

HISTORY
OF THE TOWN OF
Alfred, New York

FROM THE
Earliest Times to the Present

BY

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PREFACE

New York was the first State in the nation to institute by law the office of local historian. Today more than one thousand such officers are engaged in the recovery and preservation of the history of this Commonwealth. Primarily the local historians are supposed to collect and prepare for publication material pertaining to the World War. This work is being accomplished in a majority of cases but more remains to be done. The historian in each political subdivision is authorized to procure material relating to the history of the subdivision over which he was appointed and the Supervisor of each town is authorized to have the same published for the permanent record of the town.

In keeping with these suggestions the local historian has collected and prepared the following history of the town of Alfred. The task has been no easy undertaking owing to the scarcity of early records. Interviews with the oldest inhabitants who in many cases were able to recall incidents of the earlier days, together with access to meager records, have enabled the writer to arrange and correlate the data thus obtained for the present history.

Grateful acknowledgment is hereby made to A. B. Kenyon, E. P. Saunders, A. F. Randolph, R. Artamisia Place and F. L. Greene for material furnished, and especially to Mr. Greene for helpful suggestions and for his experienced assistance in proof reading.

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CHAPTER I

THE IROQUOIS CONFEDERACY*

The Iroquois are very aptly called the Romans of the West. All traditions agree that the League was formed on the northern shore of Onondaga Lake.

We have here the example of a great confederacy conceived by untaught statesmen of the forest, who had no precedents, no written lore of the ages to refer to; nothing to guide them but the lights of nature; nothing to prompt them but necessity and emergency. Their conflicts were little inferior to those of Rome itself. In the sublimity of their eloquence they may be compared with the Greeks. They produced some of the greatest orators known among the Indians. The renowned Red Jacket, the fluent Logan and the convincing Cornplanter were often heard in their council chambers and by the power of their logic and eloquence dominated the thought of the whole nation. Their confederacy was a remarkable structure. It was one of the most interesting features of all aboriginal history. In at least one feature it was not unlike our own Federal Union. The five nations, afterwards six, were so many states, each with some well defined powers but yielding others for the general good. The supreme power was vested in a Congress of sachems, fifty in number. The meeting of the sachems was known as the Council. The Mohawks were entitled to nine representatives; the Oneidas to nine; the Onondagas to fourteen; the Cayugas to ten, and the Senecas to eight. In the sachems resided the executive and judicial power. The crowning feature of the Confederacy as a political structure, was the perfect independence and individuality of the nations composing it. The same rulers who governed the Confederacy in their joint capacity, were in their separate state still rulers of their several nations. Each nation was independent in regard to all its local affairs. In form the League was really a federal oligarchy, but in effect it was very democratic. The sachems quickly responded on all occasions to popular demands.

*Every political subdivision should be studied in the light of its historical background. For this reason the early history of the territory now embraced in the State of New York will be considered in brief.

The western portion of the State was the rendezvous of the great Iroquois Confederacy; different nations claimed it; large land owners purchased portions of it, and many were the names given the territory before the present named subdivisions came into being.

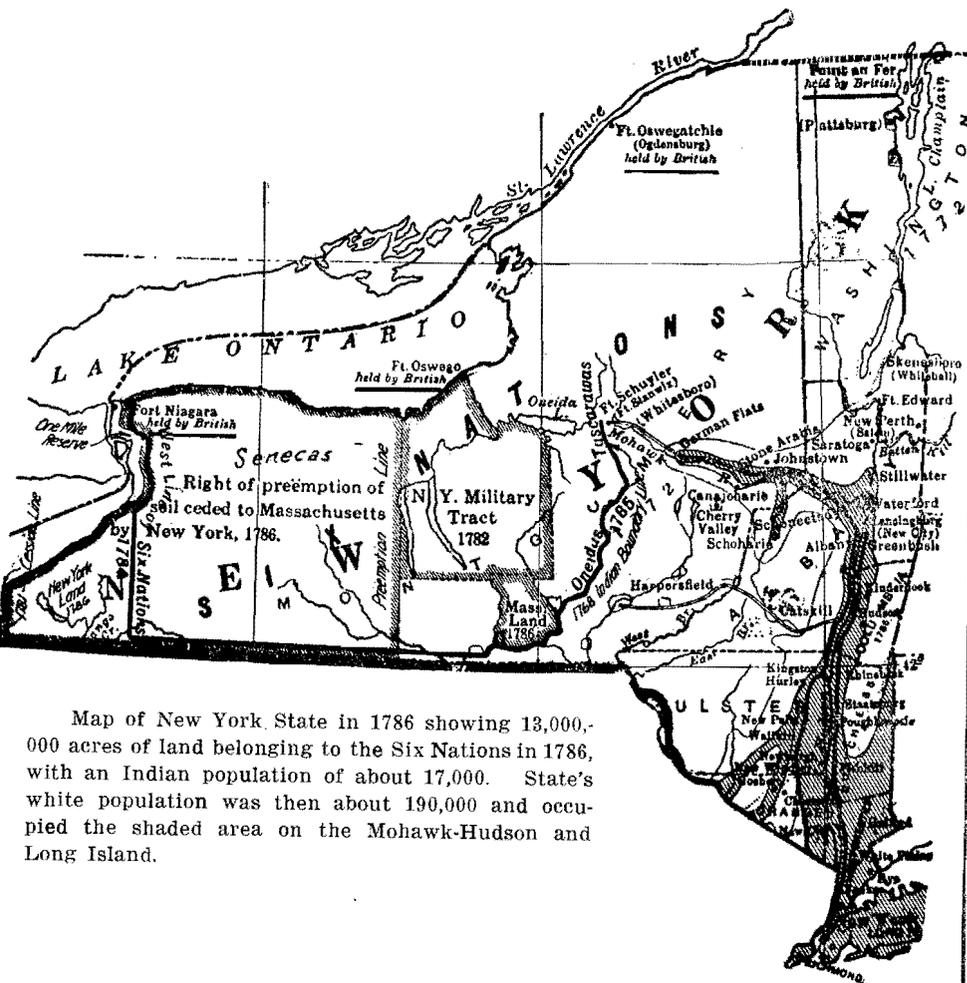
No religious functionaries were recognized in the Confederacy, although there were certain officials who officiated at religious festivals. In each nation there were eight tribes.

Now that nations are striving to form a league for the purpose of abolishing the causes of war and to establish peace among men, the formation of the Iroquois League is of more than passing interest. Back in the sixteenth century the five tribes of Indians known as the Five Nations, established a permanent league for the purpose of putting an end forever to the shedding of human blood by violence and of establishing a lasting peace by means of a constitutional form of government, based on peace, justice, righteousness, power and authority. Its founders did not limit the scope of this confederacy to the five nations, but they proposed for themselves and their posterity the task of bringing under this form of government all the known tribes of men, not as subjects but as confederates. The establishment of such a league in the closing years of the sixteenth century was not only a drastic reformation but an experiment. To appreciate what this great confederacy meant we must remember that at the time of its formation the Iroquois controlled a territory 1200 miles long and 600 miles wide, or in other words a territory ten times as large as the whole State of New York, extending from the Hudson Bay on the north to the Kentucky and Savannah rivers on the south. They possessed axes, chisels, and knives. They made pottery which showed some skill and merit in design. They tanned leather and made needles of bones; from bark they made rope, baskets and canoes. Their money was wampum or strips of leather adorned with shells and beads. Hiawatha is reputed to have been the architect of the Confederacy.

The headquarters of the League was in the Genesee valley. In this region was located their council house, perhaps the oldest structure in western New York. The Senecas, occupying the western part of the State were said to have been the keepers of the western door of the Long House.

The League reached its greatest power about the year 1700 with a reputed population of about 12,000 souls.

The League has always maintained its organization. While the power of the League has been broken and their war axes have been laid aside for the arts of peace they still maintain their annual meets or powwows. The last meeting of the League was held at Canoga, Seneca county, on Saturday, August 15, 1925. Several thousand warriors assembled for the dual purpose of visiting the birthplace of the famed orator of their race, Red Jacket, and to show the people of the Finger Lake region their appreciation of the memorials placed in the vicinity of Canoga to honor their memory.



Map of New York State in 1786 showing 13,000,000 acres of land belonging to the Six Nations in 1786, with an Indian population of about 17,000. State's white population was then about 190,000 and occupied the shaded area on the Mohawk-Hudson and Long Island.

CHAPTER II

THE GORHAM AND PHELPS PURCHASE

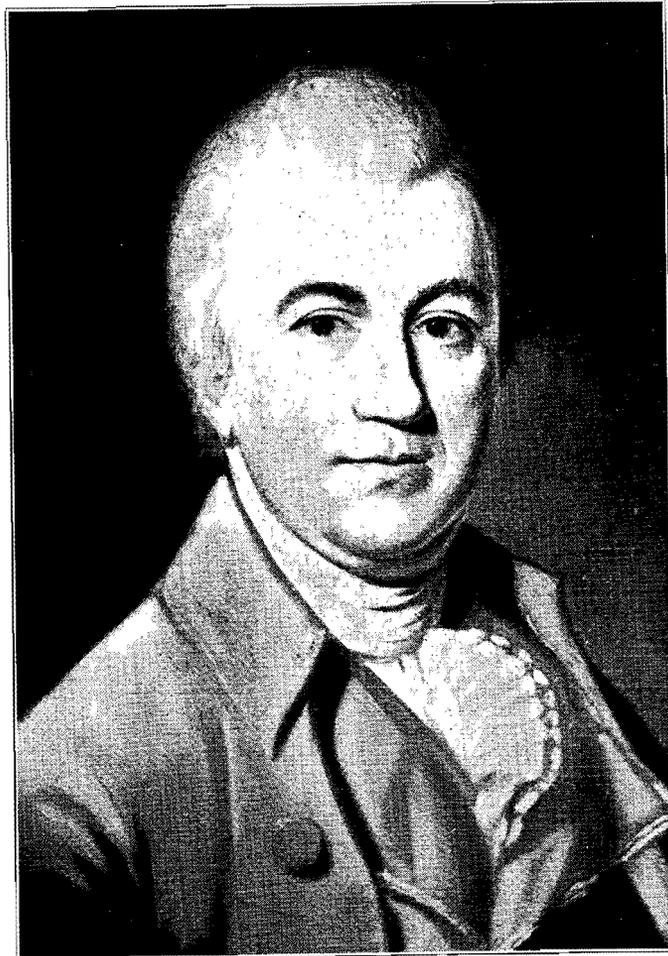
The French, through the explorer Champlain, claimed all the eastern part of the State of New York. These rights were extinguished by the treaty of Paris in 1783. While there were many conflicting claims to territory in the western part of the state, it is interesting to note that no land within our State has been summarily taken from the Indians, but that all has been bought, some by fair means and perhaps some by artifice.

At different times during the 17th and 18th centuries parts of western New York were claimed by Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. The controversies were all amicably settled and the various claims ceded to New York soon after the Revolution by what is known as the negotiations of Hartford, Conn., in 1786, Massachusetts at the time retaining her right of pre-emption of the soil from the Indians.

Phelps and Gorham, like many other land speculators, saw an opportunity for speculation on a large scale. They joined their interests and in 1788 purchased from Massachusetts more than two million acres at about one shilling per acre. They gave to the commonwealth of Massachusetts three bonds of 100,000 pounds each, payable at intervals of one year. At a meeting held at Buffalo Creek, July 8, 1788, the Six Nations confirmed the above grant and relinquished their claim to the said territory for a consideration consisting of \$5,000 in cash, and a perpetual annuity of \$500, one half to be paid in cash and one half in cattle.

Owing to a rise in the value of the securities of Massachusetts, Gorham and Phelps were unable to meet their obligation. In 1790 they applied to their friend, Robert Morris, who had also embarked in land speculation, and who purchased the unsold portion of their lands on Aug. 10, 1790. This purchase is said in the deed to have contained 2,100,000 acres. After receiving title Morris at once disposed of these lands to European agents consisting of Sir William Pulteney and others. The deed was consummated when \$333,333.33 was agreed upon. Morris' profit in the transaction was about \$160,000.

Mr. Charles Williamson, their agent, was sent to America in 1792. He, through his energy and enterprise, incurred such heavy expense building roads, etc., that he gave up his agency by deed



NATHANIEL GORHAM

Who Purchased with Oliver Phelps all that Part of the State
of New York lying West of the Pre-emption line

dated 1801. Mr. Williamson gave over to his principals lands and securities, after which transaction the Phelps and Gorham Purchase has been called the "Pulteney Estate."

Through the various agents of this estate with offices at Bath, N. Y., most of the lands were sold to settlers at prices ranging from \$2 to \$4 per acre.

Alfred was one of the five towns of Allegany county to be carved out of this Phelps and Gorham Purchase.

The entire tract with its many advantages, was destined in a very few years to be settled by a sturdy race of men and women from New England, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

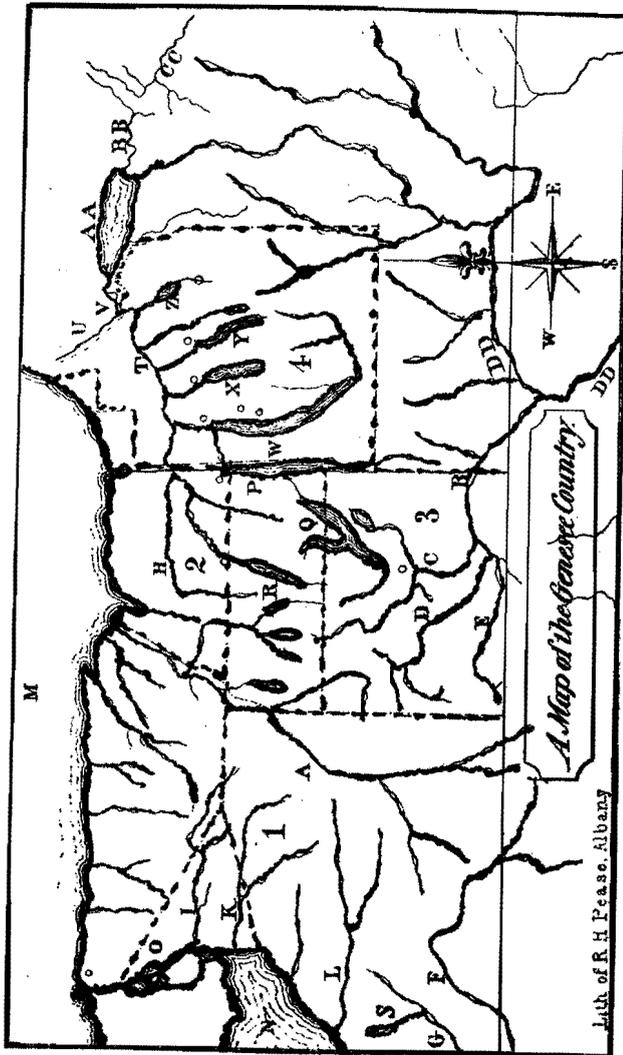
CHAPTER III

THE GENESEE COUNTRY

The greatest length of the Genesee Country from east to west was 125 miles and from north to south about 95 miles. The country contained about 5,000,000 acres. What was known as the Genesee Tract, sometimes called the Phelps and Gorham purchase, contained about 2,000,000 acres 80 miles in length from north to south and 42 miles from east to west. The name was taken from the Genesee river. It is the most prominent of the aboriginal names in Western New York. Among the many meanings of the word are "beautiful valley," "clear valley," and "pleasant and open valley."

The country was divided into three counties; Ontario, Genesee and Steuben counties. According to the census of 1790 the whole population of the country did not exceed 960 souls. Most of the country was a boundless forest and travel was difficult.

Phelps and Gorham, having sold to Robert Morris of Philadelphia two thirds of their lands, Mr. Morris resold them to English purchasers. These purchasers came to America and with great difficulty attempted an exploration of the country. Travel was difficult, and settlers so few in numbers that discouragement met them on every hand. However, after this first attempt to open up the country many others encouraged by this effort made settlements. Families settled at this time on Cohocton and Mud creeks. The town of Bath was laid out and settled. The general opening of the tract proved to be an outlet for prevailing discontent with oppressive taxation, a disabled commerce and severe laws against debtors, when everybody was in debt and chiefly the government to its discharged army. The opening did much to transform



this discontent into a force for prosperity. After Sullivan's expedition in 1779, western New York may be said to have been fairly opened to the white man. Sullivan's soldiers returned with glowing reports of the fertility of the soil. After Phelps and Gorham made their purchase many inducements were held out to settlers and many an ox team took up its march for the Genesee Country.

The legislature of the State by special act, divided Ontario county: the northern part retained the name Ontario, and the part struck off was called Steuben. Settlers began to enter the country from New England, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware. In 1802 Colonel Nathaniel Rochester, then a man of 60 years, Colonel Fitzhugh and Major Carroll bought 100 acres at the falls on the western bank of the Genesee river and paid \$17.50 per acre for it. These gentlemen had set out from Hagerstown, Maryland, on horseback in the year 1800 to find out if possible, what the Genesee country was like. They were ridiculed for buying swamp land at \$17.50 per acre. Colonel Rochester foresaw a future city on the very spot where he had staked out his claim. Three years after his death Rochester became a chartered city.

The distance from Albany, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, did not exceed in a direct course, one hundred and eighty miles, and by roads in use not more than two hundred miles.

About 1795 the Ontario Gazette and the Bath Gazette dispensed news of the territory to more than 1,000 subscribers.

CHAPTER IV

NATIVE ANIMALS AND PLANTS

Many wild animals roamed over the vast unknown solitudes. Some one has said that animals made the first roads and thus were often called the early highway engineers. The buffalo, moose and elk, owing to their huge bulk hewed their way through the entangling forests forming paths along which the settlers entered the country. "Bears growled from the hollow of trees; wild cats lurked in the glens; panthers crouched on the low branches of the trees; elk and deer stood in the ponds or browsed in the thickets and hungry wolves made the nights hideous with their howls."

Besides the animals of a fierce nature there were many beavers, foxes, martins, minks, muskrats, otters, pheasants, rabbits, raccoons, squirrels, wild horses, and woodchucks. It is said that squirrels were so numerous in the early settlements that as many

as 2,000 were killed in one day. Wild pigeons flew in such dense flocks as to darken the sky like a cloud.

A few of the animals were to be feared. The venomous rattlesnakes were numerous, but fortunately gave warning before striking.

Ducks and geese were found on the waters and fish were plentiful in all the streams. Among the many varieties were the eel, perch, pike, salmon trout, and sheephead.

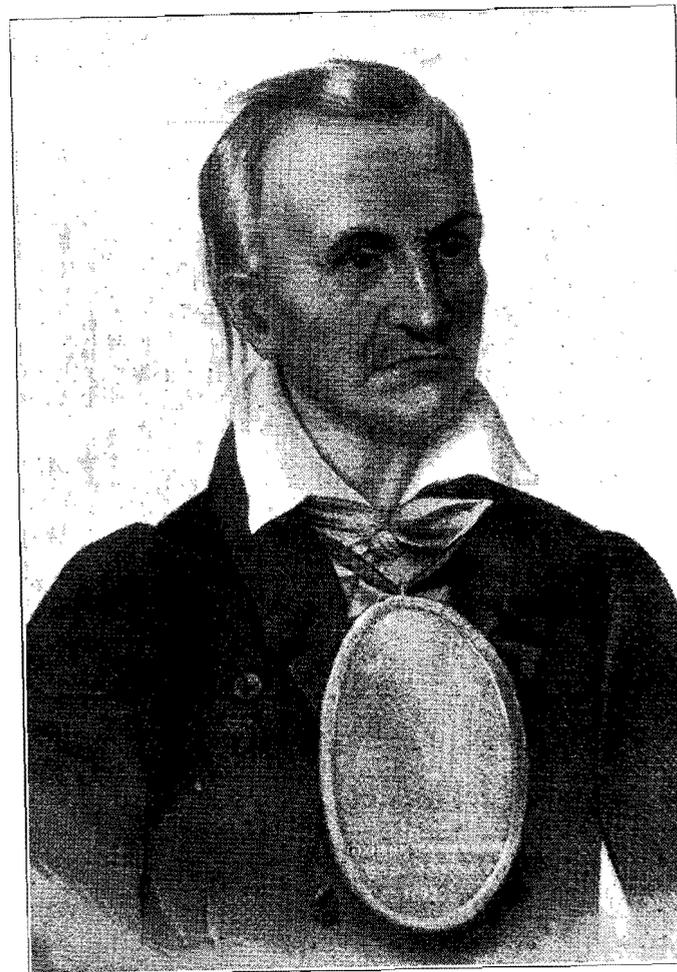
Eagles, falcons, hawks and owls were familiar denizens of the air. Many trees were filled with luscious honey made by wild bees.

In most places the forests were very dense. Mighty elms, pines, hemlocks, poplars, beeches, sycamores and maples pushed to great heights after air and sunshine. Sometimes their intertwining branches locked by a heavy growth of grapevines, formed a canopy through which the sunshine entered with difficulty. There were many varieties of trees including the ash, basswood, butternut, cherry, chestnut, dogwood, hickory, plum and walnut. Equally numerous were the smaller plants and shrubs which grew in great profusion. These included the blackberry, cranberry, elder, ginseng, gooseberry, huckleberry, mandrake, mulberry, raspberry, sassafras, snakeroot, spikenard, strawberry, sumac, whortleberry and the wild hop.

This territory was especially noted for the fertility of its soil. The climate was wholesome and conditions were ideal for producing large crops. Wild grass grew luxuriantly. One settler affirmed he could cut enough wild grass on his farm to maintain 2,000 cattle through the winter. So tall did this grass grow that one settler declared that his largest bullock at thirty feet from the path was completely hid from view. Red clover grew to the height of four feet and seven inches. Hogs were turned into the woods and reared at little or no expense to the farmer. Perhaps corn, the staple crop, was most grown. So plentiful was this grain that at times the price per bushel was only twelve and one half cents. One farmer said the produce of one acre at that price, would scarcely buy one piece of clothing.

The country abounded in salt springs, and these were very productive. From a single spring one settler estimated that 300,000 bushels might be made in one year. Apples were plentiful. One farmer living near Seneca Castle, the old capital of the Senecas, made 100 barrels of cider in one season, while another farmer sold \$1200 worth in the same time.

Ashes and sugar made from the lands, together with the skins and furs of animals were sent to the Philadelphia markets and netted the farmer a fair return for his labors.



RED JACKET
A Seneca War chief

CHAPTER V

SULLIVAN'S EXPEDITION

This expedition was a most thrilling adventure with no counterpart in American history, and is little understood by the average reader.

Between the years 1777 and 1779 the London War Ministry conceived the plan of isolating New England by establishing a military barrier along the Hudson river. The Indians were under the leadership of Brandt, one of the most renowned warriors in Indian history. They were induced to take up arms against the colonists. The Tories and other Indian allies spread destruction on every hand. Wyoming and Cherry Valley are names that still strike terror. Drastic measures were resorted to in order to save New York and to make victory possible for the colonists. Abundance of food of all kinds from the storehouses of the Iroquois found its way into the British garrisons. Washington, after futile attempts at peace with the Iroquois, decided in 1779 on the destruction of the Iroquois and the laying waste of their country. The expedition was entrusted to Gen. John Sullivan. While it may seem to have been ruthlessly carried on it was launched as a necessity and as a military measure. The devastation of their fields caused the loss of 160,000 bushels of grain, the destruction of vast orchards, growing crops and Indian villages. Sullivan's expedition opened the Genesee Country to the white man and with it a vast domain of desirable and productive land.

CHAPTER VI

THE SENECA INDIANS

ALLEGANY COUNTY THEIR RENDEZVOUS

SENECA CHIEF VISITS ALFRED'S SELECT SCHOOL

Tales of romance and adventure still lend their charm and fascination. Cooper's stories afford a fitting background for the study of Indian character and cunning. Our own State of New York is rich in Indian lore, and no county perhaps can furnish more interesting tales of craftiness and faithfulness than our own county of Allegany.

The territory included in the present limits of Allegany county belonged to the Seneca nation of Indians. This tribe was the most populous one of the Iroquois Confederacy.

Our clustering villages and cities stand where once stood their ancient castles, hunting grounds and burial places. The lower valley of the Genesee was the "territorial paradise of the Senecas." They were officially designated as the keeper of the western house, in allusion to their guarding the western frontier of the Iroquois Confederacy.

