

Seneca County entry in French's Gazetteer of 1860

This county was formed from Cayuga, March 29, 1804. A part of Tompkins was taken off in 1817, and a part of Wayne in 1823. It lies west of the center of the State, centrally distant 156 miles from Albany, and contains 420 square miles. It occupies the greater part of the land which lies between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes, and extends several miles north of Seneca Lake Outlet. A high ridge enters the county from Tompkins and occupies nearly one-fourth of its surface. The summit of the extreme southern portion of this ridge in this county is 700 to 800 feet above Seneca Lake and 1,100 to 1,250 feet above tide. Toward the north it gradually declines to the level of Seneca Lake. The ridge is bordered in some places by steep declivities and in others by gradual slopes, and in the southern part of the county generally terminates in high bluffs on the shores of the lakes. At the foot of Seneca Lake the bluffs, on an average, are about 20 feet high; but toward the south they gradually rise to an elevation of 100 to 150 feet. At the foot of Cayuga Lake the shore is low and shelving; but in Romulus a bluff shore commences, which gradually increases in height until on the south border of the county it attains an elevation of 150 to 200 feet. From the summits of the bluffs to the central summit of the ridge the land generally rises in beautiful, smooth, gradual slopes, broken in a few places by sharp declivities of a terrace-like formation. From Ovid toward the north the land abruptly descends about 200 feet, and then by gradual slopes to the level of Seneca River. The region immediately north of Seneca Lake Outlet and west of the Cayuga Lake Outlet is level, and some of it is marshy. In the northwest corner of the county is a great number of alluvial ridges, composed principally of gravel. These ridges extend in a north and south direction and are 30 to 50 feet high. Their declivities are generally very abrupt toward the north, east and west, but more gradual toward the south.

The geological formation of the county is very simple. The rocks overlie each other in parallel layers slightly dipping toward the south. The lowest rocks that crop out in the county are those of the Onondaga salt group, including both the red shales and gypsum. They are found along Seneca River, where the gypsum is extensively quarried. Next above these are heavy, compact masses of the corniferous limestone, occupying a belt of country 2 to 3 miles wide south of Seneca River. The intermediate waterlime and Onondaga limestone strata are developed in this county only in very thin and scarcely noticeable layers. The corniferous limestone furnishes a building stone of great excellence and is extensively quarried. Next in order come the Marcellus and Hamilton shales, occupying a broad belt through the county and extending nearly to the summits of the ridges; the Tully limestone, a layer of only a few feet in thickness, but valuable from the quantity and quality of lime manufactured from it; and the Genesee slate, a dark, shaly rock which crowns the summits of the southern hills. These rocks throughout the county are covered with a deep deposit of drift, consisting of clay, sand, gravel, and hardpan, and crop out only along the shores of the lakes, the narrow ravines of the streams, and the steep declivities of the ridges. In the northwest corner of the county this drift is arranged in ridges with narrow valleys scooped out between them.¹

¹ The position and character of these remarkable ridges seem to indicate that the whole region has been subject to the force of large bodies of running water moving in a southerly direction, and it has been conjectured that at a geological period immediately preceding the present one, the waters of Lake Ontario, then much above its present level, flowed through the valleys of Seneca and Cayuga Lakes and discharged into the Susquehanna.

The principal stream is Seneca River, forming the outlet of Seneca Lake. It has a course of about 14 miles between the two lakes, and in that distance falls 60 feet. The falls are principally at Waterloo and Seneca Falls, furnishing an excellent water-power at each place, but much the greater at the latter. From Cayuga Lake, Seneca River flows northeast through a marshy region and forms a portion of the east boundary of the county. Clyde River, a tributary of the Seneca, flows through a portion of the marshy region in the northeast corner. The other streams are all small brooks and creeks, and for the most part are rapid torrents flowing in deep gulfs worn in the shaly rocks. They are frequently interrupted by waterfalls, are nearly dry in summer, and are subject to severe freshets.

Seneca Lake, the west border of which forms the greater part of the west boundary of the county, is 35 miles long and 1 to 4 miles broad. It is 216 feet above Lake Ontario and 447 feet above tide. It occupies a deep valley between the hills, and it varies in depth from 300 to 630 feet. Its shores are generally bold; and from their summits the land slopes gently and gracefully upward to a height of 200 to 700 feet above its surface, furnishing some of the most quiet and beautiful scenery in the State. This lake is never entirely frozen over. Cayuga Lake occupies a parallel valley on the east border of the county and is 38 miles long and 1 to 3.5 miles wide. It is 60 feet below Seneca, and is immediately adjoining and lying along the course of its outlet, is swampy ² Further south the shores are bluff and the country is of the same general character as that bordering upon Seneca Lake.

