

Special Note:

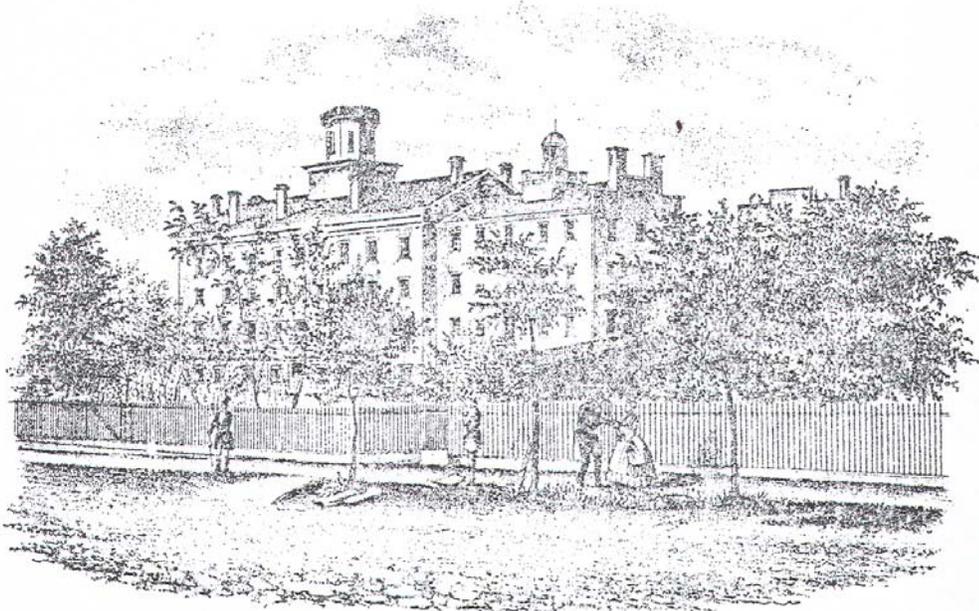
This particular newsletter issue raised some problems when it came to scanning in the various pages trying to keep the numbering sequence that Betty Auten used in the original newsletter issue. First, because there was not a page 44 in her original version, page number 44 in this scanned version has no information. Second, in her newsletter she included an 1850 map of the town of Ovid (following page 32) and a copy of the first page of Book 1 of Common Pleas for Seneca County (following page 36). Because she did not number the pages for those two visuals, these two visuals pages appear in this scanned version as pages 47 and 48 so as to keep the page numbering that Mrs. Auten used in her original.

Walt Gable
Seneca County Historian
9-28-06

SENECA COUNTY HISTORY

Vol. 3 No. 3

Whole No. 11



Seneca Collegiate Institute, Ovid

ANNEXATION
or
HOW TO CUT UP A TASTY AND
VALUABLE PIECE OF PIE

As one collects and studies the early records that chronicle the events as the area opened to the pioneer settlers, one becomes aware of the attempts to manipulate. As the early families settled along the waterways and in the forests of Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca Counties, others had continued farther west before settling down.

Ontario County was organized in 1789 and it then encompassed all the area west of Seneca to Ontario and Erie lakes.

As more people settled they felt the need of local representation. It was no easy matter to have to travel to the county seat in Onondaga County from Wolcott to the north and Ovid or Ulysses to the south. After 1799 when Cayuga Co. was formed, the county seat was at Cayuga village and later at Aurora.

By 1800 there were several thousand people in what is now Seneca County and the formation of a new county was first discussed in 1802. Several ideas were introduced. One was the division of Cayuga County east and west by a line starting at Seneca Lake, running east on a line between Romulus and Ovid, crossing Cayuga Lake and the townships of Scipio and Sempronius to Onondaga County. The territory north of this line would remain as Cayuga County with the county seat at Cayuga. The area south of the line would extend to Ulysses and the county seat would be at Ithaca. No name was suggested for this area.

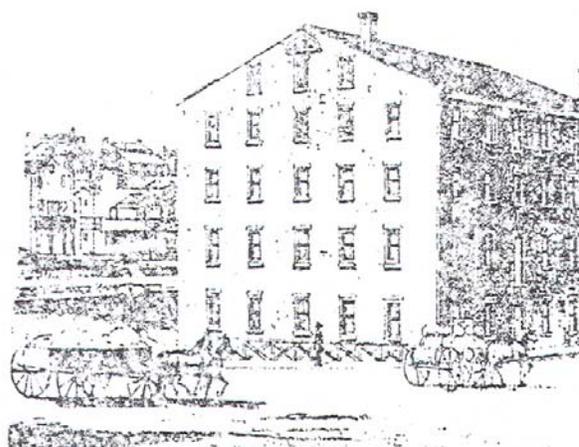
The second proposition was basically the same as the one adopted by the Legislature in 1804 in the formation of Seneca County. About
/Mill built 1817, torn down 1970's

the same time another proposition was made by William Powell and others in Ontario County, that part of Ontario and a part of what was then Cayuga be formed into a new county. This would have included Geneva. The Ontario county seat had been established at Canandaigua.

Many of the businessmen and town officials of Geneva felt that the county seat should be at Geneva. For many years various officials pushed for annexation with parts of Seneca County so that Geneva could be established as a county seat.

On April 3, 1827, application was made to the state legislature for erection of a new county which would include Phelps and Seneca from Ontario; Junius and Fayette from Seneca. In 1817, Ulysses, Cove and Hector and gone into the formation of Tompkins County. Covert was returned to Seneca, two years later.

In 1829 another application was made. This time the request was for the towns of Phelps and Seneca in Ontario County and the five north towns of Seneca: Tyre, Junius, Seneca Falls, Waterloo and Fayette. Little matter that the towns had just been formed from the major town of Junius. Court houses would then be established at Geneva and



Robert Shoemaker & Co's Flouring Mills.
Seneca Falls, N.Y.