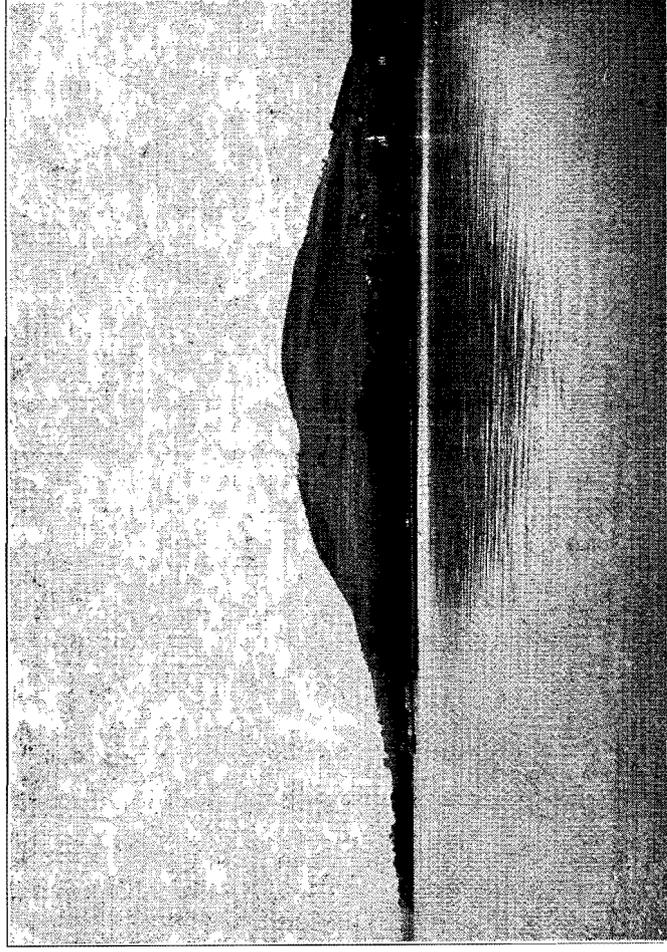
Perhaps the first white woman to enter this territory was Mary Jemison, called the "White Woman of the Genesee." This was about the middle of the eighteenth century. Mrs. Jemison married one of the Seneca warriors called Hlokatoo, a chief of considerable note, who took part in at least seventeen campaigns. It is recorded that Mrs. Jemison at the close of a long life among the Senecas affirmed that she had been treated with kindness. Several opportunities were offered for her escape to her own people but each time she chose rather to cast her lot with her Indian captors. She died at the age of ninety-one years.

Tradition is current that this tribe of Indians had their origin near Canandaigua Lake from which place they were supposed to have broken forth from the earth. They were called the "Great Hill People," which is really what the word Seneca means. Kanedesaga, the capital of the nation and often called Seneca Castle, was situated on the site of the present city of Geneva.

The government of the nation was based upon the principle of peace, but the younger warriors thirsting for revenge, organized many expeditions against their foes.

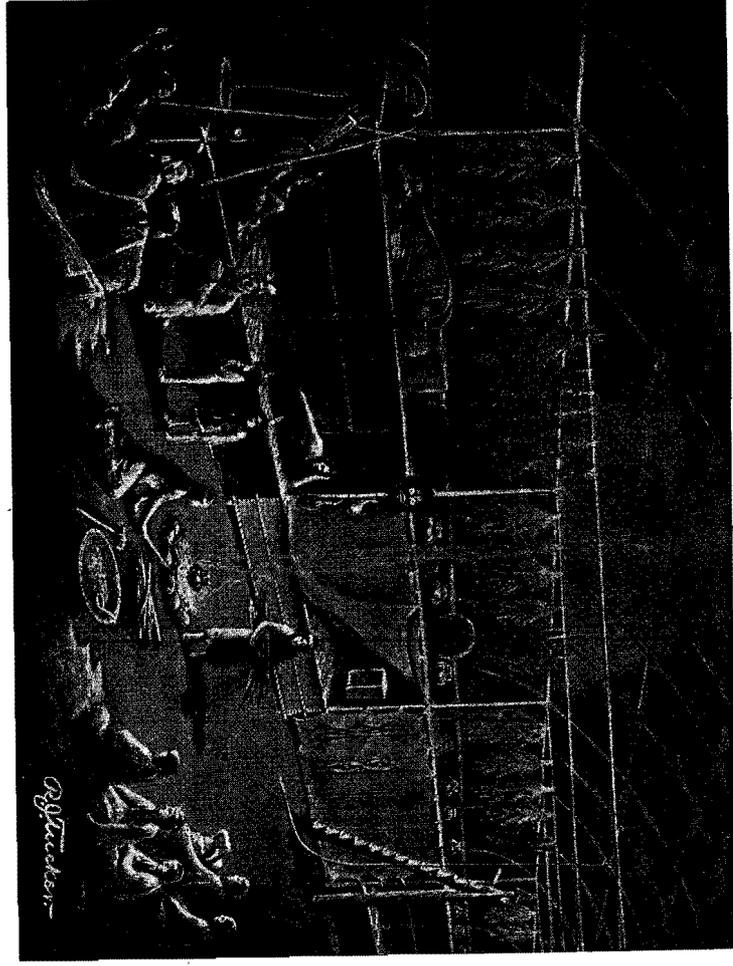
The Senecas were fond of games and all out of door sports, for they believed that their games were pleasing to the Great Ruler, who was thought to have been the creator of the world and the giver of every good gift. They were familiar with lacrosse, hoop and javelin, rolling stone games, and archery. In the winter they enjoyed snow shoeing races, football and shinny. There were fourteen dances in which both men and women participated.

The Senecas loved their children and their home life was happy. To them life and safety depended upon industry; this necessitated a settled life and an abundance of food supplies. Largely because of this belief they became an agricultural people and raised corn, beans, squashes, melons and tobacco. They grew sunflowers for the oil which they used as butter. The Seneca women prepared their food in many palatable ways. They had corn soup, gruel, hulled corn, corn bread



BARE HILL ON CANANDAGUA
Reputed Place of Origin of the Seneca Indians

INTERIOR OF INDIAN HOUSE



and corn pudding. With their corn foods they mixed beans, berries and nuts to make them still more agreeable to the taste.

Their villages consisted of bark lodges. Their houses were built on a framework of poles and tree trunks. These lodges were from twelve to eighteen feet high, and from eighteen to two hundred feet in length. On either side of the interior were long rows of bunks in arrangement not unlike the berths in a Pullman car. The houses and lands belonged to the women as a rule, for the right of occupation descended in the mother line. They were regarded as heads of the household; the men were merely the meat providers and the defenders.

The Senecas were a religious people. The Earth Holder ruled the sky-world. His wife was the Great Mother. There were gods of dreams, of death, and of natural forces. The sun, the moon, the stars and even the gentle breezes were gods all to be reckoned with. They were conceived rather as spirits who might be propitiated and honored. They believed in the existence of a Great Power that pervaded all nature. Every atom in nature was conscious and had intelligence. With such beliefs it is easy to understand how all their acts were influenced by some religious principle. Many of their beliefs may appear to us as folly and superstition but a more thorough study of their system will reveal both beauty and lofty ideals. It was perfectly natural for them to be honorable, and for them to lie was base cowardice.

They held five great festivals during the year. The first took place immediately after they had finished "sugaring." The second occurred after the planting season, the third was the green corn feast, the fourth was held after the corn harvest, and the last took place at the close of the year and corresponded in some respects to our Christmas holiday.

After Sullivan's Expedition the nations were scattered, some went north, some south and west, while others preferred to remain on the site of their former glory. The Seneca nation was not wholly destroyed, for many years later after the tumult of war, and after the establishment of Alfred's select school, a Seneca chieftian, himself a Christian, came into the settlement to secure homes for some of the girls of his tribe. In addition to book learning he wanted them to learn all those things that go to make Christian homes. Within a space of two or three years fifteen maidens were admitted to the school and homes of Alfred, and were trained in all the home arts. Several young warriors of the tribe followed the example of their sisters and took a course of training themselves. They carried away with them the spirit of Alfred and a larger vision of service. Impressed by Christian training they again entered the forests to act as missionaries and teachers to their own people.

CHAPTER VII

NEWSPAPERS IN THE GENESEE COUNTRY

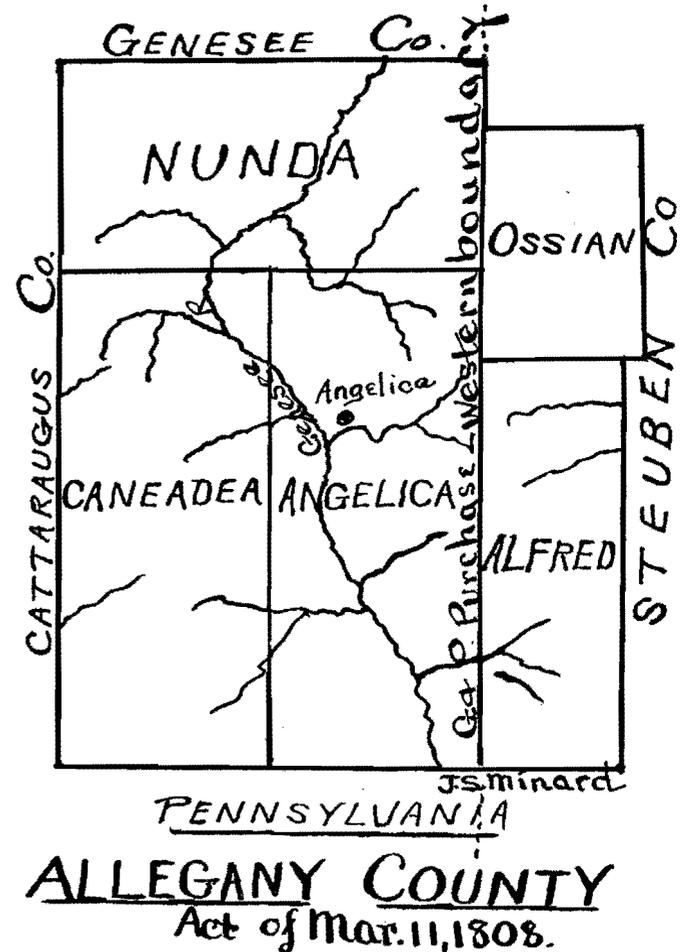
Mr. Williamson, the agent for the Association of English purchasers, was responsible for the introduction of the printing press into the Genesee Country. The first newspapers were established under his auspices and patronage.

The "Bath Gazette & Genesee Advertiser" published in 1796, was the first newspaper in western New York. In 1797 Lucius Carey of Newburg, was induced to come west to engage in the newspaper business. He bought out the first issue of the "Ontario Gazette & Genesee Advertiser." In 1802 the name was changed to "Western Repository & Genesee Advertiser." The year following the paper was sold to James K. Gould and the name was changed to "Western Repository." Eben Eaton started a newspaper in 1800 called "The Impartial Observer and Seneca Museum."

James Bogart in 1806 issued the "Expositor." Three years later the name was changed to "Geneva Gazette."

James D. Bemis, who in 1804 took charge of the publication of the "Western Repository," is called the father of the press of western New York; and this not only because of his early and long continued connection with it, but also with reference to the many printers who have gone out from under his instruction. Mr. Bemis enjoyed a monopoly in the printing of handbills, blanks, and in the sale of books. He also engaged in the binding of books.

Early newspaper publishing in Allegany county was not very profitable. It is said that Franklin Cowdery who started the "Angelica Republican," in October, 1820, the first paper in the county, had a hard time in procuring subscriptions to his paper. "It was a pretty hard place for newspaper publishing," said the veteran pioneer printer. Very often the subscription to his paper would be paid in some commodity other than money. He says: "I had to take my pay in all manner of traps. I feasted upon fat venison; it hung around my domicile in the shape of saddles, quarters, and hams; and I had maple sugar in profusion. . . . Paper had to be carried on horseback. I made my own printing ink from linseed oil, lamp black and rosin."



CHAPTER VIII

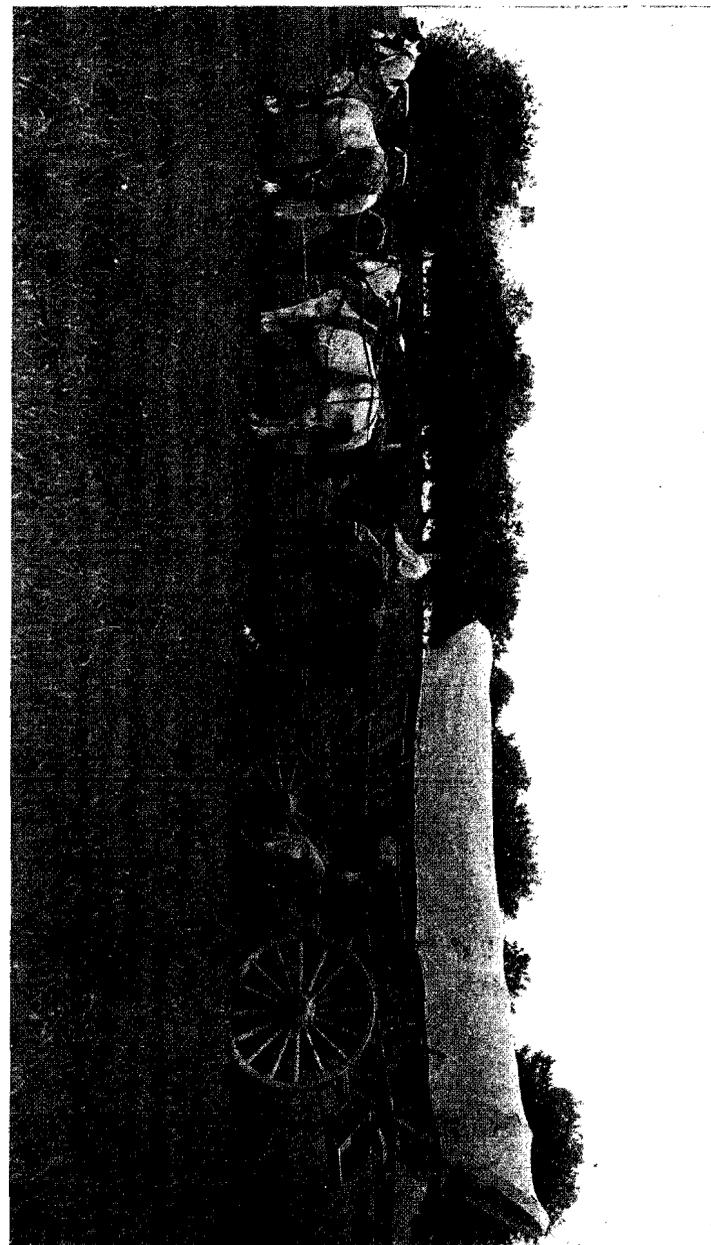
TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

EARLY PRICES FOR PRODUCE

The one thing necessary to the early settlers was to improve their communication with the coast. Somewhat to remedy this inconvenience the Legislature of the State, by act passed in the session of 1797, improved the road from Fort Schuyler to Geneva. A lottery had been granted for the opening and improvement of certain roads. The inhabitants of the country through which the Fort Schuyler-Geneva road was to pass, made a voluntary offer of services and subscribed 4,000 days of labor. This road when completed was about 100 miles in length and 64 feet wide, paved with logs and gravel, and was so far improved that a stage started from Fort Schuyler on the 30th day of September, 1797, and arrived at the hotel in Geneva on the afternoon of the third day with four passengers. In this same year two stages, one a mail coach, ran from Geneva to Albany weekly. Albany was also reached at this time by the Seneca and Mohawk rivers starting from Geneva, or by wagon with two oxen and two horses carrying as much as 20 hundred weight. With this sort of conveyance 20 miles per day was considered a fair distance to travel. The settlers in the eastern portion of the Genesee Country enjoyed the advantages of navigation in quite a remarkable degree notwithstanding the small rivers and the many falls which here and there impeded their progress. Several branches of the Susquehanna river afforded good navigation almost to their very sources, for five or six months in the year, by boats carrying from 5 to 8 tons. A Mr. Kryder, the inventor of the fiat boat made of planks, operated five or six of these "arks" as they were called, on the Susquehanna river and sold flour, lumber, pork, hemp, and barreled beef in the Baltimore markets. After discharging the cargo these "arks" were broken up and sold for lumber with little or no loss. The Onondaga salt works in the immediate vicinity of the Genesee Country furnished salt for the curing of beef and pork for exportation to the eastern markets.

On the north Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence river furnished an easy passageway to Montreal and to the rest of Canada, while the Allegheny and Ohio rivers provided a route to New Orleans; on the northeast there was a well defined route by way of the Mohawk river to New York and southeast by way of the Susquehanna river to Balti-

Such as used by the Pioneers coming into the Genesee Country. Colonel Nathaniel Rochester used three of these vehicles when making his journey from the East.



more. The Genesee river was navigable for sloops of 60 tons from the lake to the falls, a distance of 6 miles. Immediately below the falls the river was navigable for large boats for several miles. At the village of Williamsburg the Canaseraga Creek joined the Genesee river and afforded navigation for 20 miles to Dansville.

As indicated on the map, a number of small rivers and creeks furnished transportation for the early settlers. In 1804 fifty or more "arks," boats and rafts, laden with the produce of the country were seen on the Susquehanna river on their way to the Baltimore markets. These boats with a carrying capacity of 1200 bushels of wheat, floated by the Tioga and Susquehanna rivers, found markets in the lower parts of Pennsylvania and Maryland. The Canisteo river was also navigable for boats about 40 miles in the spring and fall. The numerous lakes and navigable rivers of this remarkable country afforded easy waterways to the more distant markets and gave an outlet to their produce.

At this period it is interesting to know some of the prices received for produce after long and tedious transportation. Wheat was worth from 62 cents to \$1 per bushel; corn 37 cents; rye 50 cents; hay from \$6 to \$12 per ton; butter and cheese sold from 10 to 16 cents per pound. Milch cows brought from \$16 to \$25 per head, and a pair of horses sold for \$100. Salt was from 50 cents to \$1 per bushel, and the wages of a laborer varied from \$10 to \$15 per month with board. A suit of clothes cost from \$5 to \$8, and a pair of shoes from \$1 to \$2.

The first road constructed in the county followed the stream from Hornellsville as the town was then called, and entered the county at Almond. Thence it followed the Whitney Valley Creek to Alfred.

The Erie railroad entered the town on the northeast and was completed in the year 1851. The first train came puffing into Hornellsville on the first of September, 1850. The train was pulled by a wood-burning, smoke-belching locomotive, and consisted of two coaches. It meant the coming of a new era of prosperity to the people of this vicinity.

The road between Alfred and Alfred Station was macadamized in 1895. In 1919 the town voted \$4,000 to have the road re-surfaced. In 1923 the State took over the work of repair and rebuilt the road, which at the present time is one of the best roads in western New York.

CHAPTER IX

THE TOWN OF ALFRED

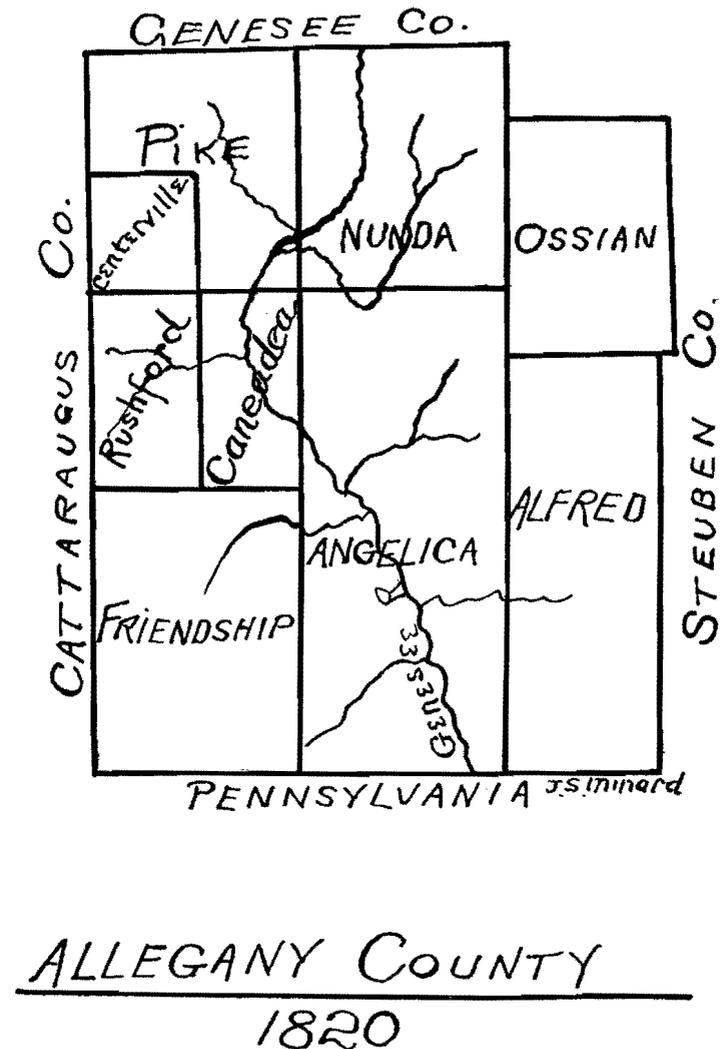
Alfred was formed from Angelica, March 11, 1808. Almond and Independence were taken off March 16, 1821; a part of West Almond, April 15, 1833; and a part of Ward, November 21, 1856. The town covers a space of six miles long, north and south, by five miles wide, and contains 19,200 acres.

The State legislature on April 7, 1806, passed an act creating the county of Allegany out of Genesee and Steuben counties, and constituting the town of Alfred out of four southern townships of the seventh or western range of townships of Steuben county, specifying that the first town meeting be held at the dwelling of Benjamin VanCampen. This meeting, held on the first Tuesday of April, 1808, resulted in the election of the following officers: Joseph Karr, supervisor; J. A. Rathbun, town clerk; John Potman, Silas Ferry and Wheeler Hinman, assessors; Samuel Karr, collector; Roswell Haskin and Walter Karr, overseers of the poor; Elihu Knight, Benjamin VanCampen and William Gray, constables; Micah Haskin, Charles W. Clark, Philip Doderer and Miles Oakley, overseers of the highways; Benjamin VanCampen, pound-master; Ardon Cobb, Stephen Major and Phineas Stephens, fence viewers. Benjamin VanCampen as fence director, was instructed to build suitable fences throughout the town.

The name Allegany is supposed to be derived from "Al-li-ge-wi." This term was applied to a trail that followed the course of the Allegany river. The Algonquin Indians called this same river the "Alli-gewi."

The earliest settlers followed Indian trails, the chief one of which led from Fort Niagara down the Canisteo, Chemung and Susquehanna rivers. This trail passed near the northeastern corner of the town of Alfred.

The population of the county in the main was New England in origin and naturally anti-slavery in sentiment. Four or five of the principal towns were settled by Seventh Day Baptists—Whigs in politics. In no county of the State were opposing forces of slavery and anti-slavery earlier or more hotly brought into play. No one at this early period perhaps did more than William C. Kenyon, and Elder N. V. Hull in laying deep the foundations, which developing in steady degree, early made Allegany county the Cradle of Liberty.



The early records of the town have to do almost entirely with the matter of surveying and building roads. Three commissioners of the highway were appointed and these men had their hands full in settling difficulties which frequently arose, and in laying out new roads to accommodate the ever increasing population.

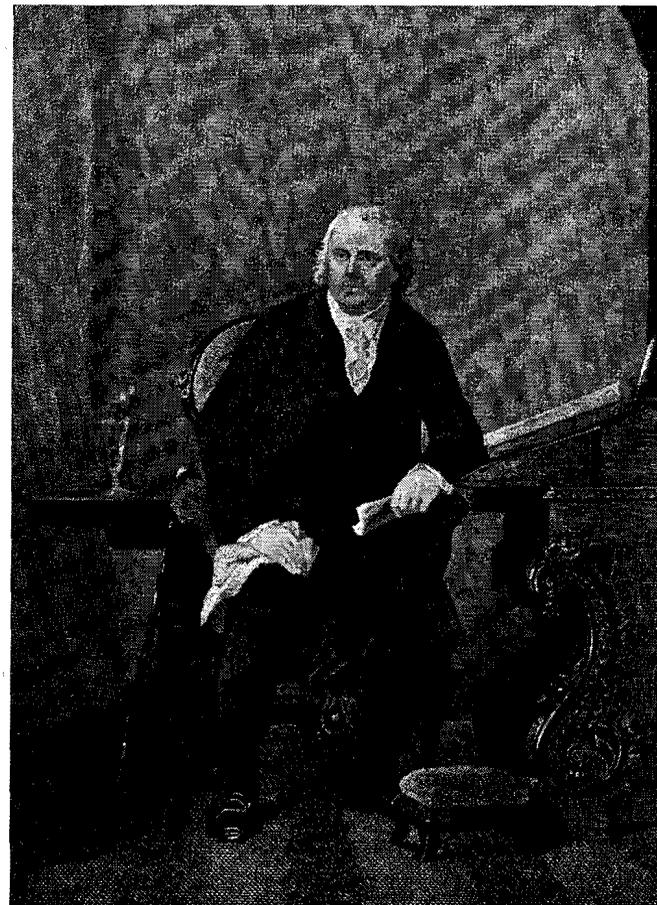
Most of the town disputes seem to have been over the matter of highway construction and repair. At every meeting of the town board applications were received for new roads or for some highway already constructed to be altered to meet the wishes of those immediately concerned. One meeting was particularly stormy when it was reported that a certain highway was encroached upon by fences and fallen timber. It was voted that fences and timber be removed so that the said highway be of the breadth originally intended. This was for many years a question uppermost in the minds of the people as is evidenced by the fact that there were regularly appointed 64 overseers of the highways.