The soil is generally of very excellent quality. The sandy and gravelly loam of the drift deposits is well adapted to either grain raising or grazing. The lower portions of the ridges are enriched by the disintegration of the rocks above, making the soil very productive. The lowlands bordering upon Seneca River are clayey and in many places mixed with disintegrated gypsum and limestone. North of the river have been found extensive marl deposits of great agricultural value. North of the foot of Seneca Lake is a sandy region once considered worthless; but upon trial the soil has been found susceptible of being made productive at little expense. The marshy regions west of Cayuga Outlet are covered with thick deposits of marl and muck. Measures have been instituted to drain these marshes; if successful a new and exceedingly fertile region will be added to the productive lands of the State.

The county is a half-shire, the county seats being located respectively at Ovid and Waterloo.³ The courthouse and clerk's office at Ovid are brick buildings, situated in the east part of the village. The combined courthouse and jail at Waterloo is a brick building, situated near the railroad, fronting the public square, in the west part of the village. The county poorhouse is

² This swampy region is the southern termination of the noted Montezuma Marshes.

³ The county seat was located at Ovid upon the erection of the county in 1804. The courthouse was built in 1806. While a part of Onondaga County in 1790, courts were held at the barn of Andrew Dunlap. In 1817, upon the erection of Tompkins County, the county seat was removed to Waterloo; but in 1822 the county was divided into two jury districts, and the courts have since then been held alternately at Ovid and Waterloo. The first county officers were Cornelius Humphrey, First Judge; Silas Halsey, Clerk; William Smith, Sheriff; and Jared Sandford, Surrogate.

located upon a farm of 126 acres, upon the line between Seneca Falls and Fayette, 4 miles southeast of Waterloo.⁴

Four weekly newspapers are now published in the county. [The following text is added to this paragraph rather than as a footnote in the original Gazetteer.] *The Seneca Patriot*, the first paper published in the county, was started at Ovid in 1815 by George Lewis. In 1816 it was changed to *The Ovid Gazette*. Upon the change of the county seat in 1817, it was removed to Waterloo and changed to *The Waterloo Gazette*, and was continued several years by the original proprietor. *The Seneca Farmer* was started at Waterloo in 1822 by William Child. In 1832 it was removed to Seneca Falls and united with the Seneca Falls Journal. *The Waterloo Republican* was issued a short time in 1822. *The Waterloo Observer* was started in 1824 by Charles Sentell. It was soon after issued for a short time as *The Observer and Union*, and was subsequently changed to ***The Seneca Observer***, under which title it is still issued by the original proprietor. *The Wreath and Ladies' Literary Repository* was issued from the Observer office in 1831. *The Seneca Republican* was established at Ovid in 1827 by Michael Hayes. In 1830 it was changed to *The Ovid Gazette and Seneca County Register*, and was issued a short time by John Duffy. *The Seneca Falls Journal* was commenced in 1829 by O.B. Clark. In 1831 it passed into the hands of William N. Brown and in 1832 it was united with *The Seneca Farmer* and changed to *The Seneca Farmer and Seneca Falls Advertiser*, and was issued by William Child until 1835. *The Western Times* was published at Waterloo in 1830 by Ebenezer P. Mason. *The Ovid Emporium* was published in 1832 by Bishop Orenshier. ***The Seneca County Courier*** was commenced at Seneca Falls in 1837 by Isaac Fuller & Co. It was successively published by Fuller & Bloomer, Mills & Bloomer, Mills & Davis, John J. Davis, N. J. Milliken, Milliken & Fuller, Milliken & Mumford, Foster & Judd, Fuller & Judd until 1853, when it passed into the hands of Isaac Fuller, its present publisher. ***The Ovid Bee*** was started in 1838 by David Fairchild & Son. At the end of one year it passed into the hands of the son, Corydon Fairchild, its present publisher. *The Seneca Falls Democrat* was commenced in 1839 by Josiah T. Miller, and was continued 10 years. *The Seneca Democrat*, semi-weekly, was issued a short time from the same office. *The Seneca Falls Register* was commenced in 1835 by J.K. Brown and was continued 2 years. *The Memorial* was commenced at Seneca Falls in 1840 by Ansel Bascom, and was continued until 1846. *The Water Bucket* was published at Seneca Falls by an association of Washingtonians in 1841. *The Free-Soil Union* was commenced at Seneca Falls in August 1848, by N.J. Milliken, and continued about 1 year. *The Lily* was commenced at Seneca Falls in 1848 by Mrs. Amelia Bloomer, and was continued until 1854, when it was removed to Ohio. ***The American Reveille*** was commenced at Seneca Falls in January 1855, by Wilcoxon, Sherman & Baker. In 1856 it was purchased by G. Wilcoxon, and was continued by him until January 1859, when it passed into the hands of Holly & Stowell, the present publishers.