Waterloo.

On Nov. 30, 1830, application was to be made to the legislature to divide Seneca County by a line east and west from Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, three miles north of the south line of Fayette. The south portion to be called Seneca, the north with the towns of Seneca and Phelps in Ontario County to be organized into a new county - not named.

Beginning in 1802 when the first application for annexation was made, the Ontario County officials must have changed a number of times but the desire to establish a county seat at Geneva, remained with all of them.

On Dec. 30, 1846 yet another application was made to the state legislature for a new county. The selection remained the same; Fayette, Seneca Falls, Tyre, Waterloo and Junius in Seneca; Phelps and Seneca in Ontario. This time a name for the new county was proposed: Canadesage.

On that same date, application was made to annex Hector back to Seneca County. Apparently the people of Hector were not all satisfied with the government process of Tompkins County. This application was also overlooked but a few years later, Hector was taken out of Tompkins and put into the newly created county of Schuyler.

Discussion on annexation continued through the years, especially in the Geneva area. In 1869 Charles J.F. Folger, a judge of Geneva was in the State Senate. Annexation was again proposed.

On Feb. 10, 1869, Geneva officials made a proposal to take two towns of Seneca County and give the town

of Lodi to Schuyler. Geneva would then divide Ontario County and have a court house in Geneva. Seneca would continue to have its courthouse in Ovid.

At a special meeting of the Seneca County Board of Supervisors Feb. 18, 1869, with Gilbert Wilcoxen as chairman, the following resolution was adopted.

"An effort is being made to annex the towns of Seneca and Phelps to Seneca County, making Geneva the county seat of the proposed county. In the opinion of this board such a measure is inexpedient, unwise and uncalled for by any public necessity of Seneca County and we believe entirely opposed to by the wishes of a very large majority of the people of this county."

A second meeting was conducted on March 3, 1869 by Seneca County officials. Albert Jewett of Seneca Falls was chairman; Dr. Samuel Wel and John B. Thomas of Waterloo and Ovid, also attended. Their answer was NO DEAL.

The effort to change the shape of the pie continued into this century. There was no attempt to change the county line, but according to Waterloo town records, on Dec. 1, 1899, the board of supervisors of Ontario County passed a resolution nine to six, granting Geneva the privilege to annex itself to Seneca County. Later the board rescinded the resolution

On Jan. 4, 1901, the common Council of the City of Geneva proposed to introduce an act to annex the Border City area to the city. When this was presented to the State Legislature, property owners and residents of the Borde

City area protested against the annexation

The Board of Supervisors of Seneca County passed a resolution noting it would be a great detriment to the people of the district because of increased taxation for which they would receive no benefit and it would also affect the rest of the town of Waterloo.



OVID

Ovid was formed March 5, 1794 as a town in ONONDAGA County when Onondaga was set off from Herkimer. In 1799 it became part of Cayuga County and five years later, in 1804, Seneca was organized. The original town records have survived. Cayuga does not have the records from 1799 to 1804. It is not known whether the earliest records survive in Onondaga County.

The Town of Ovid remained its original size, encompassed within the boundaries of the military township of Ovid, until 1817 when the townships of Ulysses and Hector became a part of Tompkins County. At that time several of the military lots

across the southern part of the county were included with Tompkins as Covert. Two years later, Covert was returned to Seneca County and in 1826, part of Ovid and Covert were taken off and formed into the town of Lodi. On April 7, 1817, the change put Covert in Tompkins and on April 13, 1819 it was back in Seneca Co.

In 1779 approximately 5,000 men walked over the land when the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign occurred. Most certainly, there were some among these men who later came back and settled in Ovid.

The first listing of names of those who settled in the Ovid area are found in the town meeting records. These started in 1794 were property owners for only such men could serve as a town official

Two books of historical records were copied in the 1940's by local typists through the WPA. The original copies are at the County Clerk's office in Waterloo; a second copy is located in Albany with the state historian. A microfilm copy is with the county historian's office and with the Genealogical Library of the LDS Church at Salt Lake City

One collection in these books gives the names of farmers who registered ear marks for their stock, some as early as April 1, 1794

The first names appear to be men who settled in what is now Ovid and Lodi. Among the names listed are: Silas, Oliver, Lewis, Nicholas and Jehial Howell Halsey; Elijah and Ephraim Kinne; John Selah, Nathaniel Sutton, John, Benjamin and Rachel Swick;



Joseph Wilson, David Lacock; Abraham and Rynear Covert; George Fausett and Henry Warton.

According to the 1878 History of Seneca County, Andrew Dunlap was the first to settle in Ovid, coming from Pennsylvania. Listed among the more than 2,000 men who received a military lot for their services in the Revolutionary War is an Andrew Dunlap. One might assume that this is the same Andrew Dunlap, but in checking out the pension records, one finds that the man who received the lot lived in Massachusetts and died there. In the later years of his life he was blind.

The Andrew Dunlap who settle Ovid was from Pennsylvania, according to the history. He was also a Revolutionary soldier, but since he owned a large portion of Lot 8 in Ovid, he probably never applied for a pension. Andrew Dunlap came to Seneca County in May 1789. His brother-in-law, Joseph Wilson came the same year, settled on Lot 17 and Peter Smith settled on Lot 7.

In 1790, Abraham Covert and his son Abraham A. came from New Jersey and settled on Lot 27. The first town meeting was held on this location.

In 1792, John Seeley became the owner of Lot 3, on which which the village of Ovid was established. John Seeley died soon after settling in Ovid, but not before he provided the county with land on which to build the first court-house. A paper copied from the first common pleas book of the county, showed the original intent was to build the court house at Bailey-

town, (now Willard).