It was natural in a newly settled country for birds and small animals to be destructive to growing crops. This was quite evident from the following memorandum taken from the early records of the town:

"Resolved, That a bounty of 12 and one half cents each be paid for each crow killed within the limits of this town between the first day of April and the first day of July of the present year, (1854). Any person claiming said bounty is required to exhibit the birds to some justice of the peace and testify under oath that they were killed within the limits of the town and within the time specified."

A bounty was paid by the several towns as well as by the State for all wolves and panthers killed. At the first town meeting it was voted to offer a bounty of four dollars for every wolf killed. During a period of twenty-seven years ending in 1845, one thousand two hundred and fifty-five wolves and panthers were reported to have been killed, for which bounties aggregating \$20,000 were paid by the county and State.

According to the U. S. Census the population of the town of Alfred has steadily decreased since 1900. In that year the population of the town including Alfred village was 1,615; in 1910 it had decreased to 1,590, and in 1920 to 1,269.



Prob Morris.

CHAPTER X

ALFRED CENTRE—NAME AND LOCATION

The town of Alfred was named after King Alfred the Great. The word is of Saxon origin and literally means "elf in council" or "good counselor." Alfred was king of the West Saxons with his capital at Winchester, England. He was an enthusiastic scholar, noted for his honesty, resourcefulness and sterling character. The 1000th anniversary of the king was fittingly observed at Winchester on September 18th, 19th, and 20th, 1901. At that time the bronze statue of the hero by Thornycroft, was unveiled amid appropriate ceremonies.

It is currently reported that some English commercial travelers early visiting this territory, and noticing its close resemblance to the country about Stirling Castle in its natural features, named it Alfred after the sovereign of England, who was noted as a patron of learning. It was extremely fitting that this little settlement destined to become a great educational centre, made up of men and women of sterling character and integrity, should be called Alfred Centre.

The location is almost on the site of the great trail leading from the north to the Gulf; a spot familiar to the renowned Iroquois in which region they held their great council fires, and the populous Senecas who were the first great agriculturalists in all this region.

Surrounded by hills of classic beauty, with scenery both grand and varied, with an elevation of 1800 feet above the level of the sea, the village nestles in scenic attractiveness.

By some great upheaval of mother earth the hills about Alfred seem to have been serried in various formations. In the glacial age streams of flowing ice crept down from the Canadian highlands; they filled the valleys of Allegany county and deposited quantities of sand, boulders, granite with other rocks as "drift" along the margin of the great ice sheet.

The most important work of this great ice sheet seems to have been to gather up in its great carrying capacity, loose gravel and rock from perhaps millions of years of weathering and drifting it southward. We are therefore indebted to the glaciers which at one time covered most of the State under thousands of feet of ice, for our canyons, cataracts and morainal hills which are seen in this part of the state. The canyon at Rochester on the lower falls of the Genesee is a good example of this action.

From the standpoint of geology the territory about the village is rich, and the geologist's hammer has disclosed valuable specimens dating back to the drift period. Specimens of rocks from as far north as Labrador have been found in a radius of a few miles with Alfred as a centre.

The words of the poet as he looked upon these great convulsions of nature are applicable to this great geological field when he says that an

"Ever moving hand
Has waved o'er earth its more than magic wand."

Plant life is also abundant. More than 500 specimens have been found and classified in this immediate vicinity.

Professor F. S. Place, Alfred's bird and tree specialist, has but recently classified and named 66 varieties of trees found on the campus and in the vicinity of the town. Bird life is likewise abundant.*

On September 1, 1887, the village was incorporated. In the year 1895 by vote of the people the name of the village was changed to Alfred.

* See article on Natural History by Prof. Place, in Minard's History of Allegany County.

CHAPTER XI

EARLY LOCATIONS AND BUSINESS INTERESTS

Alfred (formerly known as Baker's Bridge) and Alfred Centre were the two most prominent settlements, both having commenced in the year 1807. These two settlements only a short distance apart, held much in common, for in this early period land owners in the one settlement also held property in the other, and thus their interests overlapped. As late as 1836 the village of Alfred Centre was not more than a hamlet of about a dozen houses which were small one-storied, unpainted and for the most part unfinished.

In February, 1808, Luke Greene, a soldier in the War of 1812, and grandfather of our townsman, Frank L. Greene, settled on "Sugar Hill." In this vicinity settled also Peter Rose, Jabish Odell, Rowland P. Thomas, soldiers of the War of 1812, and Abel Burdick, Weeden Witter, Samuel Lanphear, Christopher Crandall and Samuel Thomas.

Edward Greene constructed the first house in 1809, on the site now occupied by the hardware store of R. A. Armstrong and Company.

Twenty four



SIR. WM. PULTNEY

In the spring of 1818 David Stillman started with his family from Petersburg (Berlin), Rensselaer County, New York, for Alfred, where Mr. Stillman had purchased a piece of land the year before of John Teater, on lot 14.* Mr. Teater moved to Independence, and was the first settler in that town.

The family consisted of Mr. Stillman, his wife, and three children, with Mrs. Stillman's brother, Peter Rose.

They started in a covered wagon of the Prairie Schooner style,† drawn by two yoke of oxen, and leading a cow. On the way Mr. Stillman bought a horse to help the oxen with the load. They were four weeks on the way and it rained or snowed every day but one.

The family lived in a log house for several months until the new frame house could be in readiness. This house, which today is the dormitory for the New York State School of Agriculture, was the first public house or hotel in the town.

E. S. Davis built the first sawmill in 1821. The first gristmill was built beyond the gorge, a short distance this side the home of Mr. Charles Lusk.

One of the first stores was that established by Thomas Langworthy near the site now occupied by the dormitory of the New York State School of Agriculture.

The first tannery was erected almost on the spot where the Carnegie Library now stands, and the town pound was on the corner now occupied by the Kappa Psi Upsilon Fraternity. A second tannery was located on North Main street just south of the bridge.

Ray Greene built an ashery on the bank of the creek just to the rear of the present home of Lyle Bennehoff. Orson Sheldon with Luke Greene as partner, continued the store business started by Ray Greene.

Isaiah Greene built a store on the north side of Church street, and Isaac Fenner started a store on the corner of Church and Elm streets near the present residence of Charles Sisson. Isaac Fenner was succeeded in business by Ira B., Ezra P., Almond E., and Wm. H. Crandall in various forms of partnership.

Judge Clark Crandall came from Petersburg, N. Y., in 1807, on foot and settled in Alfred. His first public office was that of commissioner for the opening of roads. He was supervisor of the town for two years and town clerk for three terms, and was made brigadier

* See cut.

† See cut of Conestoga wagon.

general of the State militia in 1820. He was one of the presidential electors of the state in 1832. He established the first manufactory at the Station, wooden pails, built the first court house in the county in 1819 and represented the county in the state legislature in 1820-1821. He opened a grocery store on Main street almost opposite the Carnegie Library. His business was continued by many different parties, namely, Stephen C. Burdick, A. Potter, Hiram Palmiter, Lorenzo Collins, G. Evans, Lyle Bennehoff and G. W. Rosebush.

Paul Crandall opened a grocery store on the spot now occupied by the residence of D. S. Burdick.

Lyman Allen kept the first bookstore almost on the site now occupied by the Hood residence, east of Firemen's Hall. Lyman Allen was succeeded in the book business by Rogers, Spicer, Chadwick, Silas and Amos Burdick, Mark Sheppard, Coon, Davis and Jeffrey.

In 1809, William Saunders purchased the farm on South Main street about where the Lloyd Pinchin residence is now located. Later, after the death of Mr. Saunders his widow sold it to Jonathan Palmiter, Jr., and still later it became the property of Hon. B. F. Langworthy. The old Coontown schoolhouse stood a little to the south of this farm.‡

According to an old map bearing date of 1856 the Old Academy was located on West University street a little west of the Morton house now the residence of Leonard Claire.

The old school building sometimes called the "Horn Bug" was located on the south side of Church street in the vicinity of the Dr. Ayars house.

The office of Dr. J. R. Hartshorn was located just north of the Lyle Bennehoff residence on Main street.

The home of Dr. J. B. Collins was located on the site of the Lucy Barber house half way between Alfred and Alfred Station, now a brick ruin.

Stephen B. and Elisha B. Coon built the Tremont House about 1850 where the hardware store now stands. About the year 1860 it was purchased by William C. Burdick, and about 1870 it was moved across the street on the site now occupied by the Carnegie Library. The building was remodeled and renamed the "Burdick House." It was destroyed by fire in 1887 and was not rebuilt.

J. G. Allen established a ready-made clothing business.

The first church building was about a mile from the settlement

‡ See cut.

on the west side of North Main street a little south of the Alfred Rural Cemetery.

An early settler was Rodman Place. He had served three months in the War of 1812, and in 1815 removed with his family to Alfred, bringing his household goods in an ox cart. He settled on one hundred acres of land southwest of the village, paying 20 shillings per acre. The log cabin in which he first lived stood about where the house of Samuel Ellis now stands.

Elder Amos Satterlee occupied a home on the site of the residence of Mrs. Arthur Greene.

Elder Spencer Sweet built a home on the site of the Champlin farm.

Two old cemeteries were located, the one on the site of Charles Gardiner's residence, the other half way between Alfred and Alfred Station.

Philip S. Greene kept a carriage shop on the east side of north Main street opposite the residence of Reuben Armstrong. Destroyed by fire some years later, it was rebuilt just across the road on west side of Main street, near where the Armstrong residence now stands.

B. W. Millard was the undertaker, painter and decorator. Burdick, Crandall, Eaton, Whitford and Greene operated planing mills, sash and blind factories. Rose and Shaw were jewelers; Aaron W. Coon and Irving Saunders were photographers. Bliss and Collins were lawyers. Mr. Millard's undertaking and paint shop was located on the site of the blacksmith shop of Albert McOmber. His home was the house now occupied by Dr. W. W. Coon.

George, Jared and Nicholas Coon were blacksmiths; Thomas and Samuel Ellis, harness makers; Sherman and Coon, cheese box makers on the south side of West University street. Amos Burdick kept a tavern in the Spicer house, now the home of Ray W. Wingate.

A map of Allegany county supposed to be the first ever made of the county was found recently by a man living in Black Creek. It bears the date of 1829 and contains a table of statistics from the census of 1820. According to this table the town of Alfred contained 2 distilleries and 18 asheries. ††

†† Hornell Tribune-Times.

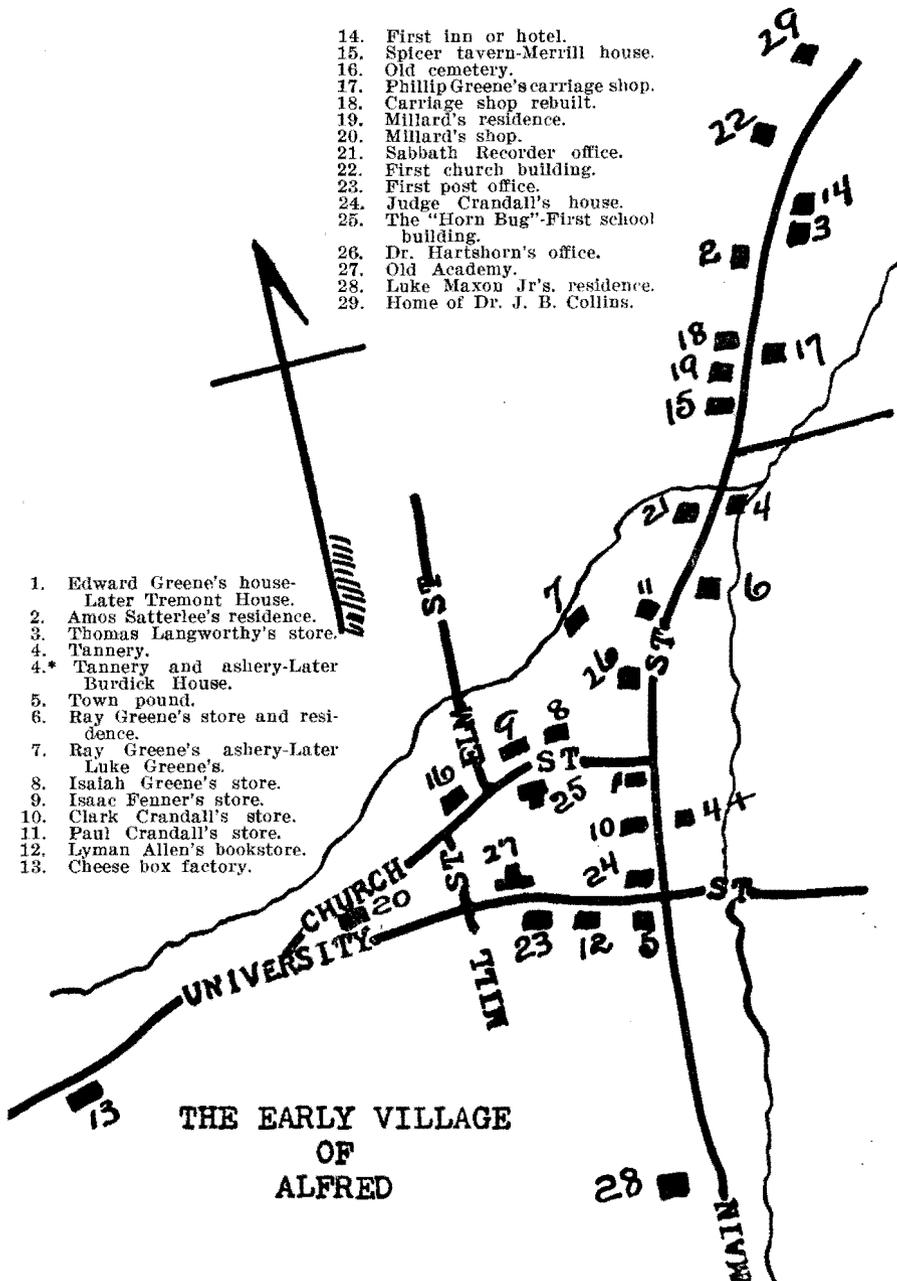
CHAPTER XII

LATER BUSINESS INTERESTS *

The record of Alfred's business interests is so meager that it has been next to impossible to make an accurate list of those who have been engaged in various lines of trade. Arranged alphabetically the following firms and individuals, at least, may be mentioned: **GENERAL MERCHANTS:** J. G. Allen, A. J. Armstrong & Son, V. A. Baggs & Co., B. S. Bassett, Bliss & Hutchinson, H. H. Bradley, A. A. Burdick, Burdick & Greene, H. I. Burdick, I. H. Burdick, J. G. Burdick & Co., J. R. Burdick, Silas Burdick & Co., Stephen C. Burdick, Wm. C. Burdick, E. E. Button, R. Button & Son, F. S. Carnes, L. D. Collins, A. B. Cottrell, R. S. & M. S. Cottrell, A. E. & W. H. Crandall, Crandall & Bennehoff, Crandall, Rosebush & Co., O. J. Davis, T. M. Davis, Davis & Burdick, Davis & Wardner, T. M. Drummond, C. L. Eaton, J. C. Eaton & Co., Evans & Davis, O. S. Fenner, Fenner Bros., E. E. Fenner, Fenner & Smith, W. L. Gamble, Greene & Baggs, M. J. & B. L. Greene, Luke Greene, O. C. Greene, E. E. Hamilton, G. S. Hubbard, H. C. Hunting & Co., G. M. Jacox, Jeffrey & Burdick, A. H. Langworthy, B. F. Langworthy, Edwin Langworthy, C. M. Marvin, Frank Palmiter, F. W. Partridge, J. W. Finch, E. W. Place, E. Potter, D. D. Randolph, Randolph & Kenyon, Phil Reddy, C. D. Reynolds, J. L. Reynolds, W. A. Rose, G. W. Rosebush, A. P. Saunders, E. P. Saunders & Co., S. S. Scott, A. A. Shaw, G. W. Sheldon, F. E. Stillman, G. A. Stillman, Stillman & Jacox, Henry G. West, C. L. Wheaton and W. M. Wilber.

MILLINERS: Mrs. J. L. Beach, Mrs. P. C. Button, Mabel Butts, Mrs. L. A. Palmiter, Jessie A. Raymond, Miss F. M. Wheat. **NEWS AGENCY:** E. T. Crandall. **DRAYMEN:** Wm. Barber, F. N. Collins, R. G. Collins. **WAGON MAKERS:** D. F. Abbott, C. L. Eaton, Philip S. Greene. **CHEESE MAKERS:** Henry Allen, Daniel T. Burdick, Wm. C. Burdick & Co., L. D. Collins, Elisha P. Fenner, Fenner & Smith, Albert Langworthy, G. W. Sheldon, A. B. Sherman. **BARBERS:** F. M. Babcock, Charles Bertram, Roy Farley, Gardner & Farley, G. F. Gray, J. Hatter, F. W. Howard, A. I. Ray, Walter I. Shaw, G. W. Truman, Truman & Lewis, Truman & Straight. **APIARIANS:** Clark Rogers, Orville M. Rogers. **HORNELLSVILLE STAGE LINE:** I. H. Burdick, G. T. Clark, Zed Creverling, D. M. Green, George Robinson. **FLAGSTONES:** Crandall, Bassett & Co. and A. P. Saunders. **WELL DRILLERS:** L. P. Brewster, J. W. Moland. **CABINET MAKER:** Jeremiah Place. MA-

* See chapter 43 for more recent business interests.

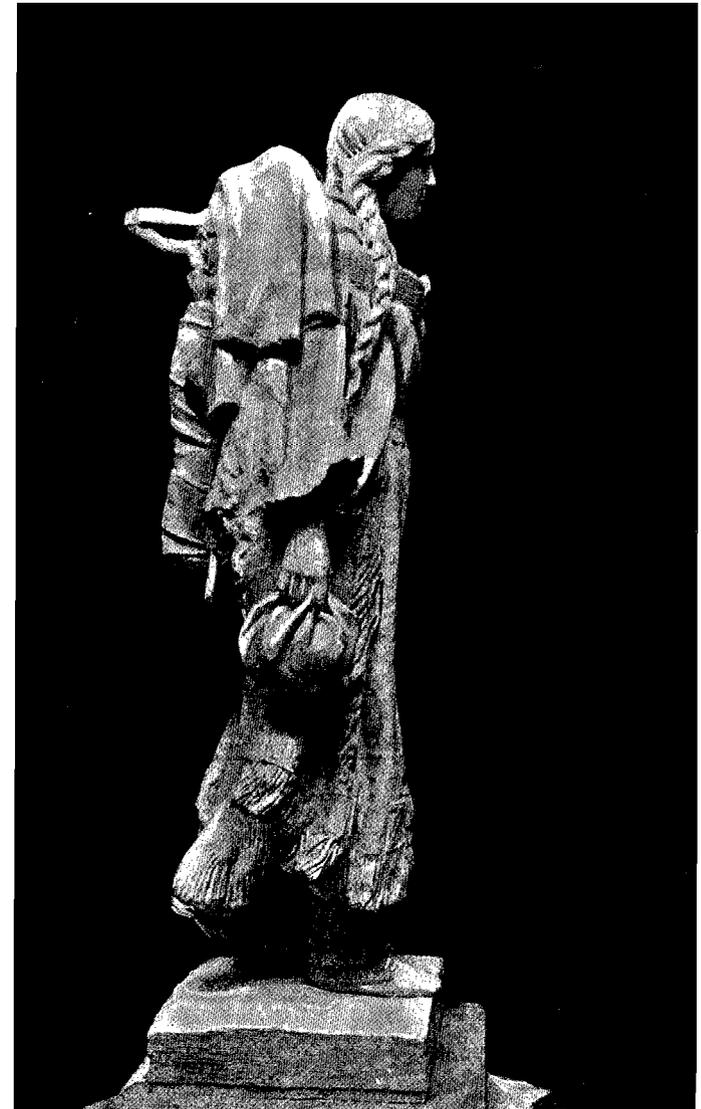


CHINE SHOPS: D. H. Rogers, Rogers & Hemphill, Stevens & Jordan. PLUMBING: Charles E. Green. VETERINARIAN SURGEONS: R. W. Fuller, A. W. Wescott. LIVERY: Burdick & Kenyon, Hoard & Clark, Hoard & Marvin, Sheldon & Beyea, W. W. Sheldon, C. W. Sisson. TREMONT HOUSE, BURDICK HOUSE, SHAW HOUSE, WHITFORD HOUSE—various proprietors. REPAIR SHOPS: Wm. T. Howell, G. A. Stillman. HARNESS MAKERS: Samuel Ellis, Thomas Ellis, John T. Rodgers. UNDERTAKER: Thomas Place. DENTISTS: Calvin B. Crandall, A. B. Woodward. BLACKSMITHS: Maxson Burdick, Henry M. Davis, C. L. Eaton, J. W. Marsh, T. J. West. ICE and MILK DEALERS: J. F. Langworthy. PAPER HANGER: Olin Fuller. SHOEMAKERS: Amos Barber, John Jacox, L. D. Potter, G. A. Stillman, Henry G. West, Peleg West. PHYSICIANS: J. B. Allen, E. W. Ayars, C. E. Cobb, J. R. Hartshorn, Daniel Lewis, D. C. Main, C. M. Post, H. P. Saunders, Mark Sheppard, Irving Truman, Wm. M. Truman. MASONS: L. W. Collins, Horace Eaton, D. Martin, Phineas C. Stillman. CARPENTERS: A. Armstrong, Martin W. Babcock, Asa C. Burdick, Perry Button, Wm. M. Coats, James R. Crandall, Joseph C. Eaton, A. B. Greene, I. M. Langworthy, J. F. Langworthy, Daniel B. Perkins, Frank G. Place, Thomas Place, W. O. Place, Elisha Potter, A. K. Ryno, A. C. Sisson, Frank Sisson, Erastus Trowbridge, R. West. IRON FOUNDERS: Langworthy & Davis. INSURANCE: N. F. Allen, W. H. Crandall, E. O. Reynolds, E. P. Saunders, F. W. Stevens, A. E. Webster. LAUNDRY: L. S. Beyea, L. F. Hulin, W. A. Irish, T. B. Titsworth, W. L. Wilber, J. S. Williams & Son. CARRIAGE and SIGN PAINTER: J. W. Halahan. PHOTOGRAPHERS: A. W. Coon, H. C. Hunting, Irving Saunders. RESTAURANTS: Andrew Dromazos, S. C. Hurlburt, Hurlburt & Church, B. W. Peck, W. L. Woodworth. REAL ESTATE: F. M. Babcock, Charles Stillman. RED BUS LINE: Various proprietors. ATTORNEY: A. B. Collins. A name that should be mentioned in connection with the business interests of Alfred is that of Maxson Stillman, a contractor and builder of prominence. He built the Brick, the Church, the Academy Chapel and other public buildings.

The Alfred Water Company was organized in 1887. The Roller Hall Skating Rink was opened to the public in September, 1884, with Milo Greene as manager.

In addition to the above list of business interests there were in the period just preceding 1900, two coal dealers, two bicycle agents, eight dressmakers, one maple sugar refinery, two bicycle repair shops, one dealer in stone sidewalks, several breeders of thoroughbred cattle, and one furniture store.

Thirty



MARY JEMISON, THE "WHITE WOMAN"
Bronze Statue Erected by William Pryor Letchworth at Glen Iris, Letchworth Park. Dedicated September 19, 1910

CHAPTER XIII

PIONEER LIFE

"The pioneer is treading;
 in his grasp
Is his keen axe that wondrous
 instrument,
That, like the talisman,
 transforms
Deserts into fields and cities,
Beside some rapid stream,
He rears his log built cabin...."

"Allegany's pioneers were men of push and pluck
Who came to win, but not by chance or luck;
And when they sought but found no way,
They carved out one without delay."