The public works of the county are the N.Y. Central Railroad, extending through Seneca Falls and Waterloo, and the Seneca Canal, extending along Seneca River through the same towns.⁵ Above the falls at Waterloo the canal is formed by slackwater navigation upon the river.

⁴ The average number of inmates is 60, supported at a weekly cost of \$1.00 each. A school is taught 4 months in the year. The establishment seems to be pretty well arranged and managed.

⁵ The first locks on this river were made by the Seneca River Navigation Company in 1815.

The lands in this county were first brought to the notice of the whites by the expedition of Sullivan, which passed along the banks of Seneca Lake in 1779. Portions of the land at that time had been cleared and were under cultivation. The Indians had a tradition that this whole region had once been occupied by a race that pursued agriculture, but which had long ago disappeared. Many of Sullivan's soldiers, attracted by the beauty and fertility of the lands, after the war settled in various parts of the county. The first settler, Job Smith, who located at Seneca Falls in 1787, and the second, Andrew Dunlap, who located at Ovid in 1789, came in by way of the Chemung River. The third settler, Lawrence Van Clief [sic], who settled at Seneca Falls in 1789, came in by way of Oneida Lake and Seneca River.⁶ After 1790 settlement progressed rapidly, and the most fertile lands were speedily occupied. In 1791 the State Road, known as the "Geneva Road," was built from Whitestown [Utica] to Geneva; and this soon became the great highway for immigration. This county formed the extreme west portion of the Military Tract; and many of the early settlers were old soldiers who had drawn their portion of public land here.

COVERT—was formed from Ovid, April 7, 1817. Lodi was taken off in 1826. It lies upon the west shore of Cayuga Lake, in the southeast corner of the county. Its surface is an upland descending from its west border and terminating in a steep and almost precipitous bluff upon the shore of the lake. This bluff rises 100 to 200 feet above the water, and the summit of the slope is about 400 feet higher. The town is watered by Trumansburg Creek and many smaller streams, flowing into Cayuga Lake. These streams have worn ravines in the slate and shales to the depth of 20 to 40 feet, the sides being nearly precipitous. In summer they are nearly dry, but during heavy rains they become fierce mountain torrents, bounding and seething in their confined channels and leaping from high precipices to mingle with the calm and peaceful waters of the lake. The soil is a gravelly and clayey loam. The whole surface is arable, except the steep declivities of the lake bluffs. **Farmerville**, (Farmer post office) in the north part, contains 3 churches, a steam sawmill, foundry, and machine shop. Population 350. **Covert**, (p.o.) in the southeast part, **Halls Corners**, near the center, and **Kelleys Corners**, in the northwest, are hamlets. **Port Deposit** (Trumansburg Landing p.o.) is a steamboat landing near the southeast corner. The first settler was Philip Tremaine, who located at Goodwins Point before 1793.⁷ The first religious services were held at the house of Mr. King, by Elder Thomas; the first church (Bap.) was organized in 1805.⁸

FAYETTE—was formed from Romulus, as "Washington," March 14, 1800. Its name was changed April 6, 1808. Junius was taken off in 1803. It lies on the south bank of the Seneca River and extends from Seneca to Cayuga Lake. Its surface is rolling and inclined toward the north. From Seneca Lake the land beautifully slopes upward, forming some of the most delightful situations for residences in the county. Upon Cayuga Lake the shores are lower and in some places are marshy. The highest point in town is about 200 feet above Seneca Lake. The streams are mostly small brooks flowing with rapid currents, and at a few places furnishing

⁶ Mr. Van Clief was one of the 100 men dispatched by Sullivan under Col. Gansevoort, directly east from the head of Seneca Lake to lay waste the lands of the Cayugas, Onondagas, and Oneidas that had previously escaped destruction.