Twin brothers Nicholas and Richard Huff settled on Lot 20, in 1793, coming from New Jersey. They had served in the Revolutionary War

The first town officers, elected April 1, 1794 were: Silas Halsey, supervisor; Joshua Wyckoff, town clerk; Elijah Kinne, Abraham Covert George Fausett, assessors; Abraham Sebring, collector; Elijah Kinne, Andrew Dunlap, overseers of the poo James Jackson, John Livingston, Joh Seeley, commissioners of highways; Henry Scivington, Daniel Everts, Samuel Chiswell, fence viewers; Thomas Covert, pound master. Some of the men served in more than one capacity.

Except for 1797 when Peter Hughe was elected supervisor, Silas Halse served in that position until 1805 when James Van Horne became supervisor.

An excellent way to trace the pioneer settlement is checking each lot through the deeds. Combine this information with other local source and one can learn a great deal about these early residents.

Lot 1. Several members of the Simpson family owned this lot. An 1826 deed is quite helpful for it states that this is the lot upon which father Alexander Simpson died. The lot was left to Henry, Lewis, Benjamin and Charles Simpson. According to an early Geneva newspaper Alexander died Feb. 21, 1816.

The lot originally was purchased by John Simpson, not mentioned in the above deed. Other sources noted that John Simpson was overseer of the highway in 1797 and he was the



WATERLOO

35

father of Anthony, John and Alexander Simpson.

On Dec. 18, 1800, the Cayuga Commission granted all but the survey lots of Ovid 2, to Elijah Kinne. At the first Ovid town meeting, Elijah Kinne was named assessor, overseer of the poor, overseer of highways and fence viewer.

In a deed, issued April 26, 1817 Elijah Kinne turned over one acre of the lot for one dollar to the trustees of the First Presbyterian Church of Ovid. When he received Lot 2 from the commission, he also received Hannibal 40, Locke 97, Marcellus 61 and Hector 86. One would need to study Onondaga, Cayuga and Schuyler deeds to learn how and when he disposed of these lots.

On Sept. 3, 1800, John Seeley was granted all but of survey lots of Ovid 3, by the commission. In 1794, Seeley was named one of the overseers of the poor. It was on the western portion of this lot that the village of Verona was established.

It was on this lot and lot 94 in Romulus that the first development of Seneca County occurred. The two lots were within walking distance of each other. Only one other lot, Five in the West Cayuga Reservation, showed a significant number of deed transfers in those early years. Romulus 94 was Baileytown, now the hamlet of Willard. Five in the reservation was the western terminus of the Cayuga Bridge.

On March 1, 1807, John Seeley and wife Eleanor, turned over to the supervisors, a portion of the lot for \$5, to build a court house. The supervisors at that time were: Jonas Whiting of Ulysses; John Livingston of Hector; James van

Horne of Ovid, John Sayre of Romulus and Daniel Sayre of Junius.

In 1790, Theodosius Fowler, formerly a captain in the Revolutionary War and now a broker in New York City, sold Lot 4 in Ovid to William Dunlap of Herkimer Co. This was one of the three lots he had received for his services in the war. Since this area was then a part of Herkimer County, Dunlap was probably already here in the county. To assure this transfer the Cayuga Commission granted all but the survey lots to Dunlap in 1801.

In researching early deeds one can become overwhelmed with the complications that developed as land speculators bought many of the lots of the Military Tract. One can sympathize with those men who invested their life's savings only to find they did not have a clear title to their land. There are few deeds as uncomplicated as these three.

William Dunlap also purchased Ovid 8 in 1792 and turned that lot over to his brother Andrew in 1801. The Dunlaps came to Seneca County with their father John, Joseph Wilson and a cousin, John Purdy. They were among the very first settlers in the area. In 1805, William Dunlap was elected trustee of the newly organized Ovid Union Library. Andrew Dunlap and Joseph Wilson held many early town offices.

It is also with the early deeds one can establish where mills, schools, and cemeteries were started. In 1809, John McMath sold to Jared Sandford, 800 square feet and buildings on Ovid 27 for building of a school.



In 1815 John Charles had a distillery on Ovid 24. This lot is along Cayuga Lake between Sheldrake and Kidders.

Two deeds show there was a cemetery on Ovid 9; one noted it was near the south part of the lot. One source named Jacob Striker as sexton for burying ground on Ovid 29, William Murphy for one on Ovid 30 and William Brown on Ovid 3. This was the old village cemetery. This was in 1800.

Two early mills mentioned in Ovid deeds were located on Ovid 23, known as the Hughes Mill in 1816; and Ovid 16, there in 1811.

The deed for the one on Ovid 16 said the property was to extend on both sides of the big creek, with sufficient distance from each bank for the mill, located 20 rods above the big falls.

In researching the combined information available under various sources in county and town record, one can develop interesting data on each lot. Also on the families and businesses that existed on each of these lots.

(On the next page is a copy of the first page of Book 1, of Common Pleas, for Seneca County.)

