passed into the hands of strangers except for a few acres owned by a granddaughter. As before stated, two towns comprised the entire county besides a small strip set off to Wayne County from Junius.

[Seneca and Cayuga Lakes]

The western shores of Lodi, Ovid, Romulus, Varick, Fayette and the southwestern part of Waterloo are washed by the waters of Seneca Lake, a beautiful sheet of clear, cold spring water, about thirty-six miles long from north to south, and from two to four miles in width. It is 441 feet above the tide waters of the Atlantic, 630 feet deep, and was never known to be frozen over but twice, the first time in March, 1855, and second time twenty years later. The eastern shores of Covert, Ovid, Romulus, Varick, Fayette and Seneca Falls are washed by the waters of Cayuga Lake, a fine navigable sheet of water, thirty-eight miles long from north to south, and from one to three and one-half miles in width. About six miles at the north end is shallow and freezes over every winter. The same is true with reference to three or four miles at the head of the lake from Ithaca northward. The central part of the lake is deep and clear. It has been sounded at a depth of 475 feet. Its surface is 377 feet above the ocean, and 146 feet higher than Lake Ontario, into which both Seneca and Cayuga lakes empty their waters through the Seneca and Oswego Rivers. Both of these lakes afforded in times past as fine salmon, trout, glass eye or pike, whitefish, black bass, yellow bass, perch, and other kinds, as could be found in the world, but gill nets have taken them away so they are as rare now as buffaloes are on the western prairies. It will be readily seen that Seneca River has a fall of sixty-four feet from Seneca to Cayuga Lake, nearly twenty of which is in the village of Waterloo and the remainder in Seneca Falls, thus affording water power in both places, of which mention will be made hereafter. From the foot of Seneca Lake northward the western boundary line of this county, the west line of Waterloo and Junius, is the seventy-seventh meridian of longitude west from Greenwich, being the same meridian that passes through Washington. The eastern boundary of Tyre is the center of the Seneca River as it





flows northward from the foot of Cayuga Lake. The Erie Canal passes through the northeast portion of Tyre and over the Seneca River in an aqueduct of masonry that has stood the strain of the disturbance of the waters for many years.

Something About the Churches

The early settlers of this county were not without religious convictions. They came from different portions of states already settled to a considerable extent, where a strong feeling of dependence upon the Supreme Being had been inculcated from their early childhood. They, therefore, after having determined upon the location of their earthly homes, soon began to make preparations for instruction in the religious duties of themselves and their posterity. According to the best authority we have, the first church organization in this county was that of the Baptist Church of Romulus, in 1795. The first minister of that church was the Rev. Peter Bainbridge; the first deacons, Elijah Abbott, John Greene, John Fenton, and Samuel Blaine. The whole number of members was twelve. The first building for worship was constructed in 1808, and rebuilt in 1849 at the expense of \$2,500. The second was organized in the township of Ovid, in the year 1800, by the Rev. John Lindsay. It was styled the True Reformed Dutch Church. The first meeting-house was built soon after the organization of the church, and was located one and one-half miles south and one and one-half miles west from Scott's Corners. In about the year 1830 the first house was deserted and a new and better building was erected at the four corners, one half mile east of the old one. Domini Abram Brokaw preached in this church until about the year 1839. From that time on Domini Archibald McNeil preached there until about the year 1860. He then retired on account of failing health, at a good old age. The church is now extinct. The members had great faith in God and were firmly convinced that He would carefully attend to their every want. In about the year 1847 some parties crossed the farm belonging to one of the members of this church, in view of locating a railroad. The good old man said that when God made this beautiful land, situated between the two beautiful lakes of Seneca and Cayuga, which afforded ample facilities for travel and conveyance for all the products of the soil, he believed that He foreordained that no railroad should ever mar its surface: but if he thought God had neglected to do so, he would be in favor of calling the officers of the church together and have Him do it yet.