Many of the early settlers came on foot to Alfred. Others came in carts drawn by oxen, in many cases the roads had to be cleared before passage could be made. The paths were little more than Indian trails and many made their way by following "blazed trees" through the forest. There were no bridges and every stream had to be forded.

Pioneer life was rude and attended by many hardships. Aside from the anxiety occasioned by lack of food there was that ever present dread of the lurking savage who might without warning, emerge from the thickets, tomahawk and burn.

In any new settlement where clearings had first to be made sickness was prevalent. Fevers and influenza were common ailments. Physicians*, if there chanced to be any near, with their saddlebags filled with scant remedies, rode day and night guided only by a "blazed path."

The cabins were usually about 20 by 26 feet, constructed of round logs chinked with pieces of split logs and plastered on the outside with clay. The floors were made of split logs with the flat side up and the roof of the same material. As a rule the windows were mere holes with no protection. Oiled paper and bleached cotton cloth sometimes furnished substitutes for glass. Nearly every house contained a spin-

* See Chapter 17.

ning wheel and overhead near the kitchen fireplace were suspended the rifle, bullet pouch and powder horn.

Very little machinery and few farm tools were brought into the settlement and necessity proved the "mother of invention" in many cases. Implements were hastily improvised. The ground encumbered with stumps at first could be little more than scratched over with plows made from crotched trees. So rich was the soil that grain dropped with this slight preparation of the ground grew luxuriantly and ripened into good harvests. Sickles were used for cutting grain and flails for threshing it. Trees and stumps were burned just for the ashes. The manufacture of potash was a source of small income. Maple sugar was a godsend. Abel Burdick who settled in Alfred about 1818 made in one year more than 2800 pounds of sugar. His good wife not to be outdone in adding to the family budget, made 50 pounds, boiling the sap in a small kettle on a stove in their rude cabin home.

The flax raised was prepared by hand, carded, spun, woven and converted into clothing. Hides of beef found their way to the tannery and were made over into boots and shoes.

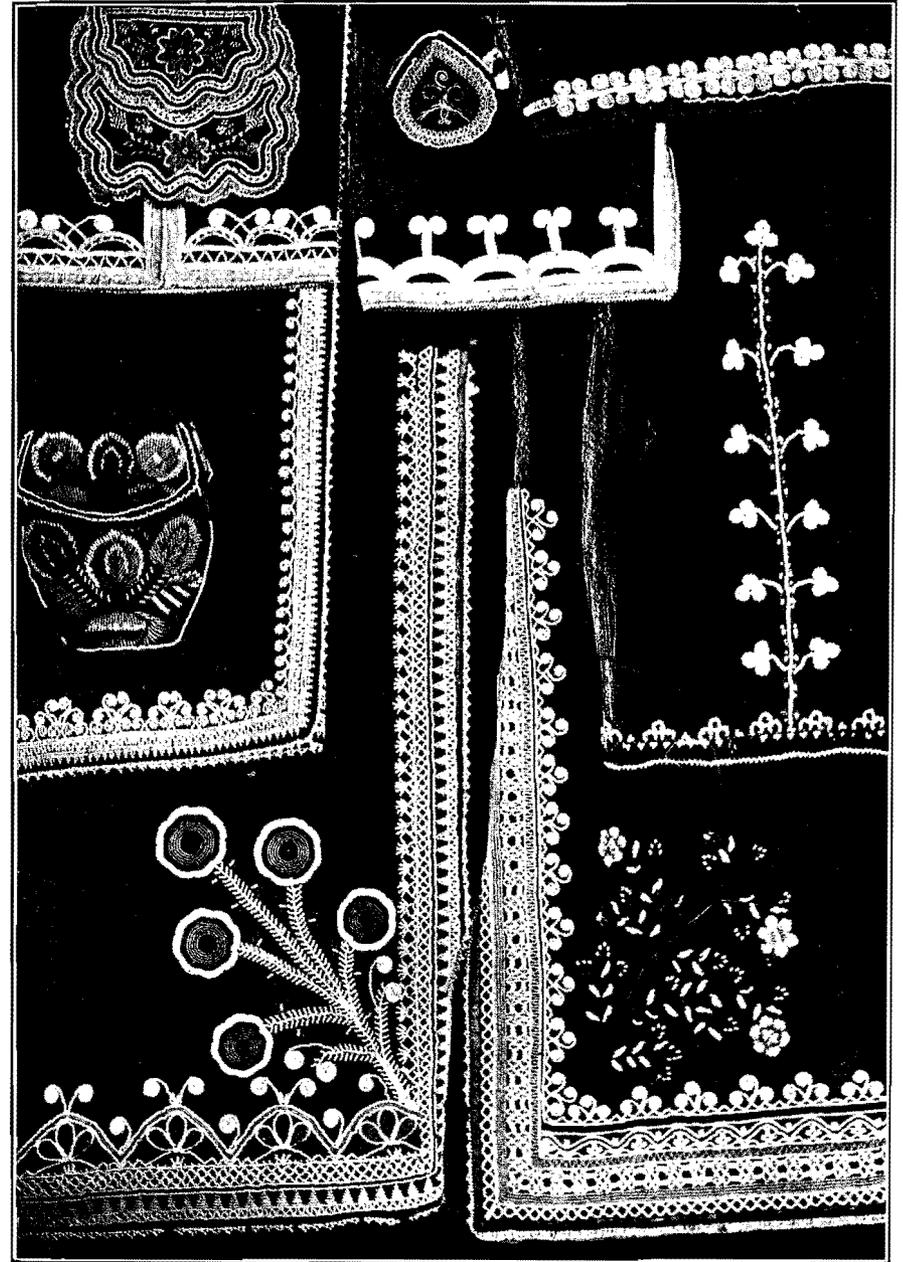
Food consisting of fish and meat was plentiful. Mush and milk, corn bread and milk, with an occasional johnny cake, were common articles of food in every cabin home. These were eaten for the most part, from tin or pewter dishes with iron spoons. Baking was done in a large iron kettle which was set in a bed of live coals. The fireplaces were large enough to accommodate a back log two feet in diameter and about four feet in length. Between this and the forelog, the fire was started usually from a tinder box, for friction matches had not yet been invented.

Food of every sort was cheap. Butter sold for six cents per pound in 1828, and eggs for six cents per dozen. Sugar, cheese and lumber were taken to Bath and the Genesee valley to exchange for wheat and various household necessities. It took three days to make the trip from Alfred to Bath and return.

The pioneer had the advantage of a ready market for salt. All who possessed kettles entered upon the manufacture of this new article of commerce. So highly were the waters impregnated with salt, that eight pounds of water, when evaporated, made one pound of pure salt.

Lands timbered with elm, beech, and maple supplied a value in ashes to almost pay for clearing the land. Trade in the product of ashes for which merchants paid half in cash, half in goods, aided the pioneer in paying his taxes and in meeting other expenses. Pine

Thirty two



IROQUOIS EMBROIDERIES ON CLOTHING

was so abundant about Alfred village that one tree capable of producing 8000 shingles was sold for 50 cents.

Going into the wilderness before tenements were erected, the pioneers were often forced to sleep on the ground with hemlock boughs for a mattress. During the night the settlers were often serenaded by wolves with an occasional scream of a panther. Timid deer would approach, gaze upon the new comers to determine whether they were friends or foes. It was not an uncommon scene to see half a dozen deer feeding with the cattle in the early morning.

The social life of the time was not without its joys and pleasures. As rude and hazardous as the pioneer life was there was always a time set apart for festivities. Men, women and children were often seen at logging, raising, quilting, appleparing, husking, and other "bees," and many restful evenings were spent after days of hard toil. The younger members of the families found diversion in various ways. It is recorded that a certain Jehial Smith cut four cords of four foot wood at two dollars per cord in order to earn money enough to take his best girl to a Fourth of July celebration. Wages were very low and a hired girl might consider herself fortunate if she received 50 cents per week for her services.

Whiskey was a common drink and a curse to both whites and Indians. At every "bee" or "raising" a jug was in evidence. Not only were church members addicted to the practice of drinking, but ministers of the gospel as well, partook with the others on such occasions. The first temperance worker in Alfred was a woman. Mrs. Esther Stillman, wife of Maxson Stillman, Sr., proposed to her husband that their new home, which was to be one of the best frame houses in Alfred, should be raised without whiskey—a thing unheard of in those early days. Her husband readily seconded the proposition and no rum was used on the occasion, but a bountiful supper was served instead. This was an innovation but it took well with the people and started an influence that had a remarkable effect on the later life of the community. In later years through the efforts of such strong advocates of temperance as Maxson and Allen, who stood boldly for the truth and righteous living, and who combated the evils of intemperance wherever found, Alfred became free from the curse of strong drink.

One extremely interesting record pertaining to the early history of the town was the introduction on a small scale, of what was very common in the southern colonies namely, indentured servants. From the town records under date of October 1, 1851, the following entry occurs:

"Indenture of apprenticeship between Meribah Perry and Samuel Whitford and Samuel W. Perry Witnesseth the said Samuel W. Perry

aged seven years on the 26th day of November, 1851, by and with the consent of said Meribah Perry, his mother doth hereby bind himself as an apprentice to the said Samuel Whitford until the 26th day of November, in the year 1864 from the date hereof, to learn the trade and occupation of a farmer, and the said Samuel W. Perry for himself and by his said mother doth hereby covenant with said Samuel Whitford, to faithfully serve him and correctly demean himself during the term of his apprenticeship; and the said Samuel Whitford doth hereby covenant with the said Meribah Perry, Samuel W. Perry and each of them that he will teach the said occupation and will provide him during said apprenticeship with meat, lodging, medicine, washing, clothing, and all other necessaries suitable for an apprentice, and will teach or cause him to be taught to read and write and so much of arithmetic as will include the single rule of three, and at the expiration of said term of service will furnish the said Samuel W. Perry with a new Bible and at least two suits of common wearing apparel at the expiration of said term of service. In testimony whereof, the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals this 25th day of September, 1851."

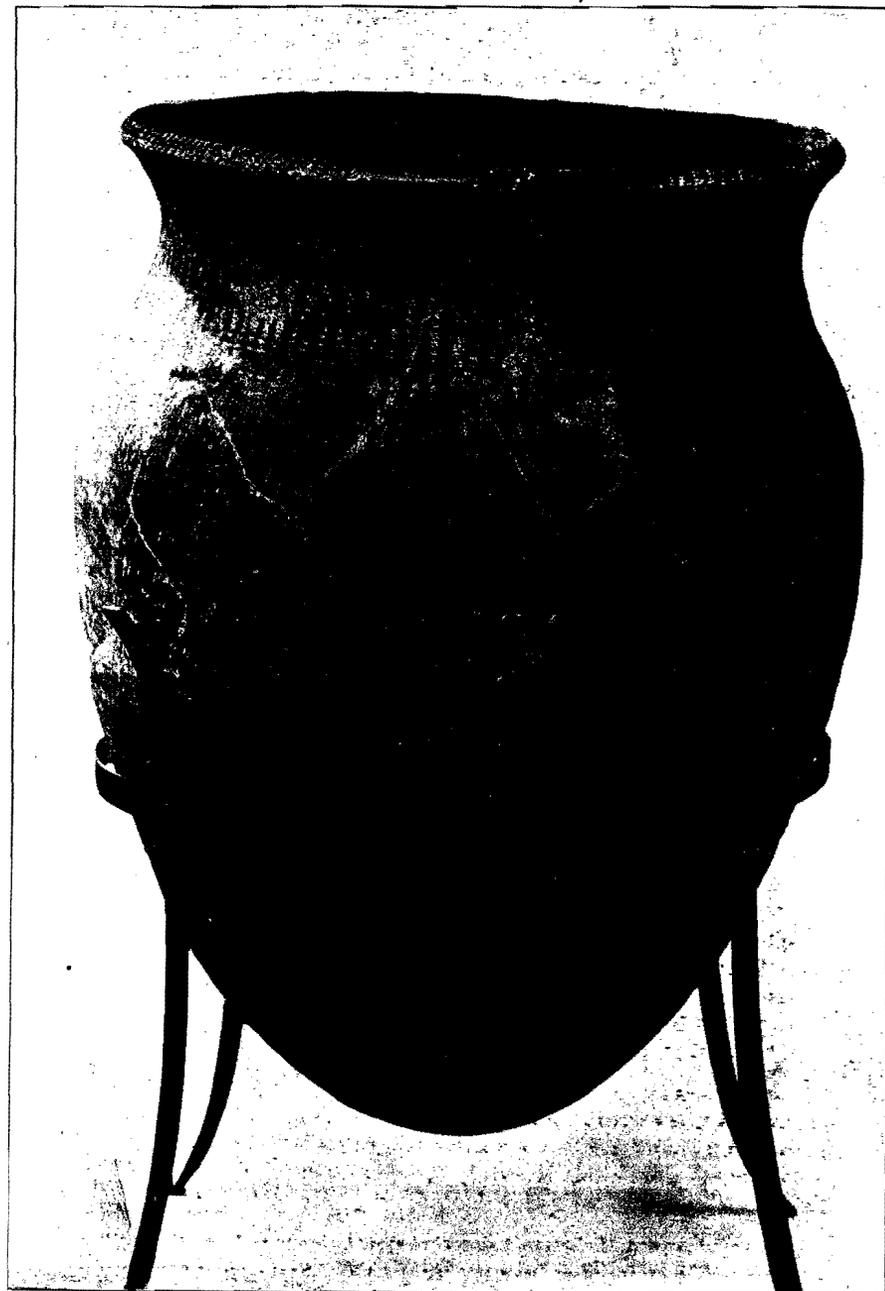
CHAPTER XIV

THE STARVING YEAR

The year 1816 is known as the "starving year" or as one has called it "the year without a summer." The winter was unusually mild but snow fell and ice formed every month in the year. Vegetation as a result, was mainly destroyed. Great suffering and privation prevailed throughout the little hamlet of Alfred Centre. Relying so largely upon the products of the soil for food, the killing frosts of this year deprived the settlers of their main source of supply. It was almost impossible to procure food of any kind and those who had larger supplies on hand generously shared with their less fortunate neighbors. It is said that food was so scarce that had it not been for the help provided through the Land Office many would have died from starvation. There are those living today in the vicinity of Alfred who remember very distinctly having heard accounts of how strong men, deprived of nourishing food, were so weakened that they were incapacitated for manual labor. Mothers would place before their children the last morsel of food the little log cabin contained, and then would shed tears in contemplation of their dire necessity not knowing how nor from what source the next meal would be provided.

The Hull family, of which Elder N. V. Hull was a member, suffered greatly the lack of food, and Elder Hull could not speak of those days without the tears coming to his eyes. The children who went to school were so weak that it was an effort to get around. One

Thirty four



ALGONKIAN POT

day some one gave the family a ham bone, from which the best part of the meat had been taken. This the mother boiled, and cooked some dried peas in the water, and on their return from school, the children sat down to a *feast*. They often spoke in later years of how *good* this soup tasted.

These were trying times for the pioneers. It is hard for us living today, surrounded as we are by so many comforts, to appreciate the trying situations to which our forefathers were exposed. With their lives consecrated to a high purpose, through hardships and surroundings unknown today, they laid deep the foundations upon which later generations were to build.

CHAPTER XV

PIONEER FAMILIES OF ALFRED

Eighty pioneer families settled in Alfred. The following is a list of the heads of these families:

Abram Allen	Henry Beebe Crandall
George W. Allen (Deacon)	Silas Crandall
John Allen	Joseph Edwards
(Grandfather of Pres. Allen)	Isaac Fenner
Joshua Allen	James Fisk
Daniel Babcock (Elder)	Benjamin Greene
Silas Benjamin	Edward Greene (Judge)
Thomas Benjamin	Edward Greene, Jr.
Abel Burdick	Edward J. Greene
Amos Burdick, Sr.	George Greene
Amos Burdick, Jr. (Deacon)	Joseph Greene
Asa Burdick	Luke Greene (Sugar Hill)
Elias G. Burdick	Luke Greene (Merchant)
Enos P. Burdick	Nathan Greene
Isaac Burdick, Sr.	Paris Greene
Isaac Burdick, Jr.	Ray Greene (Elder)
Ethan Burdick	Freeborn Hamilton
James C. Burdick	Richard Hull (Elder)
Jeremiah Burdick	Maxson Lanphear
Thomas T. Burdick	Samuel Lanphear
Thompson Burdick, Jr.	Elijah Lewis
William D. Burdick	Benjamin Maxson
Bradford Champlin	Luke Maxson, Jr.
George Champlin	Jonathan Palmiter, Sr.
John Bowen Collins (Doctor)	Jonathan Palmiter, Jr.
Stephen Collins	Rodman Place
Elisha Coon	Edward Potter
Jared Coon	Elisha Potter
Stephen Coon	Nathan Potter (Colonel)
Amos Crandall (Deacon)	Perry Potter
Clark Crandall (Judge)	Christopher Saunders

Ezekiel R. Saunders
 George Saunders
 William Saunders
 David Satterlee (Elder)
 Henry Sheldon
 George Sherman
 Josiah Sherman
 Ashbel Smith
 Elias Smith, Sr.
 Elias Smith, Jr.
 David Stillman
 George Stillman (Deacon)

Maxson Stillman, Sr.
 Maxson Stillman, Jr.
 Silas Stillman, Sr.
 Spencer Sweet (Elder)
 Rowland P. Thomas
 Joshua Vincent, Jr.
 Jesse Whitford
 Nathan C. Williams
 Clark Witter
 Paul Witter
 Elijah Woolworth

CHAPTER XVI

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR*

Soldiers of the Revolution who settled in Alfred:

Isaiah Crandall, Sr.	Jonathan Palmiter, Sr.
Edward Greene (Judge)	Elias Smith, Sr.
Edward J. Greene	Joshua Smith
Perry Greene, Sr.	Robert Williams
Luke Maxson, Sr.	

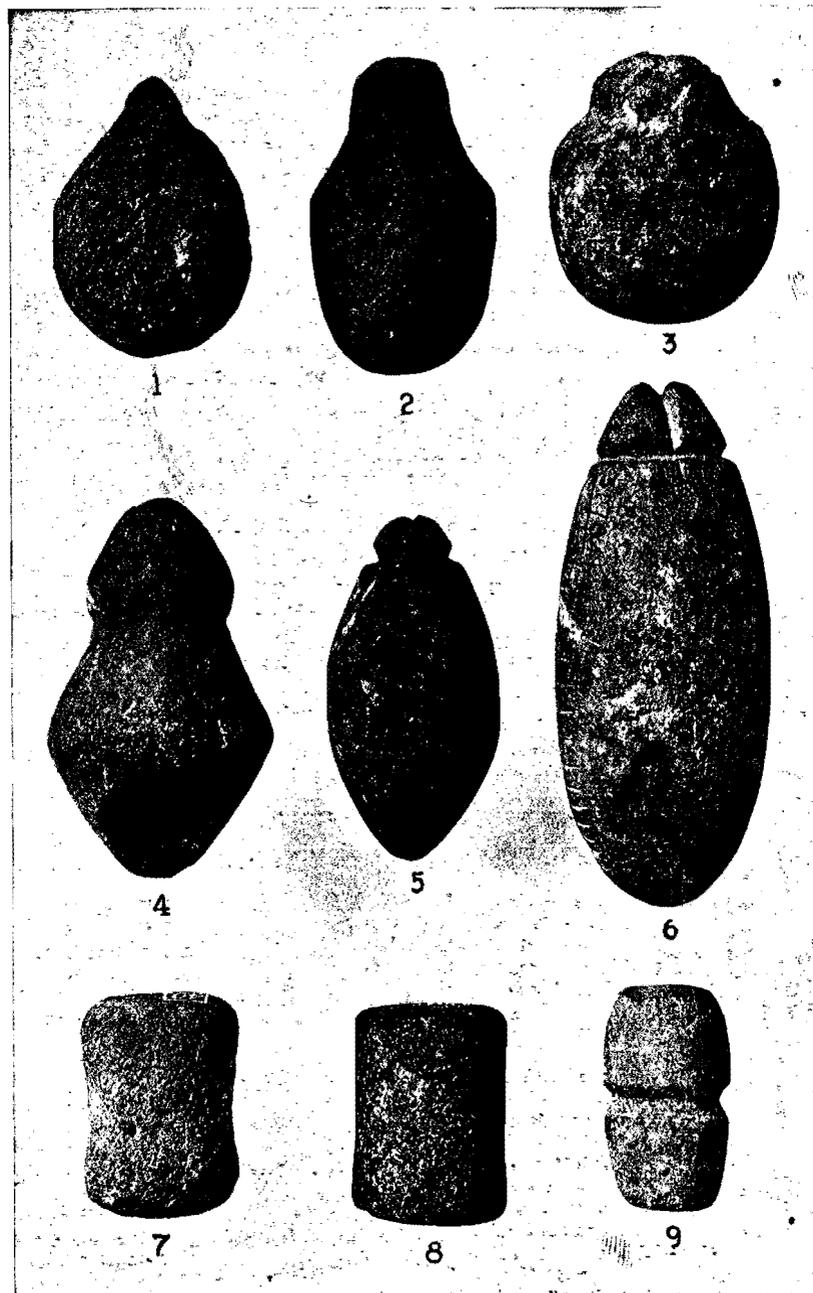
WAR OF 1812

Soldiers of the War of 1812 who enlisted from Alfred or who settled here a little later:

Amos Burdick, Sr.	Orlando Kaple
Thomas Thompson Burdick	Nathan Lanphear
Stephen Collins	Elijah Lewis
Isaiah Crandall, Jr.	David Maxson (Deacon)
William Crandall	Jonathan Palmiter, Jr.
Luke Davis	Rodman Place
James Fisk	Jabish Odell
Benjamin Greene, Sr.	Peter Rose
Edward Greene (Judge)	William Saunders (Sergt.)
Isaiah W. Greene	Henry Sheldon
Luke Greene (Sugar Hill)	George Sherman
Alpheus Greene (Major)	Elias Smith, Jr.
Paris Greene	Samuel Thatcher
Jeremy Greene	Rowland P. Thomas
Jeremiah Hall	Caleb Warren
Freeborn Hamilton	

*The list of Revolutionary soldiers who settled in Alfred and enlistments in the War of 1812, and the Civil War, have been very carefully worked out and furnished by our townsman, Mr. Frank L. Greene, who has made a special study of Alfred family genealogies. Mr. Greene is an authority on this subject and is frequently consulted by out of town people who are in quest of such information. His work bears the stamp of careful study and historical accuracy.

Thirty six



PLUMMETS

CHAPTER XVII

EARLY PHYSICIANS *

Certain ailments were common in a newly settled country. For the most part these consisted of malarial fevers, caused by the clearing of new ground.

The lot of the pioneer physician was not an easy one. Families were scattered. On some visits the physician was accompanied by an Indian guide. At other times he carried an axe with which to "browse" his horse and "spot" trees to guide his way back, and often, detained by storms and swollen streams, he was forced to spend the night in the woods on a bed of hemlock boughs. The usual mode of travel was on horseback, with saddlebags containing a small supply of medicine thrown over the doctor's saddle. Remedies were few. Rhubarb, jalap, calomel, and salts were the staples and were largely depended upon. Bloodletting was often resorted to. The lance for bleeding carried in the vest pocket was often obtained from a carpenter's chest or was manufactured by the nearest blacksmith.

Dr. John B. Collins of Rhode Island descent, and of quaker parentage, settled at Alfred Station in 1820. He was the first physician to acquire a medical practice in the town and as long as he lived, was the leading practitioner. Aside from the duties of his profession, he was interested in other matters. He represented the county in the state legislature, was one of the organizers of Alfred Academy and a member of the first board of trustees. He assisted in organizing the first district school and started the first temperance society in the town.

John R. Hartshorn, a graduate of Fairfield Medical College, came to Alfred in 1835 and formed a partnership with Dr. John B. Collins. He also represented the town in the state legislature; was a trustee of Alfred Academy and later of Alfred University.

Dr. Elisha C. Greene studied at Berkshire Medical Institution and received a diploma from the Allegany County Medical Association in 1839. After practicing for some years in other towns he moved to Alfred Station in 1851, where he continued his practice.

Dr. Horace H. Nye, a graduate of Cleveland Medical College in 1849, practiced medicine in Alfred until 1855.

Dr. H. P. Saunders, a native of Rhode Island, a graduate of the University of the City of New York in 1852, located in Alfred in 1856.

* Condensed from Minard's History of Allegany County.

Dr. Wm. M. Truman, a graduate of Fairfield Medical College, began the practice of medicine in Alfred in 1862.