LADIES OF OVID WHO VOTED IN THE FIRST STATE ELECTION IN 1918

Margaret Anderson	Ella Auble	Sarah C. Allen
Clementine Allen	Josephine Auble	Nellie Anderson
Isabelle S. Abbott	Susie Auble	Mary Asay
Mary G. Akins	Mollie Asay	Florence Bodine
Grace Brewer	Rose Boyer	Helen R. Boyce
Ida Boyer	Ella Blew	Maude Blew
Marion Burr	Myrtie Bloomer	Edythe Beardsley
Anna B. Bennett	Mary Boyce	Elizabeth Brokaw
Lou Bodine	Pearl M. Beckley	Helen Beardsley
J. Hazel Boyce	Gladys M. Boyce	Sarah Burnham
Ethel Burke	Sarah Bowlby	Ethel P. Bristol
Harriet Beckwith	Lillie Birdsall	Lillian Brennan
Emma Banker	Lovel Baley	Margaret Breman
Gladys Barnes	Stella Beckwith	Perfeta Bonner
Emma B. Boyce	Florence D. Boyce	Ella A. Boyd
Emma B. Bartlett	Clara E. Brewer	Alice M. Boak
Mary Biddle	Annie Bishop	Frances Burroughs
Mae Carey	Sarah Covert	Catharine Clare
Clara Caywood	Alice Carroll	Susie Crawford
Evelyn Cranney	Emma Cox	Bessie Cassidy
Bridget Clare	Harriet Crawley	Maud Cratsley
Bessie Cassidy	Edith Carpenter	Mary Carragher
Mary Courtney	Mary Cassidy	Ellen Caywood
Grace Chapman	Mary E. Craft	Rose Cunningham
Sarah L. Craver	Mary E. Craft	Bridget Creilly

Laura B. Chapman	Katherine Cram	Anna Cain
May Carroll	Merle Campbell	Mary Crelly
Mortie Dean	Violetta Dimmick	Kathleen Dunwoody
Amanda Dunlap	Mable Dickerson	Estelle Demun
Delia Donovan	Adelphia Dart	Isabell DeWitt
Emma Doremus	Rose Donavan	Mary DeMond
Elnora Dunn	Kate Dickens	Catharine Dunn
Myrtle Deats	Mary Dart	Mary E. Dimond/Dimore
Emma L. Deten	Mary Dowdle	Margaret Dunn
Eleanor Durnin	Inez Dart	Nora Dimick
Alzina T. Elliott	Clara Everts	Nora Everts
Pearl Excell	Anna Earley	Mary Eastman
Mary J. Ereland	Emily Everhart	Gelle Easterbrook
Margaret A. Everhart	Ellen Emons	Mary Eggleston
Katherine Fitzsimmons	Ella Finch	Rachel Fox
Jessie Ferris	Susie Freestone	Elizabeth Ferris
Lottie M. Feuerbach	S. Elizabeth Finlin	Delia Fitzsimons
Anna Fitzsimons	Caroline Freligh	Abby C. Franklin
Elizabeth Franklin	Caroline Franklin	Rachel Ford
Mary Feehan	Mary Fitzsimons	Agnes Frantz
Mary Farrell	Nellie Gilgen	Myrtie Griffin
Mary Gavin	Anna Gardner	Mary Golway
Elizabeth Gilbert	Elizabeth Groesbeck	Genevieve Golway
Emma Griffen	Evelyn H. Groom	Mabel Garvin
Elizabeth Garnet	Mary R. Hall	Gertrude Hallett
Grace Hall	Martha Helfman	Elizabeth Hallett
Florence Hayward	Helen Huff	Stella Hunt
Mary Horneman?	Nettie Horton	Anna Haviland
Jennie Hyland	Eva Hayward	Margaret Helfman
Louise H. Hall	Belle Holton	Ida Huff
Lucile Hall	Hazel Hart	Alice Hoagland
Mae Hamilton	May Houghton	Mary A. Horton
Agatha Harvey	Clara Hill	Anna T. Hagan
Anna Hanlon	Horelia Houghton	Agnes Hanlon
Gladys A. Horton	Anna Hall	Bridget Hanlon
Margaret Henratty	Frances E. Huson	Louise Hughes
Sarah Howell	Anna A. Horton	Mary Helas
Delia Hernon	Stella Ike	Harriet Jeffers
Jennie Jones	Ada C. Jewel	Ester Jacobs
Carrie Johnson	Olive E. Jolly	Jennie Jones
Nellie C. Johnson	Adella R. Jackson	Florence King
Emma C. Kinnie	Mary Keady	Helena Kelly
Florence M. Kinne	Helen Kuryla	Sela Pratt Kuryla
Ida Kelly	Eva P. Kingsley	Margaret L.C. King
Louise L. Lane	Mary Laycock	Cora Larkin
Ellen Lochren	Hazel Leasman	Susie Longcoy
Mandana E. Lyon	Mary Lamoreaux	Wilhelmina Linderberg
Anna L. Lyon	Ella T. Lochren	Lovina J. Morris
Catharine Morgan	Bridget Murphy	Susie Murphy
Jennie Miller	Elizabeth Meddick	Edwin C. Mack
May L. Morris	Julia Murphy	Addie Martin