The Presbytery of Oneida issued a commission for the organization of the First Presbyterian Church of Ovid, June 28, 1803. The church was organized the same year by Jedediah Chapman, with a membership of twenty. In 1810 the number of members had increased to seventy-three. The membership at present is considerably over two hundred.

Christ Church at Bearytown dates back to the year 1803, when the Rev. Lot Merkel was called to preach to a class of Germans who settled in that vicinity from the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. These Germans were the descendants from those fathers who belonged to the Huguenots and to the Palatines, who had sought the New World to have a place of security and freedom and to be delivered from persecution. The meetings were held in dwellings in that vicinity for a number of years. The first church was a log building, twenty-eight by twenty-two feet. The first minister to preach in this log church was the Rev. Anthony House. A new church edifice was built and dedicated June 6, 1825. April 22, 1826, the Rev. Diedrich Willers received a call from this church, which he accepted and preached in that church for nearly sixty years.

The Baptist Church of Covert was organized as the Baptist Church of Ovid and Hector, February 10th, 1809, with Rev. Miner Thomas as preacher and twenty-nine members. The





Presbyterian Church of Romulus, now Varick, was organized on April 2, 1802, by Rev. J. Chapman of the Presbyterian General Assembly, and consisted of fourteen members. The church was consecrated with the Geneva Presbytery in 1805. A religious society called the First Presbyterian Congregation of Romulus was formed the 6th of April 1807. Rev. Charles Mosher was installed as the first pastor on August 9, 1807. Rev. J.W. Jacks is the present pastor, and the society is in a flourishing condition. There are two Methodist Episcopal Churches in Varick, one at McDuffietown, formed in 1800, and one at Bearytown, formed in 1858. There is also a Catholic Church building at Romulusville, built in the year 1875 by Father O'Connor, who at that time had charge of the church at Ovid village. The first church in Seneca Falls was the Presbyterian Church, organized in a framed barn owned by Colonel Daniel Sayre, on August 10, 1807, by Rev. Jedediah Chapman, of Geneva, as the First Presbyterian Church of Junius. Elders and deacons were ordained, and seventeen members enrolled. Rev. John Stuart was installed pastor on August 20, 1808. This church has built three churches on the same lot, the first in 1817. It was sold in 1842 to Gail & Allport, and by them removed to State street, where it has since [been] known as "Concert Hall," but used for different purposes. The second church was built the same year, and stood for thirty years. The corner-stone of the present church was laid in 1871, and the building finished in 1873. It is really a modern church, an ornament to the village, and not surpassed by any in the town. The present pastor is Rev. E. H. Dickinson, who has filled the position for several years very successfully. The Baptist Church of Seneca Falls was organized in October, 1828. Orsamus Allen was the first pastor, who with ten other members constituted the entire church. Under the ministrations of Elder Jeffers, in 1837, sixty were baptized. The same number were baptized the next year by Elder L. Freeman, which gave the society one hundred and seventy-two members. The first church, a wooden structure, was built in 1829 in South Seneca Falls. In 1869 the present brick edifice was completed, and stands on the corner of Bayard and Center streets.

The Trinity Episcopal Society was organized January 13, 1831. The Rev. Reuben Hubbard was the first rector. The first church edifice was completed in July, 1834. The society built a magnificent church on Falls street in 1885, at a cost of something over \$25,000.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Seneca Falls was organized and incorporated on January 6, 1829. The first church edifice was built in 1830-31, on a lot donated by Wilhelmus Mynderse, to the society. The church building was remodeled in 1857, at a cost of \$2,475. In 1871 the old church was torn down and a new one erected on the same site at a cost of \$21,000. The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Seneca Falls is an offshoot from the Methodist Episcopal Church. The society was organized on March 27, 1843. A church was built the same year on a lot costing \$600, upon the corner of Mynderse and Fall streets. The building cost \$1,770. This building was sold in January, 1871, the lot with it, for \$5,000. A new church was completed in 1875, which stands on the corner of Falls and Clinton streets, which, at the time of its completion, was valued at \$14,500. A Congregational Church was organized in 1834 under the supervision of Rev. Mr. Pomeroy. Their first minister was Rev. Mr. Ingersoll. They erected a chapel on the north side of Bayard street, opposite the Episcopal Church. Their second and last minister was Rev. Mr. Gray. They had a good beginning and for some time grew in numbers, but circumstances were against them and they became discouraged, and finally disbanded. The present Congregational Church of Seneca Falls was formed in 1869, largely from seceders from the Wesleyan Church, including the pastor, Rev. Mr. Lyle. They styled the society the "First Congregation Church of Seneca Falls." The number of members enrolled was sixty-three, now nearly three times that number. In 1870-71 they built a fine church edifice fronting on State