Dr. Edwin M. Stillman, a graduate of Buffalo Medical College, practiced in Alfred in 1870.

Dr. H. C. Coon, a graduate of the New York Homeopathic Medical College in 1872, practiced medicine considerably, although his life work was teaching.

Dr. Irving Truman, a nephew of Dr. Wm. M. Truman, practiced medicine for a short time in Alfred before removing to Hornellsville, N. Y.

Dr. Mark Sheppard, a native of New Jersey, was educated at Shiloh, DeRuyter, and Alfred. In 1856 he engaged in the struggle against the "Border Ruffians" of Kansas. In 1861 he enlisted in the Civil War. Upon his return he resumed his studies in the University from which he graduated in 1863. In 1878 he graduated from the Medical Department of the City of New York, and then began the practice of medicine in Alfred.

Dr. George E. Burdick, a graduate of the University of the City of New York, located at Alfred Station in 1892, and later at Alfred.

CHAPTER XVIII

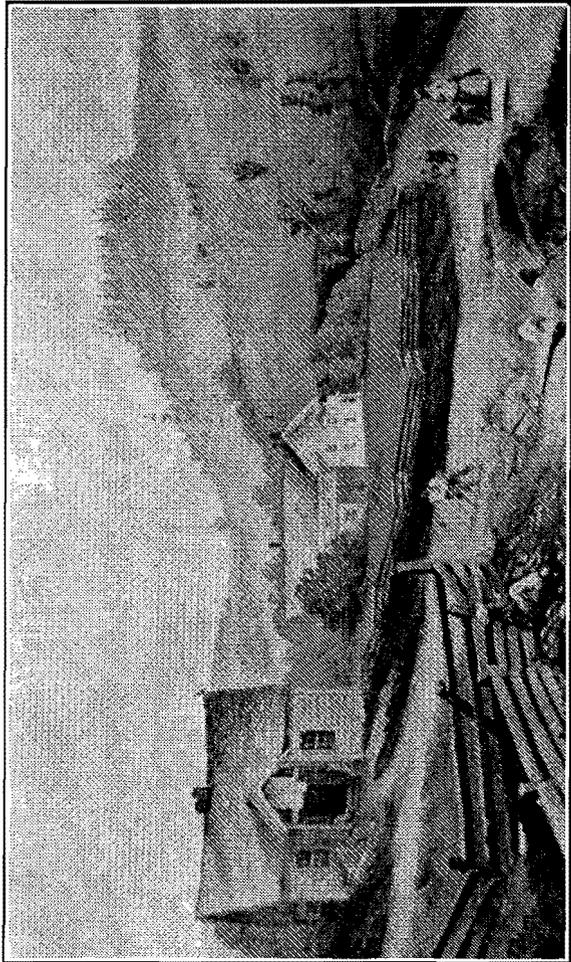
EDUCATION IN ALFRED

Alfred University *

A select school out of which the University grew was established in 1836. This school was chartered as an Academy in 1843, and in 1857 the University received its charter.

Today the University has 16 modern buildings spread over a campus of about 100 acres. The faculty numbers fifty-three men and women representing 20 of the leading colleges and universities of America and Europe. The college is an "A class" standard college, the highest standardizing agency in the United States or the world. Her endowment including buildings amounts to more than a million and a half dollars. The University offers full college courses leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science. Pre-medical, Pre-dental, and Pre-law courses are also offered. With the Uni-

* See "History of Alfred University" in Carnegie Library for more complete description.



COONTOWN SCHOOLHOUSE
Looking north toward Alfred. Jonathan Palmiter, Jr., farmhouse in background, later
the Deacon Langworthy residence.

versity are affiliated the New York State School of Clay Working and Ceramics, established in 1900, and the State School of Agriculture, organized in 1908.

The registration for the year 1924-1925, the 89th year of its history, totalled 648 students.

CHAPTER XIX

COMMON SCHOOLS

As the wages paid teachers in this early period were so meager it was generally understood that board would be furnished free of expense by "boarding around." An estimate would be made of the number of scholars which each family in the district would be likely to send to school. The number of weeks the school should continue having been settled upon, it was an easy matter to determine how long each family in the district should board the teacher. The teacher's life was not an easy one. Often the sleeping quarters were inadequate and the food provided scanty and poor. The distance from the schoolhouse oftentimes necessitated the taking of long walks in all sorts of weather over roads sometimes almost impassable.

The early school records of the town are deficient, but from what can be learned from them Nancy Teater taught the first school in the year 1815. In these early years there are 54 names recorded of men and women who taught in the district schools of the town.

As population increased the town was divided into 15 school districts, each district employing a teacher. In the year 1838 there were 518 scholars attending school in the town. Each teacher received for her wages about \$25 per year. Luke Greene was the first town clerk. Of the early school commissioners who served the town the following names appear: Jared Stillman, Cornelius Rice, Isaac Millard, Phineas Shaw, Orra Stillman, Alfred Lewis and Oran Vincent. Paul M. Vincent in 1843 became the first town superintendent of schools. He was succeeded by Philip Place, Jonathan Allen, Joseph W. Smythe, Jared Kenyon, William C. Kenyon, and Clark Sherman, all of whom served at different times through the period from 1843 up to the Civil War.

William C. Kenyon was chosen deputy superintendent for the southern district in 1841 and Abraham Burgess for the northern district. This position Mr. Kenyon held only about six months when he returned to his work in the Academy. For his services he received as deputy superintendent the sum of \$106.

School district number 3 was made a free school district in 1868 by the consolidation of districts numbers 3 and 4. One school house was located in the south end of the settlement on the site of Isaac Langworthy's residence, the other in the north end of the village, the school building being the old Tefft dwelling. After the consolidation the building used was North Hall, a University building. It was purchased by the district and moved down the hill to the site now occupied by Kanakadea Hall. This was used as a school building until 1885, when the district voted to build a new school building on this site. The old building was sold to William C. Burdick, who moved it still further down the hill on the bank of the Kanakadea Creek. It was afterwards given to the University and rebuilt into Burdick Hall. The new school building was built in 1885 of brick. It was destroyed by fire in 1907. Instead of repairing this structure the district sold it to the University; it was rebuilt by the trustees and is used as a college building under the name of Kanakadea Hall. The district then built a brick structure on a lot obtained from the University on Park Street. In the year 1915 the Alfred High School was established.

At the present time there are seven school districts in the town of Alfred, the village of Alfred being located in district No. 3.

One of the first schoolhouses in the town was built on the corner of South Main street and the road leading up the hill to the west to the Ellis farm. In some records it is named the "Queen Esther," but with greater accuracy it should be called the "Coontown" schoolhouse. Stephen Coon, Sr., with a large family, lived on the Ellis farm. Elisha Coon, with a still larger family lived on the farm now owned by Alva F. Randolph. The children of these families largely peopled this schoolhouse and gave the name to the school district.

Chester B. Stillman, Thomas Place, Mrs. Isaac Langworthy, Selinda Greene, Alvin A. Place, Ruth Sherman and others, attended school in the 40's at the Coontown school house.

CHAPTER XX

ALFRED CHEESE INTERESTS

Stock raising and dairying became the chief business of the early settlers. In 1850 butter and cheese were made on nearly every farm. Later cheese factories and creameries were established and stimulated the business of cheese making.

The first mention of cheese making in the early annals of the town occurs in connection with the large business interests of Judge Clark Crandall, who came to this territory on foot, and was one of the three first settlers in 1807. In 1836 he succeeded Luke Greene in the tanning and currying business and a short time later engaged in the cheese trade. He found ready markets in Pennsylvania for the dairy products of his town which he conveyed thither over the "Laurel Mountains" in wagons. This was really the beginning of a business which was to assume such large proportions in the town and county but a few years later.

Isaac Fenner came to Alfred in 1825. Perhaps next to Judge Crandall he was most familiar with the cheese industry in this early period. He was owner of the largest dairy farm in the town and made and dealt extensively in cheese. In 1874 his son, Elisha P. Fenner, began the manufacture of cheese and conducted several cheese factories located at the Fenner home, Five Corners, Pleasant Valley and McHenry Valley.

The Home Cheese Factory of Alfred Station was built by Daniel T. Burdick in 1861 and thirty years later was purchased by E. P. Fenner.

The Five Corners cheese factory was built by George West in 1866. At the present time it is owned and controlled by Efner Potter.

The East Valley cheese factory was built by A. W. Langworthy in 1872. In 1883, it was purchased by T. G. Brown.

Very early Mr. Wm. C. Burdick entered the service of Judge Crandall and became familiar with the cheese business. Later Mr. Burdick married Amanda, the youngest daughter of Mr. Crandall, and thus the interests of the two families were more closely united. A few years later Mr. Burdick, with Ira B. and Ezra P. Crandall, organized the Allegany County Cheese Company. He purchased the interests of his partners a short time later and for many years conducted the cheese business alone. In 1886 Calvin D. Reynolds and William C. Dunham became partners under the name of Wm. C. Burdick & Company. Mr. Burdick, who practically established the business, conducted it for more than 40 years. During this period the cheese of Allegany became famous not only throughout the county and state, but many other states shared with the Empire state their praise of Allegany cheese.

CHAPTER XXI

EARLY ORGANIZATIONS IN ALFRED CENTRE

Young People's Mission Band.

Equitable Aid Union.

Sons of Temperance.

Canacadea Council number 226, Royal Arcanum.

Mite Society.

Alfred Centre Lodge E. A. U., number 142.

Alfred Lodge A. O. U. W., number 148.

Ladies' Benevolent Society.

Republican Prohibition League. This organization was sometimes called the Republican Prohibition Club and met for its meetings in the second story of the brick block in rooms formerly occupied by E. S. Bliss, and known as Bliss Hall.

Musical Association.

Choral Union.

These two organizations numbered more than one hundred members and were under the leadership of J. G. Burdick.

Blaine and Logan Club.

St. John and Daniel Club, a temperance organization.

Alfred Zouaves or Boys in Blue.

The Alfred Grays, a military company.

Canacadea Agricultural Society. The first fair held by this society was on October 13, 14, and 15, 1884. The fair had been widely advertised and it was estimated that on the last day as many as 5,000 persons were present.

Alfred Lodge E. O. M. A., number 77.

Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle.

Alameda Circle.

Alfred Oil Well Company.

Alfred McKinley Club, C. T. Harris, president.

Crandall Band.

Senior Loyal Temperance Lodge.

Mutual Benefit Association of the Publishing House.

I. O. G. T. Fidelity Lodge number 540.

Empire Legion, number 9, N. P. L.

Woman's Republican Club.

Bicycle Club, W. W. Coon, President.

King's Daughters.

Alfred Development Association.

CHAPTER XXII

ALFRED RURAL CEMETERY

At a meeting of the citizens of Alfred Centre held July 8, 1847, it was unanimously voted to form an association under the name of the Alfred Rural Cemetery Association. Maxson Greene was chosen chairman and Erastus Greene secretary, and six other persons were designated as trustees.

A lot was purchased near what was then the limit of the village and was used for several years. As the village increased in size it seemed advisable to procure a larger lot. In May, 1857, the present grounds, containing about five acres, were purchased of Mrs. Mary Greene. To this more pleasant location the dead were removed from the two old burial grounds* by special act of the Legislature.

At the present time there are 720 lots and 109 of them are endowed. There are about 1850 graves in the cemetery and 136 unsold lots. While there is room for about 1000 more graves at the present time (January 1, 1926), the officers of the Association are considering the proposition of enlarging the present grounds to meet future needs.

The present officers are: A. E. Main, President; F. L. Greene, Vice-President; and A. B. Kenyon, Secretary and Treasurer.

* See cut for location of old cemeteries.

CHAPTER XXIII

ALFRED IN THE CIVIL WAR

South Carolina seceded from the Union December 20, 1860. The president called for 75,000 volunteers. The towns of Allegany county responded nobly and promptly. "Men left their plows in the furrows. Young men left their classes in college, seminary and academy. Mothers, wives, and sisters busied themselves tearfully and loyally in making hurried preparations for their departure." The following persons either enlisted from the town of Alfred, or were residents here and members of the G. A. R. Post:

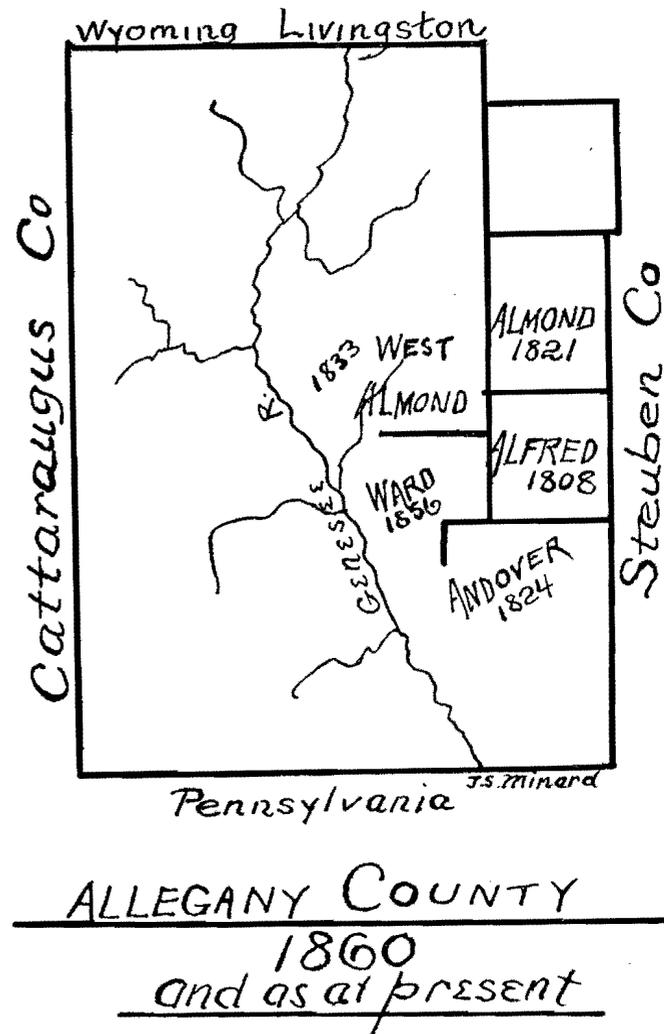
Allen, D. Sylvester
Allen, Gideon S.

Allen, Nathan H.
Andrews, Towner Philetus

Armstrong, Andrew J.
 Babcock, Milton S.
 Barber, John
 Benjamin, Silas (Sergt.)
 Berry, Charles W.
 Beyea, Frank
 Bliss, Edwin S. (Com. Sergt.)
 Burdick, Asa Clark
 Burdick, A. Delos
 Burdick, James T.
 Burdick, John C.
 Burdick, Sheffield W.
 Burdick, Thompson
 Butler, Samuel D.
 Callen, William E.
 Cartwright, L. D.
 Clarke, Stephen B.
 Cornelius, Ellery
 Cornelius, Milo
 Cottrell, A. Boardman
 Crandall, Albert R. (Lieut.)
 Crandall, Charles H.
 Crandall, James R. (Brev. Lieut.)
 Davis, Henry G.
 Davis, Henry Morell
 Eaton, Charles L.
 Ernst, William H. (Rev.)
 Estee, Charles B.
 Everett, David D.
 Fenner, Elisha P. (Lieut.)
 Fuller, John G.
 Gamble, James Lee (Q. M. Sergt.)
 Gardiner, William
 Greene, Daniel W.
 Greene Lucius C.
 Hall, Clark H.
 Hoard, James W.
 Hull, Thomas
 Kenyon, Jarvis S.
 Langworthy, George I.
 Langworthy, Isaac M.
 Langworthy, John F.
 Lee, Daniel B.
 Lewis, Amos C.
 Lewis, Daniel
 Lewis, Lester D.
 Livermore, Leander E. (Lieut.)
 Maxson, B. Frank
 Maxson, Daniel B. (Lieut.)
 Maxson, Darwin E. (Chaplain)
 Maxson, J. Edmund B.
 Maxson, Sanford L.
 Maxson, William P.
 McGibeny, Andrew

Miller, William
 Mosher, John M.
 Ormsby, Cyrenus P.
 Ormsby, Daniel Orson
 Ormsby, Rowland
 Palmiter, Edwin S.
 Palmiter, Russell H.
 Place, Benjamin F. T.
 Place, Milo S.
 Place, Thomas J.
 Place, William O.
 Potter, Adelbert
 Potter, Elverton
 Potter, William Riley
 Potter, Reuben S.
 Proper, Nelson
 Randolph, Sylvester W. F.
 Remington, Oscar
 Rogers, Albertus C. (Lieut.)
 Rogers, Orra S.
 Rogers, Orville M.
 Rogers, William A.
 Rogers, William H.
 Rose, Elisha
 Rose, William A. (Capt.)
 Ryno, Augustus K.
 Satterlee, Andrew H.
 Saunders, William Albert
 Shaw, Anthony V.
 Shaw, Henry W.
 Sheppard, Mark
 Sisson, George S.
 Smith, Richard G.
 Spencer, Benjamin H.
 Stillman, Horace
 Thomas, Marshall
 Thomas, William G.
 Titsworth, Thomas B.
 Utter, George
 Vincent, Paulding
 West, Delos
 West, Henry G.
 Whitford, Daniel
 Whitford, Samuel
 Whitford, Sylvanus C.
 Williams, Alvin A.
 Williams, G. Asher
 Williams, William D.
 Witter, Leroy
 Woodard, Alonzo B.
 Woodworth, George H.
 Woodworth, Leonard
 Worden, Andrew L.

Evans, Phebe (Morton) (Nurse)



CHAPTER XXIV

SPANISH-AMERICAN AND WORLD WARS *

In 1898, in the administration of President McKinley, when war was declared against Spain, Alfred boys responded promptly.

Alfred and Alfred University contributed eleven stalwart young men as volunteers when the last call came on Sunday, May 1, 1898. The following men joined the 47th Separate Company of Hornellsville, New York, and from there went to Camp Black, Hempstead, Long Island: Raymond Cottrell, Winfield R. Crandall, Richard L. Carter, John M. Gilbert, Frank G. Place, George Townsend, Miles Jordan, John D. Groves, James A. Crandall, Arthur W. Davis and Fred C. Wiggins. The last four named were members of the University student body. On the last of May the men were transferred to Camp Alger, Dunn Loring, Va. This place was about eight miles from Washington. Here were stationed 25,000 troops representing 14 states. In August the men were moved to Camp Meade, Middletown, Pennsylvania. The war was of short duration and the men were mustered out of service on September 13, 1898.

The last call for military service came in 1917, after our country had entered the World War. Large numbers from both town and college enlisted.*

* See my "Alfred in the World War". 1924.

CHAPTER XXV

PUBLISHING INTERESTS THE ALFRED SUN

The first printing office in Alfred was established in 1859 by J. E. B. and William P. Maxson, who published the *New Era*, a weekly local newspaper.

In 1872 the *Sabbath Recorder*, was issued in April and July of that year. It was the property of the American Sabbath Tract Society, and was in the 28th year of its existence. During its stay in Alfred the plant grew until many publications including the *Outlook*, *Peculiar People*, *The Light of Home*, and the *Helping Hand*, were issued from this office. There were also printed for the University the

Forty six



OFFICE OF THE ALFRED SUN

*Alfred Student, Alfred University Quarterly, and The Alfred University.** During the stay in Alfred the following persons served as editors of the *Sabbath Recorder*: N. V. Hull, Stephen Burdick, L. A. Platts and L. E. Livermore. At the close of the year 1894, the Publishing House was moved to Plainfield, New Jersey.

In 1883, *Our Sabbath Visitor*, a weekly Sabbath School paper, was published by E. S. Bliss.

The University Bulletin, a paper published quarterly by the University was first issued in 1895, and was printed at the Sun office.

The Arena, a paper devoted to the interests of the Farmers' Alliance, was issued from the office of E. S. Bliss in 1889.

January 1, 1884, the first issue of the *Alfred Sun* appeared with John M. Mosher editor, and John P. Mosher, business manager. It was run under this management one year, when three of the stockholders retired, leaving it in the hands of F. A. Crumb and L. W. Niles, the latter soon buying out the former. Shortly thereafter Mr. Crumb purchased the entire plant of Mr. Niles and carried on the work alone until the end of the year when he sold out to Rev. L. E. Livermore. Mr. Livermore issued the paper for two years and sold out to his son-in-law, W. H. Satterlee, who carried forward the work two years more. In 1890, John M. Mosher became editor and business manager with J. J. Merrill associate editor. On January 1, 1895, the stockholders of the Sun Publishing Association purchased material for a job and newspaper office. The paper was enlarged and John M. Mosher and F. A. Crumb became editors and managers. January 1, 1896, F. A. Crumb and Frank S. Whitford purchased a controlling interest in the stock of the Association and assumed the editorship and management, soon after moving into the building now known as the Sun Publishing House. In October, 1907, F. A. Crumb became sole editor, and F. S. Whitford became president of the Sun Publishing Association, and F. A. Crumb, secretary and treasurer. At the present writing (January 1, 1926) Mr. Crumb is editor and business manager, D. S. Burdick, president, and Frank A. Crumb, secretary and treasurer.

Today the *Alfred Sun* is recognized as one of the leading Republican newspapers in Allegany county.

The publishing of the *Sun* is a small part of the work done at the Publishing House. A large amount of job work is turned out each week and the linotypes together with cylinder and hand presses, are kept constantly busy. The printing of pamphlets of all descriptions, programs of various organizations, the college catalogue, numerous

* See my "Alfred University and Student Publications" in *Alfred Sun*, October 16, 1924.

reports, books, stationery, handbills, etc., keeps the staff busy. The college paper, the *Fiat Lux*, is also printed at this office. The neatness and dispatch with which the work is done has earned for the *Sun* an enviable reputation, and has brought in work from various parts of the state outside of Allegany county.

When the editor is not in his office the genial bookkeeper, DeForest W. Truman, greets you cordially and looks faithfully after his end of the office work.

CHAPTER XXVI

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

Grand Army of the Republic

In 1876 the local post of the G. A. R. was formed with Isaac Langworthy as Commander. It was disbanded after two years. On December 3, 1883, the B. Frank Maxson Post was organized as number 428 with 18 charter members. Thomas B. Titsworth was chosen Commander.

Woman's Relief Corps

At the earnest request of J. M. Mosher, Commander of the Post, the Woman's Relief Corps was organized in 1890 with Mrs. Mina Crandall as the first President.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

The I. O. O. F. number 362, was organized on March 13, 1905, with 7 members.

Grange

The Alfred Grange number 1097, was organized on February 16, 1907, with Alva F. Randolph, Master; F. M. Babcock, Secretary; John F. Langworthy, Overseer; Mrs. John F. Langworthy, Treasurer, and Lewis Henry, Lecturer. There were 50 charter members. At the present time there are 158 members.

Rebekah Lodge

The Rebekah Lodge number 392, was instituted by the District Deputy, Mrs. Frances Lanphear of Andover. At the evening session, on December 10, 1907, 36 members were added to the Lodge by the Degree Team of Andover, N. Y.

Sons of Veterans

The Sons of Veterans, known as the B. Frank Maxson Camp number 130, was organized in 1913, with 26 charter members. Reuben

Forty eight

A. Armstrong was appointed Commander; Frank G. Place, Secretary, and Lewis S. Beyea, Treasurer. This was the second time the Sons had organized. Some years previous there was a large Camp organized and their meetings were held in the upper story of the building known as the Sherman Block.

Masonic Lodge

A dispensation was granted for the organization of a Masonic Lodge on July 11, 1916. A charter was granted on May 3, 1917, and A. E. Champlin was the first Master. University Lodge number 944, F. & A. M. holds meetings on the second and fourth Monday of each month.

Eastern Star

The Kanakadea Chapter of the Eastern Star was organized in 1919 with 35 members. The chapter is number 626 and at the present writing has 84 members.

Fraternities Association

On April 30, 1921, the Alfred Fraternities Association dedicated their new club room. This room is in the second story of the Burdick building, the first floor being occupied by the Jacox grocery and meat market. The third floor is used for the Lodge rooms.

The matter of procuring such a room had been agitated for some years. As far back as October 31, 1917, a meeting was called consisting of Masons and Odd Fellows to take into consideration the matter of forming such an association, and of procuring a suitable room.