INTERLUKE

Elizabeth Murphy	Ethel Martz	Mary Murphy
Louise J. Morvan	Mary Martin	Clara Marion
Catharine Martin	Effie C. Montgomery	Mae Martz
Mary Madkin	Elizabeth Martin	Carrie Martz
Stella Miller	Mary W. Miles	Lillian B. Merrell
Lulu M. Myer	Luella Morgan	Mary Murphy
Cornelia Mundy	Mary A. Miles	Mary Moore
Mary J. Myer	Susie Myer	Susie May
Anna Morehouse	Mah? Murphy	Viola E. Moore
Frances Mathews	Sarah E. Myer	Mary A. MacNish
Rose MacNish	Ella MacDonald	Mary A. McCarriagher
Mary McDonald	Mary McEvoy	Anna Mc Elroy
Mary E. McQuigg	Martha Maguire	Maria McCarriagher
Mary McCarriagher	Ella McCarthy	Elizabeth McElroy
Elizabeth A. McElroy	Nell J. McCann	Kate McCarriagher
Agnes McCarl	Mary A. McGough	Abby McGuire
Minerva S. McQuigg	Elizabeth McMahon	Winifred McCoy
Kate McQuillian	Jennie McDonald	Kate McDonald
Estelle McDuffie	Margaret Northrup	Matie Northrup
Martha Neal	Sarah Neal	Anna Northrup
Lillian Ogden	Kate O'Connell	Elizabeth O'Hanlon
Anna Ogden	Hazel Osborne	Ella C. Osborne
Margaret Office.	Minnie Oltz	Mary C. Parish
Iszara M. Pierce	Alice Personius	Bertha Parish
Ida Pell	Edythe B. Pell	Susie Powell
Mary Porter	Mae Pell	Savallia Porter
Cora V. Post	Mary J. Purdy	Inez Purdy
Mable Potts	Stella Patty	Alice Pettibone
Sarah Purcell	Bessie Predmore	Charlotte S. Predmore
Blanche A. Price	Ada H. Proper	Stella Pomerly/ Pomeroy
Mary Quinn	Jennie Quick	Inez Quigley
Sylvia Quigley	Bessie M. Rodman	Mary Rooney
Lillian Rolfe	Odessa Richard	Jessie Rice
Mary K. Ryan	Mary E. Roarke	Ida Rafferty
Helen Redcliff	Catharine Riley	Elizabeth Riley
Carrie Roan	Mable Reigle	Martha Rafferty
Mary E. Riley	Lucy A. Roarke	Catharine F. Roan
Anna Rafferty	Catharine Strader	Mary Spaulding
Signa Strader	Sybil Steele	M. Louisa Spencer
Frances Slaght	Imogene Schrader	Sarah Stafford
Franc C. Slaght	Loa K. Slaght	Mary H. Smith
Leah Strader	Grace Stewart	Louise Steele
Emma V. Shelton	Mary M. Stout	Mary L. Staniford
Eliza Sonain	Anna C. Smith	Annette Sherwood
Flora B. Smith	Martha Slaght	Anna M. Swarhout
Dora Shuman	Harriet Sherwood	Grace R. Sanford
Gertrude Somers	Ella D. Smith	Anna P. Swarhout
Grace M. Sprague	Bertha Seeley	Louise M. Stewart
Ella Scott	Emma B. Saylor	Emeline Slaght
Laura M. Swick	Sarah Smith	Bessie R. Terry
Sarah A. Tynan	Nora Thompson	Mary A. Taggerty

Ada Travis
 Kate O. Tunison
 Anna A. Thomas
 Anna Toner
 Bridget Toner
 Helen Van Vleet
 Margaret Vargason
 Amanda Wickham
 Helen Whiting
 Mattie Wixson
 May Wright
 Margaret Whalen
 Mary Wetmore
 Mary Whalen
 Mary Wilkes
 Henrietta Wilson
 Mary Wyckoff
 Margaret Young
 Elenora Yarnell

Dora Terry
 Helen Townsend
 Louise A. Tone
 Mary Toner
 Martha Updyke
 Alice VanSickle
 Elizabeth Voorhees
 Helen Ward
 Estelle Wyckoff
 Inez Whitley
 Estelle Wyer
 Grace Williams
 Ruth Ward
 Marion Wells?
 Jennie Wyers
 Margaret Wells
 Harriet Wright
 Minerva A. Yauck
 Veronica Zubris

Georgia Travis
 Luella E. Townsend
 Margaret Trix?
 Phoebe Townsend
 Addie Van Vleet
 Celestia VanSickle
 Carrie VanNostrand
 Plesa Westervelt
 Elizabeth White
 Jennie M. Wyckoff
 Etta Warner
 Cora S. Wilson
 Margaret M. Wright
 Elizabeth Williamson
 Hattie Ward
 Minne B. Walthart
 Ellen Young
 Anna Yarnell

PIONEERS

SAMUEL J. ACKLEY, was born Aug. 29, 1794 in Delaware Co., the son of Jacob, a Revolutionary soldier. His parents moved to Ovid while he was a young boy. On Sept. 12, 1816, he married Elizabeth King of Genoa. She was born in Monmouth Co. N.J.

After their marriage they lived at Goodwin's Point, near Trumansburgh for 18 years. He enlisted twice in the War of 1812 and served on the Canadian Frontier. At the battle of Queenstown he was one who dared to cross the river and stand, a color bearer, with the American soldiers.

In 1839 the family moved to Penn Yan. He was the pilot of the first steamboat launched on Cayuga Lake. It was the first steamer west of the Hudson River, called "The Enterprise." The first trip was made in 1819 and he was pilot of the boat for several

years. He and his wife had 11 children. One of his daughter was Mrs. William Stewart of Willard. He died in Penn Yan on Jan. 31, 1874.



According to an affidavit prepared by Charles D. Becker, Samuel Bear was a Revolutionary War Veteran who purchased an island in the Seneca River from the Indians, in 1773 for a handful of buttons, beads and other items. Mr. Becker was probably sincere about his efforts but known facts show that Samuel Bear was born in Pennsylvania on Aug. 12, 1770, possibly in Lancaster County.

Many of the historical facts relating to Bear are contradictory. All sources agree on the date when he first came to Seneca County 1793. He then supposedly rode on horseback, or walked to Albany



INTERLUKE

40

and purchased 100 or 300 acres of Lot 4, in Romulus and a portion of Lots 3 and 5. He then returned to Pennsylvania for the winter before returning permanently to Seneca County.

A deed, filed in the Seneca County Clerk's office shows that Simeon DeWitt, the surveyor general of the state, sold to Samuel Bear, 100 acres of Lot 4 on July 30, 1804. The purchase was allowed through a special Act in the Legislature which allowed land to be sold to Bear, John G. House and Isaac Rapalya. He paid \$25 up front with a promise of an additional \$275 to be paid according to the contract. The deed was probably issued in Albany for the witnesses were not local people.