street, with seating capacity for six hundred. The cost of the building alone was \$23,000. They had already paid \$3,500 for the site. The Catholic Society of Seneca Falls was organized in October, 1831, with but eight members, under the supervision of Rev. Francis O'Donohoe, who occasionally visited the village from Syracuse. The growth of the church was very rapid. In 1835 a small frame church was built on a lot on Swaby street, donated by Judge G.V. Sacket. Father Carroll was at that time pastor of the society. In a few years the frame church was entirely too small, and Father Carroll obtained a new site on Bayard and Toledo streets, and in 1848 the foundation of a new edifice, in dimensions forty by sixty feet, was built, which was afterward enlarged to forty by one hundred feet, and in 1883 a large wing was erected on the west side of the enlarged building. In about 1876 a school building with two stories, forty-five by eighty feet in dimensions, with fifteen feet between the floors and ceiling, was erected at a cost of about \$18,000. The churches in Ovid not before mentioned are as follows: The Methodist Episcopal, of Sheldrake, was organized at the house of Peter Shermand, at Sheldrake Point, in 1812. The first church edifice was erected in 1831, at Stevenson's Corners, about one mile west of Sheldrake. The building was removed to Sheldrake and remodeled in 1869-70. The Methodist Episcopal Church at Ovid village was first on the minutes in the year 1820, Jonathan Hustis, pastor. They had a frame building for a church until June 2, 1870, when a fine brick church was dedicated. The Baptist Church at Scott's Corners was the first church of that denomination in the town of Ovid. It was organized on March 19, 1828, with Rev. Edward Hodge as first pastor. The first house of worship was erected in 1830, with gallery on three sides, at a cost of about \$2,000. This was repaired and enlarged in 1857, and rededicated March 2, 1858. The Baptists held occasional meetings in Ovid village from 1820 to 1858. At that time Elder C.A. Votey preached his first sermon in the Court House, and continued to preach there until the church was organized on April 28, 1859. The church edifice, a frame building, was erected in 1862. Many of the old members have moved away, others have died, and so few are left that service in that church has been discontinued. The first Catholic Church of Ovid was organized on August 15, 1849, by Father Gilbride, who also built the first church edifice. The increase in the number of communicants rendered the necessity of building a large church, which is now being built on the opposite side of the street from the old one. It will be a fine building when completed. The churches of Covert not before mentioned are, first, the Baptist Church, organized November 22, 1809. Elder John Lewis was the first pastor. This church had a hard struggle for existence for a number of years. The first church building was a frame structure, built in 1823, at a cost of \$3,000. The present church edifice was built in 1861 on the same site where the old one stood, and cost \$8,000. Everything is prosperous and harmonious with this church now.

The Universalist Society of Farmer was organized February 10, 1850. The church edifice was erected in 1852, at a cost of about \$3,500. On the 20th of June 1858, the society was organized into a church with thirty-three members, all influential citizens. They also had more than as many regular attendants that did not belong to the church, but did belong to the society. Rev. Harvey Boughton preached there from the organization of the society in 1850 to the summer of 1861. There have been not more than two or three ministers there since, and neither of them stayed there very long.