⁷ Among the other early settlers were Nathaniel, Reuben, and Bassler King, from Dutchess County, in 1793; Jonathan Woodworth and sons Nehemiah, Charles, and Oliver, and daughter Deborah, from Norwich, Conn., Miner and Joseph Thomas, in 1794; and Turtellus King, in 1795.

⁸ This was the first church formed in the county. The census reports 4 churches: 2 Bap, Univ., and Ref. Prot. D.

limited water-power. In some parts the corniferous limestone is extensively quarried, both for lime and for building purposes. The soil is a deep, rich loam, composed of clay, gravel, and sand. Near Canoga Village is an immense spring in a basin 14 feet in diameter, and from it flows sufficient water to form a large and valuable water-power. The spring also emits nitrogen gas. **Canoga**,⁹ (p.v.) in the northeast part, on Cayuga Lake, contains 2 churches, a gristmill, 2 sawmills, and 197 inhabitants. **South Waterloo**, a suburb of Waterloo, on the south bank of the Seneca River, contains 1 church and 597 inhabitants. **Bearytown**, (Fayette p.o.) on the line of Varick, is partly in this town. **West Fayette**, in the southwest corner, and **Rose Hill**, in the west part, are post offices. The first settlement was made by James Bennett, from Pennsylvania, who located upon the shore of Cayuga Lake in 1789.¹⁰ Red Jacket, the Seneca chief and orator, was born near Canoga Spring. There are 8 churches in town.¹¹

JUNIUS—was formed from “Washington,” (now Fayette,) February 12, 1803. Wolcott (Wayne county) was taken off in 1807, Galen (Wayne county) in 1812, and Seneca Falls, Tyre, and Waterloo in 1829. It is the northwest corner town of the county. In this town are numerous small, isolated gravel and clay ridges 30 to 75 feet high, all extending in a general north and south direction. The numerous small streams that drain the town flow north into Clyde River. Among the narrow valleys in the east part is a limited amount of swamp land. The soil is of good quality of gravelly loam. **Dublin**, (Junius p.o.) northwest of the center, contains 1 church and 25 dwellings. **West Junius** is a p.o. near the southwest corner. Thorntons Corners is a hamlet. The first settlements were made by Thomas Bedell and Jesse, Samuel, and David Southwick, about 1795.¹² The first church (Cong.) was formed in 1811; three years after it was changed to a Presb. There are also 2 M.E. churches in town.

LODI—was formed from Covert, January 27, 1826. It borders upon Seneca Lake, and is the southwest corner town in the county. Its surface is mostly inclined toward the west and north, a small portion only lying east of the summit. The bluff bordering upon Seneca Lake is 150 to 250 feet above the surface of the water; and the highest part of the central ridge is 500 feet higher and about 1200 feet above tide. The principal streams are Mill Creek, flowing northwest through near the center, and Sheldrake Creek, in the northwest corner. Mill Creek separates the highlands into two distinct ridges, the declivities being very abrupt. Upon this stream are several fine cascades. Lodi Falls, where the creek leaps down the precipitous bluff which borders upon the lake, are 125 ft. high. The water has worn a deep and irregular channel in the shale rocks one mile back from the face of the bluff. The soil is principally a gravelly loam mixed with the disintegrated rocks. **Lodi**, (p.v.) in the north part, contains 2 churches, a gristmill, and 380 inhabitants; **Townsendville**, (p.v.) in the southeast part, a church and 20 dwellings. Lodi Center (p.o.) is a hamlet. **Lodi Landing** is on Seneca Lake, at the mouth of Mill Creek. The first settlement was

⁹ The name of the village, derived from that of the spring, is an Indian word said to signify “sweet water.”

¹⁰ Samuel Bear settled at “Schoyes,” now South Waterloo, about 1795. William Watkins kept the first inn, at South Waterloo, and Samuel Bear built the first grist and saw mill, at the same place.

¹¹ 2 Presb., 2 M.E., 2 Lutheran, 2 Ref. Prot. D.