Other historic facts are contradictory. According to the Becker claim, Bear was the first settler in the county and his mill was the first within a radius of 150 miles.

A study of early deeds shows that lots were sold prior to 1793 and several pioneers were here earlier; Benejah Boardman and Job Smith came in 1789.

It is probable that his mill was the first in Seneca County, but only by a few months. Silas Halsey started a mill at what is now Lodi about that date. There is a document that shows his mill was a very busy place. It is a list of names, filed in his inventory with names of men who owed him money at the time of his death. The followers of Jemima Wilkinson, "The Universal Friend", had built a mill at Jerusalem in Yates County,

prior to 1794.

When Bear returned to Seneca County from Pennsylvania in 1794 he brought the three Yost brothers: Casper, Abraham and John and his sister Leah, with him. She was his housekeeper for the first few years.

Here again is a discrepancy in the facts regarding Samuel Bear. One source noted that he married when he returned to Pennsylvania. This must also be an error for he would not have needed a housekeeper if he were married. Also Mary Snyder, his wife is believed to have been the sister of Anthony Snyder, an early gunsmith of the village of Scauyes.

Mary was born Oct. 1, 1775 and they were married in 1796. Several children were born to them: John who lived just one day; Sophia, who died at nine; Vincent who also died as a child; Lancelot who died at the age of 30; Charlotte, born 1802 and Samuel, the youngest, born June 29, 1807. Samuel Bear, Sr. died in 1807 at the age of 37.

Samuel Bear is considered the first settler of Waterloo. He left his mark although he was only here for about fourteen years. After he died his widow married William B. Hall, a local resident, who had already buried two wives in Burgh Cemetery.

It is easy to understand why facts concerning Bear should be difficult to gather since he only lived here a short time. Except for wills and deeds, few documents remain from such an early period. There is one source still available - justice records - and one can learn quite a good deal about Bear and his family through the papers that have been preserved.

On Nov. 13, 1805 Samuel Bear acknowledged to the court of common pleas

FAYETTE

41

that he owed Samuel Tooker of New York City, \$250. This paper had Samuel Bear's signature, one of the few in existence.

There are several justice papers for Mary Bear, later Mary Hall with Martin Kendig and John Yost, regarding sales of some of the lots in Scauyes. Nothing unusual in such papers. It is the ones that deal with the personality of these people that are interesting.

On Sept. 6, 1808, Mary Bear was called into court by a judgement filed by Catharine Smith, wife of Samuel M. a business acquaintance of Samuel Bear. She was accused of assault and battery.

The sons, Lancelot and Samuel S. and their stepfather all had their day or days in court At the time of Samuel Bear's death, Wilhemus Mynderse of Seneca Falls had been named guardian of the Bear children. After Mary Bear and Hall married, Hall attempted to have the guardianship cancelled but was unsuccessful. Later he sued Mynderse for more than \$1,000 for his care of the children.

The year 1824 was an especially busy one in court, for the family. On Jan. 10, William B. Hall was indicted for assault and battery upon his wife, Mary. On Feb. 5, Lancelot was brought into court for striking William Hall. Apparently the battle within the family continued for on Oct. 6, 1824, William B. Hall was again brought into court, this time for assaulting Samuel S. the 17 year old son of Samuel and Mary.

The last justice document for the family was the most serious. On Feb. 3, 1825, Lancelot was indicted for perjury. He was accused of selling the mill built

by his father, to two different buyers. For this crime he was sentenced to the state prison for seven years. Whether He ever actually went to prison is not known. He died in Fayette, March 1, 1830 at the age of 30.

Lancelot was married to Elizabeth Schott, daughter of Andrew and Margaret of Fayette. They had at least four children: son Alanson, daughters Sophia, Louisa and Mary. Charlotte, Samuel Bear's daughter married, first, Lucas Morgan, an early attorney of Waterloo. Morgan died two years later. She then married Joseph Wagner to whom she was married for 46 years.

The youngest son Samuel S., born about the same time that his father died, lived in the Town of Waterloo He and his wife Sarah had several children

ISRAEL CATLIN was born in Litchfield, Conn. Sept. 15, 1762, the son of Theodore and Mary Goodwin Catlin. He married Ditha Ross. With his brothers he moved from Connecticut to Chemung County, later Schuyler, before 1800. The town of Catlin is named for the family. His brother Phineas remained there and he moved north to what became Fayette. He lived on Lot 9 of the West Cayuga Reservation.

He was assessor of Romulus from 1796 to 1799. He was one of the first justices of the peace of Fayette, then Washington, and a lieutenant of the militia. He was elected supervisor in 1806 and continued to serve until his death. On April 6, 1813, he was re-elected supervisor; on April 11, the board called a special meeting Catlin died just two days after he was elected and John Watkins was named supervisor.

He is buried in Burgh Cemetery. Only three children are known by name: two daughters, Mary and Clara, who married William Sweet son of James, another pioneer of Fayette. A son Ross died as a child and is also buried in Burgh.

MOORS DIMMICK: This name appeared in the 1820 and 1830 census. These censuses only show that a man was at a certain place as a particular time. It does not tell one the name of his wife or give any information about his family. Two sources that were helpful in learning about this early resident were his pension record and Seneca County justice papers.

Dimmick first filed for a pension in 1833, when he was 68 years old and a resident of Seneca Falls. He purchased about 200 acres of land on Lot 7 in Junius, now part of the village.