The Roman Catholic Church of Farmer erected their house of worship in 1874. The first pastor was Father Gilbert Nuoum. There are something over two hundred members at present. The Reformed Church of Farmer, was organized on April 2, 1830. The first church edifice was erected in 1830-31. The first minister was Rev. Oscar N. Gregory, who served from June, 1831, to 1838. The Rev. B.B. Bassler served this church from July, 1838, to February, 1866. He was a





zealous worker for his church, and ever ready to aid the poor, no matter where they belonged. The church was prosperous during his stay. In 1857 the church was remodeled and enlarged, at a cost of \$4,000. James C. Knight was superintendent of the Sabbath-School for a period of thirty-nine years.

Churches of Waterloo

The Presbyterian Church of Waterloo was organized November 10, 1847, with eight members. This church had no regular pastor until the Rev. Aaron D. Lane was ordained and installed, March 21, 1821, the first pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Waterloo. Thus for over three years the organization was without a pastor, but held together through the work of the pastors of neighboring churches, together with the fidelity of the early members to the cause. Mr. Lane was pastor for nearly fifteen years. The first church edifice was erected in 1824, and dedicated on September 13th of that year. The cost, \$5,000. In February, 1836, Rev. Samuel H. Gridley was called to the pastorate, and came in April, 1836. Dr. Gridley was pastor of this church for thirty-seven years. In 1850 the church building was considered too small, consequently the present church was erected that year, at a cost of \$26,000. Rev. M.D. Kneeland was pastor from July 1, 1873 to some time in 1882; John McLachlan from July 1, 1882, to the spring of 1885. Rev. William S. Carter was called to the pastorate in April, 1885, and is yet serving the church in that capacity very acceptably. The number of communicants is fully five hundred. St. Paul's Church of Waterloo was organized November, 1817, just seven days after the organization of the Presbyterian Church. The first rector was Rev. Orrin Clark. The first church edifice was erected in the years 1825-26. The first sale of pews was made April 3, 1826. The present church building was erected in 1863. The contract was taken for \$13,375. The final report of the building committee showed the entire cost of the church, fence and organ to be \$28,780.53. A fine brick residence on Main street was purchased for a rectory in 1871, at a cost of \$6,000. The parish schoolhouse was enlarged the same year, at a cost of \$2,140.08. Rev. R.M. Duff is the present pastor.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Waterloo held its first meeting, pursuant to legal notice, in the Court House of Waterloo on February 27, 1833, to organize a society to be known as the Fletcher Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Waterloo. A lot was deeded to the society by the executors of Elisha Williams, being the same lot where the church now stands. Rev. O.F. Comfort was the first pastor to preach in the new church, which was finished in the year 1837. In 1841 the New York Central Railroad purchased the front of the lot for the railroad track for \$1,300. The church now numbers about two hundred and sixty members.

The corner-stone for a new church was laid on the 17th of August, 1895. The building when completed will cost about \$18,000. It will be an ornament to the village and a credit to the members, who have long felt the need of a better house of worship, away from the noise of the passing trains of the railroad. The present pastor, Rev. George C. Campbell, is worthy of all praise for the part he has taken in the laudable undertaking.

The Baptist Church of Waterloo was organized August 6, 1825. They held meetings in the Court House and in a schoolhouse in South Waterloo until June 1840, when a new church edifice was erected. A heavy debt hung over the church which caused them to sell the church, November 1, 1843. They held meetings again in the schoolhouse and elsewhere until 1865, when they purchased the meeting-house they sold, and worshipped there until February 21, 1875, at which time it burned down. They now own a lecture-room, church site, and a parsonage on William street.





St. Mary's Church was organized in 1849. A church thirty by forty feet was opened for divine service October 17, 1849. The first mass was said therein by the Rev. William Carroll, November 3, 1849. The society is now in possession of a new stone church one hundred and twenty-eight feet in length, transept, seventy feet, the main building, forty feet, the cost about \$30,000. They also have a very fine parsonage. The number of communicants at this time is about 1,500. Rev. W.H. Harrington, pastor.