¹² Among the other early settlers were families named Sherman, Chapman, Brownwell, Fisk, Moore, French, Maynard, Thorn, and Hart—mostly from New England. The first death was that of Mrs. Submit Southwick, wife of Samuel Southwick, in 1802. Joseph Moody kept the first store, at Dublin. He was an Irishman; and hence the name of the village.

made by George Faussett, from Pennsylvania, who settled in the southwest part in 1789.¹³ There are 5 churches in town.¹⁴

OVID—was formed March 5, 1794. Hector (Schuyler county) was taken off in 1802, and Covert in 1817. It lies south of the center of the county, and extends from Seneca to Cayuga Lake. Its surface consists of an arable ridge, 600 feet above Seneca Lake and about 1,110 feet above tide, descending from west of the center toward the lakes. The bluffs upon the lakes are 20 to 50 feet high, and nearly perpendicular. A great number of small streams flow into both Cayuga and Seneca Lakes, the principal of which are Sheldrake, Osborn, Groves, and Barnum Creeks on the east, and Sixteen Falls Creek on the west. These streams have all worn deep, ragged ravines in the yielding shales. They are frequently interrupted by cascades, and in summer are nearly dry. The soil consists principally of clay and gravel intermixed with sand and the disintegrated rocks. **Ovid**, (p.v.) near the north line, contains a courthouse, county clerk's office, 3 churches, the Ovid Academy¹⁵, a steam mill, and ax factory, and about 650 inhabitants. **Ovid Landing** is just over the town line in Romulus. **Sheldrake Point**, (Sheldrake p.o.) is a steamboat landing upon Cayuga Lake, contains a church, steam sawmill, boat yard, and 168 inhabitants. **Ovid Center** contains 20 houses. **Kidders Ferry**, (p.o) near the southeast corner, and **Scotts Corners**, near the center, are hamlets. The first settlement was made in May, 1789, by Andrew Dunlap, from Pennsylvania, who located on Lot 8, in the northwest part of the town.¹⁶ The first religious services were held at the house of Abraham Covert, in 1794. The first settled preacher (Ref. Prot. D) was John Lindsley, in 1800.¹⁷ The New York State Agricultural College and farm are located on the north line of this town, west of the village.¹⁸ In the south part of the town are the remains of an ancient fortification.¹⁹

¹³ Mr. Faussett brought in his family in 1790. James Jackson, from Pennsylvania, settled in the northwest part in 1789; Silas Halsey, from Long Island, near Lodi, in 1792. The next year his sons and sons-in-law and their families, numbering 18 persons, came in. The first child born was a daughter of George Faussett. Peter Smith kept the first inn, and Silas Halsey built the first gristmill, in 1794.

¹⁴ M.E., Baptist, and Ref. Prot. D.

¹⁵ In 1855 the name of the institution was changed to the Seneca Collegiate Institute.

¹⁶ The first settlers, mostly from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, followed the trail of Sullivan's army and located in the west part of the town. Among them were William Dunlap and Joseph Wilson, from Pennsylvania, Peter Smith, from New Jersey, and Henry Wharton, in 1789.; Abraham Covert and his son Abraham A., from New Jersey, in 1790; Elijah Kinne, from Dutchess county, and John Seely, from Saratoga county, in 1792; Nicholas and Richard Huff, Peter Hughes, Abraham DeMott and his son James, in 1793; and William and Robert Dunlap and Teunis Covert, in 1794. In the summer of 1795, Jonas C. Baldwin settled on Lot 11, where he remained until 1801, when he sold out and removed to Lysander, Onondaga county, and laid the foundations of Baldwinsville. The first child born was David, son of Andrew Dunlap, Feb. 2, 1793; and the first death was that of George Dunlap, brother of Andrew, Sept. 24, 1791. A triple marriage in 1793 was the first in town. The parties were Joseph Wilson and Anna Wyckoff; Abraham A. Covert and Catherine Covert; and Enoch Stewart and Jane Covert. They were obliged to cross Seneca Lake to find a justice authorized to perform the ceremony. Benjamin Munger taught the first school, in 1795; John McMath kept the first store, in 1797, and the first inn, in 1800; and B. Boardman erected the first mill, in 1793, on Lot 2.

¹⁷ There are now in town 7 churches: 2 Presb., 2 M.E., Ref. Prot. D., Bap., and R.C.

¹⁸ This institution was incorporated in 1853; and the buildings are now in process of erection. They were designed by S.E. Hewes, of Albany, and consist of a main building 90 feet front and 132 deep, having a wing on each side 84.5 by 60, and transverse wings 58 by 128. It is designed to accommodate about 400 students. The farm contains 600 acres.