American Legion

The Alfred Post number 370 of the American Legion was organized on January 18, 1921, with the following men as charter members:

W. W. F. Randolph	S. David Atz
C. M. Potter	Howard D. Martin
DeForest W. Truman	Leon B. Smith
Glenn B. Fenner	Alfred Whitford
R. S. Cottrell	E. V. Champlin
Herbert J. Thomas	Henry Holmes
W. D. Bassett	Walter Preische
Thomas M. Place	

The object of this organization as stated in the constitution, is to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one-hundred per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great War; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make Right the master of Might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to pos-

Forty nine

terity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion Auxiliary was organized on December 4, 1924, with 13 charter members. Mrs. DeForest W. Truman was chosen the first President. At the present time (January 1, 1926) Miss Frances A. Witter is President; Mrs. Arthur Burdick, First Vice-President; Mrs. A. M. Olson, Second Vice-President; Miss Edith M. Truman, Secretary; Mrs. DeForest W. Truman, Treasurer; Mrs. H. E. Witter, Chaplain, and Mrs. C. M. Potter, Historian.

CHAPTER XXVII

Organizations—Continued

Women's Christian Temperance Union

The W. C. T. U. was organized after a lecture by Mrs. Burt on the 20th of February, 1882. Mrs. N. V. Hull was chosen President, and the following persons were elected Vice-Presidents: Mrs. M. J. Greene, Mrs. H. C. Coon, Mrs. C. D. Reynolds, and Mrs. H. P. Saunders. Miss Susie Burdick and Mrs. L. D. Collins were chosen Recording Secretaries.

Widow's Union

The Widow's Union was organized in 1905, by Mrs. Mary Burdick, who was called the Mother of the Union. The organization meets once each year either at Alfred or Alfred Station and holds a banquet. At the present time there are 25 members.

*Red Cross **

The local chapter of the American Red Cross was organized on June 26, 1916, with 164 members. During the World War the membership increased to 500, not including a college auxiliary with 60 members.

Swastikas

The Swastikas, a more recent organization made up of young ladies, was organized in 1919 with Mrs. Ruby Jacox for President.

University Bank

The University Bank began business as a private bank on November 28, 1883, and was organized as a State bank in 1894. The present officers are: D. S. Burdick, President; R. S. Cottrell, Cashier; W. F. Burdick, Assistant Cashier, and Frances Witter, Clerk.

*See my "Alfred in the World War" 1924.

Telegraph and Telephone Company

The Alfred Telegraph and Telephone Company was organized on March 20, 1897. The present officers are Ray Reynolds, President; D. S. Burdick, Secretary and Treasurer, and W. H. Bassett, General Manager.

Lincoln Club

The Alfred Lincoln Club was organized in 1905.

Alfred Gun Club

The Alfred Gun Club was organized about 1905 with H. C. Greene, President. Leon Greene was Secretary and Treasurer. There were 20 charter members.

There was a Gun Club organized in the village in the year 1884 which was very popular. A favorite pastime was shooting at glass balls thrown in the air.

Lewis Orchestra

This concert orchestra was organized in 1921 with 17 members. It supplies music for the Sabbath School from time to time and for various community entertainments.

Rod and Gun Club

The Alfred Rod and Gun Club was organized on March 2, 1925, with 7 members. A. W. Massey was chosen President; H. C. Greene, Vice-President, and W. H. Bassett, Secretary and Treasurer. The object of the organization is to promote better fishing and hunting; the protection of game and fish; protection of song birds; restocking our fields with pheasants; to create a more friendly feeling between the farmer and the sportsman in general, and the promotion of good sportsmanship. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month in the office of the old Terra Cotta Company on North Main street. At the present time (January 1, 1926) there are 68 members.

Automobile Club

The Alfred Automobile Club was organized on Wednesday, April 1, 1925, with 50 charter members. The following officers were chosen for the year: D. S. Burdick, President; B. S. Bassett, Vice-President, and E. P. Saunders, Secretary and Treasurer.

Alfred Cinema Company

The youngest organization in the town is the Alfred Cinema Company. This new firm took over the rights of the Athletic Association and was organized in October, 1925. The members of the Company (January 1, 1926) are: William Howden, a sophomore in the college, and I. A. Conroe, Instructor in English and Public Speaking in the college, as advisor.

The object of the organization is to furnish better pictures for Alfred. It promises films equal to those presented to larger communities. Thus far the company has more than fulfilled its promises and has presented to large audiences of both college and townspeople the following films: "Riders of the Purple Sage," "Greater Love Hath No Man," "The Fool," "Old Home Week," "Lazybones," and "The Ten Commandments."

CHAPTER XXVIII

THE TOWN MILITIA*

The militia of the town was organized as early as 1811 with Clark Crandall as Captain.

This expanded as the town grew and continued nearly forty years, Orra Stillman becoming Colonel and Philip S. Greene, Quartermaster on the Colonel's Staff. "General Training" days seemed to have had much of the social element as well as military character. The jug was often in evidence and dancing and hilarity were common. "Waking up officers" at night was one of the amusements of the young bloods.

A brass cannon was part of the equipment of the Company and figured in the exciting occasion when the militia quelled the riot and feud between the factions of the Irish laborers on the Erie Railroad then building through the town†. This cannon was sent to Kansas during the "border ruffian" troubles preceding the Civil War—that "preliminary outbreak of the slaveholders' conspiracy."

This cannon was stored at Alfred Station, and the little square building originally painted red, may still be seen across the road from the old brick works, near the railroad bridge. Above the entrance may still be deciphered the sign "Gun House," despite the weathering of nearly a century. In its age it has performed the more peaceful duty of housing farming implements.

* Courtesy of Frank L. Greene.

† See chapter 46 for an account of the Irish raid.

CHAPTER XXIX

LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

LADIES' AID SOCIETY

The Ladies' Benevolent Society was organized in 1847. Mrs. N. V. Hull was the first President. The records of this society between the years 1847 and 1862 are missing. The preamble to the constitution as it was adopted in 1847, reads as follows: "We, the Ladies of Alfred, in order to form a union for the promotion of benevolence in our midst, to obtain funds for purchasing goods and making of the same into garments for adults and children and distributing them, do order and establish this constitution. This Union shall be called the Ladies' Benevolent Society of Alfred Centre."

The constitution states that all actual and unavoidable cases of destitution will be esteemed worthy the consideration of the society. It further declares that when no special call for aid arises, yearly contributions shall be sent to the Home of the Friendless in New York City for distribution by the managers of that institution among those whom they may deem worthy recipients of the society's bounty. About 30 persons became members of the organization by signing their names to the constitution.

As the name implies this society devoted itself to many benevolent enterprises. The Home of the Friendless in New York City was the special recipient of its bounty. Many barrels of clothing of all sorts, and quantities of fruit were shipped throughout the years to this institution. Many letters spread on the minutes of the early records show that the managers of this institution expressed great appreciation to the Ladies' Benevolent Society for their kindness and liberality.

In the early 60's much of the time was employed by the women in sewing for the soldiers and in providing garments for the Home of the Friendless.

The benefits of the society were far reaching. Money was raised to aid the sufferers from the grasshopper ravages in Nebraska. At one of their meetings it was voted to devote their labors for awhile for the benefit of the church. To meet necessary expenses entertainments were held frequently and at one meeting it was voted to conduct a refreshment stand at Commencement time to help replenish the depleted treasury.

At a meeting held in February, 1865, it was voted to restrict the common practice of providing tea to a condition of fine of one shilling each to those that provide and those that partake—the resolution to be in force until the annual meeting. The money thus collected was to be used for the society.

At nearly every meeting some case of destitution was brought to the attention of the society. At one time children of certain families who were unable to attend Sabbath School owing to a lack of sufficient clothing, were provided with clothing by the society. Money was appropriated to buy books for the school children, and at still another time rooms were furnished for poor students who were anxious to attend the Theological Seminary.

At another time acting on the suggestion of Professor Allen, a number of the ladies worked several hours on the campus setting out trees, raking, hoeing, pulling weeds, and clearing up the grounds generally, for which they were paid \$10 in money.

At a meeting held at the home of Mrs. Milo Burdick on November 4, 1885, it was voted to change the name of the "Ladies' Benevolent Society" to that of "Ladies' Aid Society." Mrs. S. C. Burdick was president of the society at the time of the change.

The activities of the Ladies' Aid Society have been of a varied nature. Not only has it been of assistance to the church in purchasing organ, piano, carpets, windows, pulpit, etc., but to the community in general. It has furnished clothing and food for the needy, provided curtains for the reception room at the Brick, a chandelier for the Academy Chapel, and has founded a scholarship in the University. The Parish House* has been redecorated. This adjunct to the church proper erected and entirely paid for through the efforts of this society is the meeting place of various organizations. Here once each week the Primary and Intermediate Sabbath Schools meet for their exercises. It is also a center for social functions for outside organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Alumni of the College, students of the University, Parent-Teacher Association and others.

* See chapter 37 for account of Parish House.

CHAPTER XXX

LADIES' AUXILIARY TRACT SOCIETY LADIES' EVANGELICAL SOCIETY

A number of ladies met in the vestry of the church in October, 1875, to organize an Auxiliary Tract Society. At this meeting Mrs.

Fifty four

T. R. Williams was chosen Chairman and Mrs. A. B. Kenyon, Secretary. On October 10, 1875, the organization was completed and Mrs. N. V. Hull was elected President and Mrs. H. C. Coon, Secretary. There were twenty-one charter members.

At a meeting held at the home of Mrs. N. V. Hull on December 25, 1883, a new constitution was presented. It was read and discussed at some length but was not finally adopted until February 27, 1884. At this meeting the name of the society was changed to the Woman's Seventh Day Baptist Evangelical Society of Alfred Centre. At this time there were about 125 members in the society.

As stated in the preamble to the constitution the society was organized to promote the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary, Publishing, Educational and any other denominational enterprise; and to cultivate personal piety.

The constitution has been amended several times since 1884. The present membership is about 82. Mrs. W. E. Phillips is President and Mrs. H. E. Witter is Secretary.

CHAPTER XXXI

BOY SCOUTS GIRL SCOUTS CAMP FIRE GIRLS

The Boy Scouts, Troop number 1, of Alfred, New York, was organized in 1915, by Ford S. Clarke. At the present time there are 30 members and Irwin A. Conroe is Scout Master.

The motto of the organization is "Be Prepared." The purpose of the organization is set forth in the constitution. Article three reads:

"We are joined heart and hand to achieve true manhood. What harms the body, defiles the tongue, or does ill to the mind shall not enter our councils... We will always seek to help another in trouble and to do some good turn daily to some one. We vow allegiance to our country and our flag, and pledge our hands, our hearts, and our manly honor to our organization."

GIRL SCOUTS

Mrs. Juliette Lowe in 1912 founded the Girl Guides in Savannah,

Fifty five

Georgia. In 1915, national headquarters were established in Washington, D. C., and the name was changed to Girl Scouts.

It is considered one of the finest organizations of its kind for the Americanization of foreign-born girls and for installing high ideals in our own girls.

The slogan of the order is:

"Do a Good Turn Daily."

Then the promise:

"On my honor I will try;

To do my duty to God and my country,

To help other people at all times,

To obey the scout laws."

Girl Scouts are found in every state and the organization numbers more than 200,000 with 8,000 officers.

The Alfred order of Girl Scouts was organized in 1921. At the present time there are 26 members, and Ildra A. Harris is Captain.

"Here and there a friendly act,

Here and there a smile.

It's the little things of life

That make life worth while."

CAMP FIRE GIRLS

The organization known as Camp Fire Girls was founded on March 17, 1912, by Dr. and Mrs. Luther H. Gulick. The Kanakadea Chapter of this organization was organized in Alfred in January, 1924, when a charter was granted. There were 12 charter members and Alma Wise was the first Guardian.

The purpose of the organization is to help girls to find romance, beauty and adventure in everyday life, and to make the homely task contribute to the joy of everyday living. The foundation of the Camp Fire is the home. The watchword is WO-HE-LO made up of the first two letters of the words WORK, HEALTH and LOVE. The laws of the Camp Fire are to seek beauty, give service, pursue knowledge, be trustworthy, hold on to health, glorify work and be happy.

The Camp Fire girls are divided into two groups; those under eleven years of age form the first or younger group and those eleven and over form the other group. Mrs. DeForest W. Truman is Head Guardian and Ruth E. Claire is Guardian of the younger group.

Today the Camp Fire idea is world-wide. In twenty-two countries throughout the world the organization is found and 160,000 girls are carrying out the high ideals of the order.

In the creed of the Camp Fire the following declaration will show what each girl strives to attain:



LOWER FALLS OF THE GENESSEE RIVER
View looking south from near the Driving Park Bridge,
Rochester

"I believe in the future;
I believe, therefore, in the To-day,
And I try to make my life
A joy to myself and
A pleasure to those about me.
I try to find the beautiful in life,
And where it is not, I create beauty.
I feel my responsibility as a citizen of a great nation;
I believe in the new womanhood.
I do not flinch nor falter.
I am a Camp Fire Girl."

CHAPTER XXXII

THE CHAMPLIN CLUB HOUSE THE COMMUNITY CLUB

By the terms of the will of the late Eva St. Clair Champlin a legacy was left whereby in accordance with her wishes the women's clubs of Alfred should have a club house.

The Allen Civic Club, through which she hoped to accomplish her purpose, not having been incorporated, she willed all the remainder of her property (to use her own words) "unto my dear friend, Maud Titsworth Greene, absolutely and forever. She knows my desires and hopes, and I trust her implicitly to carry them out."

The Allen Civic Club having meanwhile become incorporated as the Champlin Civic Betterment Corporation, Mrs. Greene transferred to it on October 3, 1922, the net value of the estate, cash and mortgages aggregating over \$3200, together with considerable furniture, rugs, paintings and many books.

The directors negotiated with the Trustees of the Seventh Day Baptist Church for the purchase of the Dr. Ayars house. The church unwilling to sell, made an offer which was accepted. The corporation was given the use of the property under certain considerations: The corporation was to provide a rest room; a comfort station; allow the use of the club rooms for adult classes of the Sabbath School; the corporation agreed to pay at least \$50 per year for upkeep and permanent improvements. Further, if this agreement should be terminated by the church within fifteen years, the church was to reimburse the corporation for the value of all improvements not to exceed \$1000.

On the other hand if the corporation terminated the agreement

within the fifteen years the corporation was to forfeit the value of all the improvements, the same to be left on the property.

It is the policy of the corporation to keep the principal intact as an endowment fund, using only the interest until such time as the corporation shall own a permanent home.

The Champlin Club House has more than met the expectations of the Directors in its usefulness to the community and to the traveling public in general. A report* of the Directors recently submitted stated that 1987 persons had registered in the rest rooms during the three years just past from 30 different states, as well as from Canada, England, Ireland, France, Greece, Germany, and India.

The Amandine Club was the first organization to meet in the new club rooms on October 5, 1922.

The three literary clubs meet regularly in the club rooms. Bible classes, the Y. M. C. A., Home Bureau, Parent-Teacher Association, Camp Fire Girls, the College German Club, French Club, Boy Scouts, Sunday Choir, Children's Clinic, the W. C. T. U., and various other organizations and committees make frequent use of the rooms.

From November 18, 1924, to November 18, 1925, there were held at the house 272 meetings, making an average of over 5 meetings a week for the entire year, and 1728 persons were served to refreshments.

The report further stated that for the general neat appearance of the club and rest rooms, for the little artistic touches here and there, and for the baskets of vines and flowers, which one invariably sees upon entering the building, the community owes a debt of gratitude to the house matron, Mrs. Alice M. Jacques, and to her son, Holly M. Jacques, who has been her efficient assistant.

THE COMMUNITY CLUB

A number of men met in the Parish House on Wednesday evening, December 28, 1917, to organize a community club. A constitution and by-laws were adopted and the club was to be called the Community Club of Alfred.

The main object of the organization is to promote the aesthetic and recreational interests of Alfred and vicinity; to encourage any movement looking toward increasing the business interests of the town, beautifying the streets, etc.

The management of the club is vested in a Board of Directors consisting of 7 members to be elected annually. The organization was finally completed when 61 men sat down to a community luncheon on January 17, 1918. At this time B. S. Bassett was voted President of the club for the ensuing year.

* Alfred Sun.

CHAPTER XXXIII

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The idea of bringing the organized forces of home, school and community to bear upon the child has its most satisfying expression today in the Parent-Teacher Association, an absolutely non-political, non-sectarian, democratic body.

About 30 years ago in Washington, D. C., a group of mothers founded the P. T. A. Today the membership has grown to more than half a million with branches in nearly every state in the union. A member of the faculty of Wisconsin University is reputed to have said that this association has accomplished more than any national or international society for the betterment of child life.

An organization which added a hundred thousand members to its rolls in one year and then doubled its entire enrollment the following year, as was done during 1920-1921, may be deemed worthy of any efforts to make it function with the homes and schools of our nation.

The association has already done a marvelous work in providing recreation, athletic meets, entertainments and films for the schools. Many local organizations have done still more and have added school libraries, installed electric lights, purchased pictures and musical instruments, provided hot lunches and rest rooms for teachers, planted trees, made gardens, offered prizes for cleanliness, clothed poor children and have conducted art exhibits.

Social affairs at which fathers, mothers, and teachers have come to understand each other's problems have proved of inestimable value.

The national organization sends out leaflets to its branches covering such subjects as family budgets, booklists for children, and various other educational topics. Perhaps the most international feature of the work of the national organization is the file of loan papers, comprising addresses on all sorts of topics of interest to parents and teachers and which are sent out individually or in packages to be read at club meetings.

The Parent-Teacher Association of Alfred was organized on January 26, 1922 with 41 members. The membership has increased to 110 members. The object of this association is threefold: to promote the best interests of parenthood; to raise the standard of home life, and to further a better understanding and a closer relation between home, school, church, and state. To this end the association seeks to

promote child welfare through a better knowledge of child life and a more sympathetic understanding of the child's real needs. It is opposed to all those influences which are injurious to life, health and character. Like the pioneer organization the Alfred Association stands for an educated parenthood.

CHAPTER XXXIV

LITERARY ALFRED AMANDINE CLUB

Reading Clubs and Circles under various names such as the Shakespeare Club, Science and Art Club, Browning Club, Dramatic Club, Lincoln Club, Theological Club, University Club, Chautauqua Circle, etc., have been organized in the village. Many of these organizations were of short duration. Not until the year 1893, did anything of this nature become permanent. In this year a number of ladies met informally in the parlors of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Burdick for reading and mental improvement. They finally organized as a Reading Club and the first minutes recorded are those under date of February 6, 1894, with Mrs. A. Boardman Cottrell, as President; Mrs. William C. Burdick, Vice-President; and Mrs. E. M. Ellsworth, Secretary.

The first books read were "The Prince of India" by Lew Wallace, and "Darkness and Dawn" by Canon F. W. Farrar.

On May 8, 1894, a more extensive organization was effected and the name "Amandine" (worthy to be loved) was chosen in honor of her who had so kindly opened the doors of her beautiful home for the weekly visits of the Club. According to the new organization the meetings were to be held in the evening, each week from the first Tuesday in October to the second Tuesday of May following. They chose the carnation as the club flower and the motto: "Finis coronat opus."

The first President under the new organization was Mrs. Ralph Langworthy. As nearly as can be ascertained from the records the following named persons were members of the Reading Club and charter members of the Amandine Club:

Mrs. William C. Burdick	Mrs. A. Boardman Cottrell
Mrs. Milo Burdick	Mrs. Lorenzo D. Collins
Mrs. Vernon A. Baggs	Mrs. Willis W. Coon
Dr. Lucy Babcock	Mrs. Boothe C. Davis
Mrs. James R. Crandall	Mrs. Terry M. Davis
Miss Velma K. Crandall	Mrs. Fannie Davis
(Handlin)	Mrs. William C. Dunham

Mrs. E. M. Ellsworth	Mrs. Charles Post
Mrs. Will Ellis	Mrs. Fred S. Place
Mrs. Charles Eaton	Mrs. Orville Rogers
Mrs. M. J. Greene	Mrs. Calvin D. Reynolds
Miss Selinda I. Greene	Miss Amelia E. Stillman
Miss Mary L. Greene	Miss Lillian E. Stillman
Mrs. Charles P. Greene	Miss Lillis Stillman (Rogers)
Mrs. Chester Greene	Mrs. Charles Stillman
Mrs. Elwood E. Hamilton	Mrs. Albert Stillman
Mrs. Ira Jones	Mrs. Louin Stillman
Mrs. Alpheus B. Kenyon	Mrs. Chester Stillman
Mrs. Ralph L. Langworthy	Mrs. Earl P. Saunders
Mrs. George I. Langworthy	Miss D. Swartz
Mrs. Frances Marvin	Miss F. M. Terwilliger
Mrs. John P. Mosher	Mrs. Thomas B. Titworth
Miss Orpha Milmine	Mrs. F. A. J. Waldron
Mrs. L. A. Platts	Mrs. William M. Wilbur
Mrs. Mary E. Post	Mrs. William C. Whitford

The plan of work as outlined at the first meeting contemplated the review of various books, an account of their authors, location of places mentioned, noted persons, times written about, etc. Each member was expected to make a special study of a stated portion of each book considered and at the next meeting give a review of the week's study. Grecian mythology was the general subject for at least one year. Later the club organized as a touring party, about 40 in number, crossed the ocean to Spain and landed at Cadiz. The journey through the country gave opportunity for studying the character and customs of the people, their industries, social life, architecture, etc.

A cursory glance at the Amandine programs shows that the topics discussed have been varied, and have covered a wide range of subjects. Fairly illustrative of the many subjects adopted each for a year's study the following may be mentioned: Women in Music; American Life in History and Romance; Literary Rambles in Various Countries; American and English Literature; Travelogues; Italian History, Literature and Art; Social Life in the American Colonies; and the Evolution of the American Newspaper.

One of the pleasant events of the year that was looked forward to with considerable anticipation, by the gentlemen at least, was the social given each spring at which time the "better halves" of the members were invited. On one of these pleasant occasions the program was presented by the gentlemen and consisted of music by a male quartet composed of Messrs. Place, Post, Annas and Truman. O. M. Rogers gave an original poem on "Ireland" which was enthusiastically received. Professor Fairfield gave an enjoyable talk on his trip through England and Scotland.

At the meeting held December 11, 1894, it was voted to invite the

gentlemen to attend their Christmas night social. This courtesy so generously extended on the part of the Club, was evidently very much appreciated by the men and the following resolution presented by them to the Club was voted spread on the minutes:

"Whereas, the Amandine Club of Alfred have taken us gentlemen now with you so unworthily assembled from the Plutonian shores of daily toil to these Olympian heights where we have fed both literally and figuratively upon ambrosia and nectar; therefore, Resolved, That to the above named club in which are found not Pandora and Scylla but Minerva and Venus, our heartfelt thanks be hereby extended, hoping that as we descend from these realms of myth to the sober earth, the influence of these inspiring hours may go with us.

In behalf of the men,
COMMITTEE."

One other very delightful occasion was an evening spent at the home of Principal and Mrs. E. P. Saunders in March, 1902. After a most cordial welcome from their hostess, each lady found herself in possession of a picture of some member of the club, taken in her more youthful days; and it was a very difficult task, although one which caused much merriment, to distinguish any resemblance in some instances between the picture and the original.

Quotations were read from Shakespeare. The prize of the evening was awarded to Miss May Dixon, who guessed from which plays the greatest number of quotations was taken. The ladies each carrying a carnation as a souvenir, bade their hostess good night, declaring that a most delightful evening had been spent.

The records are replete with accounts of many delightful evenings of a similar nature spent by the Club in the homes of the various members.

At the meeting held March 2, 1895, it was voted to accept the invitation to edit an extra edition of the "Alfred Sun" in the interests of the town and University. Mrs. L. A. Platts was unanimously chosen editor-in-chief, and Mrs. William C. Burdick, associate editor. The issue appeared on May 16, 1895.

At the present time the Club meets on Thursday afternoons bi-weekly, at the club rooms in the Community House.

On May 22, 1922, a committee was appointed to compile a complete list of names of the members of the Club from the time of its

organization, and to prepare a memorial list of members of the Club. The committee reported the names of 284 members, 61 of whom appeared on the memorial list.

A glance at the programs through the years since its organization will convince one that the Club has stood, and now stands, for the highest culture through its consideration of modern subjects in the fields of literature, history and art.

CHAPTER XXXV

THE ALLEN CIVIC CLUB

"If you cannot in the meeting
Speak with grace to move the heart
You can come with cheer and greeting
Helping in the social part.
Though you're timid in the forum
Or command no power rare,
You can help to make a quorum—
You can occupy a chair."