The Church of the Disciples was organized April 1, 1853, by Elder W.A. Belding, with twenty-five members. After holding meetings in the Court House for a short time, a hall was hired until January 2, 1854, when they purchased the house owned by the Baptist society on Main street. In 1871 they purchased a lot on William street and removed their building to the new lot. It was then remodeled and repaired. The number of communicants is about fifty.

The Methodist Protestant Church was organized January 28, 1873, in the building of the Dutch Reformed Church, which had been purchased by Peter Weaver. The first pastor was Rev. L.J. Cooper

Churches of Tyre

The first church in Tyre was that of the Baptists, organized in 1807 by Elder Samuel Messinger. The first Methodist Church was organized in 1817. Their first building was erected in 1822. The present brick church erected in 1874, and cost \$10,000. The Presbyterians organized a society in 1823, under the Rev. Joseph Murill, of Junius. The church changed to Reformed in 1840. In the town of Fayette the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1815. The first church building was erected in 1835; cost, \$1,200. The Presbyterian Church of Fayette was organized in 1824. The first pastor was Rev. Isaac Flagler. The Canoga Presbyterian Church was organized June 28, 1825. The church is now in a prosperous condition. The Canoga Methodist Church was organized in 1815. The first minister was John Odell, a local preacher. Their first church building was erected in 1835; cost, \$1,200. The Burgh Church was organized in 1816 by Rev. Jacob Kleinfelter. The first church was dedicated in 1835. Their church building has been struck twice by lightning, but in 1874 it was repaired and remodeled into a modern church. The Protestant Episcopal Church, styled Grace Church, was ready for service on April 1, 1875. A Reformed Church was organized in Lodi village in 1823. They were called at that time seceders from the true Dutch Reformed Church. Their first pastor was Rev. Abram Mapes. They built a fine brick church in 1872-73, at a cost of \$20,000. The first Methodist Church of Lodi was organized in 1810 at Townsendville. The Methodist Church of Lodi village was organized in 1837, expired, and reorganized in 1847. They have a fine new brick church at present, and the church is in a prosperous condition. The first church of the present Junius was organized February 20, 1838. They have a stone church with a brick addition, which with the parsonage is worth \$5,000. There is also a branch of this church in the Newton neighborhood. It was quite a common occurrence in the early days of these different churches to have fierce debates on their different beliefs, but they have long since learned that no good comes from such discussions. They now all agree upon the more important points, and say nothing of their distinguishing tenets. They work together on all subjects of common interest to the public welfare. The consequence is, there is more love and less brimstone used, more reason and less total depravity.

[Schools in the County]

The educational advantages of this county have always been fully equal to the best in the state, outside of the cities. As early as 1837 the Mynderse Academy of Seneca Falls was





incorporated. It continued as an academy, in which all academical branches were taught, until April 16, 1867. Then the [New York State] legislature passed an act forming districts No. 1, 2, 3 and 8, of Seneca Falls, into a single district to be known as the educational district of Seneca Falls. Since that time the school has been a graded school with an academic department. A new school building was erected in 1885, at a cost of \$25,000. The school ranks high with other schools of the kind in the state. The Waterloo Academy was organized in 1847 by uniting districts Nos. 1 and 2 of Waterloo. The school was successfully carried on for a time, but scarcity of funds rendered it somewhat difficult to support the school to the satisfaction of those interested, consequently in response to a petition the [New York State] legislature passed an act making it a union free school. The old academy building was enlarged in 1871, at a cost of \$8,000. A primary building was erected in 1883, at a cost of \$6,000. The school is in a prosperous condition and well up to the times. The Ovid Academy was established in 1825. In 1855 its name was changed to Seneca Collegiate Institute. The East Genesee Conference afterward purchased the building, and it then took the name of the East Genesee Conference Seminary. It has since been organized into a union school. It has maintained its reputation as a first-class school. The graduates from that school are well posted on all the branches taught there. There is also a very excellent graded school in Farmer. All of the inhabitants of the rural districts are within reasonable distance of their schoolhouses, where good schools are maintained.