¹⁹ On Lot 29, within ½ mile of the south line of the town, and exactly on the dividing ridge between the two lakes, once existed a mound or fortification of an irregular, elliptical form, enclosing about 3 acres, and surrounded by an

ROMULUS—was formed March 5, 1794. Fayette was taken off in 1800, and Varick in 1830. It lies south of the center of the county, and extends from Seneca to Cayuga Lake. Its surface is rolling or moderately hilly and has a general northerly inclination. The high bluff from Ovid extends into the south border of the town, where it drops down abruptly about 200 feet. The land slopes from the center downward to the east and west. The streams are small and generally flow in deep channels. The surface is smooth, except along the courses of the streams, and is nearly all arable. The soil is a fertile, gravelly and clayey loam. **Romulus**, (p.v.) on the line of Varick, contains a church, steam sawmill, female seminary, and 36 dwellings. **Hyatts Corners**, [sic] in the southeast, contains 20 dwellings. **Romulus Center** is a p.o. **Whitneys Landing** is a station upon Cayuga Lake; and **Cooleys** and **Freleighs Points** and **Ovid Landing** are stations upon Seneca Lake. The first settlement was made by David Wisner, in 1789. There is but one church (Bap.) in town.

SENECA FALLS—was formed from Junius, March 26, 1829. It lies upon the west bank of Cayuga Lake, north of the center of the county. The surface is nearly flat, and it is elevated 30 to 50 feet above Cayuga Lake. The shores of the lake are low and shelving, and the north portion is swampy. Seneca River flows east and north through the center of the town, its valley dividing the town into two distinct parts. The river flows over a series of ledges into a deep chasm apparently worn by its waters. Just east and southwest of the village are extensive gypsum quarries. The soil is a stiff, hard clay in the south and east, a sandy loam in the northwest, and a heavy vegetable muck in the northeast. **Seneca Falls**, (p.v.)²⁰ upon the Seneca River, near the center of the town, was incorporated April 22, 1831. It is a station upon the N.Y.C. R.R. and the Seneca Canal. The total fall is 51 feet, and furnishes an abundance of water-power, which is largely improved. It contains 7 churches, the Seneca Falls Academy, a union school, 2 newspaper offices, extensive manufactories of fire engines, pumps, machinery, iron, and woolen goods, and a great variety of other articles.²¹ Population about 4,000. The first settlement was made by Job Smith, from Ulster

embankment of earth, which in 1801 was about 3 feet in height, with a base 5 to 8 feet in width. The present proprietor, George BoDine with his father, removed here in 1802 and built a house within the enclosed space, where he has since resided until within a few years. The work was evidently of great antiquity,—the timber on the inside being of the same size and apparent age of that of the surrounding forest. Upon the bank and in the ditch large oak trees—the growth of centuries—were standing. In the embankment were several openings a few feet in width, which were once probably used for gates or entrances. In making an excavation for a cellar on the east side, 6 skeletons were found at the depth of about 2 feet. This was in 1857. Several had been found previously; and, though all the softer parts of the bones had long since disappeared, the teeth and a few of the larger bones still remained. Inside of the embankment may still be found pieces of a coarse kind of pottery, ornamental pipes, etc. DeWitt Clinton visited this place in 1810; and his theory is that this was one of a number of similar works of defense found occupying the most commanding positions in Western New York, and in the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi, erected by a race more civilized than the Indians, and that they preceded the latter in the occupation of this country: their origin and end are alike a mystery; their annals defy the ken of human research, and their history will remain a sealed book perhaps forever. The Indians were never able to give any account of this fortification, as it was older than their traditions.

²⁰ Named from the falls in the river, the Indian name, “Sha-se-ounse,” signifying rolling water.