The Allen Civic Club was organized on November 27, 1908. It was named Allen Civic Club in honor of the late President and Mrs. Allen. The first regular meeting of the Club was held at the home of Mrs. C. D. Reynolds on Monday afternoon, December 14, 1908. The following officers were elected:

President, Miss Eva St. Clair Champlin
First Vice-President, Mrs. Charles Sisson
Second Vice-President, Mrs. L. C. Randolph
Third Vice-President, Mrs. C. D. Reynolds
Secretary, Miss Arta Place
Treasurer, Mrs. Fred Ellis
Auditor, Mrs. F. L. Greene

The object of the club as stated in the constitution shall be to collect and disseminate information upon political and social problems, also to use the ballot, and to undertake such other activities as will further humanitarian legislation, benefit moral conditions, and especially to protect the interests of women, children, and the home. Another object shall be the improvement of the village.

At the first meeting a plan of study was adopted which included such subjects as Civics, Sociology, Woman's Suffrage and Government. Among the general subjects which have been discussed by the club at

different times the following may be mentioned: Our Food Problem; Women in the World War; Labor and Capital; Child Welfare; New York State Laws Relating to Women; Prisons and Prison Reform, and Women in Medicine.

On the evening of the 15th of February, 1910, the first social was held at the home of Mrs. C. D. Reynolds in honor of the birthday anniversary of Susan B. Anthony. Some of the ladies were dressed to represent different periods of our own country's history, and some were dressed to represent the women of other countries. A short biography of Miss Anthony was read by Miss Champlin and speeches were given by Dr. Sheppard and Rev. T. D. Holmes upon the subjects, "Why I am a Suffragist" and "The Condition of Women in China."

The regular meetings of the club are held every second Monday in the month at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and seven members shall constitute a quorum.

At the present time (January 1926) there are 69 active members.

CHAPTER XXXVI

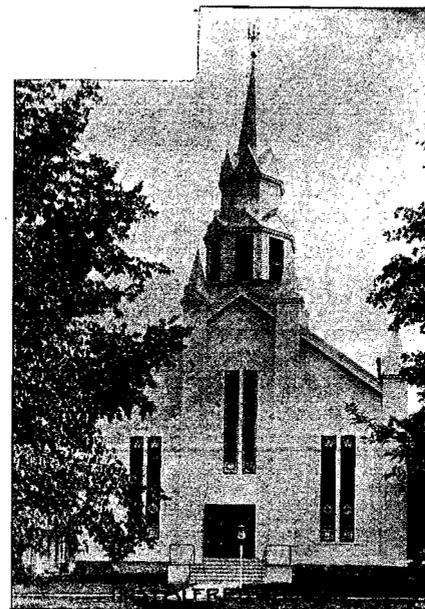
THE FORCEYTHE WILLSON CLUB

"How dear to my heart is the club we call Willson
When first and third Mondays presents it to view
The members, the music, the papers, the picnics,
And every club meeting for all the year through,
Where true cordial welcomes from members and hostess,
Where warm and good cheer and whole heartedness dwell,
Where laughter enkindles and intellect sparkles;
And 'en the refreshments they serve us so well.

The club we call Willson, the club we call Willson,
The dear Forceythe Willson, we all love so well."

At a 4 o'clock tea held Monday afternoon, January 4, 1909, at the home of Eva St. Clair Champlin, preliminary steps were taken towards the organization of a Ladies' Literary Club. A constitution was drawn up and adopted. An enthusiastic meeting was held on January 11, 1909. Sixteen members were present and rendered an initial literary program.

At a subsequent meeting held January 18, 1909, the organization of the Club was completed. By consent of the members present the club became the "Forceythe Willson Club," named in memory of Alfred's gifted young singer and poet, Mr. Forceythe Willson, a brother



of the Hon. Augustus E. Willson, ex-Governor of Kentucky. The following officers were elected:

President, Mrs. Frank L. Greene
Vice-President, Mrs. Mary Truman
Secretary, Mrs. Charles Sisson
Treasurer, Mrs. W. W. Coon
Auditor, Mrs. Mabel Reynolds

The next meeting of the Club was held with Mrs. Alice M. Jacques on February 1, 1909. At this meeting the program consisted of a roll call with responses from the writings of Mr. Willson. A sketch of his life was presented and the program concluded with selections from his published works.

The object of the Club is the intellectual and social culture of its members. The membership was at first limited to fifteen. The number of members at the present time is 24. Meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month, the club year beginning in October and ending in May. Meetings are held in the Champlin Club House.

The following is a list of the charter members of the organization:

Miss Eva St. Clair Champlin	Mrs. Frank Truman
Mrs. W. W. Coon	Mrs. Reuben Armstrong
Mrs. Charles Sisson	Mrs. Frank L. Greene
Mrs. J. J. Merrill	Mrs. Eda Sheppard
Mrs. E. O. Reynolds	Mrs. Charles Gamble
Mrs. Earl Place	Mrs. William Gamble
Mrs. Albert E. Webster	Mrs. Alice M. Jacques
Mrs. Ida L. Rogers	

CHAPTER XXXVII

CHURCHES

*First Seventh Day Baptist Church **

The First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Alfred was organized October 20, 1816. On this occasion a sermon was preached by Elder William Satterlee on behalf of the society and George Stillman and Daniel Babcock were ordained as deacons. The first meeting of the new organization took place at the old schoolhouse on the site now occupied by the former residence of Leonard Claire, just this side of Alfred Station. The charter members numbered twenty-five.

* See History of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Alfred by Frank L. Greene.

While the church as an independent organization dates from October 20, 1816, meetings were held four years earlier. The people in the vicinity of Alfred to the number of about twenty-four formed themselves into a "religious association for the maintenance of religious services and for mutual watch care and admonition." The first meeting was held at the home of Edward Greene on July 4, 1812. This home was located on the site of the present hardware store of R. A. Armstrong and Co., and was the first house erected in Alfred. This organization became a branch of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Berlin, New York, October 3, 1813, and was set off as a separate church, October 20, 1816.

The first church building was erected in 1824-1828 on the west side of Main street not far from the State barn, near where the old Lucy Barber brick house formerly stood. The building cost \$2500. It was built entirely of wood and was 36 by 50 feet and served the congregation until 1854, when the present structure was completed.

The home of Mrs. Charles Stillman on Glenn street, contains many of the old timbers taken from the First Seventh Day Baptist Church structure which stood about one mile from the village.

Second Seventh Day Baptist Church

This church was organized with 52 constituent members in 1831. The first church edifice was erected in 1836 near the junction of East Valley and Railroad Valley, one mile south of Alfred Station. This building they occupied about 25 years, removing to their present location and structure in 1857. The first pastor was Rev. Ray Greene. At the present time there are one hundred twenty-five families in the parish.

The following organizations are today affiliated with the church; The Ladies' Industrial Society; Junior Endeavor Society; Intermediate C. E. Society; Senior C. E. Society and the Second Alfred Sabbath School.

The people went to church dressed in homespun. As the churches were about one mile from the settlements, the people went in summer in lumber wagons and in winter in sleighs. During the warm weather men appeared at church in homespun, and many times barefooted. The women wore bonnets and dressed in calico.

Ethan Lamphear in his reminiscences gives a graphic account of the preachers in these early days. He says:

"Richard Hull preached the first sermon I remember of in the schoolhouse at the 'Bridge.' He could scarcely read or write his name at the



PARISH HOUSE, ALFRED, N. Y.

time. He worked at farming, and made spinning wheels. He wore no coat, only linen trousers, and a vest, without a shoe to his feet. David Stillman and my father talked the matter over that he ought to have some shoes. Father, after meeting, stepped out to the door, picked up a stick, and stepped back to the side of the preacher, stooped down, took hold of his foot and said, "Take up." He measured the foot, and the next Sabbath the Elder came to church with shoes on his feet."

Parish House

The Parish House was erected in 1906 by the Ladies' Aid Society for the use of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church and Society at the cost of more than \$8000. The building is 46 by 60 feet, of brick veneer and with tile roof. The Society assumed the entire cost of this structure and there was an occasion for great rejoicing when the Parish House was freed from debt in 1922.

Union Church

The Union Church of Alfred was organized in 1923. Through the courtesy of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church, services are held in their edifice. Opportunity for worship is thus offered to students and residents of the town who worship on Sunday. The President of Alfred University is the pastor of the Union Church.

Episcopal Church

In addition to the services offered by the two churches mentioned above, there are services conducted in the Episcopal form every Sunday afternoon at the Gothic Chapel. The Rev. Charles F. Binns is the Rector of the Church.

Christian Science Services

Christian Science services are held every Sunday morning in the rear rooms on the second floor of the Burdick block.

CHAPTER XXXVIII

GAS PRODUCTION*

Alfred seems to have been considered prospective territory for the development of oil and gas quite early in the history of the oil "boom" in southwestern New York.

*Courtesy of Alva F. Randolph.

The first well was drilled for oil in Alfred in 1882. This was about the time of the great oil excitement around Richburg, N. Y., and Bradford, Pennsylvania. As Alfred is situated northeast of these fields, and, as the oil bearing formations in the Appalachian System were known to extend from southwest to northeast, it was doubtless hoped to find an extension of these fields in Alfred.

This first well was drilled in the western part of the village of Alfred on what was then the Phineas Stillman farm, which is now owned by Clark Stillman. Very soon after the drilling of this well, another one was drilled in the western part of the Town on the Woolworth farm. Some years later another one was drilled in the extreme northwestern part of the Town, about one-half mile north of the Five Corners. The evident object in all this drilling was to find oil, but as far as definitely known no indication of oil was found in any of these wells, although a light flow of gas was found in all of them, but probably not of sufficient volume to have been worth utilizing.

In the year 1908, through the initiative of William McAndrew, a local company was formed for the purpose of drilling some test wells in the southwestern part of the Town. The first well was drilled on the William McAndrew farm. No oil was found, but gas was found in sufficient quantity to be considered worth utilizing. Some other wells were drilled by this same company, but as the results were not especially promising, they sold out to the Empire Gas and Fuel Company, of Wellsville, which had a large gas line running through Railroad Valley. This Company drilled several more wells in the southern part of the Town, connecting them with their main line. They held leases on several farms in that part of the Town for about eight years; but about 1916 they abandoned this field entirely without having developed very profitable wells. In the year 1920, William McAndrew, with his brother and sister formed the Alfred Gas Company, and began drilling operations a little farther north, with somewhat better results.

There are now more than 100 producing wells in the southern part of the Town, extending from the southeastern border across the Town of Alfred and into the Town of Ward. A considerable share of these wells are rather light producers, having an approximate total daily production of 500,000 Cubic feet. The wells are owned by at least 8 different companies although by far the greater part of the production is made by 4 companies: The Empire Gas & Fuel Company whose wells are in the eastern part of the field, the Alfred Gas Company in the central part, the P. C. Lynch and the Dryden Hill Oil & Gas Company, in the western part of the territory. With the exception of the Empire Gas & Fuel Company these companies are made up



FLOWING WELL

to a large extent of the farmers living in that section of the Town. They all sell their gas to the Empire Gas & Fuel Company.

When this gas was first found it was supposed that it was produced from the same formation which was producing oil and gas in the adjoining Town of Andover, which was known as the "Penny Sand," but it is now known to be about 300 feet above the "Penny Sand," an entirely new formation which had never been known before. It has been named by the Company producing the most gas in that territory the "Dryden Hill Sand." It is struck on a level of near 1400 feet above sea level. The depth necessary to drill varies from about 400 feet in the low points of the valley to over 900 feet on the top of the hill.

The Alfred village board completed a contract with the Mutual Gas Company of Andover on July 8, 1898, whereby the village was to be supplied with natural gas.

CHAPTER XXXIX

ALFRED POST OFFICE

In the early years the mail was uncertain and infrequent. The condition of the roads and the sparseness of the population did not make the carrying of letters a necessity. People thought more in those days and wrote less. Mail came to the Centre at intervals of about one week. Postage was high. A letter from Utica, N. Y., to Alfred Centre cost 19 cents. There were no postage stamps and each letter had to be recorded by the postmaster and charged for according to distance. The usual price for carriage was five cents for 30 miles and twenty-five cents for a distance of 400 miles. It is said that the postman in these early days carried the mail in his hat.

The first post office to be established at the "Centre" was about 1848, with David C. Greene as postmaster. He received less than \$50 per year for his services.

The Alfred post office has moved four times in its history. The first office was located in the block now occupied by Firemen's Hall.* The second office was on the site of the Greene block; the third site was that on the corner of Main and University street near the location of the sunken garden, in a store used in part as a barber shop. Then the office was moved to the Shaw block where it was located until its removal on January 30, 1913, to its present quarters in the

* See cut chapter XI.

Rosebush block. The following individuals have acted as postmasters: David C. Greene, Gideon Greene, Lyman Allen, Clark Rogers, Maxson J. Greene, Silas C. Burdick, Terry M. Davis, Milo B. Greene, Lyle Bennehoff and Archie Gould. The present efficient postmistress is Mabel F. Reynolds, the first woman to hold the office in the history of the village.

CHAPTER XL

ALFRED MUTUAL LOAN ASSOCIATION *

The story of Building Loan Associations in our country reads almost like a romance. In sections of the country where the housing problem has been critical the value of such associations has been most apparent. Their unprecedented success has been due to the fact that they have enabled borrowers to procure homes through easy and systematic payments.

In our own State of New York on January 1, 1925, there were 381 associations with assets totaling over \$217,000,000.

The Alfred Mutual Loan Association is not behind others of like nature in its blessing to the community, and in its service to families in helping them to own their own homes. It has brought to the town not only increased thrift, but it has encouraged small families to make permanent locations, and has added to the happiness and general welfare of all those who have been benefited by its ministrations. It was organized in April, 1884, under a New York State law controlling Mutual and Local Co-operative Building and Loan Associations, whose objects are to aid in building or buying homes to be paid for in small monthly installments, usually less than rent would cost, and to encourage thrift and systematic saving.

The Alfred association was originally patterned somewhat after the Chemung Valley Association of Elmira, of which Judge Dexter was then the president. Judge Dexter was a graduate of Alfred University and for several years one of its board of trustees. He was a loyal friend of Alfred and of its business interests as well as of the University.

He was the author of a book on Mutual Building and Loan and Savings Associations. He was also author of the motto for such organizations: "The American Home the Safeguard of American Liberties," which was adopted by the United States League of Local Build-

* Facts regarding the Alfred Association were furnished through the courtesy of A. B. Kenyon.

ing and Loan Associations, and is now quite universally used throughout the United States.

New York State has now very good laws governing Mutual Local Building and Loan Associations, and each year thoroughly examines each under the supervision of the State Banking Department.

Many of the associations of the state are members of the New York State League of Savings and Loan Associations, which annually holds a state convention. The Alfred association is a member of this State League.

In these associations savings are accumulated by monthly payments and interest earned usually at the rate of about 6 per cent compound interest, compounded semi-annually. These payments are on the basis of one dollar per month per share, which at maturity in about 140 months reach the value of \$200, or a profit of \$60. The shares are issued in shares or half shares of a number to suit the need or desires of each shareholder.

Money is loaned to shareholders either on real estate mortgage up to any amount equal to the maturing value of the shares held, or on notes secured by the value of the shares held at the time of the loan. As a comparative illustration of the Loan Association mortgage and the ordinary straight mortgage the following is interesting and suggestive: A mortgage in the Loan Association of say—\$1000—can be paid off at the rate of \$10 per month in 140 months or \$1400 in all. A straight mortgage of the same amount running for the same time would cost \$1700; viz., \$700 interest and \$1000 principal. The \$300 difference is due to the fact that dividends earned and credited on the monthly payments reduce the total cost.

Many homes have thus been paid for and many persons have accumulated comfortable savings accounts through these associations.

The Alfred association has made a steady growth from its start from nothing to the present time (January 1, 1926) when it has assets of over \$377,000. From its incorporation in 1884 to the present time it has loaned on bond and mortgage securities, with the stock as collateral, over a million dollars (\$1,050,600) including mortgages on a large number of homes within 50 miles of its Alfred office, which is the limit of distance prescribed by the New York state law.

These homes have thus been paid for in monthly payments till the value of the owner's stock in the association reaches, with dividends added each six months, the face value of the mortgage, which is then cancelled.

The Alfred association has also loaned to its shareholders about \$267,000 on notes secured by the stock in the association. These two

kinds of loans, the mortgage loans and the stock loans amount to a total of over \$1,317,000 in the 41 and three-fourths years of its existence.

The association has also during that time paid to its stockholders \$664,200 in matured stock, and about \$401,800 in non-matured stock, withdrawn on demand whenever needed, making a total of \$1,066,000.

Alpheus B. Kenyon, a member of the board of trustees of the Alfred association has been continuously officially connected with the association since its organization in 1884, and at the present time is its honored President, and at one time was President of the New York State League of Savings and Loan Associations.

There have been four secretaries during that time, the present efficient Secretary being Mr. Earl P. Saunders.

CHAPTER XLI

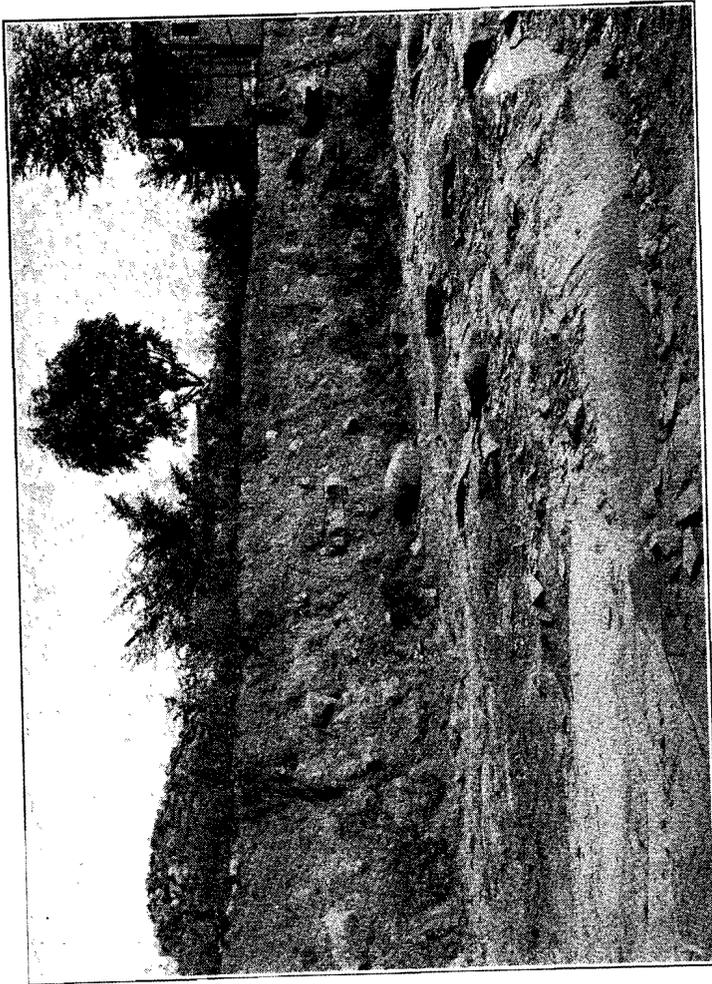
THE CELADON TERRA COTTA WORKS

The Terra Cotta Company was organized on October 3, 1888, and was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York with a capital of \$10,000. D. S. Burdick was the first President. He was succeeded by J. J. Merrill, and W. R. Clarke was the first Secretary and Treasurer.

The company commenced business in a \$75 building with a horse for motive power and did the first moulding on February 7, 1889. From this small beginning the business increased until the plant covered an acre of ground with a capacity of one car of roofing tile per day. The first efforts of the company were in the manufacture of architectural terra cotta and chimney tops. The shale and rock beds found in the vicinity furnished abundant material for brick and tile. The extensive deposits of aluminous shale are, except the oil rock, probably the most valuable source of mineral wealth in the country on account of the superior quality of brick and tile made from them. The roofing tile produced by this company have been pronounced superior in appearance and equal in quality to any American or imported make.*

In 1888 George H. Babcock was elected Director of the company. He saw the possibilities for developing roofing tile and took an enthusiastic part in their development. The capital stock was increas-

* Minard.



GLACIAL DRIFT
Glacial drift mantle, resting on Lockport limestone.

ed to \$40,000, Mr. Babcock taking most of the increase and thus secured control of the company. Mr. Babcock invented 20 different shapes of tile. Perhaps the most successful shape was the "Conosera" which was extensively used throughout the country. The prettiest of all the tile manufactured is said to have been made from the Celadon clay, a beautiful green which was found in the bed of the stream at the rear of the plant.

Mr. Babcock died in 1893. Mrs. George H. Babcock rather than see the works deteriorate advanced money to continue the business through 1894 under the management of J. A. Hubbard, who succeeded Mr. Babcock as President of the company. The capital stock was increased to \$150,000. The property was leased to C. T. Harris of Chicago, with W. R. Clarke as a partner. Later Mr. Harris secured enough stock to control the interests of the company.

Besides maintaining main offices in New York and Chicago branches were established in Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Columbus, St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha, St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The plant furnished work for the men of the village. From 25 to 50 men and boys were employed at the plant. More than one-fourth of the families of the village was represented among the employees. In the year 1897-1898, the works paid more than \$20,000 cash into Alfred.

The plant was completely destroyed by fire on the morning of August 26, 1909, and was not rebuilt. The only building remaining is the old terra cotta office located on North Main street and is used at the present time as a meeting place for the Alfred Rod and Gun Club.

CHAPTER XLII

FIREMEN'S HALL

The A. E. Crandall Hook and Ladder Company was organized in the fall of 1887. Its first annual fair commenced on January 21, 1890, and continued for three evenings at Bliss Hall, Alfred Centre, N. Y.

This company purchased a lot on West University street and as soon as sufficient funds were secured to pay for the lot a building was to be erected. After several fairs and other entertainments to which the people of the town contributed liberally, the corner stone of the

hall was laid on Thursday, June 5, 1890. The building was opened for use in the following spring. It is a brick structure containing public hall, dining rooms, kitchen, parlor and rooms stored with fire apparatus.

At the dedicatory exercises prayer was offered by Rev. L. A. Platts, followed by the reading of the history of the organization by the Secretary, A. B. Greene. The University band furnished music for the occasion. The corner stone weighing about one ton was placed in position by the "fire laddies" in command of John P. Mosher, assistant foreman. Appropriate remarks were made by L. C. Rogers, J. Clarke, and D. E. Maxson.

The clock in the tower which has kept pace with the hours, giving the time by day and night for more than a third of a century, was the gift of Alonzo, Madelia and Clotilda Stillman, while the bell which has rung out the hours through all these years was the gift of W. H. Crandall.

Being centrally located and having a seating capacity of several hundred people the hall is in great demand for entertainments of various sorts. At the present time it is used by the college for the weekly assembly. Various dramatic performances are staged here and withal the building is one of the most useful of any of the village buildings.

CHAPTER XLIII

ALFRED STATION

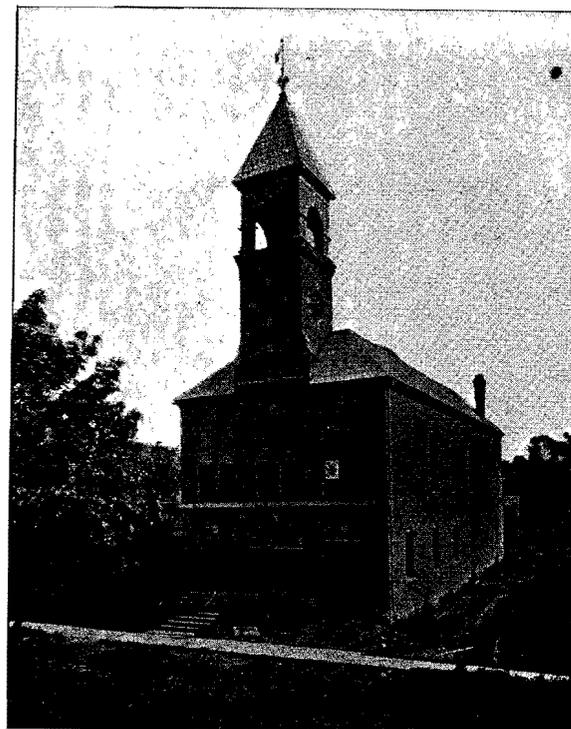
(Formerly known as Baker's Bridge)

A rude pole thrown across Whitney Valley Creek on the road leading to the Baker Settlement (Andover) in 1809 was called "Baker's Bridge." It gave the name to the little settlement that grew up in its neighborhood.

The first settlement was made by Clark Crandall, Nathan and Edward Greene in 1807. The party made the journey on foot from Rensselaer county, N. Y., and took up eight hundred acres of land part of which was on lot number 8.