He enlisted in April 1781 in the company of Capt. Goodel of Brookfield, 5th regiment of Massachusetts Line. The regiment was part of General Patterson's Brigade and was commanded by Rufus Putnam. He continued to serve until Dec. 24, 1783 when he was honorably discharged at West Point.

His pension record was brief. He still had his original discharge papers, signed by Major General John Knox. Few veterans were able to show their papers when they applied for a pension.

Dimmick was born in June 1764 in Ashford, Windon Co. Conn., and lived there when he enlisted in the service. After the war he moved several times: first to Bennington Co. Vermont; then for a time to Washington,

Saratoga and Albany Counties before he settled at Seneca Falls.

On Jan. 20, 1835, he re-applied for his pension. He was then living in Portage Co. Ohio.

The Seneca County justice records indicate that Moors Dimmick was a man with a temper. Most of the papers relate to charges of assault, either against him or charged to him. These charges involved family members: Elisha, Polly and Henry Dimmick.

One other item in the Seneca County newspapers. Moors Dimmick of Talmadge, Ohio, was married to Sarah Whiteford, daughter of Thomas of Waterloo on Nov. 11, 1833. Moors death date is not available but he probably died in Ohio.

LINUS ELY was born in Springfield Mass., Jan. 25, 1786, son of Simeon. He was a physician Seneca County deeds showed he made several purchases of lots. The first were on lots 17 and 18 in Junius.

In 1812 he became a partner with Dr. Gardner Welles, but according to the Geneva newspapers, the partnership was dissolved in June 1815.

In 1816 he married Adaline Hewes, daughter of William of Phelps. In 1817 he was appointed inspector of schools of Junius and on June 24, 1818, he was appointed justice of the peace. Soemtime after 1850 he moved to Clyde and died there on May 1, 1864.

ERASTUS PARTRIDGE was born near Norwich, Conn. May 9, 1798. He moved to Cayuga County in 1820 and opened a mercantile store in Cayuga Village. In 1824 he started a branch office in Seneca Falls. Apparently the family still lived at Cayuga at that time for his son LeRoy was born in Cayuga on July

16, 1832.

He expanded his store in Seneca Falls and bought produce to be shipped to the east. About 1837 he felt he had enough business to warrant starting a bank so he opened a banking office in the back of the store, with a safe and desk. At this time he transferred all his business to Seneca Falls.

In 1852 with a capital of \$50,000 he organized the Bank of Seneca Falls. He was president of the new bank and his son LeRoy was cashier. This was the first bank in Seneca Falls. He sold his mercantile business to William B. Lathrop in 1856 and devoted all his time to the banking business.

About 1857 a world-wide depression affected millions and many banks in the state suspended business. Some of these, considered among the safest banks, were forced to close their doors. The Bank of Seneca Falls managed to remain open and according to some records, about 1862, it was the largest individual bank in the state.

The first bank was located in the old Mechanic's Hall. In April 1858 it was moved to Fall St., in the bank block. In 1862 the bank obtained a National Charter and in 1865 its name was changed to the Furst National Bank of Seneca Falls.

Erastus Partridge was married in 1820 to Sarah Brufee, daughter of William and Anna of Homer. He died Jan. 20, 1873. His son LeRoy became president of the bank and he died in 1875.

It closed as a National Bank in 1882 and Albert Cook, Partridge's son-in-law reopened the business as the Partridge Banking House. When he died in 1885, his wife Caroline continued to run the

business. In 1902 it received a state charter to operate as The State Bank of Seneca Falls.

WEATHER

Weather, good or bad, is probably one of the most popular topics for conversation around. When it's hot, someone always remembers a time when one could fry an egg on the sidewalk; let it snow and there is sure to be someone who remembers a real big snow storm.

Most anyone over 21 can recall the flood of 1972, even though Seneca County fared quite well at that time. Compared to Pennsylvania and the Southern Tier, this area had no more than a slight drenching.

Anyone over 40 will also remember the snowstorm of 1957. Considering these two big ones, the residents of Seneca County can feel fortunate. It has been some time since the last major storm.

In preparing an index of newspapers, published in Seneca County from the beginning, I have collected a number of items relating to storms throughout the years. Not all of these were winter storms. The first recorded in the newspaper was on June 29, 1942 when the Waterloo newspaper noted that the western area of Fayette had a hailstorm which caused over \$10,000 damage.

In 1849 it was so dry that many wells gave out. All farmers on roads, west of Cayuga Lake and east of Seneca, rode their horses and drove their cattle to the lakes.

Special Note: Page 44 is blank, as there was no numbered page 44 in Mrs. Auten's original version of this newsletter.

for water.

In 1881 there was another drought. Wells dried up. The Ovid Fair grounds had a spring and farmers brought their cattle there to drink. The year 1912 went down in the history books as nearly forgetting to have a summer. There had been only a short period of hot weather all summer and on August 28, there was a light frost and summer was practically over.

On the opposite side of the weather picture, the winter of 1919 was known as the iceless winter. All meat markets in the county were forced to close because there was no ice to keep the meat. There was snow that year, on April 10, snow fell and soon there was a snow drift, eighth of a mile long and seven feet deep on the Lodi-Interlaken Road. It took 17 men nearly a day to open the road, then it turned warm and the snow melted.

There was a repeat of this event in 1925. According to the newspapers, on February 6, the county had the heaviest snowfall since 1870. The undertaker had to use a sleigh for a hearse during the funeral service for John Murphy, a Civil War veteran. They could not travel on the roads with a wagon. A number of barns and garages collapsed from the weight of the snow. Two Fayette farmer nearly froze to death trying to get to their cattle.

The next week's newspaper noted that higher temperatures had melted the snow so fast as to cause flooding throughout the county.