²¹ Downs & Co’s manufacturing establishment, commenced in 1840, has a capital, including real estate machinery, of about \$200,000. They are largely engaged in the manufacture of pumps and a great variety of other articles, use annually 3,800 tons of iron, 1,500 tons of coal, and employ 230 hands. Their yearly sales amount to about \$400,000. They also manufacture Goffe’s Patent Knitting Machine, and are largely engaged in the manufacture of hose, turning out 800 pairs per day; 70 persons are employed in this department. The Island Works of Silsby, Mynderse & Co., commenced in 1848, is engaged in the manufacture of steam fire engines, portable steam engines and a variety

county, upon the present site of the village in 1787; he left in 1793. The first permanent settler was Lawrence Van Clief, in 1789.²² The first religious services were held by M.E. missionaries, about 1797; and the first regular minister was Rev. Matthew Stewart, (Presb.,) in 1804.²³

TYRE—was formed from Junius, March 26, 1829. It is the northeast corner town of the county. The east half is a swamp, being the south termination of the Montezuma Marshes. The west half is occupied by peculiar drift ridges similar to those already described in Junius. These ridges are 30 to 50 feet high, and generally have very steep declivities upon all sides except the south. One of the longest of these, in the west part of the town, extends nearly two-thirds of the distance from the south line to the north. Its summit is nearly level; and the road which is located upon it appears as though built upon an artificial embankment. The soil is clay and much in the east and a gravelly loam in the west. **Tyre City**, (Tyre p.o.) near the center, contains 2 churches and 20 dwellings. **Cruso** is a p.o. on the north line. The first settlement was made by Ezekiel Crane, from New Jersey, who came in 1794.²⁴ The first church (Bap.) was formed in 1805. Elder Don Ralph was the first preacher.²⁵

of other machinery. It employs 150 persons, and turns out work to the amount of \$200,000 per year. Cowing & Co.'s works commenced about 1840. They are engaged in the manufacture of fire engines, pumps and various other articles—employ 140 men, and turn out work yearly to the amount of \$125,000. The Phoenix Woolen Mills gives employment to 90 persons, and manufactures goods to the amount of \$150,000 per annum. Besides these, there are in the place several flouring mills, having in the aggregate 32 runs of stone, 2 distilleries, a brewery, 2 planing mills, 5 foundries and machine shops, a scythe and fork factory, a woolen factory, and several minor manufactories. About 50 tons of iron are used daily in the several manufactories—*American Reveille*, Seneca Falls, 1859.

²² Mr. Smith was the first white settler upon the Military Tract. Mr. Van Clief was a Revolutionary soldier, having been in the battles of White Plains, with Washington at Valley Forge and with Sullivan in his campaign against the Indians. He settled on the river, and engaged in piloting boats over the rapids until the locks were built in 1815. Among the other early settlers were James Bennett, Col. John Harris, and ___ Parker. The first child born was a daughter of Lawrence Van Clief, Nov. 29, 1790; the first marriage, that of ___ Ely and Pamela Pankhurst, in 1796; and the first death, that of Mrs. Job Smith, in 1792. The first school was taught by ___ Leonard in 1797. Lawrence Van Clief kept the first inn, in 1794; and Col. Wilhemus Mynderse kept the first store, in 1795, and built the first saw and grist mill, about the same time. In 1794, Robert Trout, Nicholas Gouverneur, Stephen N. Bayard, and Elkanah Watson, under the title of the Bayard Company, bought of the State 100 acres of land on the north side of the river, embracing the great part of the water power upon that side. In 1798 they purchased 250 acres on the south side, and in 1809, 650 acres more on the same side, the two purchases embracing all the water power upon that side of the river. In 1816 they bought 450 acres more on the north side, completing the purchase of the water power. In 1795 the company sold a one-fifth interest in their purchase to Col. Mynderse, and constituted him their agent. In 1795 the "Upper Red Mills" were erected under his direction; and in 1807 the "Lower Red Mills" were erected. The Co. refused to sell their land, neglected to improve the immense water power that they owned, and in 1825 broke down, and the property was sold for about one-fifth of its cost. In 1829-30 the manufacturing interests of the place began to increase. About that time a paper mill was erected by Chauncey Marshall, G.V. Sackett, and Ansel Bascom; a cotton factory, by Judge Sackett; a machine shop by McClary & Halliday; and a clock factory, by Marshall & Adams. Until the locks were built, in 1815, the most important business of the place was that of transporting goods and boats around the rapids. The "dress reform" movement was commenced in this town by Mrs. Amelia Bloomer, who adopted the dress known as the Bloomer Dress in 1849.

²³ The census reports 7 churches in town: Bap., M.E., Wes. Meth., Prot. E., Presb., Ref. Prot. D., and R.C.