In 1813 David Satterlee, a native of Connecticut, came with a horse and sleigh from Rensselaer county, accompanied by his family, and purchased fifty acres of land on lot number 7. The year following he took up fifty acres adjoining his previous purchase. In 1816 Jabish Odell, a native of Rensselaer County, came on foot

Seventy four



FIREMENS HALL, ALFRED, N. Y.

and purchased fifty acres of land on lot number 7. Isaac Burdick emigrated from Brookfield, N. Y., and purchased two hundred acres of land on lot number 9.

Judge Clark Crandall built a pail factory in 1809, the first industry to be started in the settlement. In 1921 Nathan Potter built a carding machine. After his death his brother, Elisha, continued the business.

The first log schoolhouse was built near the site of the Warren house. Jonathan Crandall and Mr. Seldon operated blacksmith shops John Thorp carried on a tannery and E. S. and Lodwick Davis a gristmill. Samuel Russell was engaged in the mercantile business. Reuben Monroe and Deacon Samuel Babcock were among the earliest tavern keepers. Elias P. Burdick was the first jeweler. He was succeeded by his son John C. Burdick. Deacon Daniel Potter and John T. Greene were wagon makers. Samuel Lanphear built a gristmill one mile and a half below the Station.

In this immediate vicinity also settled Samuel Thatcher, a native of Vermont. He married Ruth, widow of Edward Greene and sister of Freeborn Hamilton. Nathan Williams was also an early settler Joshua Vincent from R. I., settled below Alfred and engaged with Judge Crandall in the manufacture of pails. Later he built a saw mill one-half mile distant. John Penny settled one mile west of the Station. Nathan Williams early settled at the Station. He was a stone mason and for many years a justice of the peace. Samuel Russell was the first postmaster and until the year of 1848, the office at the Station was the only one in town.

Some years later the following business interests were represented: CARRIAGE MAKERS: Stillman & Shannon and Asher Stillman. GRISTMILL: O. W. Roby. MACHINE SHOP: G. C. Sherman and E. C. Palmiter. GENERAL MERCHANTS: Beach & Scott, E. G. Burdick, J. R. Burdick, W. R. Burdick, F. S. Champlin, T. R. Chase, W. R. Chase, Leonard Claire, Emerson & Claire, Harrison W. Greene, M. A. Greene, Keller & Emerson, Wm. Maxon & Son, Niles & Whitford, Willis Palmiter, James F. Perry, J. K. Rea 'ing, Wm. A. Rose, Scott & Kaple, George Sherman, Daniel A. Smith, M. E. Thomas, Walker & Burdick, George Weisbrod, and W. M. Wilber. WAREHOUSE: Wm. C. Burdick & Co. HAY PRESSERS and SHIPPERS: Babcock & Gridley. COOPER: Isaac M. Lewis. SAND, GRAVEL & COAL: Leonard Claire. MILLINER: Agnes Trainer. LAUNDRY: Wilbur and Kenyon. HOTEL KEEPERS: Louis Emerson,, Green Cornelius, Hull & Hamilton, Keller & Wilber and Clark L. Witter. CHEESE MANUFACTURERS: Henry Allen, Daniel T. Bur-

dick. E. P. Fenner, A. W. Langworthy and George W. Woodworth. CHEESE BOXES: Witter & Chase. DENTIST: Joseph N. Forbes. WOOLEN MILL: N. G. Hadsell. HOUSE PAINTERS: Halsey M. Burdick, Byron A. Smith, Noel B. Smith and Charles Vincent. JEWELERS: John C. Burdick and Claude A. Vincent. SHOE-MAKERS: Halsey M. Burdick and Riley F. Burdick. BLACK-SMITHS: Henry N. Allen, Stillman M. Burdick, Eugene B. Chase, Lyman J. Gillett, James Shannon, Andrew J. Smith and Clyde Willard. HARNESS MAKER: C. F. Locke. CARPENTERS: David S. Monroe, George J. Palmiter, D. L. Spencer, Abial Thomas and Rial Wescott. MASONS: Lemuel Colgrove, Horace Eaton and C. P. Ormsby. POSTMASTERS: Roswell Adams, T. R. Chase, Stillman M. Burdick, W. R. Burdick, Mrs. Nancy Hamilton, J. K. Reading and Samuel A. Russell. PHYSICIANS: George E. Burdick, E. C. Greene and Edwin M. Stillman. CABINET MAKER: Daniel G. Vincent. TINSMITH: W. H. Green. PLANING MILL: Fred L. Heseltine. STATION AGENTS: C. Eugene Chase, Benjamin H. Greene, Edward N. Greene, Melville A. Greene, Henry C. Keller, Luther W. Lewis, Charles H. Merkt, Frank L. Pettibone and James A. Shannon.

Organizations connected with the village: Ladies' Auxillary Society; Union Industrial Society; Lodge Number 546, I. O. G. T.; Canacadea Alliance Number 22; Ladies' Sewing Society; Alfred Kennel Club; Republican Club; N. P. L. Lodge, and K. O. T. M. Tent Number 360.

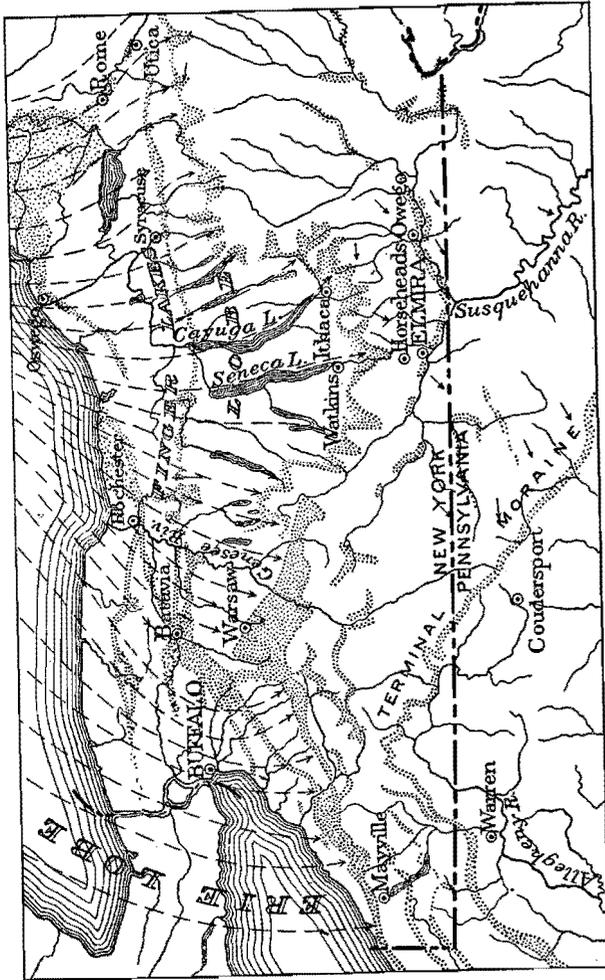
The Second Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church was organized in 1831.†

The Rock-Cut Clay Company, limited, was organized in 1892 for the purpose of making fine brick. The works were located a little below the Station. The officers were: President, C. D. Reynolds; Vice-President, O. M. Rogers; Secretary and Treasurer, P. S. Place. The company began the making of brick in October, 1892.

The Alfred branch of the Dairymen's League was organized for active participation with the League in Septemeber, 1915. At the present time it has an active membership of 50, the actual producers of milk for shipping purposes in the town. The present officers are: A. F. Randolph, President and Fred Turck, Secretary.

The Alfred Farmer's Co-operative Association, incorporated under the membership laws of the State of New York, for the purpose of dealing in feed and general farm supplies, is capitalized for more than \$5,000, all subscribed by farmers of Alfred and adjoining towns.

† See chapter 37 for further description of Second Church.



GLACIAL DRIFT
 Map of the heavier moraines in central and western New York.
 The terminal moraine marks the extreme reach of the
 Quebec ice sheet.

The Association was organized in 1921. It began business October, 1, 1921, at Alfred Station, having purchased the feed store at that place. Business has steadily increased. Over \$100,000 worth of business was transacted for each of the years of 1924 and 1925. There are about 300 patron members. Dividends of from 2 to 4 per cent have been returned each year to all patrons on all purchases.

A Board of five Directors has charge, who hire a manager, who has general control of the business. The present officers are: A. F. Randolph, President; S. B. Bond, Secretary, and Clyde Willard, Manager.

This little village nestled among the hills has a population of about 200. While not as large as its sister village two miles to the south, it does enjoy the distinction of being located on the Erie railroad and on the State road leading from Hornell to the South.

The village is the center of a large farming district and a general shipping point for dairy products and all kinds of farm produce.

At the present time (January 1, 1926) the following business interests are represented in the village:

GENERAL MERCHANTS: H. W. Niles, R. K. Ormsby, W. O. Palmiter. MOTOR FILLING STATION: F. Beneway, Manager. CUSTOM GRINDING: E. H. Shaw. ALFRED SAND AND GRAVEL CORPORATION. GARAGE: Floyd Norton. POSTMASTER: Harry Niles. STATION AGENT: Jesse Shaw. CHEESE: C. D. Reynolds Co. CONTRACTOR AND BUILDER: L. J. Crandall. JEWELER: C. A. Vincent.

CHAPTER XLIV

FIVE CORNERS AND TIP TOP

Some of the earliest settlements in the town were made in the vicinity of Five Corners. In 1817, John Allen, grandfather of Jonathan Allen, later President of Alfred University, came to the town accompanied by his family, making the journey with an ox team and located on lot number 11. He purchased 200 acres of land and built a log house.

In 1818, Amos Crandall with his brother-in-law, Samuel Lanphear, walked from Rhode Island and took up 50 acres of land. After building a log cabin he walked back to Rhode Island. The next year he moved his family to their new home with an ox team and one

horse. After a short time Mr. Crandall sold the farm where he first located and bought one at Five Corners on which he lived until 1860 when he moved to Alfred Centre. "Deacon" Amos Crandall, as he was called, taught school four winters at ten dollars per month and boarded himself. One winter he received seventy-five cents, that being the amount the district received from the State. He started the first Sabbath School in the village. It is said that Jonathan Allen was greatly indebted to Mr. Amos Crandall for the influence of his good and straightforward life.

George and Asa Sisson, brothers from Rhode Island, took up land and located to the north of the Corners. Hosea Barber, a tanner and shoemaker, also from Rhode Island, settled in this vicinity. David, Nathan and Samuel Pierce settled to the west and Joseph Edwards of Rhode Island, located on 100 acres of land one mile to the west.

Charles D. Langworthy, a native of Connecticut, settled on 50 acres of land on lot number 11. Colonel Nathan Potter, a native of Rhode Island, and a shipbuilder by trade, located in 1823 on 400 acres of land. Abner Allen, who made the journey with Nathan Potter, settled a little to the north on lot number 1. Ebenezer Allen came into the country on foot, rifle in hand, and took up 67 acres of land on lot number 1.

In 1826, Ezekiel R. Saunders, a native of Westerly, Rhode Island, settled on lot number 10. Thomas T. Burdick also from Rhode Island located on lot number 10 where he purchased 50 acres of land.

The Five Corners cheese factory was built by George West in 1866, and later was owned by E. P. Fenner, and at the present time by Efner Potter.

According to an old map the following named persons resided in the immediate vicinity of the Corners more than 75 years ago: A. Sisson, A. Crandall, H. Barber, D. Jones, E. Crandall and William Potter. There was one schoolhouse.

According to another map bearing date of 1869, the following named persons resided in this immediate vicinity: J. N. Potter, C. Wilcox, T. Rose, G. West, M. Burdick and E. Saunders. At this time there were also one blacksmith shop, one tannery and one schoolhouse. A shoe factory also is said to have been established at Five Corners.

Several organizations are recorded as having been organized at the Corners: The Band of Cheerful Workers; Sewing Society; Valley Lodge I. O. G. T. number 276; Sabbath School; Farmers' Alliance; Ladies' Aid Society; Good Templars, and one Reading Circle.

Tip Top Summit

The highest point on the Erie Railroad between New York and Chicago is found at this point, having an elevation of 1783 feet.

Though the highest point the Erie encountered many hardships in getting through the "Marsh" as the place was formerly called. In 1851, a locomotive hauling a gravel train was sunk out of sight until the smokestack and part of the cab remained in sight.

One of the main points of interest along this Division of the Railroad is the "Lee Homestead." This ancient time-worn house is still standing; erected in 1840, used several years as a tavern and as such sheltered many officials of the Railroad between the years 1848 and 1851.

In this immediate vicinity settled Joseph and John Lee. The old homestead was handed down to F. M. Lee who was employed by the Erie Railroad for more than a quarter of a century at the Tip Top pumping station.

Here also settled Mr. B. S. Baker, who for more than half a century has been employed by the Erie as a trackman, brakeman, and telegraph operator, the latter position he still holds at the Tip Top Summit.*

CHAPTER XLV

BUSINESS INTERESTS—JANUARY, 1926

Alfred has been called an "ideal city among the mountains." The village of about 600 inhabitants is surrounded on all sides by hills. This classic setting has had its influence. Once this valley was hard pressed by forests, which encroached on every side. The pioneers who came first into the valley saw its possibilities. Diligently and with remarkable fortitude they built their cabin homes and paved the way through hardship and toil for the future homes of a sturdy and industrious people. Today we enjoy the fruit of their sacrifices. Our Main street has witnessed the early beginnings of industry in our valley. Our well built stores and public buildings are on the site once occupied by their early and rude beginnings. In a previous chapter these locations were graphically pictured on a map of the business section of our town as it was in the early part of the nineteenth century. Business changes have been so frequent that it is very difficult to follow them with any degree of accuracy. While this may be true of the earlier years the business interests as they stand today may be fairly well traced, and the following list enumerates the individuals and firms engaged in business today in our village of Alfred:

* Erie Railroad Magazine.

ALFRED HIGH SCHOOL: Chester A. Feig, Principal. ALFRED-HORNELL MOTOR BUS LINE: Dana Peck, driver. ALFRED MUTUAL LOAN ASSOCIATION: A. B. Kenyon, President, E. P. Saunders, Secretary. ALFRED TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH CO.; W. H. Bassett, Manager. ALFRED SUN PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION: F. A. Crumb, Editor and Business Manager. ALFRED UNIVERSITY: Boothe C. Davis, Ph. D., D. D., LL. D., President. HARDWARE: R. A. Armstrong & Co. CLOTHING, BOOTS and SHOES: B. S. Bassett. LUMBER: Lyle Benehoff. BOX OF BOOKS: Norah Binns. SHOEMAKER: Leonard Breeman. TAILORS: W. H. Bassett and W. T. Brown. ICE and MILK: Lester Burdick. INSURANCE: D. S. Burdick, B. S. Bassett and F. W. Stevens. GARAGE: Button Bros. and W. R. Crandall. DRAYMAN: F. N. Collins. FREIGHT SERVICE: L. M. Emerson and Harry Cook. DENTIST: W. W. Coon. RESTAURANTS: A. J. Clarke and George Kefalides succeeding James Jamesson. PHARMACIST: F. H. Ellis. PHYSICIANS: Russell S. & Miriam Ferguson. FIRE DEPARTMENT: DeForest W. Truman, foreman. DRY GOODS: Mrs. H. L. Gige, succeeding Senning Bros. PAINTERS & PAPER HANGING: Archie Gould, Milo Greene, Chester Stillman, Stanley Stillman, and Charles Stillman. GROCERIES & STATIONERY: Mrs. J. H. Hills. PLUMBING: Howard & Clarke and Alfred T. Stillman. MEAT MARKET and GROCERIES: John Jacox. CARPENTERS: I. S. Langworthy, Stanley Stillman and Charles Stillman. TONSORIAL PARLORS: C. L. E. Lewis. BLACKSMITH: Albert McOmber and W. H. Thomas. BAKERY and GROCERIES: H. E. Pieters. UNDERTAKER: P. S. Place. POSTMISTRESS: Mabel F. Reynolds. ROSEBUSH BLOCK: John Wolfe, manager. JEWELRY: A. A. Shaw & Son. GROCERIES: Stillman & Coon, succeeding D. B. Rogers and C. E. Wright. VETERINARY SURGEON: W. J. Taylor. ROOFING and CEMENT WORK: W. A. Thomas. UNIVERSITY BANK: Raymond Cottrell, Cashier. MUSIC STUDIO: R. W. Wingate. MAIL CARRIER: H. E. Witter.

CHAPTER XLVI

ANECDOTES OF ALFRED *

The history of the early settlers of any country or locality is much the same. It is a story of hardships and privation, and often of real suffering.

The story of the early settlers of Alfred is no exception to the

* Courtesy of R. Artamsia Place.

rule. I have never heard that they had any great fights with wild beasts, though as late as 1835, there was some excitement caused by a bear, which ambled by the Spicer Inn. The early settlers did have a fight to obtain enough provision to satisfy the needs of their bodies. There is a story told of a certain family, a large one, which became so destitute of food that they dug up the potatoes which had been planted.

Uncle Elisha Coon borrowed some corn of Rodman Place, and was to pay in rye when it ripened. When the rye was needed, the crop was not ripe enough to cut, so Uncle Elisha went through the field with his sickle and cut off the ripest heads. These were put in a big potash kettle and dried out so they could be shelled by hand. In this way they got a peck of grain. This they put in a bag and sent by a boy on horseback to Almond to have it ground.

What cooking could not be done over the live coals of the fireplace, was baked in a large brick oven, built into the side of the fireplace, some three or four feet from the floor. When this was to be used on baking day, a fire was built in it and when reduced to coals, was carefully cleaned out and then the food to be baked was set in upon the hot bricks. When the baking was done, sometimes a peck of apples was poured into the oven and left all night, and in the morning they were in fine shape to eat.

The women of the household in addition to their other duties, quite largely had the manufacture of the clothing worn by the whole family.

When the wool was sheared from the sheep, it was cleansed and sent to a carding mill to be made into rolls,—long strips of wool about as large around as one's finger. Then it was ready for the spinning. Upon the road to Almond may be seen the remains of the old carding mill, to which my father sent his wool to be carded. The girls of the family, as soon as they were big enough, must learn to knit and spin. Forty knots a day were considered a day's work for the spinner, and a brisk worker could knit a pair of socks in two days. When the wool was spun, it was colored, and was then ready for knitting into socks and stockings, or woven into cloth as needed.

In early days it was the custom for the people to bring their rolls of cloth to the tailor when they wanted a garment cut or made, and have their measure taken. It is said that at one time Samuel Lanphear had one half cord of rolls under his table waiting to be made into garments.

In the large ballroom of the late Charles Stillman's residence, now the dormitory of the State School of Agriculture, and the first inn in the town, was served the dinner for *General Training*, and in the

evening the room was cleared for the grand ball which always followed the day's training. This General Training was the meeting of a company of the State Militia for drill. It was a great occasion, and the wives and sweethearts of the men were present to see the drill, and to take part in the merrymaking in the evening. One young man (Phillip Greene) went to Independence and brought his best girl over to the General Training, she riding behind him on horseback.

In those days a house or barn raising † was an event in the community and the strong men were invited to help. One essential to a successful raising was the whiskey which the host supplied for strengthening the helpers and to add to the general festivity of the occasion. When the great beams were in place, ready for the rafters, the men who were assisting would stand upon the plates, and repeat together:

"This is a good frame
And deserves a good name
And what shall we call it?"

The building was thereupon named and to conclude the ceremony the whiskey jug would be produced (in all probability empty by this time) and with a flourish it would be thrown as far as strong arms could send it. If the jug came down whole, it was a good omen for the building. In this particular case, across the street from the new frame were some sheds and a haystack, and the jug was so carefully thrown that it lighted whole, upon the haystack, and the house was thus started with a propitious omen. In this house built by Mr. Spicer, now the residence of Ray W. Wingate, and the second inn in the town, was born the girl who became the wife of Luke Greene and the mother of Orson and Selinda Greene. The couple went housekeeping in two of the upstairs rooms, each 14 by 14, in company with another young married couple. One of the rooms contained a great fireplace. This was their living room, and the other room was curtained off for bedrooms. One of the young men was a cobbler, and a part of the living room was given up to his work bench. Here was born David Greene, and when he was old enough to be taken out of doors, the nurse (Nancy Satterlee) who was also the hired girl, as was the custom in those days, knowing that a child should never be taken down stairs before he was taken up, took little David in her arms and climbed up the stones of the chimney into the attic, there being no stairs by which to get up.

Have you ever heard of the Irish Raid? It occurred at the time the Erie railroad was being built through the Station, then known as Baker's Bridge. One of the Irishmen living at the Station was

† See chapter 13.

arrested for a misdemeanor and brought up here to the Centre. The Irish were aroused and a mob started on foot for the Centre to rescue their comrade. They were armed with picks, shovels, or any implement that came handy. Women joined the mob with rocks carried in the toe of a sock or stocking. At this time there chanced to be a Company of State Militia located here, composed of residents of the town and they had an old brass cannon among their paraphernalia, and when the news reached the town that the mob was approaching, this old cannon was gotten out and loaded with stones, nails, and bits of chain. A chalk line was placed across the street, somewhere between John Tisdell's house, now the Robbins' home, and Silas Burdick's house. Several men with guns stood behind this line, and when the Irishmen came up they were told that the first man who stepped over it was a dead man. They hesitated, and about that time the cannon was put in working order and more men came dragging it around the corner. At the sight of this formidable weapon, the mob dropped their picks and shovels, and took to their heels. Some of them slid off the bank down into the creek, and others went pattering down the dusty road. This ended the raid.

There is an amusing story told of two young ladies who attended Alfred Academy in those early days. These girls were cousins, whose homes were some miles distant, and who had a room in town and brought their board for the week, as some of the young people do today. One evening these young ladies had a gentleman caller whom they were pleased to see, but of whom they stood rather in awe. You may not know that a tallow candle burns about so long, and then it needs to be snuffed, or it burns dim and is in danger of going out entirely. It is rather a nice operation to snuff a candle gracefully, and a little timidity, or nervousness is sometimes fatal to the light. The young man made quite an extended call, and after a while the candle began to need snuffing, but neither of the young ladies felt equal to the task, or kept hoping that the other would do it, when finally the young man took pity on the girls and snuffed the candle himself.

CHAPTER XLVII

TOWN AND VILLAGE GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

The word town originally meant an enclosure—a collection of houses inclosed by a wall or palisade for safety.

The earliest towns of New York State were patterned after the Dutch towns of Holland. Today the town is a political corporation, with certain legislative, executive and judicial powers. The officers of a town are supervisor, town clerk, highway commissioners, overseers of the poor, constables, assessors, collector and inspectors of election. The judicial power within the town is exercised by the justices of the peace, four in number.

The officers of the town of Alfred (January 1, 1926) are:

Supervisor—E. E. Fenner.

Town Clerk—F. A. Crumb.

Justices of the Peace—F. E. Stillman, Milo Palmer, F. S. Champlin and Byron Baker.

Assessors—F. L. Greene, Melville Niles, and S. B. Bond.

Collector—Lyle Bennehoff.

Superintendent of the Highways—J. L. Sisson.

Overseer of the Poor—Elno Burdick.

School Directors—G. S. Robinson and Mrs. Eva Champlin.

Constables—W. H. Bassett, A. A. Burdick, E. V. Greene and I. L. Pierce.

Inspectors of Election—Mrs. Charles Sisson, W. H. Bassett, I. H. Babcock, and Mrs. Hazel Atwell.

Village Government

Village government is of later origin than that of the town. The growth of village government in the State of New York furnishes some interesting facts. The main consideration that seemed to influence villages to incorporate in the earlier period was the necessity of having some systematized regulations for the extinguishing of fires. The first law for the incorporation of a village was passed in 1798. This act gave certain powers to the freeholders and inhabitants of the villages of Troy and Lansingburg. This act declared each village to be a "body politic and corporate," with power to elect 5 trustees who could make by-laws and rules relating to the lighting of streets, putting out fires, and "anything whatsoever that may concern the police

and good government" of said village. This was the birth of village government in the State of New York. The chief executive officer of the village is the president who is head of the police force and who is authorized to see that the ordinances are carried into execution.

The officers of the village of Alfred (January 1, 1926) are:

President—D. D. Randolph.

Treasurer—A. B. Kenyon.

Trustees—A. F. Randolph, W. J. Taylor, F. A. Crumb and J. N. Norwood.

Water and Street Commissioner—Lynn Vars.

Chief of Police—J. L. Sisson.

Registrar of Vital Statistics—W. H. Thomas.

Assessors—D. D. Randolph, A. F. Randolph, F. A. Crumb.

Custodian of the village clock—C. B. Stillman.

According to the report of the state tax commission for the year 1924, the assessed valuation of real estate including village property, real estate of corporations and special franchises amounted to \$528,005. Taxes levied for village purposes amounted to \$7,284.81.



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