During the storm, snow fell about three feet on the level. Ovid had no snowplow, just a caterpillar tractor which had been purchased with the intent of using it as a plow. The

community was completely tied up. A party at the home of Frank Parish in Ovid started on a Thursday. The party lasted until the following Wednesday because no one could go home because of the snow.

The next major storm occurred in 1936. On January 30 the papers noted that traffic was stopped for over 20 hours on Route 5 & 20 because of the snow storm. Hundreds of trucks and cars stalled at Twin Sister Hill, just beyond Montezuma. Other roads were blocked for more than 36 hours.

A school bus became marooned on Black Brook Rd. Pupils were taken from the bus and delivered to their homes by sled.

In recent memory, the storm of 1957 must be classified as the best or worst. On February 20, the newspaper noted that the sheriff, Kenneth Wayne called a state of emergency. It was 10 below zero and snow drifts had even stopped the railroads. Factories were closed and nothing moved. A supreme effort was made by a few brave men who transported nurses to the hospital.

On February 27, the storm was still raging. In some areas of the county, especially southern end snow had reached the second story of some buildings. The American Red Cross worked with state police and the sheriff's department to provide an airlift. An emergency plane dropped 81 packages of food, nearly a ton of stock feed to the farmers. Also dropped was kerosene and coal for heating. It was definitely a storm not easily forgotten.



THE VALIENT

CHARLES H. POWERS 59, of Waterloo died Dec. 31. Buried Maple Grove Cemetery. He was born Jan. 7, 1927 in Waterloo, son of Earl and Florence Buck Powers. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Army.

WILLIAM JOHN COUSIN, 74, former Seneca Falls mayor died Jan. 17, 1987. He was born in Milngavie, Scotland, Dec. 17, 1912, son of William J. and Jean McKinnon Cousin. He was mayor from March 1953 to April 1955.

HOWARD W. TANNER, 49, of Seneca Falls, died Jan. 17, 1987. Bur. St Columkille Cemetery. He was born in Waterloo, Jan. 23, 1937, son of Howard and Myrtle Dressing Tanner. He was a US Army veteran

FREDERICK M. DILLON, 79, died Jan. 26, 1987, of Seneca Falls. Buried St. Columkille. He was born in Seneca Falls, July 19, 1907, son of Robert and Clara Whitlock D Dillon. He was a World War II Navy veteran and a former local police officer.

PERRY J. KELSEY, of Pittsford, 66, died Jan. 29, 1987. He was formerly of Waterloo and buried Maple Grove Cemetery. He was born Oct. 5, 1920 in Mansfield, Pa. son of William C. and Esther M. Jackson Kelsey. He was an Army veteran of World War II with service in the European Theater.

WILLIAM M. HASTON, 72, of Seneca Falls, died Feb. 11, 1987. Buried St. Columkille. He was born in Niangua, Mo. Feb. 26, 1914, He served in the US Navy during World War II until 1962.

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VITAL STATISTICS OF 1847-48-49

DEATHS:COVERT

LYDIA VLIET, 63 or 65, 2/16/1847 married. died of consumption
DARIUS TERRY, 21 days, Aug. 20, 1847
RHODA SQUIRES, 63, 3/16/1847, married, consumption
ANSEL WHELPLEY, 27, innkeeper, 12/11/1847, single, died of typhus
ELISHA SHELDEN, 3, 4/29/1847

FAYETTE:

HANNAH DEPPEN, 33, 2/11/1847, married, confinement
MINERVA PETERSON, 1-8-0, 3/21/1847, measles
LEWIS GOUGER, 21, 1/3/1847, single
ANNE GOUGER, 22, 1/6/1847, single
WILLIAM GOUGER, 34, 1/14/1847, single
ANDREW GOUGER, 13, 1/29/1847
CATHARINE GOUGER, 46, 3/19/1847, married
ELIZABETH GOUGER, 35, 4/25/1847, all died of typhus fever.
Also CHARLES WILLIAM GOUGER, 5, 2/20/1847

WATERLOO

GEORGE DOLE, 4/3/1849, 10, disease of the head.
SAMUEL LISK, of Springfield, Mass. 26, 4/6/1849, machinist, suicide by hanging
PRICE MURRAY, 2 months, 4/15/1849
NANCY KIMBALL, 51, 4/20/1849, married, dropsey
CORNELIA MACKEY, 30, 4/15/1849, married, child birth

ROMULUS

TOBIAS BORNE/BOICE, 72, 1/4/1847 farmer
SAMUEL SHELDEN FURMAN, 25, 1/27/1847, single, boating
RUTH LYNCH, 79, 2/5/1847, single
TUNIS SEBRING, 27, 2/16/1847, carpenter, single, died of consumption.
ELIZABETH KINNE, 3/5/1847, 75, single

The Court of common pleas held in and for the
County of Seneca on Tuesday the eighth day of
May 1804 - - -

Present

Cornelius Humphrey
Grover Smith
John Sayre

Esquiers } Judges

Court opened by proclamation -
on motion of Walter Wood the Court pro-
ceeded to license the following persons as
attorneys in this Court viz Walter Wood - -
D. W. Lewis H. H. Bogart Elen Cuyler Daniel
Shepard Abijah Miller Jr. Bloah Gregory
Peter LeConte - - -

The Court ordered the liberties of the Goal
for the said County of Seneca be layed out
at the Village of Lancaster in the Town of
Romulus and that the Sheriff survey the
same not exceeding three acres and to con-
tain Ten dwelling Houses within the same -
and make return to the Clerk of said County -

The Court ordered that the Rules of the Court
in the County of Cayuga be the Rules of this Court
with the addition of the Rule of fees as establi-
hed in the County of Ontario - - -

The Court adjourned to Tuesday the thirteenth
day of November Next - - -