²⁴ Asher Halsey, from New Jersey, came in 1798. Among the other early settlers were Stephen Crane, Peter and Ezra Degarmo, Robert Gould, Thomas Susson, Lewis Winans, and Thomas W. Rosevelt. The first child born was Daniel Crane; the first marriage, that of Ezekiel Crane. Nancy Osman taught the first school, in 1804. Stephen Crane kept the first inn, in 1809; Nicholas Traver built the first sawmill, in 1807, and Noah Davis the first gristmill, in 1817.

²⁵ There are 4 churches in town: Disciples, Bap., M.E., and Ref. Prot. D.

VARICK—was formed from Romulus, February 6, 1830. It extends from Seneca to Cayuga Lake, across the center of the county. Its surface is slightly inclined toward the north. The slopes of the ridges are so gradual that nearly every part is arable. The streams are all small. Near the center of the town is a cranberry swamp, occupying about 800 acres. The soil is a gravelly loam intermixed with clay. **Bearytown**, (Fayette p.o.), upon the line of Fayette, in the northeast part, contains 3 churches, a steam sawmill, stave factory, and 128 inhabitants of whom 51 are in this town. **Romulus Town** (p.v.) lies on the south border. **East Varick** (p.o.) is a landing upon Cayuga Lake. **McDuffie Town** is a hamlet in the southeast corner. **Varick** is a p.o. The first settlement was made by James McKnight, in 1789.²⁶ There are 3 churches in town: Bap., Presb., and M.E.

WATERLOO—was formed from Junius, March 26, 1829. It lies on the north bank of the Seneca River, northwest of the center of the county. The surface is almost one unbroken flat. A marsh extends east and west through the town south of the center, and another occupies the northeast corner.²⁷ The bed of the Seneca River, on the south boundary, is almost level with the general surface. The soil is muck and clay in the north and east, gravel along the north border, and a sandy loam in the center and west. **Waterloo**, (p.v.) on the Seneca River, near the east border of the town, was incorporated April 9, 1824. It is a station upon the N.Y.C. R.R. and upon the Seneca Canal. A fall of 24.5 feet in the Seneca River furnishes an excellent water power, which is mostly improved. It is a half-shire of the county, and contains the courthouse, 6 churches, the Waterloo Union School, a bank, a large shawl factory,²⁸ 3 distilleries, 2 malt houses, 3 flouring mills, 5 sawmills, 2 foundries and machine shops, 2 oil mills, and numerous other manufactories.²⁹ Seneca River above the falls, being seldom frozen, is navigable throughout the year. This village is an important depot of lumber from the southwest counties, and of coal from the Susquehanna and Blossburg Mines. Population 3,050. **South Waterloo**, formerly called “Schoyes,” is on the opposite side of the Seneca River, in Fayette. Settlement was commenced by John Greene, from Rhode Island, in 1789.³⁰ The first religious services were held about 1816.³¹

²⁶ The first child born was a son of James McKnight, in 1790.

²⁷ The waters of Black Brook which flow through the central swampy region are impregnated with earthy and vegetable matter, which gives them the peculiar quality of clearing the inside of steam boilers of the incrustations of sulphate and carbonate of lime resulting from the use of hard water.

²⁸ The Waterloo Woolen Manufacturing Co. was organized in 1836, with a capital of \$150,000; 200 to 250 hands are employed; 300,000 lbs. of wool are used, and 40,000 long shawls are annually manufactured. This is, next to the Bay State Mills, the largest shawl factory in America.

²⁹ Among these establishments is a plaster mill, boatyard, and drydock, 4 copper, tin, and sheet iron factories, a fanning mill, and washboard factory, and 2 cabinet and furniture shops.

³⁰ Among the other early settlers were Jabez Gorham, from Ballston, (Saratoga county,) who located upon the present site of the village. Salmon Disbrow, from Saratoga county, came in about the same time. The first child born was John Smith, in 1808; the first marriage, that of Job Smith and Miriam Gorham, in 1799; and the first deaths, those of John Gregory and James Hull, two Revolutionary soldiers, who drew lots in this town, settled upon them, and both died about 1808. Isaac Gorham taught the first school in 1810; Jabez Gorham kept the first inn, about 1795; Charles Swift, the first store, in 1815; and James Bear built the first mill, in 1794.

³¹ The census reports 6 churches in town: Presb., Prot. E., Ref. Prot. D., M.E., Disciples, and Friends.

(chart: Acres of Land, Valuation, Population, Dwellings, Families, Freeholders, Schools, Live Stock, Agricultural Products, and Domestic Manufactures of Seneca County)

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