[Manufacturing in the County]

The manufacturing interests of the county are numerous and prosperous. The Waterloo Woolen Mills Company was organized in 1836. They first manufactured cloth, then shawls, which had a great sale as long as shawls were fashionable. The Hon. A.M. Patterson is the principal stockholder, also the manager of the institution. Over four hundred operatives are employed at good wages, the pay-roll amounting to over \$12,000 per month. The Waterloo Wagon Company, limited, was organized in 1882. They steadily employ from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and eighty hands at fair wages. The Nestor Malting Company is doing a very extensive business in three different malt houses in Waterloo. The Hon. William B. Clark is employing about thirty men in his wheel factory. The wheels are sold in all parts of the United States, and have a great reputation. The Waterloo Organ and Piano Company has been in operation about ten years. They made organs for several years before they commenced on pianos. Their organs are first-class in every respect. The Malcolm Love Piano has a great reputation, taking into consideration the time it has been on the market. We have also in Waterloo an extensive and reliable nursery, where all kinds of fruit-trees, berries, ornamental trees, in fact everything in that line, can be obtained without the least doubt of getting just what the label says. In Seneca Falls the Gould Manufacturing Company employ 350 men. All kinds of pumps and everything pertaining thereto are made in the very best and most durable manner. Silsby's American Fire Engine Company manufacture the best fire engines in the world. Their engines are sold in all parts of the United States and Europe. They employ 150 men constantly, yet can hardly fill their orders. Rumsey & Co., manufacturers of pumps, hose carts, etc., employ 150 men. The Gleason & Bailey Knitting Works employ the same number of men. Walter A. Allen is extensively engaged in the manufacture of school globes. There are three county papers published in Seneca Falls, two in Waterloo, one in Farmer and two in Ovid village, all weeklies, but not weeklings. In 1813 the Seneca Lock Navigation Company was incorporated, completed in 1816, and went from the control of the owners under the supervision of the state in 1827,





when it was enlarged sufficiently to carry any boat used on the Erie Canal. From that time until about 1860 boat-building was one of the most lucrative enterprises of the county. It was abandoned for lack of timber. The first railway train entered this county on July 5, 1841, the cars running from Rochester to Seneca Falls, that village being the terminus east at that time. The road was soon extended to Syracuse. This was the only road through this county until the Geneva, Ithaca & Sayre Railroad was built, which commenced running through the county from north to south in 1873. This road belongs to the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company. In 1892-93 the same company built a new road near the eastern shore of Seneca Lake. It runs through the Willard farm, being a great convenience to that institution.

[Willard]

In 1859 the corner-stone of a New York State Agricultural College was laid. The location at that time was unfavorable, there being no railways in that direction. As a college it did not prove a success. The commissioners appointed by Governor Fenton early in 1865, obtained a title to the New York State Agricultural College in December of that year. The farm is located on the east shore of Seneca Lake, and contains about 500 acres. More recent purchases have increased the size of the Willard farm to 930 acres. There are at present over 2,200 patients in the hospital, with ample room for each to receive such care as the case demands. In 1867 six trustees were appointed by the governor, one of whom was the Hon. Sterling G. Hadley, of Waterloo, who was also reappointed in 1869 at the reorganization of the board, and still holds that office. On the 13th of October, 1869, the first patients were received. In 1872 the daily average of patients was 564, at a weekly cost of \$3.15. At present the weekly cost is about one dollar less. The population of the county has not materially changed since 1850, there being an increase in the villages, but a falling off in the rural districts. Then nearly every farmer had a tenant house for his hired man; now the mowing machines, self-binders, patent potato-diggers and other improved implements render it unnecessary to keep the same number of laborers on their farms.

